Newspaper Clippings from May 1 – May 9, 2008

Riverside County symposium focuses on state, local efforts to curb water use
May 1, 2008 – The Press Enterprise
By Jennifer Bowles
If Gov. Schwarzenegger gets his way, residents in the Inland region and the rest of California will reduce their water use by 20 percent over the next 12 years. "It's hard to say in this state that we can waste resources without consequences," Joe Grindstaff, the state's deputy secretary for water policy, told nearly 800 people gathered Thursday for the fifth annual Riverside County Water Symposium, held at the Morongo Casino Resort & Spa in Cabazon….

Final snow survey of year confirms it's dry
May 1, 2008 – Mercurynews.com / Contracostatimes.com
By Mike Taugher
California's snowpack is low for the second year in a row, leaving water managers across the state grappling with the triple threat of a dry year, depleted reservoirs and new environmental restrictions on pumping from the Delta. Thursday's snowpack measure, the final one of the year, came in at 67 percent of normal….

Perris to compete as distribution, industrial hub
May 1, 2008 – The Press Enterprise
By Rodd Cayton
Whirlpool Corp.'s new distribution center that opened recently in Perris should be the rule, not the exception, Redlands economist John Husing said. Husing said that despite slow growth brought on by a sluggish economy, the Perris area remains a viable Inland logistics and distribution hub….

Water shortage worst in decades, official says
May 2, 2008 – The LA Times
By Deborah Schoch
California communities face a strong possibility of water shortages and even mandatory rationing this summer because of record dry weather in March and April, a fast-shrinking snowpack and below-normal reservoir levels, state officials said Thursday. The bleak news, contained in California's final Sierra snowpack report of the snow season, means a second consecutive year of water anxieties in a state heavily dependent on water from the melting snow in the Sierra Nevada….

Farmers struggle with water price, cuts
May 2, 2008 – The Californian
By Bradley J. Fikes
Before imported water irrigated North County farmlands, the desert here was anything but fertile. Instead of groves of citrus and avocado trees and other crops, rocks and scrub vegetation dominated the landscape. That desert could be returning. Faced with rising water costs and a water shortage, farmers in the breadbasket communities of Valley Center and Fallbrook are cutting back their operations -- and cutting down their trees….

San Jacinto High School teens summon solar power for boat races
May 6, 2008 – The Press Enterprise
By Diane A. Rhodes
With strong sunbeams and a stronger will, students from San Jacinto High School hope to make a splash at the sixth annual Solar Cup boat races at Lake Skinner later this month. The Solar Cup is an educational program sponsored by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and its 26-member water agencies….

Thieves make off with dozens of manhole covers in Long Beach
May 6, 2008 – The LA Times
By Bob Pool
Long Beach has become the latest target in a worldwide epidemic of manhole-cover larceny, authorities say. Nearly 50 of the 150-pound, cast-iron lids have been swiped from roadways and alleys in the last eight months -- with 17 taken in just the last week, authorities said Monday. Seven disappeared Sunday night in the northwest section of the city, say administrators of the Long Beach Water Department….

Finish Line in Sight
May 7, 2008 – The Press Enterprise
By Bob Pratte
…Goepp said the park district is moving forward to build the restroom-snack bar facilities and negotiating with Eastern Municipal Water District to irrigate the fields with reclaimed water….

Water rights claim ends truce
May 8, 2008 – Thevillagenews.com
By Tim O'Leary
A court challenge filed by an Anza-based Indian tribe has reignited one of Southern California's longest-running water-rights disputes, an action that could tighten supplies in a vast area that takes in Camp Pendleton, Fallbrook, Murrieta, Lake Elsinore, Temecula, and its satellite horse and wine country communities….

Waxing Waterless
May 9, 2008 – The Press Enterprise
By Dan Bernstein
There was an era, recalls Larry Parrish, RivCo's chief exec officer, when a routine item on the Board O' Supes agenda was routinely ignored.
"Opening Comments" essentially asked supes if they had something to say -- about *anything*….