

New Flood Control Structure Rising at Folsom Dam



A large concrete control structure rises Sept. 27 on the site of the Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project. With the exception of New Orleans, the Sacramento metropolitan region is the most flood-prone urban area in the nation. A new auxiliary spillway under construction at Folsom Dam northeast of the city is designed to improve the situation by providing 200-year-level flood protection. The project is scheduled for completion in 2017. *Photo by Carl Costas / DWR*

State Analysis Underestimates Occurrence, Compliance Costs for Chromium-6, ACWA Says

Complying with the nation's first drinking water standard for chromium-6 could cost California's public water agencies as much as \$616 million a year, according to estimates developed by ACWA and submitted in comments to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) on Oct. 11.

ACWA's estimate of \$616 million is much higher than the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) estimate of \$156 million a year to meet the proposed new maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 parts per billion, or 10ppb, which the department released Aug. 22.

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ACWA Board of Directors Approves 2014 Budget, Statewide Water Action Plan for California

ACWA's Board of Directors adopted a 2014 budget for the association and approved a Statewide Water Action Plan for California at its Sept. 27 meeting in Oakland.

The meeting followed a Board tour of East Bay Municipal Utility District facilities on the afternoon of Sept. 26.

The Board voted to approve the budget after discussing several alternatives prepared by staff in cooperation with the ACWA Finance Committee. Executive Director Timothy Quinn said the alternatives reflected different approaches to address a projected gap driven

largely by one-time costs and increases associated with cost of doing business.

After weighing the options, the Board approved a 2014 budget that includes a 2% adjustment in the dues rate structure and use of some budget reserves to address the gap and allow ACWA to continue providing key programs and services for members.

Board members recognized that ACWA's annual operating expenses have been reduced by more than \$1.2 million since 2011. The 2014 budget includes efficiencies and an additional

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

By Timothy Quinn



ACWA Board Sends Powerful Message with Statewide Water Action Plan

Last month, the ACWA Board of Directors voted unanimously and enthusiastically to approve a Statewide Water Action Plan (SWAP) for California. The vote capped an intensive five-month effort convened by ACWA with the goal of crafting a specific plan that could be broadly supported by water interests and serve as a sustainable path forward for California.

Long-term water supply reliability and improved ecosystem health are the hallmarks of the plan. Submitted to Gov. Jerry Brown on Oct. 2 with a letter signed by ACWA President Randy Record, the plan identifies 15 actions ACWA recommends be included in the Administration's water action plan for the state. It calls for the state to move ahead on vital actions such as water storage, protection of water rights, a plan to avoid future "dead pool" conditions at key reservoirs due to climate change, and conveyance solutions in the Delta. The SWAP also lays out guiding principles to ensure actions benefit the entire state.

Though the actions themselves are important, the real power of the Statewide Water Action Plan is its focus on the statewide picture and the opportunity it creates for unprecedented unity on key water issues.

By putting a Delta solution in context as only one element of a broader plan to secure the state's water future, the plan provides a mechanism to build statewide support for a suite of actions that includes a Bay Delta Conservation Plan consistent with the actions and principles articulated in ACWA's plan. That could turn out to be a truly historic "moment in time" for the water community and the state as a whole.

Against considerable odds, participants in the ACWA process stayed the course to reshape the debate on a contentious set of issues and advance a policy direction to meet the water needs of all Californians. That could not have happened without the leadership of the ACWA Board and the commitment of the participants – from

the northern Sacramento Valley to the southern San Joaquin Valley, from the Bay Area to the mountain counties, and from the Sacramento region on down to Southern California – to embrace a broader vision in the interest of the entire state.

The Statewide Water Action Plan builds on the past success of ACWA's 2005 Blueprint and the Delta conveyance policy principles approved by the ACWA Board in 2007, although the SWAP is richer in the details of actions needed to meet the coequal goals of Delta restoration and statewide water supply reliability in the future. The plan provides a strong base of support for statewide action by the Administration while making it clear that individual elements — including a Delta conveyance solution — are much more likely to succeed if they are part of a broader action plan.

As a statewide association, sometimes ACWA's most important job is to create a platform for its members to come together and support each other instead of doing battle. In the case of the Statewide Water Action Plan, ACWA's leadership fully embraced the job and provided a venue to allow for candid, productive discussion among a wide variety of stakeholders in a manner that only ACWA can provide.

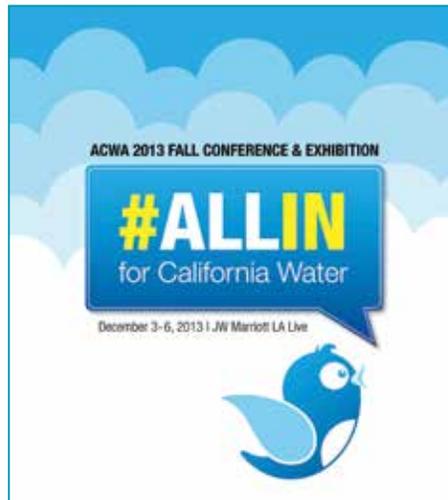
Though the ACWA Board's approval of the plan is a major development, much work remains to be done. The plan is really the beginning of something, not the end. ACWA stands ready to work with its members and the Brown Administration to implement our recommended actions. With leadership and the ongoing participation of ACWA members, we can truly advance water policy in California.

In the coming weeks, I will be at meetings and events throughout the state to brief ACWA members on the SWAP, answer their questions and ask for their support. I look forward to your comments.

ACWA Regions Hosting Programs at Fall Conference & Exhibition in Los Angeles

More than 90 programs, forums, keynote speeches and educational seminars will be on the schedule during ACWA's 2013 Fall Conference & Exhibition on Dec. 3-6 at the JW Marriott Hotel at L.A. Live.

With so many options, choosing which sessions to go to won't be easy. ACWA's regions are making your decision a little bit tougher by planning some interesting programs for the conference. Here are three conference programs hosted by ACWA regions that are drawing attention as the conference draws near.



Region 1 Issue Forum

Wednesday, Dec. 4 | 10 – 11:30 a.m.

North Coast Resource Partnership: An IRWM Success Story

The North Coast Region has come together to successfully implement projects by way of the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. The NCIRWMP encourages the region's diverse stakeholders to work together to integrate long-term planning with high quality project implementation. This program will highlight how the region has utilized the NCIRWMP to achieve projects that help support local economic development, watershed health and energy independence.

Region 8 Program

Wednesday, Dec. 4 | 2 – 3:15 p.m.

TMDLs: The Gift that Keeps on Giving

This session will demystify the many issues surrounding Total Maximum Daily Loads, which establish maximum pollution limits for wastewater dischargers. If you're a first timer, you'll hear from experts who can help you get started. If you're an old hand, you'll hear success stories and other stories that are still a work in progress. Please join us for a fresh look at this always-current topic.

Region 5 Issue Forum

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013 | 9:30 – 11 a.m.

Water Investments: Coloring Outside the Box

With today's heightened focus on conservation, it's important to be careful how water is used for non-consumptive uses. Recycled water, gray water, and black water can be used in ways that don't take from the drinking water supply. At this program, learn how using creative water recycling methods can extend the water supply and help maintain healthy water sources.

Register to attend the conference and read more about the exciting programs on tap in the preview booklet available online at acwa.com. ■■■

'Chlorine Revolution' Author to Keynote Dec. 5



Author **Michael J. McGuire**, who wrote a book on the American public water system's conquest over waterborne diseases, will deliver the keynote address at the Dec. 5 luncheon at ACWA's 2013 fall Conference & Exhibition.

McGuire's talk, titled "Two Guys and a Bucket of Bleach," will examine how we got where we are today in the country's efforts to achieve clean water. His 2013 book, "The Chlorine Revolution: Water Disinfection and the Fight to Save Lives," chronicles the partnership between a physician and an engineer during the turn of the 20th century and their plan to build and operate the first large-scale drinking water disinfection system in the United States.

The conference also will feature a full slate of exhibitors in the conference Exhibition Hall. Several networking activities and social events also are planned, including lunches, dinners, and dessert breaks.

All this and much more will occur at L.A. Live, a new conference venue for ACWA. The one-of-a-kind sports, entertainment and residential district in downtown Los Angeles is adjacent to Staples Center and the Los Angeles Convention Center. L.A. Live offers an array of restaurant and dining options, as well as attractions such as the Nokia Theater and Plaza, The GRAMMY Museum of L.A. Live, the ESPN Zone and broadcast studios.

