ACWA NEWS
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(l-r) East Valley Water District President James Morales Jr., Vice Chairman Ronald L. Coats, ACWA President Cathy Green and district General Manager/CEO Michael Moore pose for a photo during a May 3 celebration of the district's Sterling Natural Resource Center becoming fully operational.

SPOTLIGHT

New East Valley Water District Facility 'Makes Every Source a Resource'

Now fully operational, East Valley Water District's (EVWD) Sterling Natural Resource Center generates power, adds a park to its surrounding community, offers high school students a look at careers in water and hosts events ranging from quinceañeras to weddings, birthday parties and celebrations of life.

And it recycles wastewater.

Recently recognized with ACWA's 2024 Clair A. Hill Agency Award for Excellence, the Sterling Natural Resource Center functions on so many different levels that its primary purpose counts as just one on a lengthy list of benefits for its San Bernardino County community. But to hear EVWD leaders, that was the point.

"As we started this project, we worked to incorporate multiple community benefits, while making every source a resource in achieving water sustainability," said EVWD General Manager/CEO Michael Moore. "This project not only creates greater water resiliency for the region, but the community has embraced the facility."

Today, the Sterling Natural Resource Center, or SNRC, is recycling up to 8 million gallons of wastewater a day

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CAPITOL CORNER

ACWA Legislative Advocacy Achieves Positive Outcomes

ACWA state legislative advocacy remains focused on several key priorities affecting member agencies. Below are summaries and updates on several bills among many on which ACWA staff has engaged, secured amendments and achieved positive outcomes for association membership.

Water Rights

ACWA removed its opposition to AB 460, by Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda), after significant amendments limited the bill to increasing penalties for certain violations, including illegal diversions.

The amendments represented an extraordinary improvement to the bill, which previously would have granted the State Water Resources Control Board new and sweeping authority to prevent diverters from exercising their water rights. With the recent amendments, AB 460 would ensure penalties serve as a deterrent to illegal diversions.

ACWA strongly opposed AB 460 as originally introduced in 2023 based on the proposed interim relief authority for the State Water Board and the considerable uncertainty this would have created for water managers and the communities and industries they serve.

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Voluntary Agreements Funding

The Legislature passed a budget bill June 13 that proposes to rescind over $500 million in funding for Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes, previously known as the Voluntary Agreements. ACWA strongly opposes any reduction in funding for the Agreements, which represent an unprecedented opportunity to improve the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta ecosystem by creating a comprehensive program of habitat enhancement projects coupled with more water for fish and wildlife, managed in a collaborative, science-based manner.

ACWA developed a coalition letter with more than 40 organizations, urging the Legislature and governor to restore previously committed funding for these Agreements. The governor has until June 30 to negotiate on the budget.

Rate Assistance

SB 1255, by Senator Maria Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles), would create a water low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program that would apply to water suppliers that serve over 3,300 residential connections. The Community Water Center, Clean Water Action and Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability are sponsoring this bill.

As introduced, the bill was limited to the State Water Resources Control Board gathering specified data on affordability issues for community water systems with fewer than 3,000 connections (later amended to 3,300 connections). The bill was then amended to additionally propose a LIRA program that would apply to retail water suppliers that serve over 3,300 residential connections. The program would be funded through voluntary contributions from ratepayers who are not eligible for assistance. These ratepayers would be committed to making the contribution unless they opted-out.

ACWA supports a statewide water LIRA program that is workable and efficient. ACWA's State Legislative Committee on May 31 adopted an oppose-unless-amended position on SB 1255 as proposed to be amended due to serious concerns about its workability.

The bill will be heard in the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on June 25, and ACWA has suggested amendments.

Rate Setting Process

ACWA-sponsored AB 2257, which would aid public agencies in defending against Proposition 218 lawsuits, was scheduled to be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 18. Introduced by Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City), AB 2257 would require litigants to participate and raise specific objections during the public administrative process in order to challenge rates or assessments in court. It would also limit the administrative record to evidence presented to an agency during the ratemaking process. ACWA is leading a coalition to support the legislation.

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.

Groundwater

AB 2079, by Assemblymember Steve Bennett (D-Ventura), would have banned local agencies from permitting some new groundwater wells. It failed to pass out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, which effectively stopped the bill.

