

SOCIETY PAGES

International Recharge Experts Convening in the Southwest

An excellent opportunity to learn from recharge experts from around the world is coming soon to the Southwest. The 6th International Symposium for Managed Aquifer Recharge (ISMAR6) will be held Oct. 28-Nov.2 in Phoenix.

In addition to three days of technical talks, the meeting will offer four workshops and a day of field trips. Presentations will be made by authors from 17 different countries and 14 U.S. states covering a wide range of topics, including the practical aspects of recharge in such diverse places as Europe, the Middle East, Africa, India, Australia, Mexico, Japan, and Taiwan.

Visit www.ismar2007.org for more information.

ASCE Presents Infrastructure Action Plan to Congress

The American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) most recent Report Card for America's Infrastructure (2005; also see *Southwest Hydrology*, Mar/Apr 2006) gave the nation's critical infrastructure an overall grade of D. In March, ASCE members from across the country delivered an Infrastructure Action Plan to their respective representatives from the 110th Congress as part of the organization's annual Legislative Fly-In Program. The plan calls for 11 specific actions, seven of which concern water-related issues:

- Enact the National Infrastructure Improvement Act to establish the National Commission on Infrastructure of the United States;
- Enact the Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act (H.R. 1098) to address the most critical non-federal public dams;
- Enact a national levee safety program, including a nationwide inventory of levees and mandatory inspection requirements;
- Enact the Water Quality Financing Act of 2007 (H.R. 720) to provide vitally

needed federal aid through the State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) program;

- Authorize \$1 billion in annual funding for the Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF);
- Enact a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that requires a more comprehensive approach to water resources projects constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and
- Ensure the integrity of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.

ASCE estimates that the United States needs to invest \$1.6 trillion in federal, state, and local funds over a five-year period to bring the nation's infrastructure to a condition that meets the needs of our current population.

Much of the needed funding is already allocated in existing budgets—only about one-third of the total investment needed will be new funding. However, the \$1.6 trillion does not account for future population growth.

ASCE's Report Card for America's Infrastructure and the Infrastructure Action Plan are at www.infrastructurereportcard.org.

New Journal for Water Practitioners

Last spring, the Water Environment Foundation (WEF) released the inaugural issue of *Water Practice*, a new peer-reviewed online journal for water practitioners. The first issue featured topics related to residuals and biosolids. Full access to the journal is available at no cost through December 2007.

Water Practice features articles on monitoring, facility operations and maintenance, management, and policy. Each issue focuses on a specific water quality topic, often coinciding with recent WEF specialty conferences. Upcoming issues will focus on topics such as odor control, disinfection, nutrient removal, collection systems and compounds of emerging concern.

Visit www.wef.org/ScienceTechnologyResources/Publications/WaterPractice/.

Rio Grande One of Top 10 Rivers at Risk Worldwide

The Rio Grande is among the world's top ten rivers at risk, according to a



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report released in March by the World Wildlife Fund. The WWF report names the world's rivers that are facing widespread degradation while millions of people depend on them for survival. The Rio Grande along the U.S.-Mexico border made the list because it is severely threatened by water diversions, widespread alteration of the floodplain, dams, and pollution. It was the only North American river on the list.

The Rio Grande and its tributaries run through the arid Chihuahuan Desert, and the area is home to a rich diversity of freshwater species. The river is also the lifeblood of the region's economy, providing water to some of the fastest-growing urban areas in the country and thousands of farms and ranches. Irrigation accounts for more than 80 percent of all water diversions from the river.

In response, WWF is working to improve irrigation in the Rio Grande valley so

that water can remain in the river for the benefit of fish and other wildlife, and so farmers and ranchers can secure a reliable supply of water. WWF also seeks to establish more parks and protected areas along the stretches of the river that are most important for wildlife.

The report, The World's Top Ten Rivers at Risk, is available at www.worldwildlife.org/news/pubs/10rivers.pdf.

American Rivers' Top 10 Rivers at Risk

In April, American Rivers announced the 10 most endangered rivers in the United States, a list that includes three in the Southwest. Topping the list was the Santa Fe River in New Mexico, followed by San Mateo Creek in California. Texas's Neches River came in at number six.

The Santa Fe was deemed most at risk because for most of the year it lacks any water at all—the biggest risk any river could face, according to American Rivers. The San Mateo Creek in Orange County suffers from plans to bury it to accommodate a new transportation corridor. The Neches is one of the last wild rivers in Texas and home to the state's newest wildlife refuge, but lawmakers are proposing to build a dam on it.

The annual American Rivers list is compiled from nominations from river groups, environmental organizations, local governments, and taxpayer watchdogs. It aims to highlight rivers facing the most uncertain futures rather than those with the worst chronic problems. The Rio Grande (see previous article) was not on the list.

Visit www.americanrivers.org.

New Director for ACWA

The Board of Directors of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) appointed Timothy Quinn as executive director for the 460-member statewide association effective July 2. Quinn served with the Metropolitan Water District

of Southern California for 22 years as the district's primary representative for statewide issues. During that time, he helped to create the Drought Water Bank, and worked to negotiate the 1994 Bay-Delta Accord and the Monterey Agreement. Before joining Metropolitan, Quinn was a project manager at the Rand Corporation, specializing in research on natural resource and environmental policy issues.

Steve Hall, ACWA's previous executive director, will retire at the end of the year after leading the organization for 15 years.

ACWA is a statewide association of public agencies whose 460 members are responsible for about 90 percent of the water delivered in California.

Visit www.acwa.com.

WateReuse Maintains Facilities Database

Agencies, utilities, consultants, and reuse water customers seeking information on the practice and implementation of water reuse can find answers at the WateReuse Association's National Database of Water Reuse Facilities (NDWRF). It is a comprehensive database of reuse programs and facilities across the United States.

Information available from the database includes reclaimed water production capacity and extent of reclaimed water distribution systems; reclaimed water users in the United States, including the quantity of reuse for such applications as irrigation, industrial, and recharge; utility program management practices; production and distribution data; reclaimed water rates; and utility contracts that may have additional information on reuse programs.

Information does come at a price. WateReuse Association members and WateReuse Foundation subscribers receive limited complimentary access to data, but queries from nonmembers and extensive searches from members are subject to a fee based on the query.

To access the database, visit www.watereuse.org/ndwrf/.

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