Several awards will be presented during the 2013 Fall Conference & Exhibition: the Huell Howser Best in Blue Award, the Emissary Award, the Stephen K. Hall ACWA Water Law & Policy Scholarship, and Outreach Awards.

First Half of 2013-'14 Legislative Session Concludes in Sacramento

The first year of the 2013-'14 legislative session ended in the early hours of Sept. 13. Gov. Jerry Brown had until Oct. 13 to sign or veto bills sent to him by the Legislature.

Here is an update on many of the key bills that ACWA's State Legislative Committee and State Relations Department worked on this year on behalf of ACWA members.

Bills ACWA Opposed

AB 52 (Gatto) – Native Americans: California Environmental Quality Act



The bill would have required a new process for engaging Native American tribes under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Among other things, the bill would have required a lead agency to consult with affected Native American tribes prior to determining whether a negative declaration or environmental impact report (EIR) is required for a project pursuant to CEQA. The bill would have required the Office of Planning and Research to develop CEQA guidelines indicating that a project may have a “significant effect on the environment” if it may have a significant effect on a “tribal cultural resource,” including a sacred place. ACWA opposed the measure based on the level of authority it would have granted Native American tribes in making a determination on the adverse environmental effects of a project. The bill was held in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee as a two-year bill.

AB 145 (Perea) – Drinking Water Program: Transfer to State Water Resources Control Board



This bill proposed to move the entire state drinking water program from the California Department of Public Health to the State Water Resources Control Board. ACWA argued that moving the state's entire drink-

ing water program to the State Board would undermine the program's focus on public health, disrupt key drinking water program functions and force the program to compete with other critical priorities before the State Board. ACWA and its coalition partners consistently called for AB 145 to be amended to focus on improving the management of the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and suggested that transferring only the administration of the SRF to the State Board — while leaving the rest of the drinking water program at the Department of Public Health — would be a more targeted solution. The author opted not to accept the amendments. The Senate Committee on Appropriations held AB 145 on the Suspense File, and it is now a two-year bill. After that committee action, the author amended AB 1393, which previously dealt with the workers' compensation program, to include ACWA's suggested approach. Ultimately the author did not take up AB 1393 on the Senate floor, so this bill is also a two-year bill.

AB 147 (V. Manuel Pérez) – Environment: Salton Sea: Dust Mitigation



The bill would have required the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to develop, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board and the Salton Sea Authority, a strategic plan to guide the implementation of a project to monitor and mitigate dust pollution created at the Salton Sea as a result of the implementation of the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA). ACWA opposed the measure because of several concerns relating to the inaccuracies in the legislative findings of the bill that could have been used to undermine ACWA member defense of the QSA in pending state and federal litigation. The bill was held in the Senate Natural

Resources and Water Committee as a two-year bill.

AB 194 (Campos) – Open Meetings: Protections for Public Criticism: Penalties for Violations

The bill would have made it a misdemeanor for a member of a legislative body, while acting as the chair of a legislative body of a local agency, to prohibit public criticism protected under the Ralph M. Brown Act. The bill would have authorized a district attorney or any interested person to commence an action for the purpose of obtaining a judicial determination that an action taken by a legislative body of a local agency in violation of the protection for public criticism is null and void. ACWA opposed the measure based on concerns that the language in the bill was vague and ambiguous. The bill was held in the Assembly Local Government Committee as a two-year bill.

AB 543 (Campos) – California Environmental Quality Act: Translation

The bill would have required a lead agency to translate certain notices required by CEQA and a summary of any negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report when a group of non-English-speaking people comprises at least 25% of the population within the lead agency's jurisdiction and the project is proposed to be located at or near an area where the group of non-English-speaking people comprises at least 25% of the residents. ACWA opposed the bill because of concerns with the costs to translate such notices. The bill was held in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee as a two-year bill.

AB 616 (Bocanegra) – Local Public Employee Organizations: Dispute: Fact-Finding Panel

This bill would have amended the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act relating to



bargaining impasse and fact-finding procedures between local agencies and their respective employee representation organizations. The bill would have provided that if either an employee organization or local public agency disputes that a genuine impasse has been reached during collective bargaining, the issue of whether an impasse exists may be submitted to the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) for resolution before the dispute is submitted to a fact-finding panel. The bill also would have authorized each party to select a person to serve as its member of the fact-finding panel. ACWA opposed this measure based on the fact that creating a new process for determining whether impasse has been reached, rather than allowing local rules to dictate, would add an unnecessary administrative layer to the collective bargaining process resulting in delays and costs to both PERB and local public agencies. This bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee as a two-year bill.

AB 823 (Eggman) – Environment California Farmland Protection Act



This bill would have required the lead agency as part of the CEQA review process for a project involving agricultural lands to consider the permanent protection or replacement of agricultural land as feasible mitigation for these impacts. ACWA opposed this bill as part of a coalition, and the bill did not advance. The bill was held in the Assembly Agriculture Committee as a two-year bill.

AB 1235 (Gordon) – Local Agencies: Financial Management Training



This bill would have established financial management training requirements that would have applied to any member of a local agency governing body or any other local body created by state

or federal statute who receives any type of compensation, salary, or stipend or reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of official duties. The bill would have applied to cities, counties, charter cities, charter counties and special districts. Local agencies would have been required to keep specified records of the training for at least five years. ACWA suggested amendments to the bill in order to directly target “bad actors” without placing a burden on local agencies that professionally perform their jobs. The author opted not to accept the amendments. The governor vetoed the bill on Oct. 7.

SB 449 (Galgiani) – Local Water Supply Programs or Projects: Funding

This bill would have prohibited the Department of Water Resources (DWR) from providing loans, grants, or direct expenditure for programs or projects within the service area of an urban or agricultural water supplier that receives water from, transferred through, or used in the Delta watershed, unless DWR determines that the water supplier is reducing its dependence on the Delta. A coalition including ACWA opposed the bill, saying it would not align with policies enacted in the 2009 legislative water package for promoting implementation of regional water resource management practices through increased incentives and removal of barriers. Instead of being consistent with that positive, incentives-based approach, the bill proposed a punitive approach. SB 449 is now a two-year bill.

SB 614 (Wolk) – Irrigation Districts: Director

This bill would have eliminated the landownership requirement from the list of qualifications to serve as a director of an irrigation district if the district provides water for agricultural purposes and water for municipal or industrial purposes. ACWA opposed the bill because the original policy rationale that linked irrigation district policy setting with land and water is still applicable;

persons who have an investment in water delivery infrastructure and who assume the obligations and risks of paying irrigation and drainage assessments should govern irrigation districts. The bill failed to advance and is a two-year bill.

SB 731 (Steinberg) – Environment: California Environmental Quality Act



The bill would have made various changes to CEQA. The bill was intended to be the comprehensive CEQA reform bill that Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg and Assembly Speaker John Pérez announced they would seek at the culmination of the 2012 legislative session. ACWA took a support if amended position at the beginning of the legislative session as the association sought to provide input as part of a large coalition of local government representatives. Unfortunately, the bill was amended with language that would have created new CEQA processes that would have caused delays and increased the potential for unnecessary litigation. ACWA opposed the amended bill. The bill was held in the Assembly Local Government Committee as a two-year bill.

SB 735 (Wolk) – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009: Multispecies Conservation Plans

This bill would have permitted the Delta Stewardship Council, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Delta counties to enter into a memorandum of understanding or other written agreement to resolve conflicts between local habitat plans and the broader Delta Plan. ACWA argued that the bill might be interpreted to allow the forcing of changes to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan after it is included in the Delta Stewardship Council’s Delta Plan. The bill is now a two-year bill.

SCA 3 (Leno) – Public Information

The bill requires a ballot initiative to be placed before voters at the next avail-

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able election. The ballot measure would require each local agency to comply with the California Public Records Act and the Brown Act, and with any subsequent statutory enactment amending either act. The bill specifically exempts the state from providing funding for mandates contained in those acts. ACWA opposed the bill. The governor signed the bill on Sept. 20.

Bills ACWA Supported

AB 72 (Holden) – Municipal Water District: Board of Directors

This bill shortens the current 60-day “lame duck” period between when municipal water district directors are elected and when they are seated. The bill allows newly elected board members to begin serving on the board sooner, enabling the district to move forward with important matters that otherwise would have to wait until the new board member or members are seated. The governor signed the bill on June 17.

