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Stockton launches ambitious water plant

Public works project is largest in city's history

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Michael McCollum/The Record

Municipal Utilities District Director Mark Madison, left, talks Monday with CDM Construction manager Chad Brown at the site for the new Delta Water Supply project off Eight Mile Road north of Stockton.

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By David Siders
Record Staff Writer
October 27, 2009 12:00 AM

STOCKTON - Municipal Utilities Director Mark Madison parked Monday by an old alfalfa field on the city's north side and walked along an access road to where construction had started on the Delta Water Supply Project, Stockton's \$217 million campaign to pump drinking water from the Delta.

It is the most expensive public works project in city history.

It had been several years since Madison was last at the property, where a treatment plant is to be built, and when he arrived Monday he said, "To me, this is beautiful. It's 40 years in the making."

Groundbreaking ceremony

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Delta Water Supply Project will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday. The event, which is open to the public, is at the future site of a water treatment facility, on North Lower Sacramento Road between Eight Mile Road and Armstrong Road.

He put on a vest and a hard hat. A grader had cleared a parking lot and made room for a groundbreaking ceremony, to be held Thursday, and two trucks were about to haul in the first pieces of large equipment. Two motorcycle officers were at the entrance for the occasion.

The Delta Water Supply Project is to divert some 33,000 acre-feet of water annually from the San Joaquin River, pumping it east to a treatment plant north of Eight Mile Road, then to residents. The project, financed by a water rate

increase ordered in July, is to reduce the city's reliance on groundwater and water from east of Stockton, and to serve new development. It is to be operational by 2012.

On Monday there were pickup trucks and a portable toilet near where an abandoned house was long ago demolished. Madison was talking with the construction manager, CDM Constructors Inc.'s Chad Brown.

"So what's coming in now?" Madison said.

"Two scrapers and a bigger blade," Brown said.

The trucks came into view.

Madison said, "This is the start, effectively."

Contact reporter David Siders at (209) 943-8580 or dsiders@recordnet.com.

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