ACWA NEWS
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Attendees of the ACWA 2024 D.C. Conference pose for a photo at the Willard InterContinental Hotel during the three-day annual event, which drew 145 people to the nation's capital to discuss and advocate for California water priorities, as well as hear from Biden Administration officials and members of the state's congressional delegation.

ACWA D.C. Conference Connects Members With Decision Makers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – ACWA hosted the 2024 D.C. Conference Feb. 27-29 at the Willard InterContinental Hotel, where 145 water professionals gathered in the nation's capital to discuss and advocate for California water priorities.

On the first day, attendees heard from top advocates for California water in D.C. during the Advocacy 101 panel. During this engaging panel, experts shared anecdotes from their experiences working for the federal government, insights on lobbying, as well as tips for ACWA members to use during their own advocacy meetings. Attendees then were able to head off to individual meetings or participate in a small practice group advocacy activity.

The program continued by offering informative background on several critical issues during the Federal Priorities Panel. This panel focused on appropriations, reauthorization of Farm Bill programs, the 2024 Water Resources Development Act and PFAS. Tuesday's final panel looked ahead to November and spoke to some of the possible impacts of the 2024 election for Western water.

The day's activities concluded with attendees joining their colleagues from the California Association of Sanitation

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SPOTLIGHT

Legislative Tours Maximize Outreach Effectiveness

Tahoe City sits squarely within the wildland urban interface, that zone where communities and forested wildlands meet, setting the stage for catastrophic impact on communities from wildfires. The area's water supplier, the Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD), knows how to mitigate that risk by upgrading water infrastructure with upsized waterlines and better fire hydrant spacing. But having the answer and having the funding are two different things.

Over the past few years, TCPUD has persistently engaged lawmakers at the state and federal level to educate them on this issue faced by small, rural communities and how to help support efforts to secure critical funding. Legislative tours played an effective role. Elected officials were brought to neighborhoods that clearly illustrated the danger and engaged in discussions about solutions to address the problem.

TCPUD's efforts, in partnership with neighboring water agencies, helped secure federal funding through the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act for water infrastructure projects that address fire suppression deficiencies. Critical to this success was a tour for Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-3), who took a tour

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ACWA PRESIDENT CATHY GREEN

D.C. Conference Again Highlights Importance of Our United Effort through 'ACWA East'



ACWA's presence in Washington D.C. counts among our association's most valuable resources for member agencies. Bringing that fact home is ACWA's annual D.C. Conference, where I recently joined more than 140 attendees for a three-day immersion into how, why, and where decisions on federal policy shape California's water.

I am grateful to all who attended and participated in ACWA's D.C. Conference. Additionally, my heartfelt appreciation goes to ACWA staff for organizing the conference, and to ACWA's Federal Affairs Committee Chair Jolene Walsh, from Eastern Municipal Water District in Region 9, and Vice Chair Scott Peterson, from San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority in Region 6, for moderating the Federal Advocacy 101 Panel and the Congressional Speech Program.

This year's event featured policy experts and leaders within Washington D.C.'s water advocacy community, sharing insights into federal priorities, as well as how California water agencies can engage in their own federal advocacy. It also included a panel discussion on this year's pivotal election, moderated by ACWA's new Director of Federal Relations Ian Lyle. We heard keynote addresses from Acting Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water Bruno Pigott; U.S. Forest Service Associate Chief Angela Coleman; and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton, who heads an arm of the federal government that plays a vital role in managing and funding California water infrastructure.

Reclamation has a substantial impact on California water through its operation of backbone infrastructure such as the Central Valley Project and reservoirs on the Colorado River. Reclamation is also a valuable federal partner that supplies planning and financial assistance for important projects, including the raise of B.F. Sisk Dam on San Luis Reservoir and restoration of capacity in essential conveyance facilities like the Friant-Kern Canal. The diligent federal advocates of ACWA East champion the cause of California's water agencies in their work with officials at Reclamation, other federal agencies, and members of Congress.

Overall, ACWA East's advocacy is the finger ACWA keeps on the pulse of a myriad of issues affecting ACWA members. With billions of dollars in funding still available for Western water through the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and critical issues such as PFAS liability, regulation of lead and copper service lines, low-income rate assistance, and many others before Congress and federal agencies, it's easy to see how vital our work in D.C. is to the whole of California water management. We will continue to support our members in maximizing federal funding for water infrastructure and prioritizing local control for your agency to continue fulfilling its critical mission.