ACWA's State Legislative Committee adopted an oppose-unless-amended position due to concerns over the moratorium on new wells throughout much of the state and the potential legal liability it created for local agencies. The bill would have prohibited well-permitting agencies from approving applications for agricultural and industrial wells in basins that experienced more than half a foot of subsidence since 2015, or if the well was within a quarter mile of a domestic well.

ACWA participated in a large coalition of associations, water agencies, business and agricultural interests in opposing the bill.

Water Use Efficiency

While the State Water Board works to finalize its regulations implementing Making Conservation a California Way of Life, the Legislature is considering a couple of measures that would

CAPITOL CORNER continued on page 3

Sites Project Makes Progress, Last Wet Season Would Have Filled It

Sites Reservoir would be brimming with more than 1.5 million acre-feet had it been completed in time for the 2023-'24 wet season, according to a news release from the Sites Project Authority.

However, the day that hypothetical vision could become a reality is steadily moving closer. After nearly 70 years on the books, the off-stream reservoir project north of Sacramento is marking progress and advancing toward major milestones.

Recent developments include a Yolo County Superior Court rejecting a lawsuit filed by six environmental groups seeking to block the project. Sites also recently received an additional $67.5 million in federal funding, part of a broader announcement on a water infrastructure funding package announced in May and on top of $205.6 million in federal funding announced in March.

The entire project is estimated to cost more than $4 billion dollars. It's being financed through state and federal funding along with investments from 22 participating water districts through a beneficiary pays model, tied to how much water and storage space they would receive. Currently, 14 water districts are on a waiting list to join as participants.



This artistic rendering shows what a full Sites Reservoir would look like. *Image courtesy of Sites Project Authority*

The project is currently completing a state and federal permitting process and will reach its next major milestone next year if it succeeds in receiving a water right. Construction would follow in 2026 with the reservoir becoming fully operational before the end of 2032. It would then become California's largest new reservoir completed in half a century.

In a May 28 news release, the Sites Project Authority estimated that the reservoir could have captured in excess of 1.5 million acre-feet of water by diverting high winter flows in the Sacramento River from early 2023 through April 2024. Based on an analysis of 2023 flows and significant storms this year, it is estimated that Sites Reservoir would be at full capacity as of last month.

Sites Reservoir is specifically designed to capture and store water generated during wet periods, like the atmospheric rivers that seasonally make landfall in California, to increase water flexibility, reliability, and resiliency in drier years. Estimates show that since January 2024, Sites Reservoir would have diverted and captured about 840,000 acre-feet of water. This would have been in addition to the about 700,000 acre-feet diverted and captured last year, resulting in a full reservoir headed into this summer.

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make changes to the implementing statutes. ACWA is supporting both SB 1330, by Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera), and SB 1110, by Angelique Ashby (D-Sacramento), and both bills are also sponsored by ACWA members. When the bills were heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee in April, they were both amended at the behest of the committee.

SB 1110 was introduced with the intent to create additional flexibility for the State Water Board on enforcement of the implementing regulations, but the committee amendments stripped the bill of policy, making the bill simply a date extension on enforcement. The sponsor, Regional Water Authority, is working on how to move the bill forward with more significant policy changes.

SB 1330 was trimmed in the Senate Committee amendments, but retained more significant policy changes, such as requiring the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to update its landscape data at least every 10 years. The bill was amended to include new provisions, such as requiring DWR to update this data every five years and conduct studies on the efficiency performance for newly constructed landscapes.

Both bills are anticipated to be heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on June 25.

Board Discusses Shared Urban-Ag Issues, Receives Updates on Water Infrastructure Funding Advocacy

The ACWA Board of Directors June 7 meeting featured a forum titled "Bridging the Gap: Uniting Ag and Urban Communities on Water and Food Security," while also providing Board members updates on the latest internal, policy advocacy and event planning developments within the association.

Forum

Both agriculture and urban communities encounter common challenges, ranging from water rights issues to the vulnerabilities of rural and small water systems. Sponsored by ACWA's Agriculture Committee, the forum invited board members to discuss a variety of topics. These included the need to view domestic agricultural production within the context of national security, which could be threatened by over-reliance on imported food.

The forum also touched on issues common to both urban and agricultural water suppliers. For example, disadvantaged communities facing challenges in accessing safe drinking water could include a mobile home park in Los Angeles, as well as small, rural communities in the Central Valley. Pre-1914 water rights, regulatory challenges and a review of water data requirements to reduce redundancy in reporting requirements were identified as additional examples of commonality in issues between the urban and agricultural water sectors.

