ACWA NEWS
VOL. 52 | 02 Feb. 16, 2024



Members of the 2024-'25 ACWA Board of Directors pose for a group photograph during their first meeting of the year. For coverage of the meeting, see article on page 3.

CAPITOL CORNER

ACWA-Sponsored Legislation Introduced

Legislation sponsored by ACWA would aid public agencies in defending against Proposition 218 lawsuits by requiring litigants to participate and raise specific objections during the public administrative process.

Introduced by Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City), AB 2257 would also limit the administrative record to evidence presented to the agency during the ratemaking process. ACWA is forming a coalition to support the legislation and is urging member agencies to sign onto a letter, the subject of a recent Outreach Alert.

A rise in Proposition 218 litigation is making it increasingly difficult to ensure agencies can pass fair and reasonable rates to cover the costs of operations and investments. Oftentimes, these suits are filed without litigants first having raised alleged violations with the public agency during the public notice-and-comment process leading up to the decision to adopt rates or assessment.

If passed, AB 2257 would bolster the financial stability of public water and sewer agencies by creating a robust public process that facilitates dialogue,

CAPITOL CORNER continued on page 3

ACWA Announces Spring Conference Keynote Speaker



ACWA's 2024 Spring Conference & Expo coming to Sacramento May 7-9 will feature a keynote address from Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) President and CEO Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

Cantil-Sakauye was selected to lead the PPIC at the beginning of 2023. Previously, she served 12 years as the 28th Chief Justice of California, where she led the state's highest court as its first person of color and second woman to occupy the Chief Justice position.

As PPIC President and CEO, Cantil-Sakauye oversees a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank that works to improve public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research. A significant part of that work includes a highly influential role as the premier source of research and analysis within the California water space.

Cantil-Sakauye will be one of two keynote speakers during the upcoming conference, which will include several new and improved features that debuted during the ACWA 2023 Fall Conference & Expo.

In addition to the changes, planning is currently underway to provide the same valuable information attendees

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916.441.4545
www.acwa.com

Executive Director
Dave Eggerton

Director of Communications
Heather Engel

Editor
Will Holbert

Staff Writers
Caroline Meade
Ellen Martin

Graphic Design
Katherine Causland

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COLUMN
DAVE EGGERTON

ACWA-Sponsored Legislation Aimed at Further Reforming Proposition 218 Process

When ACWA builds strong coalitions, we give our advocacy the best possible opportunity to succeed in benefiting our members. And this year, we've hit the ground running by launching a coalition in support of an ACWA-sponsored bill that could inject some badly needed common sense into the Proposition 218 process for setting rates.

We'll depend on member agencies joining this coalition by signing onto a letter and engaging with their local legislators. A recent Outreach Alert contains all the information your agency needs to get behind this effort.

As some ACWA members unfortunately know from first-hand experience, the current system allows litigants opposing rate settings to avoid the administrative process altogether and surprise agencies with a lawsuit after the rates have already been adopted.

The bill ACWA is sponsoring would aid public agencies in defending against Proposition 218 lawsuits by requiring litigants to participate and raise specific objections during the public administrative process. In doing so, this proposal intends to bring to light all possible complaints and provide an opportunity to resolve a dispute and avoid litigation altogether.

Authored by Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City), AB 2257 would build on the success of ACWA-sponsored legislation in 2021. That bill created a 120-day statute of limitations for filing lawsuits against water and sewer rates through the Proposition 218 process. The momentum behind its success relied on nearly 100 organizations, including ACWA members, joining a coalition in support of the bill as it moved through the Legislature.

We'll rely on that level of engagement on our latest sponsored legislation, as well on many other advocacy efforts, as we move into another consequential year in Sacramento and our nation's capital.

If your agency has a history of engagement through ACWA, your continued support will prove essential to the success of our advocacy. If you are a new member, or haven't engaged through ACWA in the past, keep an eye out for updates from ACWA. They will give you the background, tools and specific steps on how to engage.

This is a great year to get involved and experience how you can make a positive difference within California's water community, for your agency and especially for the people you serve.

ACWA Board Holds First Meeting of New Term

The ACWA Board of Directors conducted its first meeting for the 2024-'25 term on Feb. 2, and received updates on legislative advocacy, approved the preparation of an amicus curiae letter and welcomed three new association members, among other business.

New Members

The Board approved and welcomed three new members to the association — the City of Camarillo, City of Petaluma, and the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area GSA.

Legislative Updates

ACWA staff reported on ACWA priorities going into the second year of the 2023-'24 legislative session, including engagement in support of a possible climate resilience bond on the November ballot. Staff also provided updates on the status of bills that would affect ACWA members, such as bills that threaten water rights and legislation sponsored by ACWA that would aid public agencies in defending against Proposition 218 lawsuits after the public rate-setting process and approval.