AB 115 (Perea) – Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

This bill expands the eligibility for grants and loans from the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) by allowing consolidated applications when at least one of the communities served by the construction project does not meet safe drinking water standards. The bill was designed to address the hurdles in the SRF application process that are difficult for some water systems in disadvantaged communities in unincorporated areas to overcome and would thereby help provide safe drinking water for these communities. The governor signed the bill on Oct. 8.

AB 118 (Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials) – Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

This bill authorizes drinking water systems serving a severely disadvantaged community to be eligible for a grant instead of a loan from the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and

allows loans from the SRF to cover the full cost of a project. The governor signed the bill on Oct. 8.

AB 119 (Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials) – Water Treatment Devices

This bill modifies the Department of Public Health (DPH) approval process for in-home water treatment devices. DPH is required to approve water treatment devices that make health claims, provided that the manufacturer of the device submits independent third-party certification of the effectiveness of the water treatment device to DPH. The bill establishes an annual fee of up to \$500 per certified device and requires that DPH update information on water treatment devices on its website biannually. ACWA supported the bill and its goal to streamline the regulatory requirements that currently apply to water treatment devices. This streamlining may increase the availability of treatment devices where they are needed, including in disadvantaged communities. The governor signed the bill on Sept. 28.

AB 408 (Bonta) – Municipal Utility Districts: Elections

This bill establishes appointment procedures for municipal utility districts with a seven-member board of directors if no candidate or only one candidate files for candidacy by 5 p.m. on or before the 83rd day prior to the election. The bill protects ratepayers of municipal utility districts by providing those agencies with the same ability that other local governments currently have to use an appointment process for uncontested candidates in lieu of bearing the cost of an election. The governor signed the bill on Aug. 16.

AB 763 (Buchanan) – Aquatic Invasive Plants: Control and Eradication

The bill designates the Division of Boating and Waterways as the lead agency for the state for the purpose of cooperating with other state, local and federal agencies in identifying, detecting,

controlling and administering programs to manage invasive aquatic plants in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, its tributaries and the Suisun Marsh. ACWA supported the bill as it replaces the current process of requiring legislative action for eradicating new invasive aquatic plants in the Delta. The governor signed the bill on Sept. 23.

AB 803 (Gomez) – Water Recycling Act of 2013



The bill removes some barriers to greater use of recycled water by making spill reporting standards for recycled water uniform.

The bill authorizes hose bibs for recycled water in cemeteries and clarifies that advanced treated purified water can be regulated for purity at the point it leaves a wastewater treatment facility and before it comingles with other waters in a conveyance facility if the owner or operator of that conveyance facility consents. ACWA supported the bill as it would further the use of recycled water, which eases the strain on other water supplies. The governor signed the bill on Oct. 8.

AB 841 (Torres) – Junk Dealers and Recyclers: Nonferrous Materials: Payment

This bill would have allowed payment for nonferrous materials only by check mailed to the seller’s address. ACWA supported the bill because metal theft has become a prolific problem affecting water agencies across the state that needs to be addressed as extensively as possible. The governor vetoed the bill on Oct. 3.

AB 909 (Gray) – Metal Theft and Related Recycling Crimes



This bill would have, after January 1, 2015, required the Department of Justice to establish

a Metal Theft Task Force Program to provide grants to applicant regional task

forces for the purpose of providing local law enforcement and district attorneys with the tools necessary to successfully interdict the commission of metal theft and related metal recycling crimes. ACWA supported the bill, but the governor vetoed it on Oct. 3

AB 1156 (V. Manuel Pérez) – Palo Verde Irrigation District Act



This bill makes changes to the weighted vote of a landowner in the Palo Verde Irrigation District. The bill entitles each property owner to one vote for every one acre owned and entitles a property owner with less than one acre of land, but at least one-half acre, to cast one vote. As an irrigation district, prior law provided that the district's voters were allocated one vote for every \$100 of assessed valuation of land and improvements thereon. Because of the way votes are allocated, the district was concerned that a large solar project could be built in the district's boundaries that would upset the voting formula. This bill ensures that the votes of irrigated landowners are not diluted by any potential large solar projects in the district's service area. The governor signed the bill into law on Sept. 6.

AB 1200 (Levine) – Recycled Water: Agricultural Irrigation Impoundments: Pilot Project

This bill would have permitted the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Board to authorize a voluntary pilot project for the purposes of investigating potential water quality impacts associated with maximizing the supplementation of agricultural irrigation impoundments with disinfected tertiary treated recycled water. ACWA supported the bill, but the governor vetoed it. In his veto message the governor indicated his strong support for the use of recycled water and directed the regional board to create a permit to allow the use of recycled water for irrigation no later than August 2014.

AB 1393 (Perea) – Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

This bill would transfer administra-

tion of the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) from the California Department of Public Health to the State Water Resources Control Board. By getting more SRF funds out faster, this bill would help disadvantaged communities in their efforts to obtain a sustainable supply of safe drinking water. ACWA and its coalition partners had suggested this transfer solution as a middle ground alternative to transferring the entire drinking water program, as proposed in AB 145. The bill is currently at the Senate floor as a two-year bill.

SB 4 (Pavley) – Oil and Gas: Well Stimulation

This bill establishes a comprehensive regulatory program for oil and gas well stimulation treatments (e.g., hydraulic fracturing, acid well stimulation), including, among other things, a study, the development of regulations, a permitting process, and public notification and disclosure. ACWA supported the bill. The governor signed it on Sept. 20.

SB 14 (Gaines) – Bear Lake Reservoir: Recreational Use

This bill allows Bear Lake Reservoir in Alpine County to be used for recreational purposes if it meets certain requirements, including specific requirements for water treatment, monitoring and reporting. This bill reinstates the exemption for Bear Lake Reservoir until Jan. 1, 2017. ACWA believes SB 14 strikes the appropriate balance between recreational access and water quality. The governor signed the bill on Aug. 27.

SB 171 (Hueso) – Drainage: Coachella Valley County Water District



This bill authorizes the Coachella Valley Water District to impose a fee or charge to pay for constructing, operating, improving and maintaining the district's public works in compliance with Article XIII D of the California Constitution. The bill further clarifies that the Coachella Valley Water District's benefit assessments must comply with the state laws that implement

Proposition 218, including majority vote threshold requirements. The fee and charge approach under SB 171 require a showing that the total collections do not exceed the total costs for which the collections are made and would save ratepayers a considerable amount in administrative costs. ACWA supported the district in its efforts to seek practical solutions to funding shortfalls for operations and maintenance expenses for drainage facilities as agricultural contributions decline. The governor signed the bill into law on Aug. 16.

SB 246 (Fuller) – Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency



This bill repeals the entire Desert View Water District-Bighorn Mountains Water Agency Consolidation Law and amends the Bighorn Mountains Water Agency Law to make it a more modern, transparent and functional statute. The bill revises various provisions relating to the operation of the district, including specifying procedures for the repayment of bonded indebtedness incurred prior to the consolidation, eliminating the misdemeanor for ordinance violations, and making a violation of certain regulations an infraction instead of a misdemeanor. ACWA supported the Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency in its efforts to modernize its enabling act. The governor signed the bill on Sept. 24.

SB 322 (Hueso) – Water Recycling



This bill would require the State Department of Public Health, in consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board, to investigate the feasibility of developing uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse and to provide a final report on that investigation to the Legislature on or before Dec. 31, 2016. ACWA supported the bill. The governor signed it on Oct. 8.

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SB 485 (Calderon) – Weighmasters: Junk Dealers and Recyclers

This bill would require the Department of Food and Agriculture to require a recycler or junk dealer who is an applicant for a new weighmaster license or a renewal of a weighmaster license to furnish specified information on the application and a fee of \$500 that

will go towards enforcement of these provisions. ACWA supported the bill. The governor signed it on Oct. 3.

SB 620 (Buchanan) – Water Replenishment Districts

The bill provides the Water Replenishment District of Southern California with the ability to determine the appropriate use of moneys held in

its annual reserve fund and provides that public records shall help the Legislature determine whether the flexibility provided by the Water Replenishment District Act should be permanently extended beyond the 2019-'20 fiscal year. ACWA supported this member-sponsored bill. The governor signed it on Oct. 8. ■■■

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In an Oct. 10 comment letter to CDPH concerning the department's proposed chromium-6 standard, ACWA outlines the methodology used to develop the estimate of the cost of compliance. ACWA also outlines other ways CDPH could facilitate a smoother compliance framework for water agencies preparing to meet the new proposed standard.

