



# News Release

**For Release:** Immediate

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## **President signs \$26 million funding for R-C Feeder**

*Milestone project will increase local water supply sources*

RIVERSIDE, CA – March 31, 2009 – Good things come to those who persevere. In a major victory representing the largest federal procurement success in Western Municipal Water District’s history, President Obama signed HR 146 into law on March 30, authorizing federal funds to construct the Riverside-Corona Feeder.

Seeing the project through from start to final signature has taken approximately five years. Originally sponsored by Congressman Ken Calvert and Senator Dianne Feinstein, the Riverside-Corona Feeder Water Supply Act authorizes \$26 million in federal funding for the Bureau of Reclamation to design, plan and construct a series of groundwater wells, pumps and pipelines known as the Riverside-Corona Feeder (R-C Feeder) project.

Once complete, the 28 mile-long R-C Feeder will allow Western to pump and convey up to 40,000 acre-feet of water stored in local ground water basins during wet years for use throughout Western Riverside County during drought or catastrophic loss of imported water supplies or infrastructure. “Many people have been involved at Western to see the R-C Feeder Water Supply Act become law,” said Western General Manager John V. Rossi. “As the highest profile drought-proofing project in the Inland Empire, we can now add the R-C feeder project to our growing portfolio of local water supply solutions.”

In addition to R-C Feeder authorization, the package of signed bills also authorizes \$26 million for the Chino Desalter, a project involving the construction of new wells, groundwater treatment and water distribution facilities in the lower Chino Basin. Once complete in 2013, the expanded facility will allow delivery of an additional 10,000 acre-feet of water annually to Western and other members of the Chino Basin Desalter Authority. Further authorizations are included for recycled water projects benefiting Corona, Elsinore Valley and Rancho California water agencies.

The R-C Feeder is supported and consistent with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California’s Integrated Resource Plan, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority’s Integrated Watershed Plan, and regional water planning efforts for the cities of Riverside, Norco and Corona, along with the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Jurupa Community Services District, Home Gardens County Water District, Lee Lake Water District and March Air Reserve Base.

*Western Municipal Water District provides water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in a safe, reliable, environmentally sensitive and financially responsible manner.*

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