Legal Assistance

Board members voted to ratify a decision that ACWA prepare and file an amicus curiae letter in the case of *Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association v. Coachella Valley Water District* at no cost to ACWA. The case concerns whether a refund remedy is allowed under Proposition 218 and Proposition 26.

Financial Statements

Board members also approved unaudited financial statements for the third quarter of 2023, which reflected significantly higher capital assets and a better-than-budgeted performance on invested funds due to current market performance.

Board Workshop

The Board meeting was preceded by a day-long workshop with an outside facilitator, who led a discussion about governance best practices, communication protocols and responsibilities for the Board, as well as an initial look at organizational priorities for the upcoming strategic plan process.

The next ACWA Board meeting is scheduled for April 5.

Federal Agencies Release New Cybersecurity Guidance

The FBI, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have partnered to produce an "Incident Response Guide" to provide water and wastewater agencies with cybersecurity support that will improve their cyber resilience.

Featuring links, graphics and charts, the 27-page guide includes a comprehensive set of resources and recommended procedures for water and wastewater agency personnel. The report relied on contributions from a number of private companies, nonprofit associations and public agencies, including ACWA member agencies East Bay Municipal Utility District and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

Water and wastewater agencies can use the guide in determining federal roles, resources, and responsibilities for each stage of a cyber incident response lifecycle. Agencies can also use it to augment their respective cybersecurity incident plans and procedures.

Scan to download the Incident Response Guide

CAPITOL CORNER continued from page 1

transparency, and the opportunity to resolve issues and avoid costly litigation.

For more on this issue, see ACWA Executive Director Dave Eggerton's column on the opposing page.

Budget Advocacy Continues

ACWA is continuing to advocate in support of legislation that would place a climate resilience bond on the November 2024 ballot. That advocacy focuses on additional investments in the areas of recycled water, desalination, groundwater recharge, water storage, conveyance, dam safety, safe drinking water, PFAS remediation, water conservation, and several other critical water infrastructure categories.

ACWA is currently drafting a letter through a coalition in support of a possible water resilience bond.

Groundwater Hearing

On Feb. 21, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation and the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee will be holding a joint oversight hearing. The hearing, titled "Water We Doing with Groundwater: Evaluating Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation" will be held at the State Capitol in Room 444.

EBMUD Tracking Record Salmon Return on Mokelumne

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) is reporting historically high numbers for Chinook salmon runs on the Mokelumne River, where it maintains a hatchery at the base of Camanche Dam.

Last November, EBMUD shared numbers on a record-breaking fall run of Chinook salmon at the Mokelumne River Hatchery, with the number of spawning Chinook salmon crossing the 20,000 mark for the first time since data collection began on the Mokelumne in 1940. That surpassed the previous record of 19,962 set in 2017, according to EBMUD.

Total counts for the 2023-'24 return are 28,698 fall run Chinook into the river, 4,956 redds in the river, and 13 million eggs taken at the hatchery. Preliminary wire tag data indicates that three primary strategies are contributing to the historic run, including the closure of the commercial catch season and the record number of juvenile salmon produced at the hatchery in 2019, which led to an increase in this year's return of four-year-old salmon returning from the ocean.

EBMUD also credited cold-water pulses released into the river and Delta Crossing closures that drew stray salmon from other rivers to the Mokelumne; strays made up 40% of the total return to the river tracked by the district.

The Mokelumne is EBMUD's primary water source, and its salmon program, focused on both natural reproduction and hatchery fish, is designed to make up for damming the river and impeding fish access to historical spawning grounds farther upstream.

Salmon returns are counted every year during the fall spawning season, with the bulk of the action occurring from mid-October through December. Chinook return to their home waters to reproduce after spending two to five years maturing in the Pacific Ocean. This season's Mokelumne numbers have been off the



charts. On Oct. 29, EBMUD tallied the passage of 1,941 salmon, the largest one-day fish count in at least 30 years.

"We have worked for decades to improve the Mokelumne's natural habitat, strategically manage pulse flows from Camanche Reservoir, fertilize and incubate additional salmon eggs in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at the hatchery, and protect the river's ecological health," stated EBMUD Manager of Fisheries and Wildlife Michelle Workman in a news release.

Governor Releases Strategy to Recover Salmon Populations

Gov. Gavin Newsom in late January released a strategy to restore salmon populations in the face of hotter and drier weather exacerbated by climate change, the first such strategy to protect salmon on a generational scale in the state.

The "California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future: Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems in the Age of Climate Change" document outlines six priorities and 71 specific actions to build healthier, thriving salmon populations. The six priorities are:

- Remove barriers and modernize infrastructure for salmon migration;
- Restore and expand habitat for salmon spawning and rearing;
- Protect water flows and water quality in key rivers at the right times to support salmon;
- Modernize salmon hatcheries;
- Transform technology and management systems for climate adaptability; and
- Strengthen partnerships.