Coming into my new role as ACWA President, I am keenly aware of the early origins of our association, founded as the Irrigation Districts Association of California. Today, we represent the interests of diverse types of public water suppliers in California. We are, and must always remain, united in advancing each other's success in serving communities, farms, and businesses across the entire state. ACWA's commitment to being the leading voice for California water, both agricultural and urban, is at the heart of our 30-plus-year presence in our nation's capital, where ACWA East works on behalf of our membership on every major federal water issue affecting your future. We are proud to lead for you, the united, local water management community of California!

ACWA Urges Members to Send Letter to Senate in Support of Federal PFAS Liability Protections

ACWA is urging member agencies to send letters to U.S. Senate leadership and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee leadership to build support for PFAS liability protections for water and wastewater agencies under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

CERCLA is designed to remediate contaminated sites and hold parties that caused the contamination financially responsible for cleanup through its "polluter pays" model. ACWA strongly supports the "polluter pays" principle. However, under current federal efforts our members and their ratepayers will be facing a "community pays" outcome that unfairly shifts the clean-up and liability costs onto ACWA members and the public they serve.

Without an explicit exemption from financial liability under CERCLA, water systems could be held financially liable for the cleanup of Superfund sites contaminated with PFAS, despite having never manufactured, used, or benefited from PFAS.

A template letter and the full Alert can be found at **www.acwa.com**. Member login is required to access.

D.C. CONFERENCE continued from page 1

Agencies for a joint Congressional reception at the U.S. Botanic Garden. The Congressional reception provided excellent opportunities for conference attendees to network with congressional staff and other water professionals.

As the conference reconvened for the second day, attendees were joined by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton for an opening keynote that touched on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) spending, water supply conditions, and the strong partnerships the Bureau enjoys with ACWA members.

Attendees then heard from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water Bruno Pigott, who spoke to investments from the BIL, advancing the Biden Administration's commitment to remove lead pipes, and addressing emerging contaminants including PFAS.

U.S. Forest Service Associate Chief Angela Coleman then spoke to the agency's Wildfire Crisis Strategy implementation and praised the flexibility provided by the Good Neighbor Authority. Finally, attendees heard from Kris Harris from the Lafayette Group about best practices for cybersecurity for water utilities.

Closing out programming for the 2024 D.C. Conference, attendees headed to the U.S. Capitol to hear from key members of Congress, including Rep. Ken Calvert (R-41) and Rep. Jim Costa (D- 21).

Congressional staff from the office of Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA), the House Natural Resources Committee, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the office of House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), and office of Rep. David Valadao (R-22) also joined attendees.

The conference concluded with ACWA members heading off to meet with Congressional offices and Administration officials to advance California water priorities. The advocacy, engagement and relationship building that takes place during ACWA's annual D.C. Conference sets a foundation that ACWA's federal team builds on to ensure California water issues remain top of mind for decision makers in our nation's capital.



Left: (l-r) ACWA Director of Federal Relations Ian Lyle, ACWA Executive Director Dave Eggerton, ACWA President Cathy Green and ACWA Vice President Ernie Avila pause for a photo with Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton, center.

Center: ACWA Federal Affairs Committee Chair Jolene Walsh speaks during one of the conference's many panels and programs.

Right: Avila, Green, Eggerton and ACWA Deputy Executive Director Cindy Tuck meet with Rep. Ken Calvert, center.

CAPITOL CORNER

ACWA Engaging on Budget, Bond and Bills as Legislative Year Gets Underway

ACWA is actively participating in the state budget process with the goal of retaining previously budgeted funding for water-related issues and projects. This advocacy is taking place as the state faces a budget deficit, estimated at $38 billion by Gov. Gavin Newsom's Administration and $73 billion by the Legislative Analyst's Office.

Released in January, Newsom's proposed $291.4 billion state budget for the 2024-'25 fiscal year would reduce funding for watershed climate resilience, recycled water, flood protection, PFAS treatment and Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations. While ACWA recognizes that the significant shortfall must be addressed, the association continues to advocate in the Legislature in support of retaining as much funding for water and climate issues as possible.

The next step in the budget process is the May Revise, which will incorporate updated economic information. The Legislature will have until June 15 to pass a final state budget.

Climate Resilience Bond

Related to state funding for water-related issues is the possibility of a climate resilience bond for this year's November ballot. ACWA advocates are currently engaged in conversations within the Legislature about the content and timing of any bond.

