

New urgency for Colorado River water



Drought impacts level of Lake Mathews (January 2009)

LAKE MATHEWS--There's some good news about one source of Inland Empire water.

It's estimated that springtime run-off down the Colorado River will be above normal, according to spokesman Bob Muir at the Metropolitan Water District.

"The Colorado River Basin is about 110% of normal for this time of year. However, that good news is tempered by the continuing challenges on the State Water Project, our other source of imported supply."

Protection of the tiny Delta Smelt will result in the further cut-back of imported water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Meantime, Colorado River water in Lake Mathews near Riverside has fallen to half of capacity.

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