These priorities lay out specific actions with deadlines, as well as partnerships between responsible agencies on the local, state, federal and Tribal Nation level, to build healthier salmon populations in California. For example, the strategy calls for adopting by 2025 an updated Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, which could include the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (formerly referred to as Voluntary Agreements), to protect beneficial uses including the protection of salmon, steelhead, and other native aquatic species.

ACWA appreciates the strategy document's recognition of the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes. ACWA staff is analyzing the strategy's other components in collaboration with member agencies.

Other actions called for in the strategy include modifying or reoperating existing water infrastructure to provide seasonal inundation of at least 10,000 acres of floodplain habitat; creating an additional 5,000 acres of floodplain habitat and reconnecting salmon to floodplains across the Central Valley; and completing supply-demand assessment pilot projects in three watersheds to better manage water allocations and provide data for local water management decisions.

Scan to download the salmon strategy document

Agencies Should Check Opt-Out Status for PFAS Settlement

On Feb. 8, a U.S. District Court granted final approval for the Dupont PFAS contamination settlement. In addition, the Notice Administrator issued an updated report regarding settlement opt-out requests.

The updated report shows the administrator accepted opt-out requests from 1,012 entities overall. Public water systems that are party to the settlement agreement may challenge a compliant opt-out determination within 15 days of receipt of the notice of non-compliance.

For more information about the proposed settlements, visit the official PFAS settlements website at **www.pfaswatersettlement.com**.

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expect with discussion panels, roundtable talks and region discussions that will explore the latest policy developments, emerging trends and best practices in the California water industry. There will also be ample opportunity to network and connect with peers.

The popular Exhibit Hall will also offer innovative products and services specifically designed for water agency professionals. Continuing education will also be available for attorney, finance, energy, communications and drinking water operator professionals.

Additionally, ACWA will continue its group savings offer. If an attending agency or organization registers five individuals, it will receive a sixth registration free of charge.

To learn more and register, visit online at **www.acwa.com/events**. For more information on securing a space in the Exhibit Hall, contact ACWA Business Development Representative Joseph Ramos at jramos@acwa.com.



FRAUD ALERT: Housing & Conference Attendee Mailing List Offers

Please be advised that potential fraudulent companies are contacting ACWA attendees and exhibitors implying that they have been contracted by ACWA to handle all attendee and exhibitor housing.

ACWA has not contracted with any housing company and any information provided to them may be used for fraudulent purposes.

ACWA encourages conference attendees to book hotels using the link emailed by ACWA to registrants. ACWA has secured the largest available room block at a discounted group rate at the Sheraton Grand and Hyatt Regency hotels in Sacramento (subject to availability). Visit **www.acwa.com/events** for more information about hotels near the conference location.

Similarly, potential fraudulent companies are again emailing people claiming to offer an attendee mailing list. ACWA does not sell conference attendee mailing lists nor has ACWA contracted with any company offering this service. Please do not provide any information to them as it may be used for fraudulent purposes.

For questions, please contact ACWA staff at events@acwa.com.



Member Agencies Report Stormwater Capture Figures from Latest Atmospheric River Storm

An atmospheric river event inundated Southern California in early February and left behind close calls and significant stormwater capture figures for a number of ACWA member agencies.

20,000 acre-feet

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) captured 20,000 acre-feet of stormwater in February at Prado Dam, operated through the district's strong relationship with the Army Corps of Engineers, according to OCWD Director of Recharge and Wetland Operations Benjamin T. Smith.

5,500 acre-feet

Adding to the benefit of the district and its service area, OCWD's recharge facilities in the cities of Anaheim and Orange recorded 5,500 acre-feet of captured stormwater. In total, the storm brought in enough water to serve 204,000 people for a year, Smith stated in an email.

23,230 acre-feet

Preliminarily, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) reported about 7.57 billion gallons — more than 23,230 acre-feet — of stormwater capture so far in February, according to LADWP Senior Public Relations Specialist Michael Ventre. That's potentially enough drinking water supply for more than 86,000 Los Angeles households. In comparison, the city captured about 8.44 billion gallons of stormwater during the entire month of February in 2023.

ACWA member agencies such as West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD) include giving away rain barrels to customers in their water conservation strategy. WBMWD gave away 1,500 rain barrels this past season, according to the district Manager of Communications Amy Rocha. In theory, district customers could have collected 75,000 gallons for nonpotable water use during this winter's storms.



