

IWVWD PRESS RELEASE – AUGUST 8, 2008
Tom Mulvihill, August GM Column

The IWVWD URGES YOUR SUPPORT

Late last month, U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger co-sponsored a \$9.3 billion water bond that could be appearing on the November 2008 California ballot. Known as the Comprehensive Water Package, this proposed legislation will serve as the main component of a bill required to be finalized by August 16 -- a deadline set by the California Secretary of State.

In my opinion, the urgent enactment of a comprehensive water package this November is crucial to the future health of this state.

Our governor has already declared a Drought Emergency even as Sierra snowfall and statewide rainfall levels have registered historically low for three years. It's no secret that two thirds of California's population is served by the Bay Delta and its associated water projects or that water deliveries from the Delta have been drastically reduced by legal action over and above the drought. Scientists and policy makers alike are calling this set of circumstances the "most severe water crisis in recent history."

Of course, the Indian Wells Valley is not reliant today on the Bay Delta as we depend entirely on our one source of fresh water – our aquifer – for our needs. Bear in mind, however, that the Indian Wells Valley Water District's ongoing efforts to obtain sources of water outside our valley is impacted very much by this water crises.

Also, every one of us does consume "virtual water" from other places through the purchase of goods and services, all of which can be assigned a so-called "water footprint." This measurement is an assessment of how much water it actually took to grow, manufacture and/or create a cotton shirt, a hamburger patty or a radial tire, for example. Simply put, we all have a vested interest in keeping California's water supply flowing.

Because water is such an integral part of our way of life, all Californians need to face these significant challenges together. If we actively support the Comprehensive Water Package, we can stop the deterioration of our water infrastructure and begin planning in earnest for a future with the same quality of life, security, bounty and opportunity as we enjoy now.

On Monday evening at their regular August meeting, the IWVWD Directors will be considering a resolution urging legislators to move quickly to secure a place for a water bond on the November ballot.

If you would like to express your support of this measure, please contact the following:

- State Assemblyperson Jean Fuller, (661) 395-2995
- Senator Roy Ashburn, (916) 445-5405