ACWA's advocacy is focused 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 advocates are also tracking, analyzing and advocating on a number of bills in the Legislature, and a few are summarized below.

Proposition 218 Reform

Sponsored by ACWA and introduced by Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City), AB 2257 would aid public agencies in defending against Proposition 218 lawsuits by requiring litigants to participate and raise specific objections during the public administrative process.

It would also limit the administrative record to evidence presented to the agency during the ratemaking process. ACWA is leading a coalition to support the legislation.

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

The bill is scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Committee on Judiciary on March 19.

Microplastics

Introduced by Senator Anthony Portantino (D-Burbank), SB 1147 would require Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to develop and deliver public health standards for a safe level of microplastics in drinking water by 2026, and the State Water Board to adopt those standards and goals by 2028.

ACWA has taken an oppose-unless-amended position because the proposed requirement is premature as the State Water Board is currently in the process of developing a standard methodology for testing microplastics in drinking water and there are currently no state-accredited laboratories to analyze for microplastics.

Impact Fee Legislation

In 2024, several bills have been introduced that seek to place new and concerning requirements on connection fees and capacity charges.

AB 1820 (Schiavo) – This bill would allow applicants for new housing developments to request a preliminary estimate of the total amount of fees and exactions expected to be imposed when submitting preliminary applications for a housing development project. When a local agency determines an application for a housing development project is complete, the bill would require the agency to provide an itemized list and total sum amount of all fees and exactions. ACWA adopted an oppose-unless-amended position based on concerns that preliminary applications for new housing development projects lack the requisite information that allows water and sewer service providers to assess connection and capacity fees.

SB 937 (Wiener) – This bill would prohibit local agencies from requiring payment of connection and capacity fees until the date the certificate of occupancy is issued. Agencies typically collect these fees at the time an application for a new service connection is submitted and approved. ACWA adopted an oppose-unless-amended position based on concerns that the bill would significantly delay an agency's ability to recover the costs of services provided for new connections.

SB 1210 (Skinner) – This bill would prohibit a connection or capacity fee assessed on new housing development from exceeding 1% of the reported building permit value of that housing unit. Additionally, the bill would require agencies to issue these fees over a period of at least 10 years commencing on the date when the housing unit is first occupied. ACWA adopted an oppose position based on significant concerns that the bill would result in revenue shortfalls by preventing agencies from recovering the costs of providing service to new housing developments.

Blizzard Boosts Water Supply Outlook

March opened with a weekend blizzard that dumped significant amounts of snow in parts of the Sierra Nevada, where many water agencies were already reporting a mostly abundant outlook on water supplies going into the year.

Major reservoirs remain at 118% percent of average as of March 11, according to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Just before the blizzard and after a series of February storms, DWR reported its third snow survey results, with electronic readings from 130 stations placed throughout the state indicating that the statewide snowpack's snow water equivalent is 18.7 inches, or 80% of average for the date, an improvement from just 28% of average on Jan. 1.

The early March blizzard dumped about 10 feet of snow in the higher elevations in the Lake Tahoe area. About half that amount fell around the lake, part of which is served by Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD). The snowstorm knocked power out for a few surrounding communities, but TCPUD kept its water and sewer services going uninterrupted with its backup generators, said Kim Boyd, TCPUD Director of Strategic Affairs. The heavy snow did impact the district's recreational trails and facilities, but they were kept open through hard work snow blowing and shoveling.

Further south, the Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD) also reported little impact to its operations from the blizzard, mostly because the brunt of it hit over a weekend and roads were mostly cleared by the time the workweek arrived. Heavy winds built huge snow drifts, making it seem like the community was hit harder than it actually was.

"We had 10 feet of wind and two feet of snow," said MCWD Principal Administrative Analyst Michael Draper.

Like many agencies, the latest storms left behind a brighter water supply picture for MCWD.

"We're still basically using the storage we received from last year," said MCWD Water and Wastewater Operations Superintendent Clay Murray.

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) reported similar conditions for storage.

"Reservoir storage remains above average due to higher carry-over from last year and near average conditions this year," said NID Water Resources Superintendent Thor Larsen. "Our lower elevation reservoirs are full and have been spilling as a result of the conditions. It's a welcome relief to have back-to-back years of average to above average conditions."