Stormwater flows into Burris Basin, one of OCWD's lakes that stores and recharges water. The Santa Ana River can be seen on left side. *Photo courtesy of OCWD*

281.3 acre-feet

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) captured 281.3 acre-feet in its reservoir during a roughly three-day period during early February, according to LVMWD Public Affairs and Communications Manager Mike McNutt. Compared to the cost of an acre-foot of imported water at $1,209, the storm delivered the equivalent of $340,091 worth of free water, McNutt stated in an email.

However, the deluge also came with a close call at a LVMWD treatment plant, which took in 38 million gallons of water a day during the peak of the storm. The plant's typical intake is approximately 7.5 million gallons, although it was designed to treat about 12 million gallons a day.

"The staff at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility averted an environmental disaster through quick thinking and ingenuity," McNutt stated. "After nearly 10 inches of rain, the wastewater system became overwhelmed, and our operators pivoted to using the balancing pond as temporary storage while pumping the water back to the headworks to ensure fully treated effluent while the storm passed. It was a nail biter for a couple of days as staff worked around the clock." ♦

LIKE, SHARE & FOLLOW

EXPLORING THE WATER WORLD ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow Us @ACWAwater

Social media is a great spot to get creative with the way you share information with your customers. Sometimes this information might be educational, sometimes you might just share something humorous to grab the attention of your audience and increase engagement.

Here are some creative examples that ACWA members have shared recently.

To see more of the creative efforts on social media of ACWA members, be sure to follow along on Facebook, X, LinkedIn and Instagram @ACWAWater.



The City of Sacramento Department of Utilities shared some stats about the work cithy crews did after a recent heavy storm that came through its area.



On Super Bowl Sunday, Coachella Valley Water District took the opportunity to compare acre feet with the size of a football stadium.



City of Roseville also jumped on an Instagram Reels trend, comparing its tour of a vactor truck to a tour of a Mercedes.



Jumping on an Instagram Reels trend, Scotts Valley Water District did a fun "I work at the water district, of course I…" video that shared fun habits of its water district workers.



Water Replenishment District made a viral image from the Super Bowl into its own meme with a groundwater theme.



Water Leaders Share How ACWA Scholarships Helped Launch Careers

ACWA began its scholarship program in 1961 with the goal of investing in future water leaders and cultivating a rich workforce of water professionals dedicated to ensuring safe and reliable water for all Californians. Over the past 63 years, ACWA has awarded scholarships to numerous students, enabling them to pursue their water-resources related education and career goals.

In addition, the newly formed ACWA Foundation launched its separate scholarship program last year by awarding a total of $50,000 to eight students.

ACWA members are encouraged to promote available ACWA scholarship opportunities in their newsletters and on their websites, as well as internally through employee communications and announcements as member agency employees and their families are eligible to apply.

This year, $34,500 is available through five scholarships, including ACWA Scholarships that are awarded to two undergraduate students majoring in engineering, agricultural or urban water supply, environmental studies, public administration and other water-resources related fields. As a few accompanying profiles of past recipients show, ACWA Scholarships can help make a meaningful impact in launching careers in water.

The application deadline for 2024 scholarships offered through ACWA is March 1. For more information about ACWA's scholarships, visit **www.acwa.com/scholarships**. For more information about the ACWA Foundation scholarships, visit **www.acwa-foundation.org**.



ACWA MEMBERS
HELP PROMOTE ACWA'S SCHOLARSHIPS
Toolkit Available for ACWA Members
www.acwa.com/resources *Member Login Required*
ACWA
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DEADLINE: MARCH 1



Jacob Katz, Ph.D.

2005 ACWA Scholarship Winner

Current position: Senior Scientist, CalTrout

How did earning an ACWA scholarship help your water career?

"By opening my eyes to the diversity of perspectives within California water, it really helped me see how important it was to build coalitions and work toward a California that has sufficient water for our natural and human communities."

What advice would you give college students considering a career in water?

"Do it. We need you!"



Lynn Groundwater Moeller

2009 Clair Hill Scholarship and 2010 ACWA Scholarship Winner

Current position: Senior Engineer, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group

How did earning an ACWA scholarship help your water career?

"Part of the ACWA scholarship application was an essay that included what I hoped to achieve in my professional career. While writing the essay, I took some time to really think about what I wanted to do in my professional career. Looking back at the essay, I realize that the ACWA scholarship application process helped my water career by putting my goals and aspirations in writing. In my essay I said that I aspired to address both structural improvements in California's water systems and improvements in water use efficiency.

"I'm happy to say I have been doing just that. I have lived up to the goals that I set for myself and continue to work with California water agencies to improve their water systems and work towards sustainability."

What advice would you give college students considering a career in water?

"My advice would be to take advantage of internships during college. College and internships are a time to learn more about the water industry since there are a variety of different career paths you can take within the industry. Take water classes that sound interesting to you. Have different types of internships in the water industry to help you figure out what type of work you enjoy. When you enjoy what you do, it doesn't feel like work."



