Dams:
(Dam scenery. You won’t find this on a wind farm!)

Dam created Wagamon's Pond, now a scenic favorite
RAE TYSN, DELMARVA MEDIA GROUP CORRESPONDENT, June 24, 2015, delawareonline.com

In the heart of Milton, DE is a scenic, tree-lined pond that generations have enjoyed for its beauty and tranquility. As long as anyone can remember, the pond has been used for ice skating in the winter and, in the warmer weather, it has been a favorite local spot for fishing and boating. And it has provided a beautiful backdrop for the homes around its perimeter, not to mention a refuge for wildlife. Few realize that Wagamon's Pond is not a natural phenomenon. In fact, 200 years ago, the land was actually dense forest until three Milton residents – Joseph Maull, John S. Conwell and William W. Coulter – petitioned the Delaware
Legislature to allow the construction of a dam on Broadkill Creek. **Damming the creek would ultimately create a sizeable new pond.** The motivation: Maull owned steam-powered saw and grist mills on the creek but the trio saw business opportunities if they were allowed to build a dam and harness its power. The request was not well received in Milton, which, at that point in the early 1800s, was not a heavily populated community.

“What seemed like a practical solution was actually a controversial one,” says a Milton Historical Society synopsis of the pond’s history. “The land surrounding Broadkill Creek, the head of the Broadkill River, was lush forests filled with oak trees. Many Miltonians vocalized their disapproval for the loss of a large, forested area to further a local businessman.” “I am sure 200 years ago this was most likely a hot topic among the residents in Milton,” said Mayor Marion Jones. Regardless, the legislature approved the controversial plan in 1815 and hundreds of huge oak trees were chopped down to create open space for the pond. In 1819, the three men built a grist mill alongside the 41-acre pond. And, years later, in 1898, the Wagamon family took over the mill and began offering grain grinding services to local Milton residents. The grain was locally grown in an area that was essentially rural in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The unnamed pond was eventually named after the Wagamon family. In 1910, Hamilton Wagamon and business partner John T. Daniel built a new flour mill on the site. It was, for the era, state-of-the-art and, because it was a whopping four stories tall, could be seen from some distance away. The Diamond State Roller Mill became the largest flour and grist producer in Sussex County. Though one of the main buildings was destroyed by fire in 1943, the mill remained in operation until the 1960s. The remaining structure was intentionally burned down by the local fire department in the 1970s, thus symbolically ending the flour grinding era at Wagamon’s Pond. Martha Jane Collins grew up on Wagamon’s Pond when her family moved there after World War II. She still lives there in the family homestead and has watched it change over time. “It was a wonderful place to grow up,” she said. “We fished on it, swam in it and skated on it,” she said. In fact, many photographs taken by Collins’ father, local banker David Donovan, are part of an exhibit currently at the Milton Historical Society Museum that commemorates the 200th anniversary of Wagamon’s Pond. “It has become a local landmark,” said Allison Schell, historical society director. The museum actually began its commemoration of the pond’s birthday with an earlier exhibit featuring local artists in a show called “Dam it! (Well, We Did)”. One local artist who knows the pond intimately – and draws inspiration from it – is Aurelio Grisanty, who moved from Rehoboth Beach into his home and studio at pond’s edge in 2008. “The pond gave me a different life from the beach. The beach is open, its edge is sand. The pond is closed and mysterious,” he said. Now, he often explores the pond in his canoe, using the it’s serenity for relaxation and inspiration. “There is always the sense that one has not seen it all in the pond,” he said. “There will always be the promise of something new.”

Though mills were the dominant enterprise on the new pond in the beginning, one local entrepreneur launched a business in the early 1900s that took advantage of wintry conditions. Indeed, in the days before electricity and refrigeration, James Handy Prettyman started an ice business to supply local residents and businesses. Prettyman harvested the ice in the winter and stored it in an insulated building near the pond. Customers used the ice to preserve meats and other foods that would otherwise spoil. Unfortunately, most ice houses could not preserve any inventory once summertime temperatures rose. “He usually had ice available until July,” Collins said. Collins also remembered that Wagamon’s Pond was a favorite of boaters, especially after World War II when motorboats and water skiing became popular. “Sometimes, on Sunday, it was so noisy we had to leave home,” she said. Collins also remembers using the pond to get to and from school, which was a short distance away. “I ice skated to school in the winter and used a rowboat when it was warmer,” she said. Since the pond was created 200 years ago, the trees and other foliage around it has matured and, although there has been some development, Wagamon’s Pond remains a sanctuary for migratory birds and other wildlife. And it is still a favorite spot for local fishers. “Today, Wagamon’s Pond is a sparkling jewel in Milton’s landscape,” Mayor Jones said. “In terms of beauty, Milton residents and visitors alike enjoy the view of a lovely, large waterway, still lined with old trees.” Residents Collins and Grisanty agreed. “I still love it,” Collins said.
said. Added Grisanty: “Sometimes it is mirror-like, sometimes it is blurred by waves but it always is fascinating.”

