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# ARDEN CARMICHAEL news

Tuesday's Internet Edition, January 15, 2008.

## Water district preserves underwater basin

By Colleen Truelsen

### The Arden-Carmichael News -

Fluoridated surface water is making its way into the southern parts of Arden-Carmichael, the area's water district has announced, a move that is meant to give the declining groundwater basin a break during wet years and also means a heads-up is needed for area medical providers.

Beginning last month, an agreement with the City of Sacramento lets the Sacramento Suburban Water District acquire up to 20 million gallons of fluoridated surface water per day from the city.

Previously, the area's water came solely from the area's underground basin, and that was a concern to those who monitor water.

"The basin was dropping a foot and a half to a foot to two a year over the past 40 years," said Robert Roscoe, the water district's general manager. "You can't look at that and say it looks good for the future."

It was the merger of two previous water districts – Arcade and Northridge – that created Sacramento Suburban Water District five years ago. Roscoe explained that both districts had wanted to bring surface water into the supply mix for its southern area for years. After consolidation, it got done.

Surface water is water from rainfall or snow pack that has been treated for clean consumption. In wet years, the water district can now use that water – pumped from the American River – and in dry years it can turn to a recharged groundwater basin.

To get river water, the new \$7.8 million Enterprise-Northrop Reservoir and Pump Station was built, which can store five million gallons of treated surface water. Enterprise-Northrop was built, in part, with a \$3.3 million Proposition 13 grant from the California Department of Water Resources.

The north part of the district has been bringing in surface water since the late '90s, Roscoe said. That water, however, isn't fluoridated.

With fluoridated water coming from the city for the southern service area, the district decided to add fluoride to its groundwater as well.

"That means that area's water is always optimally fluoridated," Roscoe said, and that's something medical care providers need to know.

"It's important to let all health care providers – dentists and doctors – know there is a change," Roscoe said. Fluoride supplements that may have been needed before the water change last month, for example, may no longer be needed.

(Sacramento Suburban Water District's south service area covers most of the area between Capital City Freeway and Highway 50 and between Howe Avenue and Garfield Avenue.)

Capital funding to optimally fluoridate the groundwater supply comes primarily from the First 5 Sacramento Commission, which uses Proposition 10 (tobacco tax) funds to support the healthy development of children from infancy to age 5.



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2709 Riverside Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95818  
916-429-9901

For comments or questions,  
email us

**Publisher:** George Macko  
[georgemacko@ardencarmichaelnews.com](mailto:georgemacko@ardencarmichaelnews.com).

**News Editor:** Collen Truelsen  
[colleen@valcomnews.com](mailto:colleen@valcomnews.com).

**Advertising:** Patty Colmer  
[patty@valcomnews.com](mailto:patty@valcomnews.com).

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