Benjamin Smith

2011 ACWA Scholarship Winner

Current position: Director of Recharge and Wetland Operations at Orange County Water District, lectures at CSU Long Beach for undergraduate civil engineering water courses.

How did earning an ACWA scholarship help your water career?

"The ACWA scholarship not only helped me cover higher education expenses, but helped confirm that I was on the correct career path. Water engineering and management was of interest to me prior to entering a bachelor's program. The process of applying for the ACWA scholarship aided me to study the water world more deeply and further confirm my passion for the field."

What advice would you give college students considering a career in water?

"A career in water resources has strong job security and a lot of advancement opportunities for individuals that apply themselves to the field. As you study water and other topics in college, make sure you are really applying yourself to the course material. You are not just checking off a to-do list, but you are laying the foundation for a successful career and years of helping others to live safe and prosperous lives.

"It helps to understand the course material if you understand the real-world applications of what you are studying, so seek out internships, professional associations, and technical tours. For example, when you know what a pump looks like and how it connects to pipes, you will be able to understand pump curves, efficiency, and horsepower on a deeper level."

The five scholarships offered through ACWA are:

Arthur L. Littleworth Best Best & Krieger Diversity Scholarship, one $10,000 award distributed evenly over four years, sponsored by BBK

ACWA Scholarship, two $3,500 awards, sponsored in part by Dublin San Ramon Services District

Clair A. Hill Scholarship, one $5,000 award, sponsored by Jacobs

Edward G. "Jerry" Gladbach Scholarship, one $2,500 award, sponsored by SCV Water

Stephen K. Hall Water Law and Policy Scholarship, one $10,000 award

EMPLOYMENT

General Manager

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District

Lead the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) team as General Manager!

GCID is seeking a collaborative, approachable and transparent professional with political acumen and the skills to effectively navigate a diverse range of challenges and opportunities. Ideal candidates for this position are solution-oriented with a positive outlook and the ability to delegate authority and responsibility.

As the largest agricultural irrigation district in the Sacramento Valley and one of the largest in the state, GCID is surrounded by rich farmland, rolling hills and wetlands filled with wildlife. Located in a family-oriented region, the area boasts a proud heritage in farming, historical landmarks, outdoor recreation activities and robust community events.

GCID's primary water right was established in 1883, making it one of the oldest and largest water rights on the Sacramento River. Formally organized in 1920, the District covers more than 175,000 acres within Glenn and Colusa counties in Northern California.

The role of General Manager oversees a complex water system, including a pump station on the Sacramento River, a 65-mile main canal and more than 2,000 miles of laterals and drains. Water is conveyed to more than 1,200 water users, irrigating approximately 140,000 acres of farmland. GCID also serves 1,200 acres of private habitat land and more than 21,000 acres of protected federal wildlife refuges.

Key Qualifications:

- Six (6) years of increasingly responsible experience in an irrigation or water utility agency, including three (3) years of administrative or supervisory responsibility.
- The equivalent of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major coursework in civil engineering, public administration, business administration or a related field.

Salary and Benefits:

- $275,000 – 380,000 range, dependent on experience and qualifications.
- Competitive benefits package, including comprehensive health, dental, vision, annual leave and retirement policies.

Visit www.bobmurrayassoc.com to apply. Filing Deadline: February 29, 2024.



ACWA IN ACTION

ACWA Region 9 members recently toured the Desert Water Agency's Snow Creek Facility before having lunch and holding the first Region 9 Board meeting of the 2024-'25 term. The Snow Creek Facility includes a stream intake point, followed by a settling structure, a hydroelectric plant, and a recently added filtration facility. ACWA region boards are currently holding initial meetings throughout the state. Keep an eye out for more information about upcoming region events for 2024.



Department of Water Resources staff members conduct the second snow survey of the year on Jan. 30, when the statewide snowpack was at 52% of average. Since then, a series of storms have drenched the state and boosted snowpack levels along with reservoir storage. As of Feb. 13, most of reservoirs monitored on DWR's website were near or above 100% of average storage for the date.

Photo courtesy of DWR

Moulton Niguel Signs Partnership with Denmark

Moulton Niguel Water District has signed a knowledge-sharing partnership with industry-leading experts from the Danish Water Technology Alliance and Aarhus Vand A/S, a municipal-owned utility serving Aarhus, the second largest city in Denmark.

The unprecedented agreement paves the way for the agencies to share information on system operations, collaborate on sustainability initiatives, and identify new strategies to reduce water loss.

"From smart metering to direct potable reuse, Moulton Niguel is committed to implementing the most innovative technology to offer our customers the best service at the lowest cost," Moulton Niguel President Duane D. Cave stated in a news release. "We are excited to learn from our innovative partners at Aarhus Vand and the Danish Water Technology Alliance on how they reduce costs and advance sustainable water solutions."

