

# Water Resources and Policy Initiatives Conference April 27, 2011

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After almost 60 years under the wing of the Paradise Unified School District, Paradise Preschool is enjoying its first year of independence.

The school has been renting a facility at the Paradise United Methodist Church for about 35 years, said the school's secretary Monica Brown.

With the district facing its own financial troubles, the preschool was given the option of moving its location onto a district campus or going independent.

It chose independence.

"We did what we thought was right," said Brown. "That's why community support is even more important than ever."

To that end, the school held a fund-raiser that allowed youngsters to run wild and free for a few hours.

The Winter Fun Fest featured food, arts, crafts, a raffle and other fun activities

See **SCHOOL**, page A-4

With the parks and recreation district having a ready project on the books, the two came

the current retaining wall with decorative concrete blocks.

See **FUNDS**, page A-4

# Rains increase water levels

## ■ Lake Oroville is nearly full

By PAUL WELLERSDICK

Staff Writer

More than normal amounts of snow are on the state's mountains, according to the California Department of Water Resources' third snow pack survey results released last week.

Locally, this translates to a healthy amount of water in Lake Oroville, which is just 50 feet below its 900-foot-above sea level capacity.

The lake is rising a foot a day, and if the trend continues Lake Oroville could reach capacity by May 1.

According to the DWR snow survey taken near the Tahoe area, statewide water content is 124 percent of normal for the date, and 109 percent of the April 1 seasonal average.

Readings were boosted by recent storms making up for a dry

See **WATER**, page A-4



# Water Allocation – 80 percent?

## Dedicated Supply

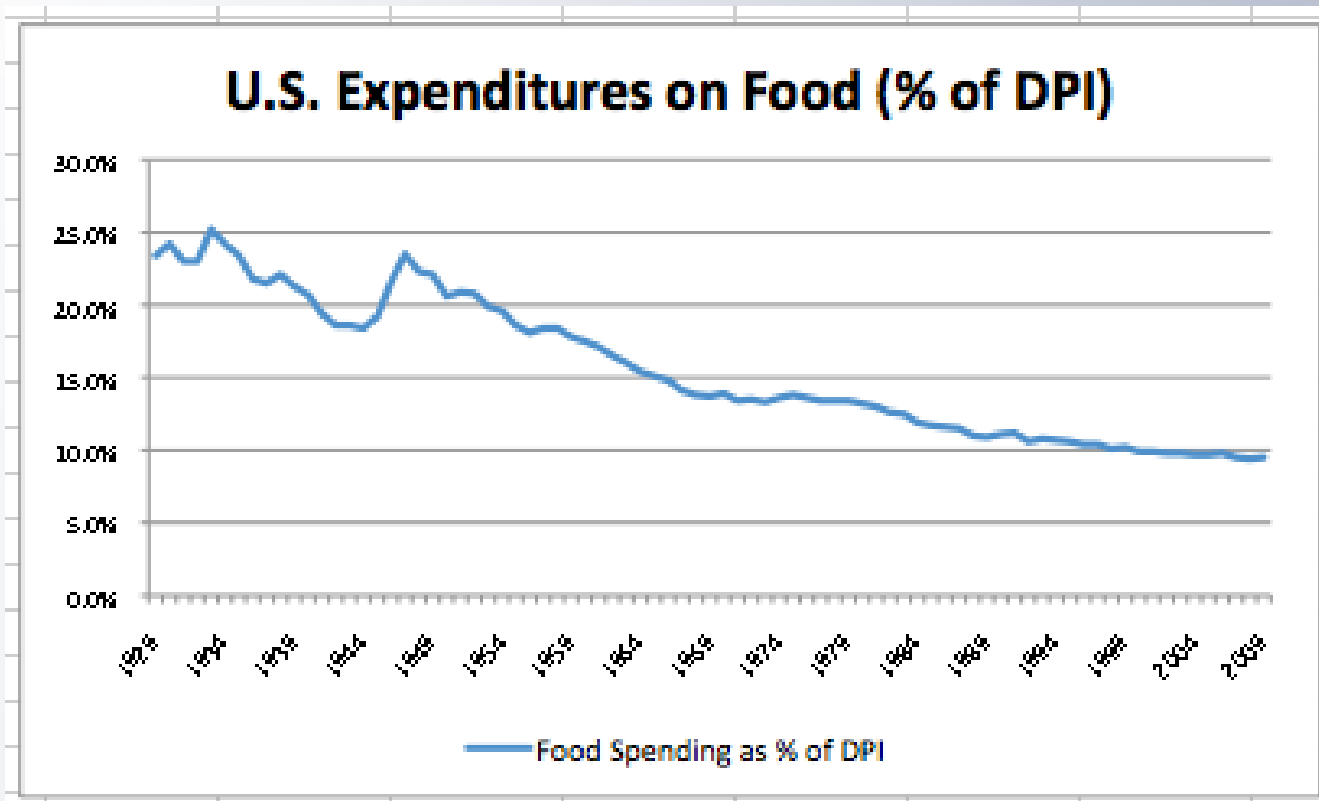


Uncaptured	115.0 MAF
Environment	40.8 MAF
Agriculture	34.9 MAF
Urban	9.3 MAF

Source: DWR California Water Plan 2005

# Economic Value of US Food Production

“Agriculture accounts for 3% of California’s GDP”



Source: USDA



# Food Cost Comparison

- In the U.S. families spend 6.2% of disposable income on food and non-alcoholic beverages
- By comparison, families in 28 other high-income countries spend on average 10.2%
- Dollar value per household is \$3,820 per year
- Equates to \$51 billion in California

Source: World Bank



# Agricultural Efficiency

- Between 1967 and 2000 California farm production volume increased 89%
- Applied water on a per acre basis increased 2%

Source: CA Water Plan, USDA

- DWR reports that between 1967 and 2007 applied water declined 14%
- Economic efficiency doubled

Source: CA Water Plan 2009



# Where are we and how did we get here?

- 1990 – AB 3616 passed by Legislature
- 1996 – AB3616 Advisory Committee adopts MOU for implementing cost-effective EWMPs that benefit water suppliers
- Water suppliers agree to voluntary process outlined in the MOU – 17 EWMPs
- 2001 – CalFed grant funds AWMC activities
- Ultimately, 78 ag water suppliers sign MOU





# Water Management Plan Participation

- Voluntary participation resulted in almost 60 percent of the irrigated agricultural acreage in California covered under water management plans.
- Some water community interest groups felt that the voluntary nature of AB 3616 MOU failed by not engaging all water suppliers.





# Legislative Intervention, cont.

- 2009 – SBX7-7 adopted by Legislature
  - Signed into law
- Mandatory water management planning
  - Measurement and volumetric pricing
  - 14 other EWMPs similar to AWMC MOU process
- DWR handed a very difficult task by legislature



# Agriculture's Concerns

- Short deadline for compliance – July 31, 2012
- Accuracy standards are different for farm-gate measurement versus upstream lateral measurement.
- Predicted costs are very high
  - \$7,570 initial cost per farm (\$24/ac)
  - \$2,500/yr ongoing costs (\$8/ac./yr.)



# The Future

- Must find a way to maintain agricultural viability in California.
- Policies must protect the environment in order to assure water supply reliability.
- Research is vital to assure that the public and policy-makers have good information to make good decisions.



# Questions

[www.agwatercouncil.org](http://www.agwatercouncil.org)