Strategic Plan

Directors were briefed on the ongoing process to update the association's Five-Year Strategic Plan, which expires at the end of this year. The document identifies ACWA's mission, vision, core values and highest priority goals and objectives, guiding the allocation of human and financial resources to accomplish critically important results for the membership of ACWA and further the health and wellbeing of the organization.

The Board previously approved the formation of a Strategic Plan Task Force to engage with a consultant and facilitate the strategic planning process. The task force is scheduled to conduct a full review before the Board at a July workshop.

Infrastructure Funding

Federal Relations Director Ian Lyle reported that funding opportunities continue to be available from the Environmental Protection Agency and Bureau of Reclamation for a variety of infrastructure projects. Lyle also reported that he was working to arrange a meeting with newly-elected U.S. Rep. Vince Fong to brief him on water priorities.

On the state legislative side, Board members received an update on ACWA's advocacy in support of putting a climate resilience bond on the November ballot. Legislators have until June 27 to decide on what bond measures will be included on the ballot. Staff reported that as of the day of the Board meeting, proposals called for a $6.5 billion bond, with ACWA advocating that two-thirds of such a bond be dedicated to water infrastructure projects.

New ACWA Event

ACWA staff briefed directors on the 2024 Executive Edge Leadership Forum planned for Aug. 29-30 in Petaluma. ACWA designed the new professional development and training opportunity for general managers and other executive-level water agency staff. The event aims to foster excellence in member agency leadership by equipping them with practical tools, insights and ways to enhance organizational performance. The event seeks to connect executive management from throughout California in a way that further empowers their ability to lead their agencies and serve their communities. ACWA will release more information and open registration this month.



ACWA Foundation Continues to Grow and Reach Milestones

The ACWA Foundation, now in its second year of operation, is continuing to grow and set the stage for success by adding three new members to its Board of Trustees, preparing to hire an Executive Director and defining how it can be most valuable to the water industry.

The nonprofit 501(c)3 foundation was created by the ACWA Board of Directors, under the leadership of then-ACWA President Pamela Tobin, to advance workforce and leadership development in the water industry by promoting diversity, equity and inclusion. The Foundation's Board of Trustees held its inaugural meeting in December 2022 and within its first year raised more than $360,000 and awarded $50,000 in scholarships to first-generation college students around the state.

"It's really been an adventure. The progress we made in our first year was really astounding," said Board Chair John Varela.

Building upon that success, the focus this year has been on increasing awareness about the Foundation among ACWA member agencies and others in the water industry; strengthening partnerships that have been created with California State University-WATER, Water Education for Latino Leaders, California Urban Water Agencies and California Municipal Utilities Association; and raising more funds.

Varela and Foundation Vice Chair Jennifer Persike said that as the trustees have worked through different projects and partnerships, it's become clear that the Foundation's future focus must be building a workforce for the water industry.

"We need to focus on the youth, and that's what I'm considering a priority as chair of the Board," Varela said.

Persike noted the Foundation has met with several groups with various projects in workforce development and sees the ACWA Foundation as becoming a statewide umbrella organization for these efforts to connect the future workforce to the water industry. She said the data shows that between 20%-50 % of water utilities are having difficulty hiring.

"We're going to be coordinating with all of the partner groups to build awareness that the water industry is a great sector to build a career. We want to reach out to Gen Z, veterans and those communities who are less familiar with the industry," Persike said. "We want to help folks 'find their future in water' by maximizing those connections and building the water workforce through mentorship, internship and apprenticeship, and certifications."

Expanded Board

The Foundation recently appointed Allison Febbo, Victoria Johnson and Jessi Snider to serve as trustees.

"All the trustees are wonderful," Varela said, noting that they have dedicated countless hours getting the Foundation up and running.

The Foundation is also currently reviewing proposals for an Executive Director, which will mark a major milestone in its growth.

"We want to bring somebody in with experience leading nonprofits and raising funds who can keep us growing and take us to the next level," Varela said.

The ACWA Foundation operates separately and independently from ACWA. For more information about ACWA Foundation, including how to donate, **visit www.acwa-foundation.org.**

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ACWA FOUNDATION

> We need to focus on the youth, and that's what I'm considering a priority as chair of the Board. – John Varela, Board Chair





Left: An aerial view of the SNRC on its 20-acre site. **Right:** People enjoying the SNRC's outdoor amenities, which include walking trails, a picnic area and demonstration garden. *Photos courtesy of EVWD*

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as the region's first indirect potable reuse project. The water replenishes the local groundwater basin that is at historically low levels because of climate change.