"ACWA is concerned that the proposed MCL's feasibility analysis understates the occurrence of hexavalent chromium in California water systems and underestimates the total cost of compliance with the proposed MCL," the letter, signed by ACWA Executive Director Timothy Quinn, states. "ACWA encourages CDPH to review the information provided in this comment letter and carefully consider the potential impacts of the proposed MCL on water systems throughout the state, including the costs to the public and implications for California's water supply management system.

"Finally, ACWA urges the Department to carefully craft a rule which ensures that impacted water agencies are given a reasonable period of time to come into compliance with the final MCL," the letter continues.

The CDPH draft MCL for chromium-6 is designed to protect public health and be technologically and economically feasible for water agencies to achieve. When formally adopted, the MCL will be an enforceable regulatory standard for chromium-6 in California drinking water — the nation's first such standard.

CDPH released this draft MCL for chromium-6 for a 45-day comment period which ended Oct. 11. The department will take the public feedback and respond to each comment. It is possible the proposed MCL could change and then be recirculated for more public comment.

In ACWA's comment letter, the association:

- Encourages CDPH to use more current chromium-6 monitoring data other than the data in its Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) database that was collected between Jan. 1, 2001 and Dec. 31, 2009. An analysis conducted by the Jacobs Engineering Group estimates that using more current chromium-6 data would increase the number of sources impacted by the proposed MCL from 311 to 335;
- States that CDPH's occurrence estimates should account for all affected sources, not just those in the WQM database. This "data gap," as acknowledged by CDPH, is especially large for small water systems. The Jacobs group extrapolated the occurrence estimates from the WQM database and applied them to CDPH's known sources. Using that methodology, the estimated number of sources impacted rises from 311 to 642;
- Recommends that CDPH use total chromium monitoring data to supplement hexavalent chromium monitoring data, a move estimated to increase the number of sources impacted from 311 to 863;
- Recommends that CDPH expand its analysis of the fiscal impact of the new standard by updating its estimate of impacts sources, correcting its statewide average water usage rate and estimated peaking factor, include land acquisition and building costs and include treatment costs for sources within 80% of the MCL;
- Recommends that CDPH establish a framework for water system compliance, clarify the regulatory intent of certain proposed provisions of the final MCL, consider the affordability of compliance for specific individual communities and consider water supply management impacts related to implementing the new MCL such as developing alternative sources of drinking water.

Chromium-6 can occur naturally in the environment from the erosion of chromium deposits. It also is produced through industrial processes and then used in electroplating, pigments manufacture, corrosion control and other manufacturing activities. Chromium-6 also can be produced when chromium-3 enters a disinfecting treatment plant and is oxidized into chromium-6.

ACWA has outlined several recommended steps and resources to determine how the proposed MCL affects member agencies' systems. Details are available here. Questions about the proposed chromium-6 MCL may be directed to ACWA Regulatory Advocate Adam Walukiewicz. ■■■

ACWA Member Agencies Detail Impacts of California's Proposed Maximum Contaminant Level for Chromium-6 in Drinking Water

Several ACWA member agencies recently submitted comment letters to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) detailing the local impacts of the department's proposed new drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium, or chromium-6.

The letters describe impacts that range from a near doubling of customers' average household monthly water bills to cover the costs of meeting the standard, to higher numbers of impacted sources per district than CDPH estimated.

On Aug. 22, CDPH released a proposed maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 parts per billion, or 10 ppb, for the nation's first drinking water standard for chromium-6. The department's 45-day comment period ended Oct. 11. During the comment period, several ACWA member agencies — and

ACWA itself — submitted comment letters on the proposed standard. CDPH will review the comment letters and respond in the ensuing months.

Among the comments by member agencies:

- Twentynine Palms Water District projects that the MCL “would result in additional costs of approximately \$68 per connection per bi-monthly billing cycle — this amount represents a 90% increase, almost doubling our customers' average household monthly water bills.”
- Soquel Creek Water District projects its local costs of meeting the proposed standard are 41% higher than CDPH's estimates for similar water systems.
- Hidden Valley Lake Community Service District estimated its costs may double or triple; and

- Coachella Valley Water District estimates it has 57 wells with monitoring results that may exceed 10ppb, while CDPH's dataset only recognizes 27 impacted sources. Annual costs of compliance for CVWD are \$69 million to the state's estimated \$12 million.

Some of the agencies also requested that CDPH develop an implementation framework detailing how agencies may come into compliance, rather than having the new standard go into effect immediately after it is adopted.

“Having a multi-year implementation schedule would allow us to implement and comply with the final draft MCL more cost effectively,” according to a letter from the Soquel Creek Water District. ■■■

SWRCB Seeks Feedback on Framework for Groundwater Work Plan

The State Water Resources Control Board is seeking public input on a draft paper that outlines a work plan for the board's groundwater management activities.

Released publicly in early October, the 10-page discussion draft presents an overarching framework for a range of issues, including monitoring and assessment, governance, oversight and enforcement, and funding.

“The objective is to ensure that the Water Boards address the groundwater challenges that have the greatest potential to impact beneficial uses, focus limited resources on the most important groundwater problems, and facilitate more efficient local and regional groundwater management and provide support and oversight, where needed,” the paper says.

The State Water Resources Control Board said it plans to meet with stakeholders during the next several months to discuss the paper and framework. An

ACWA focus group is scheduled to meet with State Water Board members and senior staff in the coming weeks.

For more information about the groundwater work plan and to download the draft paper, go to the State Water Resources Control Board's website.

ACWA members may provide input directly to the State Water Board's Eric Oppenheimer at eric.oppenheimer@waterboards.ca.gov or send feedback to ACWA Senior Regulatory Advocate Dave Bolland at DaveB@acwa.com.

ACWA remains actively engaged on the issue of groundwater management. During ACWA's Fall Conference & Exhibition on Dec. 5 in Los Angeles, a session titled “Local Groundwater Management and the State: At a Crossroads?” will explore ongoing problems like water level declines, acute local subsidence and degraded groundwater quality, and whether changes can be made at the local level to proactively address the situation.

For more information about this program and to register for ACWA's Fall Conference & Exhibition, go to www.acwa.com. ■■■



More Battles Loom as the Federal Endangered Species Act Turns 40

What threatened species will spark a high-profile regulatory battle under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) like the northern spotted owl did 20 years ago?

Bruce Babbitt, the secretary of the Interior during the Clinton administration from 1993 to 2001, says a good candidate is the greater sage-grouse, a ground-dwelling bird with head-to-toe plumage that inhabits the “sagebrush sea” of the American West.

The bird’s range, once 200 million acres, is down to 70 million acres due in part to grazing, oil and gas development and other human activities. Most of the sage grouse’s remaining habitat is on public lands managed by the federal government. Conservationists say the species is “near threatened,” meaning it could soon qualify for protection under the ESA.

“It’s going to be the biggest enterprise of land use planning under the Endan-

gered Species Act that we’ve ever come up with,” Babbitt said.

The former Interior secretary’s remarks kicked off a conference on Oct. 4 at the University of California, Davis, marking the 40th anniversary of the ESA. The event, hosted by the university’s California Environmental Law & Policy Center, brought state and federal officials, attorneys and ESA scholars together for a conversation about the act’s past, present and future.

Panelists reflected on the past 40 years of the ESA, which everyone agreed has been marked by a series of contentious and controversial legal battles. Participants also discussed creative approaches to the ESA, domestic and international perspectives on species protection, and the act’s future. Some participants from the federal government who were scheduled to attend could not because of the federal government shutdown.

Babbitt took time off from his day job as a board director for the Amazon Conservation Association to attend. The organization works to protect habitat on the eastern face of the Andes and the Amazon’s western headwaters, a place Babbitt called “the most biodiverse place on Earth.”

At the conference, he took the opportunity to urge current Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and President Obama to give strong leadership on the sage-grouse issue. Jewell, he said, should order the Fish and Wildlife Service to develop “meaningful and mandatory” national standards to protect the grouse in sagebrush country. The Obama administration also should produce a national plan containing clear and consistent standards by which the public lands of the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies will be administered in sage brush habitat, Babbitt said.

He also called on Obama to invoke executive powers to set aside a portion of the sage grouse’s habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

“Probably the most important lesson from the last 40 years is that most species become endangered from loss of habitat,” Babbitt said.

Without strong engagement from the White House, Babbitt said “the President’s legacy risks becoming a failed process, leading to yet another kind of spotted owl train wreck that occurred a generation ago in the Pacific Northwest.” Babbitt was Interior Secretary at the time the spotted owl became a national symbol in the ongoing debate about how to manage the nation’s forests.