(Get off my dam!)

**Beaver attacks two Oregon men who climbed on dam**

KTVB, June 26, 2015, ktvb.com

BEND, Oregon -- A beaver protecting its dam attacked two central Oregon men, who fell into a river and got taken to the hospital. Sgt. William Bailey of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office says the men were exploring Thursday night when they climbed onto a beaver dam and got attacked by the animal protecting its turf. Bailey says their injuries are not considered life-threatening. One man quickly climbed out the Deschutes River near Lava Island Falls and sought help for his friend whose clothing got caught on some logs. The trapped man managed to get out of the water just as a deputy arrived.

(Danger and not enough people are aware.)

**Low-head dams can bring real danger**

By Nolly Dakroury *THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH* • Saturday June 27, 2015, dispatch.com

State officials demonstrated the dangers of low-head dams on Alum Creek on Friday, hoping to raise awareness and reduce injuries and deaths. Ohio Department of Natural Resources officials pushed a kayak that held a dummy into the water. Once it went over the dam and tipped over, the craft and the dummy turned over and over in the current. Mike Miller, chief of the Division of Watercraft, compared low-head dams to washing machines. Water that flows over these dams is pushed down and continues to circulate, and anyone caught in that churning water is in danger, he said. Eric Reed, a training coordinator with division, said, “They grab a kayak or a canoe and they go out on these rivers, and they don’t realize the potential hazards and dangers of these low-head dams.” Ohio has about 1,000 low-head dams, Reed said. In Franklin County, five remain on the Olentangy River. One is in Worthington, and four are in Columbus.

Two low-head dams in Columbus have been removed in recent years: the Main Street dam on the Scioto River Downtown and the 5th Avenue dam on the Olentangy River just south of Ohio State University. Columbus Department of Public Utilities spokeswoman Laura Young Mohr said the city does not plan to remove more soon. Low-head dams often hold sewage lines, she said. “If you remove them, there’s a utility problem to solve.” A city report released in December 2005 estimated the cost to remove those dams and relocate the sewer systems running through them at $44 million. In 2008, Christian Hallam died at the 5th Avenue dam as a result of his raft going over the dam. The dam, which did not contain sewage lines, was removed in 2012 and cost the city and the state $6.9 million. A year later, the Main Street dam was removed as part of the $35 million Scioto Greenways project, which is aimed at adding 33 acres of green space to the riverbanks, restoring the water channel and reshaping the area surrounding the river. The city of Delaware has removed six low-head dams on the Olentangy at a cost of $31,000 in the past 10 years. According to American Rivers, a nonprofit group that advocates for dam removals, communities working with nonprofit groups and state and federal agencies removed 72 dams in 19 states in 2014. Five of those were in Ohio. The group said that more than 1,185 dams

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Copy obtained from the National Performance of Dams Program: [http://npdp.stanford.edu](http://npdp.stanford.edu)
have been removed nationwide since 1912. Researchers at Brigham Young University reported this year that 441 people have died at 235 low-head dams in 38 states since the 1950s. More than one-third of the drowning deaths occurred in Iowa, Minnesota and Pennsylvania, and about half of the deaths occurred in the past 15 years. Miller said that if you see a low-head dam, get to the riverbank. “You need to get out and take a look before you get there.” He said two boaters died last weekend at a low-head dam on the Sandusky River near Bucyrus. Kayakers and canoeists should wear life jackets, he added.

(Where are the boat barriers? People never know the danger.)

1 dead, 8 rescued after boat goes over Lake Linganore dam
By The Associated Press, ABC 7 News, Sam Sweeney, June 28, 2015 - wjla.com

NEW MARKET, Md. (WJLA/AP) – One person died and eight were rescued from the water after swift currents swept their boat over the dam into the spillway at Lake Linganore Saturday evening. Officials say the nine people were surprised by the fast-moving water and lost control of their boat. They were thrown from the boat about 6:30 p.m.