Under the Memorandum of Understanding, the utilities will collaborate on key areas of water and wastewater service, including system optimization strategies, innovations in wastewater treatment, data-sharing approaches, opportunities for potable reuse, and alternative water supplies.

"Both Aarhus Vand and Moulton Niguel Water District are global innovators in sustainable water and wastewater practices," stated Karina Topp, Chief Executive Officer of Aarhus Vand, in the news release. "We are confident that this partnership will represent a win-win for water customers in Denmark and South Orange County."



Moulton Niguel Board Members and staff unite with leaders from the Danish Water Technology Alliance and Aarhus Vand, fostering collaboration toward innovative water management solutions for a sustainable future.

Photo courtesy of Moulton Niguel Water District

The partnership builds on a 2016 agreement between the country of Denmark and the state of California to collaborate on the latest water technology, research, and management techniques. Since then, the Danish Water Technology Alliance has facilitated international delegations and fact-finding trips, as well as numerous networking and collaborative events and opportunities for Danish and California water professionals.

"Orange County is recognized around the world for our innovative leadership in sustainability and water conservation," stated Joone Kim-Lopez, Moulton Niguel's CEO and General Manager, in the news release. "This shared commitment to addressing the world's most pressing water challenges creates a dynamic opportunity for our agency to share how we're succeeding as well as study alternative strategies being implemented by our industry-leading counterparts in Europe."

The global knowledge-sharing agreement with Denmark builds on Moulton Niguel's recent achievements as a global-leading water and wastewater utility. Last year, the agency was designated for the second time as a "Utility of the Future Today" by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, Water Environment Federation, Water Research Foundation, WateReuse Association, and the U.S. Water Alliance.

> This shared commitment to addressing the world's most pressing water challenges creates a dynamic opportunity for our agency to share how we're succeeding as well as study alternative strategies being implemented by our industry-leading counterparts in Europe.
> *– CEO and General Manger Joone Kim-Lopez, Moulton Niguel Water District*

Member Agencies Announce Officers

Beaumont-Cherry Valley WD


John Covington


Daniel Slawson

The Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Board of Directors has named **John Covington** as President, **Daniel Slawson** as Vice President, **Lona Williams** as Secretary and **Andy Ramirez** as Treasurer.

Convington succeeds **David Hoffman** as President. Covington's experience includes managing the Water and Wastewater Departments for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians since 2005 and he also serves as the Tribal Government Administrator.

EBMUD


Lesa McIntosh


William Patterson

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) Board of Directors unanimously selected **Lesa R. McIntosh** as President of the seven-member Board. The Board also unanimously selected **William B. Patterson** as Board Vice President.

McIntosh, an attorney, resides in Richmond and is the first African American woman elected to serve as Vice President and President of the Board. Patterson, a pioneering civil rights leader, was appointed to the Board in 1997 and has previously served as Board President and as Vice President.

Los Vaqueros Reservoir JPA

The Los Vaqueros Reservoir Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors recently voted unanimously to retain its current leadership for the ensuing 2024 term.


Angela Ramirez Holmes

Angela Ramirez Holmes, representing Zone 7 Water Agency, will remain as Chair of the eight-member Board, with **Anthea G. Hansen**, representing the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority as Vice Chair, **Paul Sethy**, representing Alameda County Water District, as Treasurer and **Ellen Wehr**, representing Grassland Water District, as Secretary.

Mojave Water Agency


Dr. Kimberly Cox


Rick Roelle

The Mojave Water Agency Board of Directors recently named **Dr. Kimberly Cox** as President.

She was first elected to the Board in 2003 and also serves as General Manager for the Helendale Community Services District. The Board also named **Rick Roelle** as Vice President, **Marina West** as Secretary and **Mike Page** as Treasurer

Orange County Water District


Erik Weigand

The Orange County Water District Board of Directors in January appointed **Erik K. Weigand** to the seat formerly held by the late **Kelly Rowe**.

Weigand, an Orange County native and Newport Beach Council Member, has more than 20 years of experience in legislative, political, and public policy domains. He will represent an area encompassing Costa Mesa and parts of Irvine and Newport Beach until November 2024, when the seat is up for general election.

Otay Water District


Jose Lopez


Ryan Keyes

The Otay Water District Board of Directors recently named **Jose Lopez** as President, **Ryan Keyes** as Vice President and **Mark Robak** as Treasurer.

Lopez has served on the district's Board since December 2020 and also between 2001 to 2016. He is a retired San Diego Fire Department Assistant Fire Marshal and also served on the San Diego County Water Authority Board from 2002 to 2003.

Palmdale Water District


Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez

Three-term Palmdale Water District Director **Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez** was selected Board President following a recent change of officers.