“I believe history informs us time and time again that the best way to protect an environmental law is to use it vigorously, especially on public lands — lands that belong to all of us,” Babbitt said. ■■■



Some federal agencies are becoming passive in enforcing the Endangered Species Act, says Bruce Babbitt, former secretary of the Interior, during the “ESA at 40” conference Oct. 4 at UC Davis. Photo courtesy of UC Davis School of Law.



(At right) Members of the ACWA Board of Directors and staff gather for an early evening photo Sept. 26 after a scenic tour of East Bay Municipal Utility District's San Pablo Reservoir. The tour, held in conjunction with the Sept. 27 Board meeting at East Bay MUD's headquarters in Oakland, included a look at the reservoir by pontoon boat. Earlier in the day, Board members visited the district's cutting-edge water recycling, power generation and food waste processing facility near the foot of the Bay Bridge.

ACWA BOARD *Continued from page 1*

\$45,000 in expense reductions identified by staff during the budget process, with reductions made in every department.

"Our staff has gone through serious belt-tightening over the past three years," Quinn said. "It has been an arduous process, but staff and the Finance Committee have approached it with creativity and commitment."

ACWA President Randy Record said the budget adopted by the Board will allow ACWA to continue its important mission for its members. "This action reflects the budget climate we are in while providing the resources necessary to accomplish our goals," Record said.

ACWA's dues are based on the operations and maintenance budgets for individual members, which tend to vary from year to year. The actual dollar increase associated with the 2% adjustment in the dues rate structure adopted by the Board will vary for individual member agencies.

Statewide Water Action Plan Approved

As reported in the Oct. 4 issue of *ACWA News*, the Board approved a Statewide Water Action Plan that calls for a broad suite of actions to improve overall water supply reliability in California.

ACWA submitted the plan to Gov. Jerry Brown on Oct. 2 as the water community's recommendations for a water plan for the state.

Please see related story on this page for the latest on the Statewide Water Action Plan and related activities.

Updates on Legislative Session, Water Bond Discussions

In addition to adopting the budget and the Statewide Water Action Plan, the Board received brief updates on the outcome of the state legislative session, federal issues, discussions surrounding the 2014 water bond, and other topics.

The Board also approved a recommendation from the Legal Affairs Committee to assist in a legal case involving a discharge permit issued by the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency to the Mingo Logan Mining Company. A Court of Appeal ruling in the case has raised questions about the certainty of permits issued under the Clean Water Act, which could have implications for water agencies.

The mining company is filing a petition for review by the U.S. Supreme Court. ACWA will prepare and file a petition for writ of certiorari and if granted, an amicus brief in support of the appeal. ■■■

Statewide Water Action Plan Approved

ACWA's Board of Directors unanimously approved a Statewide Water Action Plan for California on Sept. 27. Developed by a broad cross-section of member water interests convened by ACWA over several months, the plan outlines 15 actions to improve water supply reliability, protect water rights, protect the integrity of the state's water system and promote better stewardship.

It also includes guiding principles for implementation of the plan to help ensure actions benefit the entire state, respect water rights and contract terms, and reflect a new regulatory approach that can better meet the needs of California water users and ecosystems.

To demonstrate the broadest support possible for the Statewide Water Action Plan, ACWA is encouraging its member agencies to adopt resolutions in support of the plan. To read the plan and download a sample resolution in support, visit www.acwa.com/spotlight/SWAP.

Upcoming Briefings and Events

Members can learn more about ACWA's Statewide Water Action Plan at upcoming region events and other meetings, including:

- Oct. 24 – ACWA Regions 2 & 4 Forum in Sacramento.
- Oct. 30 – ACWA Region 9 Briefing in Riverside area.
- Nov. 4 – ACWA Regions 6 & 7 Briefing in Fresno.
- Nov. 5 – ACWA Region 8 Briefing in the Greater Los Angeles area.
- Nov. 15 – ACWA Regions 1 & 5 Briefing in Oakland.
- Dec. 4 – Town Hall meeting at the ACWA 2013 Fall Conference & Exhibition in Los Angeles.

ACWA Members Elect Region Boards, Officers for 2014-'15 Term

ACWA's 10 regions have elected their officers and region board members for the two-year term that begins Jan. 1, 2014, and ends Dec. 31, 2015.

The region boards serve many important functions, such as organizing tours and programs that educate ACWA's membership, activating grassroots support for issues and articulating regional views.

After nominating committees announced their recommended slate, each region's membership elected a chair and vice chair as well as three-to-five region board members. The elections concluded Sept. 30. The chair and vice chair of each region will serve for the next two years on ACWA's Board of Directors as well as ACWA's Finance Committee.

The result of each region election is below:

Region 1

Chair: Aldaron Laird, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District.

Vice Chair: Judy Mirbegan, Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District.

Board Members: Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency; David Guhin, City of Santa Rosa; Dennis Mayo, McKinleyville Community Services District.

Region 2

Chair: Eric Larrabee, Western Canal Water District.

Vice Chair: Walter Cotter, Browns Valley Irrigation District.

Board Members: George M. Barber, Paradise Irrigation District; David Coxey, Bella Vista Water District; Sandy Denn, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District; Sean Early, Richvale Irrigation District; Stan Wangberg, Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District.

Region 3

Chair: Bob Dean, Calaveras County Water District.

Vice Chair: Bill George, El Dorado

Irrigation District.

Board Members: Joshua Alpine, Placer County Water Agency; Dave Eggerton, El Dorado County Water Agency; Remleh Scherzinger, Nevada Irrigation District; Paul Sciuto, South Tahoe Public Utility District.

Region 4

Chair: Mike Hardesty, Reclamation District No. 2068.

Vice Chair: Robert Roscoe, Sacramento Suburban Water District.

Board Members: Dave Brent, City of Sacramento; Glen Grant, Solano Irrigation District; Thomas McGurk, Stockton East Water District; Tim O'Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District; Pamela Tobin, San Juan Water District.

Region 5

Chair: Dick Quigley, Zone 7 Water Agency.

Vice Chair: David T. Hodgins, Scotts Valley Water District.

Board Members: Polly Holcombe, Carpinteria Valley Water District; Lesa McIntosh, East Bay Municipal Utility District; Anson Moran, San Francisco Public Utility Commission; Bob Ptacek, Montara Water & Sanitary District; John Weed, Alameda County Water District.

Region 6

Chair: Dave Orth, Kings River Conservation District.

Vice Chair: Matthew Hurley, Angiola Water District.

Board Members: Rick Gilmore, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority; Chris Kapheim, Alta Irrigation District; Sherilyn McBee, Firebaugh Canal Water District; Martin Querin, City of Fresno, Department of Public Utilities; Aldo Sansoni, Henry Miller Reclamation District No. 2131.

Region 7

Chair: William Taube, Wheeler-Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District.

Vice Chair: David Bixler, Kaweah River Power Authority.

Board Members: Tom Barcellos, Lower Tule River Irrigation District; Scott Edwards, Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District; Sean Geivet, Terra Bella Irrigation District; Paul Hendrix, Tulare Irrigation District; Adrienne Mathews, Kern County Water Agency.

Region 8

Chair: Steve Cole, Newhall County Water District.

Vice Chair: Michael Touhey, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District.

Board Members: Bill Cooper, Castaic Lake Water Agency; Greg Galindo, La Puente County Water District; Mel Matthews, Foothill Municipal Water District; Sandy Olson, Walnut Valley Water District; Barry Steinhardt, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District.

Region 9

Chair: Harvey Ryan, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District.

Vice Chair: Craig Ewing, Desert Water Agency.

Board Members: Joe Kuebler, Eastern Municipal Water District; Mary Ann Melleby, San Geronio Pass Water Agency; Ed Pack, Coachella Valley Water District; Kathy Tiegs, Cucamonga Valley Water District; Jim Ventura, Mojave Water Agency.

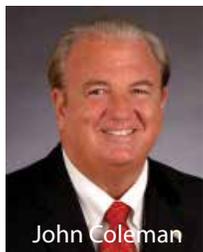
Region 10

Chair: Peer Swan, Irvine Ranch Water District.

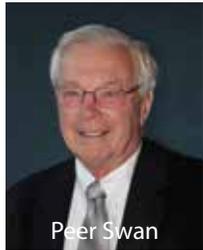
Vice Chair: DeAna Verbeke, Helix Water District.