Candy Thomson, a spokeswoman for the Maryland Natural Resources Police, tells The Frederick News-Post that the 62-year-old man operating the boat died following the Saturday evening incident. Rescue workers recovered the man’s body Saturday night, about five hours after the accident. An autopsy is pending.

The eight people who were rescued were taken to Frederick Memorial Hospital. Information about their condition was not immediately available. Authorities say three of the eight rescued were stranded on the spillway, clinging to rocks as a Maryland State Police helicopter hoisted them up to the aircraft one by one. The nine people on the boat ranged from teenagers to adults.

(Wow, that's frightening! Never liked morning glory spillways. It's a long wat down there.)

Heavy Rains And Dam Spillway Create Whirlpool Capable Of Swallowing A Boat
geekologie.com

June 29, 2015 in dude -- next time you should throw a little paper boat in the water, freaky deaky, i'd ride that in a barrel, lake, seeing things, so like do the fish know to stay the f*** away from that or what?, video, vortex, water, whirlpool

This is a video capturing a giant intake vortex at the Denison Dam spillway on Lake Texoma. The whirlpool is a result of the lake's unusually high water level due to heavy rains. It measures over 8-feet in diameter and is allegedly capable of swallowing a boat whole. Me? I'd have to cut a boat into little pieces before I could swallow it. "Why is that man staring into a giant butthole?" You know, I'm so glad I can always count on you to bring your A-game to the discussion.

Keep going for the video, then dive down there and see if you can spot Atlantis.
https://youtu.be/5hRSvV1Ahao

Copy obtained from the National Performance of Dams Program: http://npdp.stanford.edu
(What did the beavers and Trout do before there was a USDA?)

**USDA exploding beaver dams to benefit trout**

msnewsnow.com, July 2, 2015

VILAS COUNTY, WI (WJFW/NBC) - Paul Rosenow's fishing line swishes as it whips back and forth, then into the waters of a Vilas County, Wisconsin trout stream. He's been fishing trout since he was 8 years old. It's a lifelong hobby made easier thanks to the work of USDA Wildlife Services. "These guys are doing a fantastic job in taking care of these beaver dams," Rosenow said. About an hour before, he had heard the booming blast from a few miles away. That was Wildlife Services using one of its methods to "take care" of a beaver dam. Wildlife Services Project Leader Kelly Thiel directed the removal of the dam through explosives. "The purpose of our work is to create a free-flowing stream for the benefit of the trout to be able to migrate up and down," Thiel said. "If you have beaver dams in there, they can't migrate, they're locked in. To have a self-sustaining stream, it needs to be free-flowing."

(Good question!)

**OPINION**

JUNE 30, 2015

**Build dams**

fresnobee.com

Why are we are being asked to ration our water? Yes, I agree there is a drought. We have had droughts before and survived by planning wisely. The farms crops are dying because of water rations to them. There are fines on the farmers who have trouble complying with the new rules. **Our lawns and trees are dying.** The high-speed rail is going forth. Why? Did the powers that be ever think of how many millions of gallons of water will be used to pour concrete for the rail? How many gallons of water are needed for dust control to build the high-speed rail? Plus dust control after it is built. There will need to be a green belt along the rails. No crops. No food. No green lawns and green trees just dry grass and dead trees. Jobs lost. With everything bone dry. A big fire disaster waiting. All this for a couple of fish. A high-speed rail? The solution is not to ration water, but conserve water. Build those dams when the rains come. GERALD KROEKER, FRESNO

(Gotta empty the reservoir for the next flood.)