The Board unanimously selected Mac Laren-Gomez to take the helm from **Don Wilson**, who served one year in the top leadership position. During the change of officers, **Scott Kellerman** remained Vice-President. Wilson took the role of Treasurer while **Vincent Dino** was elected Secretary.

Water Replenishment District


Joy Langford

Water Replenishment District Director **Joy Langford** has been unanimously selected as Board President, with **Rob Katherman** named Vice President, **Vera Robles DeWitt**

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as Secretary, and **Sergio Calderon** as Treasurer.

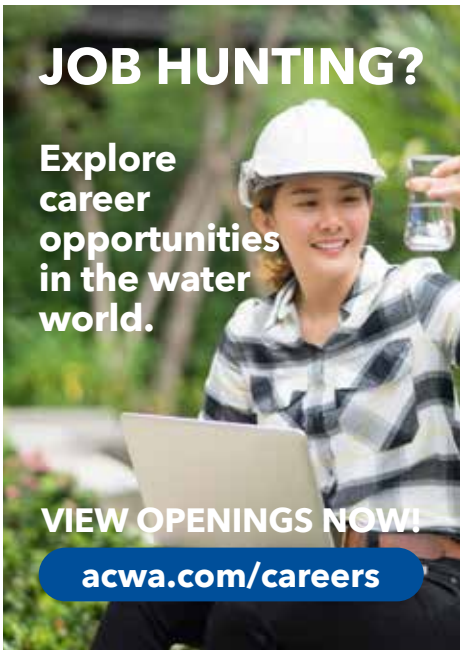
Langford, a Board member since 2022, brings over 15 years of experience in environmental project management, intergovernmental relations and policy. She graduated with honors from the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a Bachelor of Science in economics and a Bachelor of Arts in urban planning.

Western Municipal WD



Western Municipal Water District's Board of Directors recently voted to retain **Mike Gardner** as President for 2024. **Laura Roughton** will continue serving as Vice President and **Fauzia Rizvi** will continue as Secretary-Treasurer.

Prior to joining Western Water's Board, Gardner served on the Riverside City Council for 12 years and also served as a governor's appointee to the Seismic Safety Commission for over 10 years, serving under three different administrations.



THIS MONTH IN ACWA HISTORY



10 years ago

ACWA sponsored of a half-day Drought Briefing in Sacramento that featured state, federal and local officials exploring the need for a coordinated response to historically dry conditions. The event drew about 175 people with another 1,400 watching via webcast from around the state and across the country.

20 years ago

ACWA's 2004 Washington Conference drew more than 90 member delegates to the nation's capital, where topics ranged from reauthorizing the CALFED Bay-Delta Program to U.S. Bureau of Reclamation funding and protecting water supplies from the gasoline additive MTBE. Sen. Dianne Feinstein provided the finale keynote address.

30 years ago

ACWA's Board Executive Committee endorsed the Safe Drinking Water Act Reauthorization Bill, but called for additional language that would require drinking water standards be based on adequate, appropriate and reliable scientific information on health effects and risk reduction.

40 years ago

The ACWA Board of Directors approved major changes in the association's health care plan. The recommendations included replacing available alternatives with new options aimed at containing costs to assure future viability.

50 years ago

A major fight brewed over a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation proposal to increase Central Valley Project power rates by 28% with Northern California preference users spreading the word that they were considering a lawsuit.



Darcy M. Burke

EVMWD's Burke Reappointed to EPA Committee

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) recently announced the reappointment of Board Director **Darcy M. Burke** to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC).

On the EVMWD Board of Directors since 2018, Burke will continue serving on the LGAC for a new term through January 2026. She is one of two California members of the committee, which was established in 1993 and provides guidance on a broad spectrum of environmental policies and programs.



John A. Coleman

Coleman Resigns from EBMUD

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) has announced that **John A. Coleman** will resign from the EBMUD Board of Directors after 33 years of service, the longest ever served as an elected EBMUD Board member.

Coleman plans to vacate his position at EBMUD to serve as Manager of Natural Resources for the Calaveras County Water District. First elected to the EBMUD Board in 1990, Coleman also served as ACWA President during the 2014-'15 term.



Brian Macy

Mission Springs Names Macy as GM

Mission Springs Water District has announced the appointment of **Brian Macy** as General Manager following the retirement of 18-year General Manager **Arden Wallum** in August.

Macy joined the district in 2019 as the Assistant General Manager. He previously served as General Manager of Indio Water Authority and as Assistant General Manager at Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District. Macy holds a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Ohio Northern University.



Thad Bettner

Sacramento River Settlement Contractors Names Bettner as ED

The Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (SRSC) has announced the hiring of **Thad Bettner** as its new Executive Director.

