



# Flowmeter Foresight

*A flowmeter product specialist reviews new technologies and user guidelines*

**A**s with most technology in this industry, flowmeters are changing rapidly. New flowmeters on the market are equipped with wireless capabilities rather than mechanical technology.

Clare Pierson, associate editor for WWD, spoke with Jim Caruso, a flowmeter specialist with Hach Co., for insight as to why this technology is changing, the impact it will have on the industry and what is to come in the future.

**Clare Pierson:** Is there still a market for traditional flowmeters (i.e., those that rely on mechanical technologies)?

**Jim Caruso:** Traditional flowmeters—those that rely on mechanical technologies—are a market in decline. The newer technologies are proving to be more accurate, more reliable and—specifically speaking of the non-contact technologies—less maintenance.

**Pierson:** What do you foresee for the future of the flowmeter market? Where are consumer preferences headed, and what kind of new technology is coming?

**Caruso:** There is a definite trend toward wireless data. Wireless data is such a logical evolution of the flowmeter. Data can either be pushed through the Internet or pulled by dial-up and you can be sitting at your local coffee shop sipping a latte and also be monitoring a storm water event miles away. Having the data delivered to your computer in what is essentially real time has so many benefits.

Besides the example I gave before, you will know the status of your collection system all the time. You can set alarms to monitor issues like combined sewer overflows, high level alarms, battery status and practically anything else you would want to keep tabs on. And of course, there are the monetary and safety benefits of not having to send a crew out to stop traffic and perform confined space entry to collect data the old-fashioned way.

**Pierson:** When selecting new flowmeters, what guidelines should potential users follow?

**Caruso:** Select a flowmeter appropriate for your application. Too often I hear of instances where people are trying to use a flowmeter in an application it was not designed for. For example, you should not use an ultrasonic Doppler sensor in clean water, nor should you use a paddle wheel at the influent of a wastewater treatment plant.

It goes even deeper than that, really. Every site has its own signature and quirks. Some meters are better than others at working in a wide range of site conditions. Bottom line is that I would not recommend buying a flowmeter through a catalog unless you know what you are doing. Contact a vendor rep, schedule a site evaluation or, at a minimum, discuss it with an expert on the phone.

**Pierson:** How do you see the changes in the water/wastewater industry—increased use of membrane, new desal technologies and the need for improved infrastructure—affecting demand for flowmeters or new flowmeter technology?

**Caruso:** Most everyone is concerned about water supplies and water quality. Water is a natural resource that is increasing in value; therefore, it makes sense that we understand where it is coming from, where it is going to and how much of it is being used. Flowmeters will continue to play an important and expanding role in water management.

**Pierson:** Since Marsh McBirney introduced its Data Delivery Services feature for flowmeters, how have customers responded to it?

**Caruso:** Data Delivery Services (DDS) is a new approach to flow monitoring. For a small monthly fee, customers have their data delivered directly to a secure website. There is no equipment to buy or maintenance costs whatsoever. The response from DDS customers has been positive. Customers appreciate the simplicity, reliability and convenience of this product. **wwd**

**Jim Caruso is product application specialist for Hach Co. Caruso can be reached by e-mail at [jcaruso@hach.com](mailto:jcaruso@hach.com).**

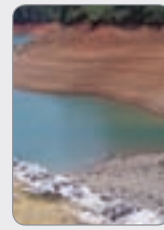
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### California Officials Propose \$9.3 Billion Water Bond



California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Senator Dianne Feinstein of California announced a proposal to address a severe water shortage in

California by borrowing \$9.3 billion to increase water storage, conveyance and conservation.

Their bond proposal requires voter approval and needs a two-thirds majority vote of the legislature to make it onto the ballot in November. Shasta Reservoir, a source of much of California's water, is currently at 42% capacity.

### WHO/UNICEF Report Assesses Water Supply & Sanitation

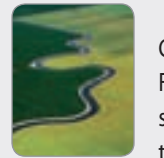


A new report from the World Health Organization and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation assesses progress toward the

Millennium Development Goals Target 7c on drinking water supply and sanitation.

More than 2.5 billion people suffer from a lack of access to improved sanitation and nearly 1.2 billion practice open defecation, according to the report. At present, 87% of the world population has access to improved drinking water sources and trends suggest that more than 90% will do so by 2015.

### Report Suggests Canal Bypassing Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta



Cities in Southern California and the San Francisco Bay area should stop drawing water from the Sacramento-San

Joaquin Delta and should build a canal around it, according to a study by the Public Policy Institute of California, the *Associated Press* reported.

A canal that would draw fresh water from the Sacramento River would deliver better quality water to more than 25 million Californians and farmers in the Central Valley because it would bypass the salty mixture found in the delta, according to institute officials.

### California Student to Represent U.S. in Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition



Joyce Chai of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., was named the U.S. winner of the 2008 Stockholm Junior Water Prize. Chai received \$3,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to

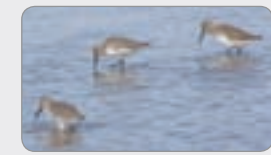
Stockholm, Sweden, where she will compete against national winners from more than 30 countries.

Three U.S. finalists, Timothy Chang from Rego Park, N.Y., Ashutosh Patra from Portland, Ore., and Eugene Rodrick from Gainesville, Fla., also received a \$1,000 award.

### EPA Awards More Than \$370,000 to the Texas General Land Office

The U.S. EPA has awarded \$379,140 to the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to

monitor *Enterococcus* bacteria levels in waters along the Texas coast.



The bacteria, which thrive in waters contaminated by

storm or sewage runoff, will be monitored by GLO's Texas Beach Watch program. The program will work in conjunction with the EPA to monitor pathogen indicators at high-use beaches in the state and will notify the public if pathogen indicators are in excess of EPA-recommended criteria.

### Great Lakes Region Unites to Approve Water Compact



All eight Great Lakes states have now passed the Great Lakes Compact,

a regional water management agreement to protect the lakes from water diversions outside the region and to promote water conservation within the region.

The compact is the culmination of a multiyear process of negotiations among the eight states. It now heads to the U.S. Congress. For it to become law, Congress must consent to the water agreement.

### Call for Applicants - 2008 Water Efficiency Leader Awards



The application period for the U.S. EPA's third annual Water Efficiency Leader Awards is now open.

Applications will be judged by a panel of national water efficiency experts from a variety of sectors. The panelists will provide recommendations to the EPA, who will then make the final decision.

Applications must be postmarked by Aug. 29, 2008. Application information is available at [www.epa.gov/water/wel](http://www.epa.gov/water/wel).

### WWEMA & WWD Now Accepting 2008 Scholarship Applications



The Water & Wastes Digest Equipment Manufacturers

Association, Inc. and *Water & Wastes Digest* are currently accepting applications for the 2008 WWEMA/WWD Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a student seeking a career in a water or wastewater field.

Students who have parents employed by a WWEMA-member company are eligible to apply.

The recipient must be accepted into a four-year bachelor's program in an acceptable and relevant field of study by an accredited institution of higher learning.

Applications are judged on the basis of: academic achievement; leadership and community service; level of commitment to environmental protection, as demonstrated in an essay and stated career goals; and overall presentation including emphasis in science courses, relevance of program of study, sincerity of commitment and demonstration of special need.

The application submission deadline is Oct. 17, 2008. Applications can be obtained by e-mail at [wwdeditor@sgcmail.com](mailto:wwdeditor@sgcmail.com) or by calling 847.391.1011. **wwd**

News compiled by Rebecca Wilhelm

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