**Evacuations underway after dams in Wabash, Huntington counties open**

Staff Reports, July 1, 2015, wishtv.com

ANDREWS, Ind. (WANE) The Army Corp. of Engineers began releasing water from dams at the Salamonie Reservoir and Roush Lake in Wabash and Huntington counties Tuesday afternoon because the two bodies of water had reached capacity due to a record month of rain. As a precaution, people living along River Road in Andrews were asked to voluntarily evacuate. An area in Huntington near North Rangeline Road was also evacuated. Emergency management officials told WANE-TV the dams began releasing additional water at 2 p.m. and opened more by 3 p.m. "It is opening at 7,500 cubic feet per second that's coming out of the Roush Dam," said Andrews Volunteer Fire Chief Tom Wuensch. "The Salamonie is coming out at 9,500 cubic feet per second." To put that in perspective, it would take 70-80 seconds to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool at that rate. According to a recording with the Army Corp, the Salamonie Dam is releasing at its maximum flow. The Roush Dam's recording is expected to continue overnight.
It's the third time homes along River Road were told to evacuate. “They're getting tired of it,” Wuensch said about the homeowners along the river. “The first time they never really saw anything. The second time they did. Now this is the third time we've went door-to-door.” Between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., water levels in the Wabash River rose three feet. Flooding is expected as a result of the water being released, but officials don’t know how severe it will be. The water being released from the Salamonie Reservoir flows into the Salamonie River. The water being released from Roush Lake flows into the Wabash River. The Salamonie River meets the Wabash River near the town of Lagro. Wuensch said the Army Corp told him it would take approximately 11 hours for towns in Wabash County to see the effects of the dams opening. Areas east of there, or between there and the dams, were the first expected to see flooding issues, if they arise.

This is apparently the first instance of the Salamonie Reservoir and Roush Lake being at capacity at the same time. "This is something we've never seen before," said Huntington County EMA Deputy Director Jim Guy. "Water that's standing in places that have never been affected by water. I'm not talking about a little puddle. I'm talking about lake-sized." The Wabash County Emergency Management Agency opened a command post at the courthouse at 9:00 p.m. Tuesday to monitor water levels overnight. Director Keith Walters said the Red Cross has opened a shelter at the Christian Church, located at 110 W. Hill Street in Wabash. People who come to use the shelter are encouraged to bring the following items: Pillow and sleeping bag (for added comfort on our cots) Personal medication, Personal hygiene products,

For more information on the dams, call the following: Roush Dam – 502-315-6755, Salamonie Dam – 502-315-6925

(Why don’t I feel sorry for these ugly birds?)

**Corps begins shooting vultures to prevent damage to 2 dams**

Wes Johnson, News-Leader, July 1, 2015, news-leader.com

It's a gruesome — and last-ditch — way to deter vultures from hanging around and damaging Bull Shoals and Norfork lake dams. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has begun using shotguns to shoot and kill a limited number of vultures that have been damaging buildings and cars at the two dam sites. To make a point with surviving vultures, carcasses of the killed birds are being strung up near the dams to scare the rest away. Four vultures have been shot so far, but the Corps has a federal permit to take up to 135 birds. "We're working with the Arkansas Game and Fish wildlife officers and they're using shotguns to kill a small number of vultures," said Corps spokeswoman Laurie Davis. "We are hanging the dead birds in various places out of the public's view to discourage other vultures from roosting on the dam. Vultures like to eat dead things but not their own kind."

Driver emphasized the Corps has used many nonlethal strategies to deter black and turkey vultures from using the two dams as their roosting sites. The Corps has employed noise cannons, pyrotechnic devices, bird spikes and some chemicals to move the birds away from the dams. But the birds keep coming back. "We tried to imprint on them that this is not the place for them to stay," Driver said. "It got to the point where their poop was staining the concrete and eating the paint off our structures. We've had to replace the roofs on several of our facilities because the vultures like to peck at the softer roof coverings and were pulling the roofs apart. The birds caused the roofs to leak." Vultures also seem to have an affinity for rubber parts on cars and will peck and pull at windshield wipers and rubber seals around car doors, she said. "So far we've had about $5,000 in damage to employee cars because of the vultures." Driver said. In 2013 the Corps requested and received a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to use lethal

Copy obtained from the National Performance of Dams Program: [http://npdp.stanford.edu](http://npdp.stanford.edu)
means to deter vultures from roosting and damaging the dam and powerhouse. The Corps renewed those permits in 2014 and again in 2015. But this is the first year the Corps will use the permit to actually kill a small number of vultures. The Corps plans to continue its three-year use of non-lethal methods such as bird spikes, propane cannons, tactile repellants, plastic dead vulture effigies, and general harassment using pyrotechnic noise making devices similar to fireworks to also discourage the birds. The large number of vultures congregating on Corps’ infrastructure began in 2012 and the birds have caused damages totaling tens of thousands of dollars to the facilities, according to the Corps. The dead vultures will be used to form a connection between death and the dam and loud noises, making the non-lethal pyrotechnics more effective. Although vultures are frequently seen around Table Rock Lake dam, Driver said there are no plans to try to drive them away using shotguns.