How it Works

The SNRC integrates advanced membrane bioreactor (MBR) and ultraviolet (UV) disinfection technologies, the region's first application of these two technologies in combination, according to EVWD. MBR combines biological treatment with membrane filtration, with UV disinfection complementing the process. A compact design reduces the wastewater treatment component's physical footprint by merging treatment steps and omitting large settling tanks.

The deployment of MBR technology and the strategic combination of subterranean and above-ground equipment facilitates the SNRC's integration into an urban neighborhood.

Traditionally, a facility with SNRC's capacity would need up to 16 acres solely for process equipment. However, the EVWD facility is efficiently contained within a 9-acre site that also includes an advanced noise and odor control system in a contained headworks facility, with its design redirecting noise upwards to further reduce community impact.

From Renewable Waste to Net-Zero Energy

The SNRC incorporates co-digestion of wastewater sludge with regionally sourced food waste, which achieves dual objectives of managing solid waste and enhancing renewable energy production. By diverting high-grade food waste from landfills, the SNRC aids in reducing carbon emissions and minimizing waste, aligning with environmental sustainability goals. The combination of these elements results in the recycling of nearly all influent material, virtually eliminating organic waste from the process, while achieving net-zero energy consumption by converting up to 130,000 gallons of organic waste streams into 3 megawatts of renewable energy.

Where it Started

Conversations that led to the SNRC began in the 2010s, according to William Ringland, EVWD's Public Affairs and Conservation Manager. At that time, EVWD's wastewater was treated at a non-district facility and released into the Santa Ana River, flowing out into the Pacific Ocean. District leadership sought a path to generational sustainability by treating that water and keeping it within EVWD's service area. However, following a traditional approach on district land would have meant building a walled-off treatment facility in the middle of a residential neighborhood and a couple blocks from a high school.

With a total of 20 acres available, EVWD had plenty of room for creativity besides a treatment facility and administrative



Above: Part of the advanced membrane bioreactor treatment system at work in the SNRC. The system integrates ultraviolet disinfection, the region's first application of the two technologies in combination. *Photo courtesy of EVWD*

center. Driving that creativity depended on extensive community engagement, ranging from community barbecues to on-site meetings.

"At every juncture, our message was 'We want to be your neighbors and part of the community,'," Ringland said. "We did face pushback early on in the process, but we answered by consistently placing emphasis on gathering input and incorporating the feedback into the project design."

Path to Completion

The SNRC broke ground in October 2018, with one last challenge ahead — the COVID-19 pandemic hitting during the middle of a major capital construction project. But with that overcome, EVWD completed the SNRC's Administrative Center in July 2022, which includes a customer service center, banquet hall for special events and meetings, and a demonstration garden displaying water-efficient landscaping.

EVWD celebrated the treatment of the SNRC's "first drop" in last January, and an early May ribbon-cutting marked the facility's going fully operational.

The design-build facility was completed for a total cost of $219.5 million, with funding from a variety of sources, including Proposition 1, low interest loans, grants and through regional infrastructure partnerships.

"It's really exciting to see the Sterling Natural Resource Center fulfilling its mission as a community resource on so many different levels," Moore said. "As an engineer, I am excited knowing all the hard work behind the SNRC's innovative recycling operation is now creating generational water sustainability for our region. But on a personal level, sometimes it's just knowing that we have people enjoying our banquet hall, park and walking trails every single day."

STERLING NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER

Location
San Bernardino, East Valley Water District

Construction
Groundbreaking: October 2018
Fully operational: January 2024

Footprint
20-acres including recycled water treatment plant, administrative center and indoor/outdoor community amenities

Capabilities
- 8 million gallons a day of treated wastewater for indirect potable reuse through groundwater recharge
- Net-zero energy consumption through onsite generation of 3 megawatts fueled by biogas from co-digestion of wastewater sludge and food waste
- Advanced noise and odor control systems with contained headworks facility

Treatment Method
Membrane bioreactor integrated with ultraviolet disinfection

Community Benefits
- Administrative center with banquet hall, conference rooms and customer service center
- Outdoor community space with picnic area, walking trails and demonstration garden
- Water-career pathway program in partnership San Bernardino Unified School District

Cost
$219.5 Million

Website





Left: (r-l) Melanie Medina, now-retired ACWA Federal Relations Director David Reynolds and ACWA Senior Director of Operations and Member Engagement Tiffany Giammona pause for a photo during an ACWA event. **Right:** A group photo shows the Dream Team behind so many ACWA events with (l-r) Event Resource Specialist Avon Alfaro, Event Planner Teresa Taylor, Melanie, retired ACWA External Affairs Deputy Director Jennifer Persike, retired Business Development and Events Manager Paula Currie and former Business Partner Specialist Ashley Kravchuk.

