



"Wipe my feet! Wipe my feet!! No wonder my shoes wear out so fast!!!"

## Wasting Water Becoming a Sin In California, Solon Reports

By VINCENT THOMAS  
Assemblyman, 68th District

In today's California, wasting water is rapidly coming to be one of the deadlier sins. Everyone, north, south, east and west, is being impressed with the necessity of conserving every possible drop of the vital fluid. The future well-being of the entire state depends, to a great extent, on our ability to provide an adequate and reliable supply for all.

For years, growing concern has been expressed over the lowering water tables in our great interior valleys. Water agencies and users have been forced to go deeper and deeper after their supplies, and costs have sky-rocketed accordingly. But practical solutions to the problems involved have not been easy of achievement.

HOPE for eventual success has been recently renewed. Following a legislative mandate, the Assembly interim committee on water has started a two-year investigation of ground water replacement problems, and of the need for legislation governing ground water usage. The Senate fact finding committee on water resources will cooperate in the study.

At its first hearing, the Assembly group received information from both the state water rights board and the state dept. of water resources. Both agencies were agreed that we must realize the maximum beneficial use of all the ground water resources of the state if we are to meet future demands. Both were also of the opinion that legislation of some sort will be needed to reach this maximum.

THE COMMITTEE was alerted to a popular misconception that underground water is a natural resource entirely separate and apart from water from surface streams. It was pointed out that studies reveal that pumping water from an underground basis will reduce to a certain extent the flow of a surface stream which crosses the basin. This means, it was said, that proper control of such a surface stream by licenses and permits can be nullified by continued uncontrolled pumping from wells in the basin.

As an example of what can happen, the situation on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley was cited. Many irrigation districts there which get water from the Friant reservoir deliberately turn part of it into underground basins for use in dry-cycle years. But other districts which depend on wells pump out part of this

ground water, thus depriving the first districts of water they have paid for to put into cyclic storage.

BOTH AGENCIES recommend planned or "conjunctive" operation of both surface and underground water in given basins to conserve the most water possible, and keep the water tables at optimum levels. Under this procedure, water in underground basins would by law be made as fully subject to licensing and permit controls as surface or other stream water now is. Applications for ground water rights would be made and decided through existing machinery of the water rights board and the courts.

The committee was warned that a successful operation of projects in the state master water plan depend on ground water control. Spokesmen for the dept. of water resources said that coordinated use of both surface and underground storage is being given careful consideration in the designs and plans for operation of all state water projects. Complete use of ground water storage is vital to the economical construction and efficient operation of the entire system, it was indicated.

## Square Dance Group Formed

Having successfully completed the required course for beginners, a new square dance club, the BAY-O-NETS, has been organized.

The club meets on the first, second, fourth and fifth Friday evenings from 8 to 11 at Franklin School, 850 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach. On Wednesday, Sept. 20, they plan to sponsor a new beginners class. The class will be open for the first four weeks to any adults wishing to join in the fun and learn to square dance.

Callers for the groups—both the beginners class and the club—are Frankie Frankberger and Tom Dunagan.

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