A TCPUD employee clears a path with a snow blower after the recent blizzard.
Photo courtesy of TCPUD

The next DWR snow survey is planned for April 2.

State Water Board Releases Revised Draft Regulations for Making Conservation a California Way of Life

The State Water Resources Control Board on March 12 released a revised draft regulation for Making Conservation a California Way of Life. The revised text includes significant changes to address ACWA and water suppliers' concerns.

The revised draft regulation outlines unique water use efficiency goals for each urban retail water supplier, including urban water use efficiency standards, variances, an urban water use objective, and commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) measures.

The State Water Board will hold a public workshop on March 20 and will be accepting written comments on the draft regulation through March 27. ACWA staff is reviewing the revised draft regulation and plans to submit written comments that continue to advocate for a long-term water use efficiency framework that is feasible and cost-effective and does not impair water agencies' ability to make long-term investments for climate resilience.

More information is available in an Advisory that was distributed March 12 at www.acwa.com/notifications. Member login is required.



SPOTLIGHT continued from page 1

and worked to add projects to his 2024 fiscal year Community Project Funding list. A separate tour also demonstrated the value of these projects to Marie Alvarado-Gil during her race for the state Senate in 2022. The tour helped, now Senator Alvarado-Gil (D-Jackson), further cement her ongoing support for more state funding related to wildfire protection, already strong through her home community's experience with the Caldor Fire in 2021.

"Seeing what can happen, what did happen with the Caldor Fire, then seeing a community facing the same risk, I think that really connected with her," said Kim Boyd, TCPUD Director of Strategic Affairs and one-person public affairs team.

Boyd and other ACWA member agency communication professionals recently shared their experience and advice using tours to educate elected officials about critical issues. While larger agencies are at an advantage with larger staffs, smaller districts can also successfully incorporate tours for lawmakers into their outreach.

In the Central Valley, the McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MAGSA) invited Rep. John Duarte (R-13) for a visit to the McMullin On-Farm Flood Capture Expansion Project. The tour tied together how the agency is engaged to bring its area into groundwater sustainability.

"Tours take your projects out of the abstract giving elected officials an on-the-ground insight into the work you are doing," said MAGSA Deputy General Manager Cristel Tufenkjian. "You can visualize a giant sequoia tree from a picture, but physically standing in front of one brings a whole new perspective to the word 'giant.' Tours are an invaluable tool for MAGSA and worth the time and effort."

Prepare for Persistence

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) in Riverside County maintains a robust legislative outreach program that has included about a dozen facility tours during the past five years.

EMWD hosted a tour last year tied to its plans to build an indirect potable reuse facility. Local congressman U.S. Rep. Mark Takano attended along with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. The facility is scheduled to break ground later this year.

However, organizing a successful tour can require persistence.

"There have been times, especially when we have newly elected legislators, that it has taken a while," said EMWD Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs Jolene Walsh, about sending invites for other tours and not hearing back. "But we don't give up and assume they're not interested. We continue to engage and attract their attention."

Personalize Materials

Elected officials understand the connection between what they see during a tour and what it means to their

Opposite page: McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency General Manager Matt Hurley hosts U.S. Rep. John Duarte on a recent tour of the agency's On-Farm Flood Capture Project. *Photo courtesy of MAGSA*

Right: Rep. Kevin Kiley, center with white shirt, visits the Tahoe City Public Utility District service area for a tour that focused on the need for upgrading water infrastructure with upsized waterlines and better fire hydrant spacing. *Photo courtesy of TCPUD*



constituents' quality of life. However, finding ways to further amplify that connection can heighten a tour's ultimate value. EMWD emphasizes this link through personalized materials, such as personalized Capital Improvement Program booklets. These include a cover with an elected official's photo and copy that highlights specific infrastructure and exactly how it benefits a given district.

"They really appreciate having the summary of projects in their area," EMWD's Walsh said. "It draws a direct line between the value of a project and the quality of life for their constituents."

Find Partners

A common thread running through advice on legislative tours from agencies contacted focuses on forging partnerships. The resulting teamwork can result in a highly effective, and compelling, tour for elected officials and decision makers. This can include teaming up with neighboring districts, cities and regional alliances.

For example, TCPUD worked through its membership in the Tahoe Fire for Water Partnership in organizing the tours for U.S. Rep. Kiley and Senator Alvarado-Gil.

"Leveraging partnerships is a must," said TCPUD's Boyd, adding that tours have become part of a ramped-up outreach program for the district during the past four years.

The Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Upper District) regularly offers a tour for local partners and elected officials. Familiar with the Upper District's tours, Assemblymember Blanca Rubio (D-Baldwin) requested one on a couple of occasions to educate her staff on local water issues and for her agriculture contacts in the Central Valley.

With Assemblymember Diane Papan (D-San Mateo) becoming the new chair of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife committee, Upper District staff worked with Rubio's office to offer a February tour and acquaint her with its region and local water supply. In addition to state Senator Maria Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles), two board members from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board also joined.

"What was unique about this tour is that we worked collaboratively with the other agencies in our region such as Three Valleys, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District and Rowland Water District to help highlight their infrastructure needs and present a unified message on our water supply needs," said Patty Cortez, Upper District's Assistant General Manager for External Affairs.

For more information about engaging legislators and regulators, including through educational tours, download ACWA's "Outreach Handbook" using the accompanying QR code, or reach out to these ACWA members:

Jolene Walsh, Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs, Eastern Municipal Water District
walshj@emwd.org

Kim Boyd, Director of Strategic Affairs, Tahoe City Public Utility District
k.boyd@tcpud.org

Cristel Tufenkjian, Deputy General Manager, McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency
ctufenkjian@mcmullinarea.org

Consolidation Creates New Ukiah Valley Water Authority

Millview County Water District, Redwood Valley County Water District, and the City of Ukiah took a series of votes in February to consolidate their water districts into a new joint powers authority.

The Ukiah Valley Water Authority (UVWA) will provide more efficient and reliable water service throughout the region, according to a news release from the Millview County Water District. Additionally, the agreement allows UVWA to potentially access millions in state grant funding to modernize water infrastructure throughout the Ukiah Valley, building new interties and upgrading pipelines where needed.

UVWA integrates the governance and water infrastructure of Millview County Water District and Redwood Valley County Water District with the City of Ukiah. This will provide access for residents and businesses within Millview and Redwood Valley to eventually have access to more reliable water supplies. The lack of water reliability has limited the local economy and imposed restrictions on residential development that is needed to meet housing demands. But with infrastructure modernization and increased coordination, UVWA will be able to move water from where it is available to where it is needed.

As part of the consolidation effort, UVWA will be able to apply to the State Water Resources Control Board for $40-$50 million to fund the new infrastructure – including pipelines and interties, storage tanks, booster stations, and two new wells – needed to connect the agencies. Competitive grants from the State Water Board are available through its Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program, which encourages the consolidation of rural and small water systems (those least likely to afford necessary upgrades) as part of its mission to provide every Californian with safe drinking water.

Before now, Ukiah Valley residents were served by no less than 12 water agencies and two different JPAs, from which nearly 70 board members made decisions on water policy.

Staff for the new Ukiah Valley Water Authority will be City of Ukiah employees, and eventually water bills for all the consolidated districts will come from the City. UVWA will ensure transparency, oversight, and fair representation for all its members – it will be governed initially by a six-member Board of Directors, with each member agency sending two representatives to serve on the Board.

LIKE, SHARE & FOLLOW

EXPLORING THE WATER WORLD ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow Us @ACWAwater

In our interconnected world, social media platforms have become powerful tools for promoting positive change. Many water agencies are using these platforms to amplify their diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts.

Below are some examples that ACWA members have shared recently.

Promoting DEI on social media should be an ongoing and collaborative effort with a clear message that aligns with your district's values and principles.

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.

Left to Right:

Alameda County Water District kicked off Ramadan by sending a special message out to its customers who celebrate the holiday.

West Valley Water District took the opportunity to highlight women employees on International Women's Day by posting a collage of photos of staff at the district.

For Black History Month, West Basin Municipal Water District highlighted the achievements of Black individuals who have contributed to the success of the district, community and California water.







Three Named to ACWA Region Boards

ACWA Region 1, Region 4 and Region 5 boards recently appointed new members, outlined below.


Shannon Cotulla

The Region 1 Board appointed Town of Windsor Public Works Director **Shannon Cotulla** as member.


Cary Keaten

The Region 4 Board appointed Solano Irrigation District General Manager **Cary Keaten** as Vice Chair.