(Everybody is getting rid of the flood water!)

**Ameren opens Bagnell Dam floodgates**
by Dan Claxton, 07.01.2015, connectmidmissouri.com

BAGNELL DAM -- Ameren Missouri officials at Bagnell Dam have opened the dam’s floodgates as the result of heavy rains in an attempt to get the level of Lake of the Ozarks to 660 feet. The Osage River could rise by four feet as a result. According to Alan Sullivan, Ameren’s consulting engineer for Bagnell Dam, 11 of 12 floodgates have been opened, releasing 10 percent of the dam’s maximum release capability. There is no time established to stop the discharge, as Sullivan says up to two inches of rain could fall tonight in the lake area. Sullivan says 40 to 50-thousand cubic feet per second of water are being released from the dam, which is expected to result in a four-foot rise in the level of the Osage River. Flood warnings have been issued downriver, and Sullivan says the main flooding danger lies in backed-up creeks and tributaries of the Osage. Truman Reservoir has shut down its release of water, which should alleviate pressure on Lake of the Ozarks, which is currently at 661 feet. The dam’s hotline is being updated regularly with river and lake levels and discharge information. The number is (573) 365-9205.

**Hydro:**
(Dirty, expensive diesel to hydro.)

**Hydro power replaces diesel at Chignik Lagoon**
Hannah Colton, June 28, 2015, adn.com

Copy obtained from the National Performance of Dams Program: [http://npdp.stanford.edu](http://npdp.stanford.edu)
The long-anticipated hydroelectric energy project on Chignik Lagoon’s Packer Creek is now operational. “They are running 100 percent hydro as we speak,” said Nathan Hill, the manager of the Lake and Peninsula Borough, on June 19. “There are still some punch-list items that need to be done … but they are off of diesel right now.” The $5 million hydroelectric project is a relatively simple run-of-the-river system, meaning it has no dam or reservoir. Hill explains that water is taken out at the top of a steep slope, piped to a lower elevation where it runs through a turbine, then flows back into the creek. Cities of Canadian Arctic look to hydroelectricity for future power needs. The unit provides 174 kilowatts of electricity, sufficient for the needs of about 70 year-round residents of Chignik Lagoon. Users may not see a drop in electricity rates right away, but Hill says reducing diesel use should save on energy costs in the long run. “With the cost of diesel, prices rise and fall, and we have no control over it,” said Hill. “But with alternative energy, the goal is to at the very least stabilize the cost of energy so that it doesn’t spike.” In an earlier interview with KDLG, Hill noted that the Packer Creek hydro project is one of a growing tally of alternative energy projects that the Lake and Peninsula Borough has supported. The Tazimina hydroelectric project provides energy to Iliamna, Newhalen and Nondalton; wood-fired boilers are operating in Kohkanok and Igiugig, and wind studies have been held in Egegik and Levelock. “We’re looking forward to helping communities decrease their dependency on fossil fuels,” said Hill. The hydro project on Packer Creek was funded with $4 million from the Alaska Energy Authority, as well as $800,000 and $250,000 contributions from the borough and the village of Chignik Lagoon, respectively. The project broke ground in the spring of 2014. Hill says the community plans to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony around mid-August.

(Good opinion.)

Our Opinion: Hydro power an option worth exploring

southbendtribune.com, June 30, 2015

The St. Joseph River — South Bend’s greatest natural resource — could be a future source of power for the University of Notre Dame if building a hydroelectric facility on the river’s dam downtown proves economically feasible. Still in its infancy, the plan calls for the university to build a 1.83 megawatt facility starting next year, with completion scheduled for 2019. Power from the facility would be conveyed to campus through a 1.5-mile underground transmission line. If it comes to pass, the facility could produce anywhere from 7 to 10 percent of the university’s current electrical needs. There still are a lot of questions about a potential partnership between the city and Notre Dame regarding the construction of a hydroelectric facility, such as the path of the transmission line and its maintenance and upkeep. Though the economic benefit for the city — if any — is unclear, there is a definite benefit for Notre Dame and that is the reduction of carbon emissions.

