The Benoit Bulletin
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Water Update

Only hours after the Senate wrapped up the budget early Friday morning, I hosted a briefing on water issues with Jeffrey Kightlinger, General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, at the Eastern Municipal Water District headquarters in Perris. Now that a budget revision has been enacted, the Legislature should waste no time in addressing what is one of the most critical issues to our State's future prosperity, water reliability.

10 percent of Eastern Municipal Water District's fresh water is filtered at the Perris Water Filtration Plant, which depends on water from the Colorado River and State Water Project. *Photo courtesy of EMWD.*

It's been over thirty years since California substantially increased its water storage and conveyance infrastructure. As it stands, 2/3rds of the State's water comes from rainfall and snowmelt in the north, while 2/3 of the water use and growing population demands is in the southern part of the State. With a third year of drought and federal court orders shutting down water pumps in the Delta, a water system last renovated in the 1970s is rapidly becoming inadequate to meet our water needs.

As a member of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, I am working with my colleagues on several legislative efforts to effectively manage our water resources. With the budget now signed, water policy is an area in need of solutions quickly.

Thanks to the over 70 folks who participated, including water agency directors, school board members, and other elected representatives. I hope to bring more of these forums to all corners of the County. Look for invitations to future forums and townhalls here in *The Benoit Bulletin*.

View - *The Desert Sun*: Benoit speaks about water conservation