Board Members: Dave Draper, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District; Cathy Green, Orange County Water District; Larry McKenney, Moulton Niguel Water District; Richard Vasquez, Vista Irrigation District. ■■■

Nominating Committee Issues Slate for ACWA President, Vice President



John Coleman



Peer Swan

Elections for ACWA president and vice president for the 2014-'15 term are set for Dec. 4 at ACWA's 2013 Fall Conference & Exhibition in Los Angeles.

The ACWA Nominating Committee has announced a slate that recommends current Vice President John

Coleman for ACWA president and current Region 10 Vice Chair Peer Swan for ACWA vice president.

"ACWA has a good slate of candidates for president and vice president who will lead our organization well," said Paul Kelley, chair of the Nominating Com-

mittee. "Many thanks to the Nominating Committee members for their dedication and hard work."

The vote will take place during the general session immediately following the luncheon program. The session is expected to begin at 1:30 p.m. Nominations from the floor will be accepted prior to the vote. Nominations must be supported by a resolution from the board of directors of the agency offering the nomination.

About the Nominees

John Coleman has served on the East Bay Municipal Utility District Board of Directors since 1990. He was president of the EBMUD board from 1996 to 2000 and served as vice president in 2009 and 2010.

He was elected vice president of ACWA in December 2011 after serving a two-year term as chair of the Federal

Affairs Committee. He is a past president of the board of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies and currently chairs the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority and the Freeport Regional Water Authority.

Peer Swan has served on the Irvine Ranch Water District Board of Directors since 1979. After serving a term as vice president of the IRWD board, he was elected president in 1981 and served in that capacity until December 1995 and again in 2006.

He has represented Region 10 on the ACWA Board for several terms and also has been active in the California Association of Sanitation Agencies. He is a member of the Water Advisory Committee of Orange County, president of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, and a member of the steering committee of the Southern California Water Dialog Committee. ■■■

ACWA's Continuing Legal Education Workshop Looks In-Depth at CEQA

Several dozen attorneys and other water professionals participated in ACWA's annual two-day Continuing Legal Education workshop on Oct. 3 and 4. This year's "ACWA CLE," held at the Hyatt Regency Newport Beach, examined a wide variety of hot topics and current issues.

Most of the conference programs delved into the many facets of the California Environmental Quality Act, including possible CEQA reforms, issues related to CEQA for Orange County Water District's Groundwater Replenishment System, CEQA issues related to a trial court's recent decision in the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA), coordinated cases which validated the 2003 QSA and 11 related agreements, as well as coordination of CEQA reviews with reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Other program sessions looked at recent trends in CEQA compliance,



Attendees of ACWA's Continuing Legal Education workshop get a lot of information about the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Photo by Paula Currie

proper species mitigation, the significance of Delta Plan lawsuits, tips for trouble-free construction projects and

provisions in public works contracts that fail to protect public entities. ■■■



(Left) A team including Ed Winkler of CH2M Hill and Department of Water Resources staffers Carl Torgersen, Sarah Torgersen and Gary Bardini claims the top prize Sept. 20 at the 2013 Steve Hall Fierce Competitor Golf Tournament as ACWA Executive Director Timothy Quinn looks on. (Center) Players warm up on the putting green at DarkHorse Golf Club in Auburn before the tournament gets under way. (Right) Participants pay tribute to former ACWA Executive Director Steve Hall after playing 18 holes at his favorite course. Proceeds from the tournament go to the Stephen K. Hall Water Law and Policy Scholarship as well as ALS research.

Golf Tournament Honors Steve Hall, Raises Funds for Scholarship

Crisp autumn weather enveloped golfers Sept. 20 at the 2013 Steve Hall Fierce Competitor Golf Tournament at DarkHorse Golf Club in Auburn. The annual event, launched in 2010, honors former ACWA Executive Director Steve Hall, who died in 2010 after a battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

DarkHorse Golf Club was Hall's favorite golf course and the venue where his inner "fierce competitor" reigned. It was on this course that Hall shot his one and only "hole in one" on the 16th hole. Hall then put away his golf clubs for good.

Proceeds from the annual tournament help support the Stephen K. Hall Water Law and Policy Scholarship as well as ALS research.

Nine teams participated in a scramble format with first place going to four players: Carl Torgersen, Sarah Torgersen, and Gary Bardini, of California Department of Water Resources (DWR); and Ed Winkler, of CH2MHill.

ACWA extends its appreciation to the sponsors of the tournament. Gold Level Sponsors include: Berman Dacey Goldsmith, CH2MHill, Downey Brand

and Ron Davis Advocacy. Silver Level Sponsors include: Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan, Randy Fiorini, Tim & Vivien Quinn, Reeb Government Relations and Brian Thomas. Friends of Steve sponsors include: Mark Cowin (director of DWR), Jim & Paula Currie, Jennifer Persike & Keith Coolidge and Dan Nelson.

The Council of Past Presidents sponsored the 16th hole. Council members are: Bette Boatman, Randy Fiorini, Gene Harris, Paul Kelley, Jerry Gladbach and Glen Peterson. ■■■

Imperial Irrigation District Begins Streaming Meetings Online

Imperial Irrigation District's meetings are now being streamed online using an increasingly popular Web-based solution used by many cities, states and government agencies.

The Granicus service puts meeting agendas and other searchable documents online, side by side with streaming video in a single view. Users can watch live meetings or view archived video of past meetings.

"This is part of our vision for making IID more transparent, while attempting to reach a broader audience," said

Marion Champion, IID's media communications officer.

Before the advent of the video streaming, video of IID board meetings was only available days after the actual meeting date. The board meetings also are broadcast taped-delayed on the local public-access TV channel.

The new video streaming feature is available at www.iid.com/livemeeting. ■■■



IID's public meeting are now available online in real time.

ACWA Co-Sponsoring Nov. 4 Workshop on Leadership, Stakeholder Involvement

In partnership with the Groundwater Resources Association of California, ACWA is co-sponsoring a workshop on Nov. 4 in Sacramento on the fundamentals of collaborative leadership and stakeholder involvement. The program is geared for professionals who work in natural resources management.

This event will educate water, groundwater, planning professionals, and elected officials on key tenets of stakeholder involvement and collaborative leadership through a mix of presentations, work groups, and interactive exercises.

Attendees will learn from California water industry leaders and trainers from Sacramento State's Center for Collaborative Policy. The preliminary

agenda features keynote talks by general managers of California water districts.

Session topics include "Providing Collaborative Leadership – Identifying Essential Skills," "Overcoming Board and Manager Hesitation to Support Collaboration," and "A Case Study on Implementing Collaborative Outcomes."

The workshop will be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento and is eligible for the Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) program and continuing education unit (CEU) hours. For more information and to register, go to <http://www.grac.org/clwreg> or contact ACWA Special Projects Manager Danielle Blacet at danielleb@acwa.com, or call (916) 441-4545. ■■■

El Dorado Irrigation District Celebrates Anniversary of Sly Park Transfer from Bureau

A small ceremony was held Oct. 7 near the boat launch at Jenkinson Lake in Pollock Pines to mark the 10th anniversary of the transfer of Sly Park from the Bureau of Reclamation to El Dorado Irrigation District.

Sly Park Unit — including Sly Park Dam and Jenkinson Lake, Camp Creek

Diversion Dam and the Camino Conduit, and Camino and Camp Creek Tunnels — provides municipal and industrial water for the nearby community of Placerville and irrigation water for the El Dorado Irrigation District.

Attending and giving remarks at the ceremony were former U.S. Rep. John Doolittle, who was in office at the time and was involved in developing the transfer; El Dorado Irrigation District General Manager Jim Abercrombie; Board President George Osborne; and El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce CEO Laurel Brent-Bumb. Presentations and resolutions were given by C. Ross Branch, field representative for Congressman Tom McClintock (CA-4), and Trish Sweeney, field representative for Assembly Member Frank Bigelow (R-O'Neals). ■■■



EID General Manager Jim Abercrombie gives remarks at a ceremony marking the transfer of Sly Park to his district.

Photo courtesy of EID

Contra Costa Water District Recognized for Transparency Achievement

Assembly Member Jim Frazier (D-Oakley) recognized Contra Costa Water District's (CCWD) work toward transparency and good governance at the district's board meeting Oct. 2.

Earlier this year Contra Costa Water District was awarded the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation.

"I am very proud of the Contra Costa Water District for earning this very deserved recognition," Frazier said. "CCWD customers are well served by an agency who maintains such open and transparent operations."

Board President Joseph L. Campbell said the district will continue its efforts to further improve access to information and encourage input from customers.