ACWA Conference Planning Guru Melanie Medina Retires

ACWA Events Manager Melanie Medina recently retired from the association after 14 years of organizing association conferences and events. The 2024 Spring Conference & Expo in Sacramento was her last, and one where she came full circle from her beginnings in the event planning profession.

It was there, at what is now the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center, that Melanie started her first job in the event planning business in 1999. She had just switched careers and left the financial industry to follow a passion for organizing events, which she had discovered while attending UC Riverside.

ACWA Business Development & Events Director Paula Currie worked with Melanie on ACWA conferences at the convention center, liked what she saw, and hired her away in 2010. Starting as a part-time employee, Melanie quickly advanced to a full-time status on the events team.

Since then, Melanie has planned 28 conferences along with many other events, including ACWA's annual DC Conference in the nation's capital. Since replacing Paula, who retired in 2020, Melanie has led ACWA's events team.

ACWA conference planning starts months in advance, venues are booked years ahead, and the job requires exceptional attention to detail. But in the end, a successful conference boils down to a simple but highly valuable result for attendees. Melanie said she knows when a conference is delivering for attendees when it's "humming," when she's seeing people at conferences expanding their connections.

"At the end of the day, folks come to events for programming, but certainly for the networking," she said. "My favorite part of the job is that it's never dull. I get to be part of something bigger than myself, that being water. My career has allowed me to meet many fascinating, interesting people."

From here, Melanie and her husband, Matt, are retiring to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

"I know ACWA staff will miss her bright smile and calm demeanor," Currie said. "Melanie, welcome to the world of ACWA retirement and best wishes for a very happy life."

ACWA is currently in the recruitment process to fill the Event Manager position and has already received a number of inquiries from interested candidates, said ACWA Executive Director Dave Eggerton. But she will be a tough act to follow for anyone replacing her, he added.

"Melanie's incredible attention to detail was the secret sauce behind what made our conferences and events successful, valuable and enjoyable for our members. She will be sorely missed by our ACWA family, and we all wish her a wonderful and well-earned retirement," he said.

MEMBER NEWS

PWD Celebrates Littlerock Dam Centennial

With the serene blue water of the reservoir serving as the backdrop, nearly 100 dignitaries, community members and water agency staff gathered June 1 to commemorate Littlerock Dam's centennial.

Palmdale Water District (PWD) and Littlerock Creek Irrigation District (LCID) hosted the celebration to mark the exact day 100 years ago that the state of California gave permission for the Littlerock Dam to begin service. For the past century, the dam has continuously provided water for PWD and LCID customers while also controlling floods.

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Assemblymember Tom Lackey presents a joint resolution during Littlerock Dam's centennial celebration, accompanied by Senator Scott Wilk, second from right. *Photo courtesy of PWD*

THIS MONTH IN ACWA HISTORY

10 years ago

Gov. Jerry Brown made it known that he wanted a water bond measure on the ballot and initiated negotiations with legislators on a proposal. The talks would eventually lead to Proposition 1, which California voters would pass by a substantial margin in November.

20 years ago

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in San Joaquin County following a major levee break. State and federal water officials, along with ACWA member agencies, began coordinating efforts to ensure protection of water supplies for the State Water Project and Central Valley Project.

30 years ago

Environmental, agricultural and urban water interests signed an agreement that would become CALFED, the state and federal program to address Bay-Delta water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration. Guided by the active participation of ACWA Executive Director Steve Hall, the agreement between state and federal agencies led to coordination of activities within the Bay-Delta.



The Jones Tract levee break in early June 2004 flooded the southern region of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta and prompted the declaration of a state of emergency. *Photo courtesy of DWR*

40 years ago

The State-Federal Auburn Dam Task Force met for the first time to devise a workable partnership to finance the surface storage project northeast of Sacramento. Authorized by Congress in 1965, work began the following year but was halted in 1975 after the Oroville earthquake raised questions about its seismic safety.