Notre Dame has been working to reduce its carbon emissions for years. Responding to some questions via email, Dennis K. Brown, university spokesman, said the campus energy input for its power plant has shifted primarily to natural gas. In the past the university power plant was powered by 80 percent coal and 20 percent gas. Those percentages have now been reversed. “Our combined heat power system produces about 50 percent of the university’s electrical energy needs, and we purchase the other 50 percent from I&M,” Brown said. South Bend had hoped to
use the river as an energy source back in 2012 when the city installed a 45-kilowatt turbine that was intended to produce about 500,000 kilowatts annually — about $40,000 worth of electricity — enough to power some of Seitz Park's electrical needs where the turbine would be located. But it is not yet operational. Is hydroelectricity a viable option for the city right now? Probably not, given current electricity rates. But who knows what new technology may be developed in the future that could make installing additional hydroelectric facilities worthwhile. American Electric Power, the parent company of Indiana Michigan Power, already operates several hydroelectric plants along the St. Joseph River, including in Elkhart and at the Twin Branch Dam in Mishawaka. There also are several plants in Michigan. Developers have long understood the allure of the St. Joseph River. There has been no shortage of proposals to develop more condominiums or town houses along its banks when opportunities arise. There is a delicate balance to achieve between keeping the river’s banks aesthetically pleasing for development, but the potential of the river to serve as a cleaner, renewable energy source is a topic worth exploring.

(Not good news for large, new hydro projects.)

Hydropower Projects pose Extinction Threat to Wildlife
by Felix Balthasar, Jul 02, 2015, newsmaine.net

A new research has unveiled that construction of more dams has been posing a threat of extinction for mammals, birds and tortoises in the Amazon. The research paper by England's University of East Anglia has stated that the researchers can sense the extinction risk. Study's co-author Carlos Peres, a Brazilian professor at the university's School of Environmental Sciences, said that they have found shocking extinction taking place at local level. Brazil has to depend on hydropower for its majority of its electricity.

In fact, it has plans to come up with new dams in order to fulfill the increasing energy demand. In comparison to all other renewable sources, hydropower produces more electricity across the world, but the brunt has to be faced by the ecology. It has been said so, as Brazil's Balbina Dam has turned what was once a forest into an artificial archipelago of 3,456 islands from where many vertebrates have disappeared. Peres said that there is no doubt that hydropower is an effective way to generate electricity, but many things also depend on topography. According to which, a hydropower plant in flat areas does not produce as much energy as it does in the mountains. In those areas, it also loses many carbon-storing trees and other vegetation. Extinction rate on the three dozen islands that they have surveyed is 42%. The researchers have affirmed that the extinction rate can jump to 70% for the complete reservoir area.

Water:
(It's getting serious. Maybe a water war is next!)
California has just ordered a group of senior water diverters, including the city of San Francisco, to stop drawing water from three major rivers supplying the Northern half of the state. Water in California is getting harder to come by every day. The massive drought currently ravaging the West Coast has state officials turning to extreme measures in an effort to conserve water. According to a report from the LA Times, state regulators told additional water rights holders that they needed to stop drawing water from certain rivers and streams.

The State Water Resources Control Board is cutting off access to 16 water rights holders on the upper San Joaquin River and the Merced River, including some of San Francisco’s rights on the Tuolumne River.

The rules won’t affect San Francisco too much, as the majority of the city’s water is drawn from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. After the rainy spring season, the reservoir is about 95 percent full. Steve Ritchie, assistant general manager at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission isn’t worried about San Francisco’s water supply. Even if the state orders the city to stop drawing from the Tuolumne watershed entirely, San Francisco will still have more than enough water to get them through the summer. The state’s action affects water rights on the Merced River that date back to 1858. On the San Joaquin, all rights except riparian rights, which permit landowners to direct water from a flowing river onto their property, will be put on lock. The rules mainly affect diverters including several irrigation districts, a ranch, a dairy farm, and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The power company can use water for hydroelectricity as long as the water is returned back to the river, so overall the rules aren’t expected to change a whole lot within the state of California. Senior water diverters, the people who have held rights to the water in the state since the early 20th century, however, are not pleased with the move. Several authorities are looking to sue the state board that instated the rules, saying that the state has no authority to manage water rights that have been in place for more than a century. While the state continues to struggle with an ever-declining water supply, we can expect to see more rights holders locked into a fierce battle over who the water belongs to.
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