In receiving this award, CCWD completed eight essential governance transparency requirements, such as conducting ethics training for all board members, having open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

CCWD also fulfilled 15 website requirements, including providing readily available information to the public. Documents available on the website include board agendas, past minutes, current budget and the most recent financial audit. The district also had to demonstrate outreach to customers to inform and engage them through newsletters and public workshops.

CCWD said it is the first agency to complete the certification, which was created this year. ■■■



ACWA 2013 FALL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION



December 3-6, 2013 JW Marriott LA Live, Los Angeles

Groundwater Replenishment System Named 'Project of the Century'

Orange County Water District's Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) was awarded the Major Civil Engineering Project Centenary Award from the International Federation of Consulting Engineers during the federation's Centenary Conference in Barcelona, Spain, on Sept. 16.



Director Denis Bilodeau (center-right) accepted the Major Civil Engineering Project Centenary Award on behalf of Orange County Water District at the FIDIC Centenary Conference in Barcelona, Spain, on September 16.

The Groundwater Replenishment System was honored alongside world-renowned projects such as the Hoover Dam Bypass, the Channel Tunnel and the Sydney Harbour Bridge for having made significant contributions to the civil engineering industry during the past 100 years. More than 150 projects were nominated for the recognition.

The Groundwater Replenishment System takes treated wastewater that otherwise would be sent to the Pacific Ocean and purifies it using a three-step advanced process. It's the world's largest water purification system for indirect potable reuse, producing 70 million gallons of high-purity water every day. According to Orange County Water District, the water is injected into a seawater barrier and pumped to recharge basins where it naturally percolates into the groundwater basin.

To date, the system has purified more than 120 billion gallons of water. Construction is expected to be finished in 2015 on work that will expand the plant's maximum capacity to 100 million gallons daily. The system is jointly operated with Orange County Sanitation District.

"We are truly honored to be recognized among such remarkable civil engineering projects," stated Shawn Dewane, president of OCWD. "The GWRS made history by bringing together many diverse stakeholders to implement a creative and innovative solution to sustain water supplies in Orange County, and as a result has set the standard for advanced water recycling and created a path for similar projects to break ground in the United States and around the globe." ■■■

Sonoma Marin Partnership Wins EPA WaterSense Excellence Award

The Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership was recognized Oct. 3 with a 2013 WaterSense Excellence Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the partnership's innovative regional approach to water use efficiency programs and reduction in per capita water use.

The partnership represents 10 water utilities in Sonoma and Marin counties, including the cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Petaluma, Sonoma, Cotati; North Marin, Valley of the Moon and Marin Municipal Water District; Town of Windsor and Sonoma County Water Agency.

"The partnership is a unique agreement among stakeholders who want a secure and affordable water supply," stated David Rabbitt, chairman of the Board of the

Sonoma County Water Agency and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. "The partnership, through its many water efficiency programs, educational seminars and outreach campaigns, provides information to our communities about the importance of conserving water and curbing water-wasting behaviors."

The partnership's regionwide programs and outreach efforts include high-efficiency clothes washer rebates, Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper training and a Green Business Program. The collaboration's 20 Gallon Challenge also urges citizens to take an online pledge saying they will save 20 gallons per day.

"Despite a hot summer, water use in the Sonoma-Marin region dropped this year in response to a call for water-

use efficiency, indicating that the partnership's financial incentives for ratepayers and education-based outreach have been successful," stated Jake Mackenzie, Rohnert Park Councilman and chairman of the Water Advisory Committee.

For more information about the partnership, please visit www.savingwaterpartnership.org or contact Carrie Pollard at Carrie.Pollard@scwa.ca.gov. ■■■



Fresno Metropolitan's Big Dry Creek Dam to Get Facelift as Part of \$13.8 Million Project

Three grants totaling \$7.2 million are headed to the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District for flood control, groundwater recharge and recreation projects in Fresno and Clovis.

The biggest award, nearly \$6.9 million in matching funds from the Department of Water Resource's Stormwater Flood Management Program, will go toward



Big Dry Creek Dam (top) and creek (bottom). Photos courtesy of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

work that improves the structural integrity of Big Dry Creek Dam, improves flood control and adds to groundwater recharge at three sites downstream of the earthfill dam and reservoir, which Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District operates. Officials expect an additional 1,990 acre-feet of groundwater recharge will be gained. The total project cost is almost \$13.8 million.

Another \$225,000 grant from the Department of Water Resource's Local Groundwater Assistance Program will be used to collect and analyze soil samples at five low-performing groundwater recharge basins. The project will test the effectiveness of putting more permeable soil in these basins to see if that will increase volume of water returned to the groundwater supply. According to Fresno Metropolitan, data from this test will be shared among many local agencies, including Fresno Irrigation District and the Kings River Conservation District. Work should be completed by spring 2014.

The third grant, more than \$124,000 from the local Fansler Foundation, will help replace a playground structure at Sloan Johnson Oso de Oro Lake Park. ■■

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ACWA Past President Awarded for Championing Special Districts



At the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) conference in Monterey last month, Contra Costa Water District Director **Bette Boatman** received the Hollingsworth Award from the CSDA Board of Directors.

The honor is awarded to an individual who has been vigilant in championing for special districts. The award was developed in honor of William Hollingsworth, one of the “founding fathers” of CSDA and a foremost advocate for special districts in the Capitol in the 1970s.

CSDA recognizes individuals with this award “who exemplify what it means to go above and beyond the call of duty and advocate extensively both for CSDA and special districts.”

A former public school teacher, Boatman has been on the CCWD Board of Directors since 1974 and was board president from 1990 to 1992, and vice president from 1981 to 1989. In 2002-2003, Boatman served as president of the ACWA Board of Directors.

She currently holds chair positions on the Governing Board of East County

Water Management Association and the Contra Costa Special Districts' Association and is past chair of the Sanitation & Water Agencies of Contra Costa County.

She is the former executive director of the YWCA of Contra Costa County, and has been active in a number of community organizations, including the Concord American Association of University Women, Sons of Italy, and Soroptomist International. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Kennedy King Scholarship Foundation and Gallery Concord. ■■

Public Agency Members

Desert Water Agency



During a special meeting on Oct. 2, the Desert Water Agency Board of Directors unanimously appointed **Richard Oberhaus** to

fill the board seat vacated by Tom Kieley, who retired after 28 years of service.

Oberhaus is a fourth-generation Californian who has lived in Palm Springs since 1992. He is a self-employed public relations and political consultant involved in formulating public policy and advocating for government accountability. He was the fundraising chairman for Riverside County's Democratic Party.

Board President Pat Oygar said the Board interviewed several candidates but Oberhaus's knowledge about the board and its business stood out.

"I have long been interested in Desert Water Agency's operations and I look forward to bringing my perspective," Oberhaus said.

LA Board of Water and Power Commissioners



Mel Levine, a prominent attorney and former California State Assembly Member and U.S. Representative, is the new president

of the Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners. LA Mayor Eric Garcetti appointed Levine to the board this summer.

Levine was a member of Congress from 1983 until 1993, and served in the

California Assembly from 1977 to 1982. Following his career as an elected public servant, Levine spent the next two decades as a partner in the Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher law firm.

Levine chairs the Advisory Board of the Center on Public Diplomacy at USC's Annenberg School, is a member of the Advisory Board of the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley, and is a director of the Pacific Council on International Policy.

Water and Power Commissioner William W. Funderburk, Jr., was elected board vice president.

Tuolumne Utilities District



Pete Kampa, general manager of the Tuolumne Utilities District, will serve as president of the California Special

Districts Association (CSDA) for 2014-'15. The announcement of Kampa's appointment came in September during the CSDA's annual conference, held this year in Monterey.

Kampa has served on the CSDA Executive Committee as secretary of the board and has been a director for CSDA since 1998. He also has participated on CSDA's Education, Membership and Legislative committees, serving as Membership chair from 2007 through 2010.

"During my years of service on the CSDA Board, the association has implemented extremely successful special district education and legislative programs and other highly valuable membership resources," Kampa said.

West Basin Municipal Water District



Donald L. Dear of the West Basin Municipal Water District has been appointed by the West Basin Board of

Directors to succeed Director Edward C. Little as one of two West Basin directors appointed to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board. Gloria D. Gray remains seated as the second West Basin representative.

Dear was the mayor of Gardena for nine consecutive terms before his retirement in 2001 and was a middle-school teacher for 37 years. He was elected to the West Basin Board in 2000 representing Gardena, Hawthorne, Lawndale and portions of El Camino Village. He is serving his fourth term after being re-elected in November 2012.

