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# MCINTOSH: Awash in water gobbledygook

**By Andy McIntosh - For the North County Times | Posted: Monday, November 2, 2009 12:05 am**

I am convinced there is a secret university course that specializes in "gobbledygook," the graduates of which flock to the hallowed halls of law and politics.

The lesser lights, I'm equally convinced, polish their skills in the backrooms of the nation's utility companies, bent on conjuring invoices and marketing junk that would take a genius with a PhD in ... well, gobbledygook, to understand.

My phone bill resembles a phone book. And while my electricity bill is a bit thinner, it is undecipherable. Rancho California Water District puts out a reasonably coherent bill, but then ruins it by including a newsletter that confuses, deludes and obfuscates.

Everybody knows that California is in a Stage 3 water emergency. What most people don't know, or refuse to admit, is that the water shortage is bogus. Chief among the reasons is a court-ordered reduction in water deliveries to regional water districts, an order crafted not out of need to conserve water but to protect delta smelt in Northern California, of all things. The water is there, but they refuse to deliver it.

While legislators apply the Endangered Species Act with blinders firmly in place, California farmers are crying over needlessly dry land that makes the Oklahoma dust bowl look like a monsoon by comparison. Already, experts predict job losses will amount to 30,000 in the Central Valley alone due to the destruction of the agricultural basin.

Why do we have a water shortage at all? The earth is primarily water and we have billions of acre-feet of it at our Pacific shores. If we can refine and pump oil ---- and transmit electrical power ---- across the land, why can't we desalinate sea water and pump it where it needs to go? The answer is because our governments want to control our growth through manufactured crises in resources. We've seen it play out with oil, electricity and now water. The technology is there, but the will is not.

Closer to home, the trickledown effect of this government-made water crisis keeps the newsletter writers at RCWD fully employed and the autumn issue is rife with gobbledygook.

I am admonished as to when and how I can wash my car or water my lawn. I will be allocated "outside" water in relation to the size of my lot, that information being gleaned from big brother Riverside County tax assessors. And I will be given 60 gallons of water a day to use however I wish within the confines of my interior walls. Any more, and I will pay a higher rate and risk a visit from the RCWD water police. So says the newsletter.

Californians should be red hot. While the power brokers drench their estates and fill their pools, you and I get 60 gallons a day and a visit from the water Gestapo.

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