

Utility challenges stories

Re "Dried up, desperate" (Cover story, by Ashiah Scharaga, June 27):

PG&E is concerned about the impacts of no canal water in the Middle Miocene Canal and is committed to working with stakeholders to identify potential short- and long-term solutions, including offering trucked water in the short-term to the contracted users at no charge to help them with critical needs.

Last week's article omitted several important facts. It did not mention water contracts clearly state there is no guarantee of delivery, or that users have been urged to have alternatives. Nor is it mentioned that even if repairs had already begun on the upper canal, it would take years and cost PG&E electric customers more than \$15 million.

The references to foothill yellow-legged frogs (FYLF) are misleading.

The incidental observations of adult FYLF passing through pertained to the upper canal (not middle) and only close to the west branch of the Feather River when the canal was out of service. The canal is not suitable breeding habitat for FYLF. No egg masses or tadpoles were ever observed. According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife database, there have been no recorded sightings of FYLF near the Middle Miocene Canal since the 1950s.

Paul Moreno, PG&E spokesman
Chico

Editor's note: Regarding PG&E's view that it is not obligated to supply water, please see Ashiah Scharaga's follow-up story in this week's issue (page 9) that includes the precise contract language.

As reported in last week's companion story ("Where the wild things aren't," by Scharaga), a memo authored by a California Department of Fish and Wildlife

biologist charged that the absence of water in the Miocene Canal likely jeopardizes at least two species, including the foothill yellow-legged frog and the California black rail.

Regarding the price tag for fixing the canal, it was inadvertently omitted from the story and has been added to the online version.

Goodbye, Grant

Re "Fatal conditions" (Newsline, by Andre Byik, June 27):

Grant—aka Wilson Tyler—was a fixture at City Plaza where we often met, usually on Sundays at the CFOTS (Chico Friends on the Street) gathering. He seemed to literally live in the square, though he'd find places to hide and sleep at the margins. Grant was a great source of information about the downtown and the unhoused homeless—the homeless who do not typically seek shelter.

I asked Grant if he would accept a housing unit were it available,

LETTERS CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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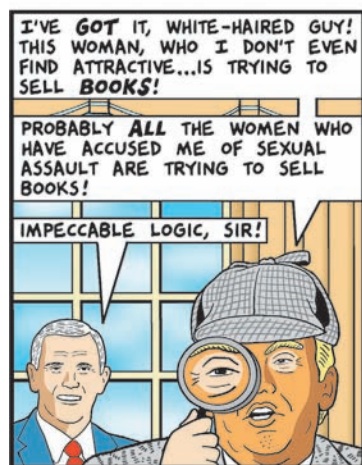
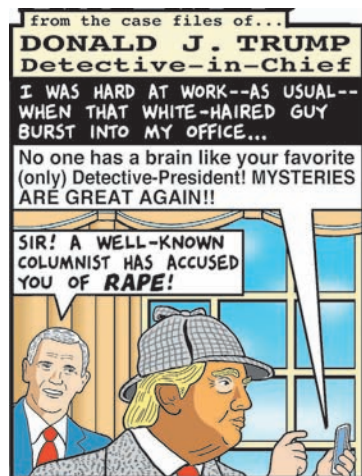
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