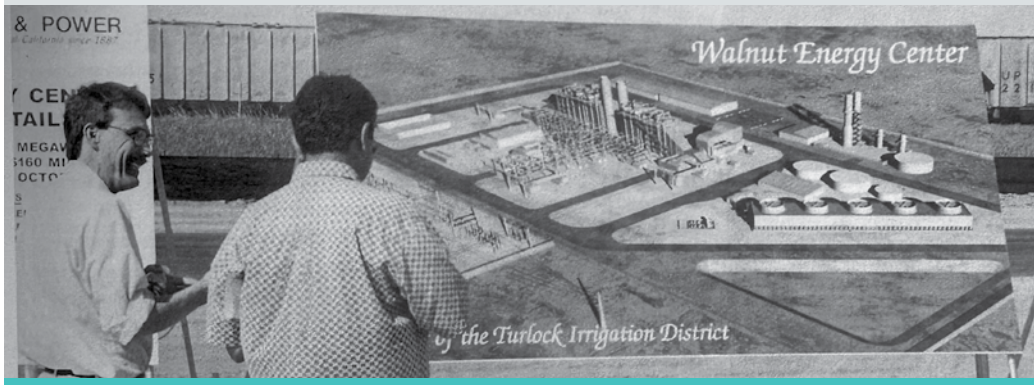

Antonio Martinez

The Region 5 Board appointed Contra Costa Water District Board Vice President **Antonio Martinez** as a member.

ACWA's membership is organized into 10 regions. The regional structure promotes grassroots activism by uniting members around geography and shared interests and challenges. Regions play an important role in supporting ACWA's goals, engaging in local outreach efforts and educating ACWA's membership through tours and events.

The elected chair and vice chair of each region board sit on the 37-member ACWA Board of Directors.

THIS MONTH IN ACWA HISTORY



Attendees of a March 2004 groundbreaking ceremony for Turlock Irrigation District's Walnut Energy Center view an artist depiction of the completed facility.

10 years ago

A Public Policy Institute of California poll indicated that the ongoing drought had raised awareness among Californians of the need for water infrastructure investment. Half of likely voters polled responded that they would vote in favor of an $11.1 billion water bond on the November ballot.

20 years ago

Turlock Irrigation District broke ground on its Walnut Energy Center. The $200 million, natural gas-fired facility was designed to generate 250 megawatts of electricity utilizing state-of-the-art technology to reduce emissions by as much as 85% lower than earlier facilities of its kind.

30 years ago

ACWA hosted a Groundwater Mini-Conference in Sacramento that drew more than 340 people. Speakers emphasized many key points, among them the importance of local control of groundwater management and groundwater's increasing value in light of limits on future expansion of surface water storage.

40 years ago

"ACWA News" reported on progress on the Aquatrain pipeline project, which would employ multiple underground pipelines using liquid carbon dioxide to carry coal and potentially other commodities from as far north as Wyoming to markets in the Southwest or to Pacific Coast ports for export. It also proposed to reduce salinity levels in the Colorado River by diverting salty water away from the river and piping it westward for industrial use, such as for cooling powerplants.

50 years ago

ACWA approved filing an amicus curiae letter on behalf of the East Bay Municipal Utility District, which was defending itself against legal action by the Environmental Defense Fund seeking to prevent the district from securing water from the American River through a contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.



Mark Krause

RETIREMENT

Krause Retires from Desert Water Agency

Desert Water Agency (DWA) General Manager and Chief Engineer **Mark Krause** recently announced his retirement after 29 years at the agency, serving the last eight in its top position. **Steve Johnson** will succeed him as General Manager and Chief Engineer. He previously served as Assistant General Manager.

Krause joined DWA in 1995 as Operations Engineer. In that role, he helped develop the engineering department so DWA could design its own wells, pipelines and booster stations. Krause was promoted to Assistant General Manager in 2004 and became General Manager and Chief Engineer in 2016.

Johnson was hired as an Assistant Engineer at DWA in 1995 and promoted to Operations Engineer in 2004. He became Assistant General Manager in 2016. His accomplishments include negotiating new power purchase and land use agreements to generate revenue and keep rates down.



Kristine McCaffrey

Calleguas MWD Names McCaffrey GM

Calleguas Municipal Water District has named **Kristine McCaffrey** as General Manager, replacing **Tony Goff**, who is stepping away from the position after a career at the district spanning more than three decades.

Previously Deputy General Manager, McCaffrey has worked alongside Goff for 20 years.