50 years ago

California voters approved Proposition 2, a $250 million bond measure to fund water pollution control. Supported by ACWA, the measure renewed funding for a 1970 bond measure to construct public wastewater treatment facilities and leveraged $1.5 billion in federal grants to help finish the fight against water pollution.

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"What an honor it was to celebrate the Littlerock Dam's very important milestone with everyone," PWD Board President Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez stated in a news release. "It was a day to remember those who built the dam 100 years ago and our predecessors who made all the right decisions to keep the dam in working condition. We also heard verbal commits to re-open the area for recreation, which I wholeheartedly support."

Attendees included California Senator Scott Wilk and Assemblymember Tom Lackey, who joined Assemblymember Juan Carrillo's field representative in presenting PWD and LCID with a Joint Resolution from the Legislature.

Following all the speakers' support for re-opening of the dam, San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Manager Matthew Bokach told the crowd that his office is working hard to see the popular landmark open for recreation. Since 2015, it has been closed by the U.S. Forest Service because of health and safety issues.

For the past century, the Littlerock Dam and Reservoir has played an important role in the growth and success of Palmdale, Littlerock and other communities in the southern Antelope Valley. It was built on Little Rock Creek to store water for agricultural use and provide some flood control.

Construction of the Littlerock Dam began in 1922 and was completed in two years. Plans for the dam began six years earlier in 1918 when the Palmdale Water Company, PWD's predecessor, and LCID hired engineer John S. Eastwood to design a 182-foot-tall, multi-arch dam on Little Rock Creek with a capacity to hold 7,460 acre-feet of water. It would be the tallest multi-arch dam in the country at the time.

EBMUD Builds its Largest Solar Array

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) is more than tripling its solar energy production capacity with three new photovoltaic (PV) installations. The Orinda Photovoltaic Solar Energy Project (Orinda PV) project, below Briones Reservoir in Orinda, is now complete and will generate approximately 10 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of clean, renewable electricity a year.

This 4.6-megawatt (MW) installation will offset 10% of current energy costs at EBMUD, directly contributing to the district's goal to be carbon neutral by 2030.

EBMUD developed the Orinda PV project with TotalEnergies, a global multi-energy company with a U.S. portfolio of 25 gigawatts of solar, wind and battery storage projects in operations or construction across more than 30 states.

In addition to delivering environmental benefits through zero-emissions electricity production, the Orinda PV project will supply EBMUD with power at a fixed price that will provide $26 million in energy cost savings to EBMUD ratepayers over the 25-year contract term.

"The Orinda PV project represents a leap in EBMUD's clean energy production and supports our mission to deliver safe and affordable drinking water while protecting the environment," EBMUD General Manager Clifford Chan stated in a news release. "We believe investing in a sustainable future is the right thing to do for our customers and our planet, not only for today but for future generations."



Photo courtesy of EBMUD

This solar installation adds to EBMUD's other renewable energy projects, including 40 MW of hydroelectric, 11 MW of biogas, 2 MW of existing PV projects, and 210 kilowatts of additional PV under development.

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Follow us @ACWAwater

to see more of what other ACWA member agencies are doing on social media

EXPLORING THE WATER WORLD ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media provides a great platform for educating customers about their water supply. Many customers have no idea about the hard-working people and infrastructure that are behind ensuring they have a safe and reliable water supply.

While getting customers to understand the importance of investing in water infrastructure can be challenging, there are many creative ways to draw attention to your new projects and existing infrastructure. Here are some great recent examples.



Alameda County Water District started a new monthly feature on its social media channels called "Facilities in Focus" where it takes a quick and up close look at a specific (less than 1 minute!) infrastructure project in the district. Watch video here: **fb.watch/sFEOzb-bfO/**



Citrus Heights Water District has a Water Main Replacement project underway and shares project branding on its social media channels to keep customers informed about the benefits and timeline of the project.



San Diego County Water Authority used historical photos of its first aqueduct to inform followers about a three-year construction project that will update the delivery system.



Jim Maloon

OBITUARY

Pinyon Pines CWD Mourns Board Member

Longtime Pinyon Pines County Water District Board member **Jim Maloon** passed away in late April after a long battle with cancer. He was 72.

