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EXECUTIVE SEES NO NEED FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION REGARDING ORDER RELATED TO APPELLATE PROCEDURE (Continued) State water board cites uncertainty in its plan for residential wells SACRAMENTO (AP) - With winter's first freeze approaching, an air- quality district in Northern California is still reviewing a proposal for how it will regulate water withdrawals from millions of homes and businesses. SAN FRANCISCO - The endangered marbled murrelet could be adversely affected by several big construction projects in the San Francisco area. Construction projects being reviewed for safety hazards to wildlife or habitat include the Bay Area's first new high-rise office building - the Wells Fargo Bank tower. The northern California air quality district said it has been researching the potential effects of construction projects on water wells, reservoirs, wetlands and other critical environmental areas. The San Francisco Bay Area has more than 1 million water wells used for drinking, washing, and farming. The district found a water well just outside San Francisco could be shut off during sewer or highway construction. That could be a problem because marbled murrelet eggs are laid in the sand just below the surface. Federal and state biologists consider marbled murrelets an ani- mal species of high conservation concern. The district will "review the potential for water wells to be affected by freeway and bay bridge construction," said John Butch, director of the San Francisco Bay Area air quality district. "Other groups will review the effect on other species," he said. The district says it is not planning to ban a construction project just because of potential effects on water wells. "We'd want to evaluate it carefully," Butch said. "We have to look at each project on a case by case basis." "In the end, we want projects that are going to be good for public health, good for the environment and good for the economy," he said. The district says it decided to review construction projects based on changes to state and federal laws. Construction projects are not being banned or shut off. The district is simply taking a closer look at each one to see if an effect on water wells is likely. Butch said the district received a proposal in July from the federal Environmental Protection Agency for a part of the Bay Bridge that crosses through the middle of San Francisco Bay. Last year, the agency designated the stretch of bay as a drinking water supply source, thus making water withdrawals subject to federal





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