Goff began his career at the district in 1989, starting as a Water Treatment Operator and later advancing to Manager of Operations and Maintenance and then Operations and Water Quality Supervisor before taking on the role of General Manager in 2019.

McCaffrey is a registered civil engineer in California and a Grade 3 Water Treatment Plant Operator. She earned dual bachelor's degrees in environmental engineering and urban planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master's degree in construction management from the University of Washington.



Sheryl Shaw

Walnut Valley Names Shaw GM

Walnut Valley Water District (WVWD) has named **Sheryl Shaw** as its new General Manager. She replaces **Erik Hitchman**, who retired as General Manager in February after 26 years with the district.

Hitchman assumed various roles during his career at Walnut Valley, including serving as its District Engineer, Director of Engineering and Planning, and Assistant General Manager/Chief Engineer. He previously worked at Three Valleys Municipal Water District and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

Shaw brings more than 20 years of experience at WVWD to her new role and most recently served as Director of Engineering. She previously served as Project Engineer, Engineering Manager and District Engineer. She earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Cal Poly Pomona.



Cynthia Sanchez

PWD Appoints Sanchez to Fill Vacancy

The Palmdale Water District Board of Directors has unanimously appointed **Cynthia Sanchez** to fill a Board seat vacated by Director **Gloria Dizmang**, who resigned late last year due to health reasons.

Sanchez was one of two residents who applied for the position. Her term will expire in December. She has worked as a nurse at Kaiser Permanente in the Antelope Valley for the past 12 years.



John Coleman

Lafayette Chamber Names Coleman Citizen of the Year

The Lafayette Chamber's volunteer selection committee in February chose past ACWA President **John A. Coleman** as Lafayette's 73rd Citizen of the Year for his decades of service to the community, including serving on the Lafayette Chamber Board of Directors, which he led as President in 1991. Additionally, Coleman also served 13 years as Chief Executive Officer of the Bay Planning Coalition and is a Board member of the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, as well as a former member of the California Biodiversity Council.

Coleman served as ACWA President during the 2014-'15 term and is the only individual to have served as President of both ACWA and the California Association of Sanitation Agencies. He served for 33 years on the Board of Directors of the East Bay Municipal Utility District, recently resigning to work as Manager of Natural Resources for the Calaveras County Water District.



Jack Burgett

OBITUARY

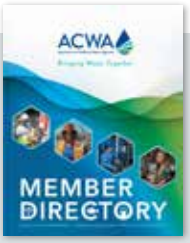
North Coast CWD Mourns Burgett

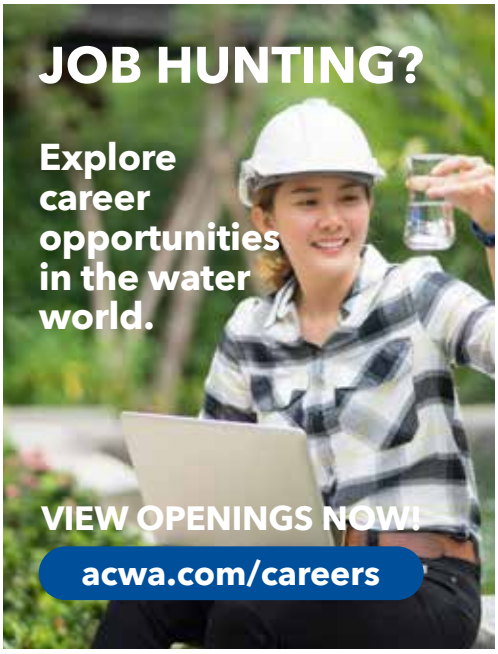
North Coast County Water District (NCCWD) Board President and past ACWA Board of Directors member **Jack J. Burgett** passed away on Feb. 10. He was 85.

Burgett served on the NCCWD Board for more than 11 years. Active within ACWA for many years, he previously served on the ACWA Region 5 Board and on the ACWA Board of Directors during the 2022-'23 term.

Burgett was a Marine who pursued a career coaching high school and college football before joining NCCWD.

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- ACWA-Sponsored Legislation Aimed at Further Reforming Proposition 218 Process – Feb. 16
- Zone 7 Invites Residents to Save Water and Win Big – Feb. 29
- Unprecedented Diversions Replenish Ventura County Groundwater Resources – Feb. 16
- Water Capture Breaks Century Record – Feb. 29
- Half-Billion in Federal Funding Announced for California Water Infrastructure – Feb. 20

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

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