

GOVERNMENT (continued)

of rain; the maximum rainfall was just 0.5 inches, on April 20. Warm, dry Santa Ana winds, which typically blow 30 days of the year, were observed on more than 100 days, keeping firefighters on high alert. *The Los Angeles Times* reported that the eastern Sierra, the source of about half the city's water supply, recorded its second-lowest snowpack ever, and the Colorado River entered its eighth year of drought. However, reservoirs filled from the previous year of high precipitation kept water supply concerns relatively low, although residents are urged to cut their water usage by 10 percent.

Visit www.weather.gov/climate/local_data.php?wfo=lox and www.latimes.com.

Texas Receives Record Rainfall

While California remained parched over the summer, some areas of Texas received more than 300 percent of normal precipitation. Although the weather caused huge problems for many, the *San Antonio Business Journal* reported that the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) used the opportunity to store as much water as it could for the future.

According to the newspaper, SAWS estimated it would store nearly 42,000 acre-feet in its Twin Oaks Aquifer Storage and Recovery and Water Treatment Facility by the end of the year. The facility is an underground reservoir in

the Carrizo Aquifer that is used when the karstic Edwards Aquifer, SAWS' primary water source, is overflowing. Water is injected from the Edwards into the Carrizo for later use when needed.

Visit www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/.

ADEQ Primacy Affirmed

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the authority of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to operate the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program at the state level.

Arizona has administered the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) program since December 2002 under a delegation agreement with the U.S. EPA. But in early 2003, ADEQ's authority to administer the program was challenged by Defenders of Wildlife and the Center for Biological Diversity in federal court. The plaintiffs claimed the state's program would not enforce endangered species regulations as thoroughly as federal statutes.

The court proceedings were monitored by other states who feared similar legal challenges if the environmental interests won, however the recent ruling affirms ADEQ's authority in this area.

Meanwhile, ADEQ is working on a major revision of Arizona's drinking water

rules in order to maintain the state's primary enforcement authority of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. In this new rulemaking process, many of the state's current drinking water rules will be repealed or restructured to incorporate the federal National Primary Drinking Water Regulations by reference.

This action will update the state drinking water regulations so that they are as stringent as the federal rules rather than restating the federal regulations. The aim is to reduce the potential for conflict between state and federal laws and ensure Arizona retains jurisdiction to implement the Safe Drinking Water Act. Incorporation by reference will also facilitate review and approval of Arizona's rules by applicable state and federal entities.

Visit www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/dw/rules.html.

EPA Releases List of Compounds to Screen for Endocrine Disruption

In June, the U.S. EPA released a list of 73 chemicals that are the first to be considered for screening under the 1996 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. The act required EPA to initiate an endocrine disruptor screening program (EDSP) to screen pesticide chemicals and environmental contaminants for their potential to affect the endocrine systems of humans and wildlife.

Endocrine disruptor screening is currently proceeding on three fronts: 1) scientific and technical testing to validate the endocrine disruptor screens and tests; 2) setting priorities for selecting chemicals for initial screening and testing; and 3) developing the policies and procedures the agency will use to require testing.

In June 2007, EPA published a prepublication *Federal Register* notice announcing the draft list of 69 pesticides and four inerts used in pesticides to be considered for screening under the

HydroFacts

Cartographic alterations in the 2007 edition of *The Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World* attributed to climate change:

Percent reduction in Aral Sea since 1967:	75
Percent reduction in Lake Chad since 1963:	95
Decline in the Dead Sea since 1957, in feet:	82
Major rivers no longer reliably reaching the sea or drying out in summer:	
Rio Grande, Colorado, Yellow, Tigris	
Percent of coral reefs destroyed or degraded in recent decades:	40

Number of U.S. Earth-observing satellites:	42
Number predicted by 2010:	25
Percent change in NASA's earth-science budget, 2000-2006:	-30

(Source: National Resource Council)