Maloon served on the Board two different times, first during the late 1980s and into the 1990s, and then from 2017 until his passing.

"Jim was a very valuable board member," said Pinyon Pines County Water District General Manager and Secretary **Thomas Huss**. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends of the community of Pinyon Pines." ♦



Jason Martin

Rancho Water Appoints Martin as Interim GM

The Rancho California Water District (Rancho Water) Board of Directors recently approved the appointment of **Jason Martin** to the position of Interim General Manager. He replaces past General Manager **Robert Grantham**, who is now General Manager at Santa Margarita Water District.

Martin has served as Assistant General Manager at Rancho Water since January 2024 and has worked at the district since 2006. During his tenure at Rancho Water, Martin has led a series of initiatives including the development of the MyWaterTracker tool and the inception of the CropSWAP program. ♦



Michelle Reimers



Brad Koehn

Reimers Leaving TID as GM

Turlock Irrigation District (TID) General Manager **Michelle Reimers** recently announced her resignation from the district, where she has served in the position since January 2020. The TID Board of Directors has appointed Chief Operating Officer **Brad Koehn** to replace Reimers as General Manager.

Reimers started her career at TID in 2006 working in public information, holding various positions at TID before becoming the first woman General Manager in TID's 137-year history. As General Manager, Reimers focused on ensuring TID's water supply future, including through negotiating a Voluntary Agreement for the Tuolumne River and filing for new water rights to capture flood flows.

Koehn joined TID in 2011 as Civil Engineering Department Manager. A licensed professional engineer and land surveyor, he led the assessment phase for the Don Pedro Life Extension Project and guided TID's entrance into the Western Energy Imbalance Market, which optimizes TID's power supply portfolio. ♦



William Vanderwaal

TCCA Names New GM

The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA) has named **William (Bill) Vanderwaal** as its new General Manager. He succeeds previous TCCA General Manager **Jeff Sutton**, recently hired as General Manager at Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District.

Vanderwaal comes to TCCA from Reclamation District 108, where he served as Deputy General Manager since 2017, and since 2018 has simultaneously managed Dunnigan Water District, a TCCA member agency. He previously worked at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, where he served as Project Manager for the Red Bluff Fish Passage Improvement Project.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Washington State University and a Master of Science in civil engineering from the University of Southern California. ♦

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- Littlerock Dam Celebrates 100th Anniversary – June 4
- Fact Sheets Make the Case for Supporting Water Supply for Farmers – May 28
- Engage Legislators Now on Climate Resilience Bond – May 24
- Brad Koehn Appointed General Manager at TID – June 5
- Groundbreaking Marks the Start of JCSD's Recycled Water Project Construction – June 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

JULY 2024
23

ACWA REGION 3 & 4 PROGRAM & TOUR

ACWA | Roseville

Discover Sacramento Regional Water Bank's impactful work ensuring watershed reliability. Explore Roseville's groundwater program enhancing supply security and sustainability. Conclude with a tour of a local aquifer storage and recovery well.

AUGUST 2024
13

ACWA REGION 9 EVENT

ACWA | Temecula

Join ACWA to address water industry workforce challenges. Dr. Dale Marsden presents "Innovating the Water Workforce: Building an Intergenerational Talent Pipeline." Experts discuss student interest, recruitment, and diverse avenues for future employees.

AUGUST 2024
21

ACWA REGION 8 PROGRAM

ACWA | Location TBD

Save the date for the ACWA Region 8 event featuring women in water as the program topic. Additional details will be announced as plans progress.

AUGUST 2024
29

EXECUTIVE EDGE LEADERSHIP FORUM

ACWA | Petaluma

Mark your calendar for Executive Edge, a new ACWA event. This is an engaging professional development and training opportunity for general managers and executive-level staff. Additional details will be announced as plans progress.

SEPTEMBER 2024
13

ACWA REGION 5 PROGRAM AND TOUR

ACWA | Pajaro Valley

Mark your calendars for the upcoming ACWA Region 5 event, where we'll delve into the discussion about the aftermath and repair efforts following last year's significant flooding. Additional details will be announced as plans progress.

SHARE YOUR EVENT

WITH OTHERS IN THE WATER INDUSTRY BY POSTING ON ACWA'S ONLINE EVENT CALENDAR

1. Go to **www.acwa.com/events**
2. Click the "**Submit Event**" button on the upper left
3. Complete the event form and click "**Submit**"