



October 16, 2006

## **New Enterprise/Northrop Reservoir and Pump Station Dedicated *Facility Adding Major New Water Supply is the Result of Decades of Water Planning***

Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) celebrated the dedication of the new Enterprise/Northrop Reservoir and Pump Station on Thursday, October 12. District officials, board members and elected officials were present at the event to celebrate the culmination of fifty years of planning in bringing a new water supply to the District, ensuring a continually reliable water source for its customers in the District's South Service Area.

"This is an important accomplishment for SSWD and our customers," says Robert Roscoe, SSWD General Manager. "This facility gives us the ability to manage both surface and groundwater, enhancing our water supply and ensuring an ongoing high level of service."

The \$7.8 million facility includes a five million gallon tank that will store treated surface water purchased from the City of Sacramento. The facility is the product of decades of long-range water supply planning, first conceived when one of the District's predecessor agencies was formed in 1956, then began in earnest in 1964, when an agreement was made to purchase surface water from the City of Sacramento. Since then, SSWD has been working to stabilize and diversify the District's water sources, resulting in the planning and building of this facility.

SSWD currently draws water from the groundwater basin in north Sacramento County. Use by the District's customers and others has led to a long term decline in groundwater levels. To reduce overdrafting of its groundwater supply, SSWD has adopted a process known as "conjunctive use," where the District combines the use of treated surface water in wet years, when ample water is available from rainfall and snow pack, with the use of groundwater in dry years, when surface water isn't as readily available. This diversified approach allows the groundwater basin to replenish, thus enhancing the reliability of the water supply. Not using surface water in dry times leaves more water in the lower American River for environmental uses such as fish flows and habitat. SSWD's North Service Area began receiving surface water in 1998 through a new pipeline connected to the San Juan Water District treatment plant. Now the South Service Area will reap the benefits of conjunctive use through the purchase of the City of Sacramento treated surface water.

"The region has been experiencing a long-term decline in groundwater levels," says Byron Buck, President of the SSWD Board of Directors. "In order to continue providing our customers with a reliable supply of water, we needed to find a way to stop overtaxing the groundwater basin. This reservoir and pump station are the final pieces we needed to implement a full conjunctive water use plan. The facility also offers capacity to surrounding agencies to assist them in meeting their fair share of groundwater protection and management."

Beginning in November, the new facility will store and pump up to 20 million gallons of treated surface water a day that is purchased from the City, which will service SSWD's South Service Area, a population of approximate 58,000. The new reservoir and pump station were built, in part, with \$3.3 million Proposition 13 grant from the California Department of Water Resources.

*Sacramento Suburban Water District delivers water to a population of about 168,000 to areas in the northeast portion of Sacramento County. The District's service area encompasses approximately 36 square miles. In February 2002,*

New Enterprise/Northrop Reservoir and Pump Station

*SSWD was formed as a result of consolidation between the former Arcade and Northridge Water Districts. The District is governed by a five-member elected Board of Directors.*