Little departed the Metropolitan Board in September after 20 years. According to West Basin, Little plans to devote more time progressing West Basin's Water Reliability 2020 program aimed at increasing water recycling, water conservation and researching ocean-water desalination.



The Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility, named in his honor, provides "designer waters" for unique industrial

customer needs. Located in El Segundo, the facility produces 30 million gallons of water every day. ■■■

'Water Wasters' Video Series Highlights Responsible Water Use Outdoors

A new video series by San Juan Water District covers topics that will help customers avoid wasteful water use. In the first video episode, called "Broken Sprinkler," a father and son discover an unplanned pond in their backyard, and they discuss why it's "not cool at all." The

second episode, Water with the Weather, presents a family's conversation about adjusting automatic sprinklers when it's cold or raining. Future videos in the series will tackle issues like weather-wise irrigation and other water waste-avoiding topics. The videos are available on YouTube. ■■■



NOVEMBER

7 – 8

Water Education Foundation's San Joaquin River Restoration Tour is **Nov. 7 – 8**. The tour includes stops at Friant Dam, Interim San Joaquin River Salmon Conservation and Research Facility, Chowchilla Bifurcation and Canal, Mendota Pool, Sack Dam, Sand Slough Control Structure, and the Merced National Wildlife Refuge. For more information go to <http://www.watereducation.org/toursdetail.asp?id=845&parentID=821>.

DECEMBER

3 – 6

ACWA's 2013 Fall Conference & Exhibition is **Dec. 3 – 6** at the JW Marriott L.A. Live, Los Angeles. Registration deadline is Nov. 8. For more information contact ACWA's Member Services and Events Department at events@acwa.com or 916.441.4545.

2014

FEBRUARY

3 – 6

ACWA's 2014 Washington D.C. Conference is **Feb. 25 – 27** at the Liaison Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. For more information contact ACWA's Member Services and Events Department at events@acwa.com or 916.441.4545.

MARCH

14

ACWA Region 3 / Mountain Counties Water Resources Association will hold a joint meeting Friday, **March 14** at the El Dorado Irrigation District, Placerville. For more information visit <http://mountaincountieswater.com/meeting-schedule/upcoming-meetings/>.

MAY

6 – 9

ACWA's 2014 Spring Conference & Exhibition is **May 6 – 9** at the Portola and Marriott Hotels, Monterey. For more information contact ACWA's Member Services and Events Department at events@acwa.com or 916.441.4545.

Positions Open

General Manager

Idyllwild Water District

The Idyllwild Water District is seeking applications for a General Manager. The current General Manager is retiring in the near future. The Idyllwild Water District is located in the San Jacinto Mountains at an elevation of 5,500 feet with four seasons. The District provides water and sewer services and is presently in the process of qualifying for grant funds to construct a proposed tertiary treatment plant for recycled water to be used for irrigation. The District operates many of its wells on a 45 kW solar system. The District has pre-1914 Strawberry Creek Water rights. The District operates 26 wells and 5 water treatment plants.

POSITION – The General Manager reports to a five-member elected Board and is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the District. This position has overall responsibility for policy development, water resource planning, distribution, fiscal management, employee relations, engineering, administration and operation of all District functions, programs, and activities. The incumbent is responsible for accomplishing District goals, objectives, implementing the policies of the Board of Directors, and representing the Board's policies with employees, community organizations and the general public.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS – A track record demonstrating the ability to lead and succeed as general manager. Understanding water supply and groundwater issues, also with experience in wastewater treatment operations. Any combination of education and experience which would likely provide the necessary knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A Bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration or closely related field from an accredited college or university is desirable. Experience working with projects such as installing pipeline, constructing new water tanks or drilling and maintaining new and existing wells is necessary. At least three years of experience should have been in a supervisory capacity. Shall possess at least a Grade II State of CA Water Treatment Operator Certification. Experience and the ability to locate and apply for grant funds. Any experience working in a Special District, knowledge of cost estimating and contract administration; public personnel administration and employer-employee relations.

SALARY – Depends of qualifications. The salary range is competitive with similar size water districts with excellent benefits package, including 401A retirement plan and a 457 deferred compensation plan. Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter of interest, salary history, and professional references via email to terry@idyllwildwater.com. This position is open until filled. No phone calls please. EOE

General Manager

Joshua Basin Water District

Salary depending on experience and qualifications.

Joshua Basin Water District (JBWD) is seeking a highly qualified and experienced individual for the position of General Manager. JBWD, a special district in the community of Joshua Tree, serves approximately 4,500 connections within a geographic area of about 100 square miles. JBWD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors and has about 20 employees.

Continued on page 20

The ideal candidate: has a strong history of public sector management including experience in financial management and budgeting, operational analysis, staff development and team building, and program planning; has a proven record of leading and planning long- and short-range efforts that involve multiple agencies and complex programs to achieve goals. A substantial track record demonstrating the ability to lead and succeed as general Manager, Assistant Manager or equivalent high-level administrative position.

Understands complex water supply and groundwater issues, with a focus on specific district functions and experience in wastewater treatment operations.

Has a history of working with governing boards to establish clear channels of communication, build trust, define roles and develop positive, open relations. Demonstrated ability to develop solid Board/ Management relations. A history of setting up systems and procedures that ensure accountability while providing the flexibility to meet the water management requirements of the community.

Has the ability to recruit, hire and develop the best staff and the ability to know when and how to terminate an employee who is not meeting the District's requirements. Has vision – creates an exciting vision for employees; can work with various parts of the community to develop an agency vision that is a consensus of very diverse interests. Successful experience in management of consultants and contractors. An understanding of the importance of developing working partnerships with businesses and community groups. A person who gets out from behind the desk and works at bringing people together to get things done.

Understanding of environmental and permitting issues. A good manager of time and resources. A willingness to delegate, where appropriate. Able to communicate clearly both orally and in writing. Willing to work long hours. A bachelors degree in public administration, engineering, business administration or similar is required.

Submit resumes to: Joshua Basin Water District, PO Box 725, Joshua Tree CA 92252; or email to jbwd.gm.search@gmail.com. Job description available at the District website: www.jbwd.com. No phone calls please. EOE Open until filled.

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ILRP Program Manager

Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group

The Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority ("KRWCA"), in partnership with the Kern County Farm Bureau ("KCFB"), is seeking a highly motivated and organized individual to fill the position of Program Manager. Under direction of the KRWCA Board of Directors, this position is responsible for representing over one million acres of irrigated agriculture within Kern and portions of Kings and Tulare Counties on numerous aspects of water quality regulatory compliance.

This position will provide a variety of administrative, regulatory, policy, technical, and outreach functions to support grower implementation of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) and other water quality policies which may be adopted by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and water quality programs and outreach efforts of the KRWCA.

Essential job duties and responsibilities:

- A. Under direction of the Board of Directors, to provide leadership and direction to growers within the KRWCA to ensure all necessary administrative actions required for compliance with the ILRP are achieved; acts on behalf of the Board of Directors as directed and to perform other duties as required.
- B. Provides day-to-day coordination for and professional assistance to the KRWCA and its members/growers on issues related to compliance with the ILRP. Responsible for environmental and regulatory compliance pertaining to the Regional Water Quality Control Board ("RWQCB") actions and orders.
- C. Provides oversight and assistance with the coordination and preparation of various memoranda, agricultural and property related reports, specifications

and publications as needed for RWQCB compliance.

- D. Develops budgets and integrated financial plans, as directed.
- E. Represents the KRWCA with regulatory groups and business organizations; participates in community and professional groups and committees; acts as KRWCA liaison on various inter-agency coordination projects.
- F. Provides advice and consultation on the development of KRWCA services, functions, and policies.
- G. Communicates and provides feedback to KRWCA staff to assure direction and work products meet KRWCA mission and vision.
- H. Assists in the development and management of various programs under the Board of Directors responsibility.
- I. Maintain excellent public relations through communication with other employees, landowners, and the general public.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree with background in agribusiness, hydrology, and/or regulatory compliance is preferred; or professional registration/certification in a related field. Five years of increasingly responsible experience in a municipality, special district or technical trade requiring regulatory compliance and reporting. This position requires detail orientation, exceptional communication (oral and written) skills, time management and proficiency in Word/Excel/Outlook as well as GIS and Database experience.

Salary \$100 – \$125K per year DOE. Excellent Benefit Package. EOE

Contact: Kim Hansen, HR Manager, (559) 449-2700

Send resume to: hr@ppeng.com