Previously, Bettner had served as General Manager of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District since 2006. In his new position, he will coordinate the SRSC's efforts to serve water for cities and rural communities, farms and ranches, national wildlife refuges, and Chinook salmon along the Sacramento River. This will include continuing partnerships with federal and state agencies, various conservation organizations, Central Valley Project water contractors and water agencies throughout California.



Jeff Payne

Westlands Names Payne AGM

Westlands Water District recently announced the appointment of **Jeff Payne** as Assistant General Manager. He will primarily oversee the district's legislative and regulatory affairs activities.

Most recently, Payne served as the Deputy Regional Director in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's California Great-Basin Region. Prior to that, he served as Director of Water Policy at Friant Water Authority and as a Principal Engineer for MWH Global.

He holds a Master of Science in civil engineering from the University of Washington and a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the University of Kentucky.



John Kennedy

OCWD Names Kennedy as GM

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) Board of Directors recently announced the appointment of **John Kennedy** as General Manager. Kennedy, who previously served as the district's Executive Director of Engineering and Water Resources, succeeds **Michael R. Markus**, who retired as General Manager after more than 35 years with OCWD.

Kennedy brings to the role more than 40 years of experience in the water and civil engineering industry. He holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in civil engineering from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Master of Business Administration from Pepperdine University.



Jason Martin

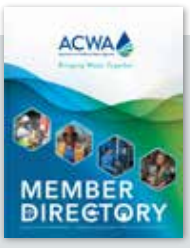
Rancho Water Names Martin as AGM

The Rancho California Water District recently announced the promotion of **Jason Martin** to the position of Assistant General Manager.

Martin started at Rancho Water in 2006 when he assumed the role of Information Technology and Customer Service Manager. He then advanced to Director of Administration, overseeing crucial departments such as customer service, IT, administration, and water use efficiency.

He holds a bachelor's degree in management information systems from California State University, San Bernardino.

Scan code with your phone to view the ACWA Member Directory



ACWA Fellowship Awarded to Laura Gallegos



ACWA recently announced Laura Gallegos, Senior Public Affairs Specialist at SCV Water, as the recipient of the 2024 John P. Fraser Water Leaders Fellowship.

Gallegos started her water career at Palmdale Water District in 2014, moving to SCV Water in 2021. In her current position, she plays a pivotal role in managing the district's communications strategy, leading community outreach initiatives, and overseeing educational programs.

Her wealth of expertise and exemplary leadership not only leave a lasting impact on the organization, but also contribute significantly to elevating public awareness and engagement on crucial water-related issues that have led to award-winning public relations campaigns.

She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from California State University, Northridge.

The John P. Fraser Water Leaders Fellowship was created in 2019 and is presented each year to an individual working at an ACWA member agency who has been selected to participate in the Water Education Foundation's annual William R. Gianelli Water Leaders Class.

For more information about ACWA's awards programs, please visit **www.acwa.com/about/awards**.

For more information about the Water Education Foundation's Water Leaders Class, please visit **www.watereducation.org**.

John P. Fraser
WATER LEADERS
FELLOWSHIP

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- New Report Confirms Benefits of FIRO Strategies at Prado Dam – Jan. 26
- ACWA Hires New Director of Federal Relations – Jan. 16
- WVWD Announces Launch of New Website – Jan. 31
- Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Begins First Year of Cloud Seeding Pilot Program – Jan. 10
- ACWA Announces Spring Conference Keynote Speaker – Feb. 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit **www.acwa.com/events** for complete listing and registration

APRIL 2024
4
2024 WATER CONSERVATION SHOWCASE
East Bay MUD | San Ramon

Save the date for the 2024 Water Conservation Showcase. The WCS is seeking submissions for presentations and invites you to submit an abstract on a topic related to water efficiency.

APRIL 2024
5
WATER 101 WORKSHOP: THE BASICS AND BEYOND
WEF | Sacramento

One of the Water Education Foundation's most popular events, the annual Water 101 Workshop, details the history, geography, legal and political facets of water in California as well as hot topics currently facing the state.

APRIL 2024
10
ACWA 2024 LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM
ACWA | Sacramento

ACWA's Legislative Symposium has been an annual event engaging water district directors, general managers, attorneys, and staff from across California with up-to-date information on critical water policy issues.

APRIL 2024
24 – 26
CENTRAL VALLEY TOUR 2024
WEF | Sacramento

This tour focuses on the San Joaquin Valley, the southern part of the vast region, which is facing challenges after years of drought, dwindling water supplies, decreasing water quality and farmland conversion for urban growth.

MAY 2024
7 – 9
2024 SPRING ACWA CONFERENCE & EXPO
ACWA | Sacramento

ACWA conferences are the premier destination for water industry professionals to learn and connect, and now we are enhancing the conference experience with new features and more networking opportunities!

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