



*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

# NEWS RELEASE

P. O. Box 54153, Los Angeles, California 90054-0153 • (213) 217-6485 • [www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com)

Contact: Bob Muir, (213) 217-6930; (213) 324-5213, mobile

Oct. 1, 2009

## METROPOLITAN APPLAUDS YUBA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD AS EXAMPLE OF STATEWIDE COOPERATION

An award-winning, landmark accord along the lower Yuba River is an example of the cooperative efforts needed to address the environmental and water supply challenges in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, according to the general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Jeffrey Kightlinger, Metropolitan's general manager, supported the innovative agreement forged by the Yuba County Water Agency. The agreement was recognized for its ecosystem and watershed stewardship with the 2009 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award.

"The Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award demonstrates the power of partnerships and collaboration in solving the state's water problems," Kightlinger said about the award to Yuba County, which was presented to YCWA officials at the Global Climate Summit in Los Angeles Wednesday (Sept. 30).

Reached in 2008, the Lower Yuba River Accord culminated five years of negotiations involving Metropolitan and 18 other agencies and stakeholder groups around the state. The three agreements that form the accord established a framework to enhance the in-stream flows along 24 miles of key salmon and steelhead habitat in a manner that preserved Yuba County's ability to meet its water supply, hydropower and recreation needs.

Kightlinger said a key component of the accord was a series of water transfers that increase available supplies in the Delta, while providing an important revenue source for Yuba County for projects such as flood control.

"This year alone, the Yuba Accord will produce water supplies that will lessen some of the impacts of the current water shortage facing Metropolitan and other water districts relying on the Delta. This shows the benefits of a partnership approach," Kightlinger said.

“With a historic package of Delta legislation taking shape in Sacramento, it’s important to realize that a foundation for a cooperative, watershed-based approach to solving these problems is already in place,” he added.

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*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.*