ACWA NEWS
VOL. 52 | 07 July 19, 2024



About 50 people participated in ACWA's Region 2 program and tour to learn about the Town of Paradise's recovery from the 2018 Camp Fire. Read article on page 5 for more information about the event.

State Water Board Adopts Landmark Conservation Regulation

The State Water Resources Control Board on July 3 adopted the Making Conservation a California Way of Life regulation. The regulation is intended to achieve long-term water use efficiency with the purpose of adapting to climate change by establishing unique goals for each urban retail water supplier in California.

The regulation was unanimously approved by the State Water Board and starts taking effect in 2025. It is the first regulation of its kind in the nation.

ACWA distributed an Advisory on July 1 that contained a toolkit to help member agencies communicate about the regulation with customers and the media. It can be accessed at **www.acwa.com/resources** (member login is required).

ACWA worked extensively with its members and coalition partners over the last year to secure extensive amendments that have resulted in a more feasible and cost-effective regulation. Under the regulation, suppliers must work with their customers to achieve water savings. Individual customers are not required to comply with the urban water use objective.

ACWA Regulatory Relations Manager Chelsea Haines joined several representatives from ACWA member agencies speaking during a comment period preceding the regulation's adoption.

WATER USE continued on page 3

CAPITOL CORNER

VA Funding Restored in State Budget

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 remain engaged. The Legislature adjourned for its summer recess after July 3 and returns on Aug. 5.

Voluntary Agreements Funding

On June 29, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed SB 108 (Wiener, D-San Francisco), the Budget Act of 2024. It includes the restoration of nearly $500 million for Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes, formerly known as Voluntary Agreements. The funding was previously rescinded in the main budget bill, AB 107 (Gabriel, D-Encino). ACWA, the Northern California Water Association, the State Water Contractors and more than 40 other organizations successfully advocated to maintain nearly all funding for the Agreements. ACWA applauds the leadership of Gov. Newsom, Administration officials and the Legislature in restoring this critical funding.

Climate Resilience Bond

A climate resilience bond will be on the November ballot as Proposition 4. Legislators and their staff have actively worked on the bond proposal throughout the year with almost all of the activity happening behind the scenes. Senate and Assembly working groups worked independently to

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ACWA VICE PRESIDENT ERNIE AVILA

ACWA Priorities Connect with Water Stewardship and Affordability



ACWA member agencies are stewards of the communities they serve. In this capacity, they are responsible for the reliability of their communities' water supplies, the infrastructure required for their delivery on a 24/7/365 basis, the protection of its water quality from the headwaters to the tap, and for cost-effective delivery of these services, particularly to those with fixed incomes or limited means. ACWA must continue to engage and advocate effectively for our members' interests, especially as new state and federal standards, combined with aging infrastructure and inflationary issues, drive up the cost of service to our ACWA member agency communities.

As laboratory technology advances, enabling the detection of contaminants at ever more minute levels, regulations in turn demand more of water agencies in testing and treating water. As vital to the protection of public health as the standard-setting process is, it often results in significantly increased costs to water agencies to design, build, operate and maintain treatment technologies to keep pace with new regulations. That in turn can drive increases in water rates, which works against our goal of keeping water affordable.

Keeping our water in compliance with drinking water standards is paramount to protecting public health. However, there is a balance that can be achieved. When developing new water quality standards, the law requires regulators to consider economic and technical feasibility. Regulators need to consider that treatment costs will ultimately affect customer water affordability. That is why ACWA strongly supports both scientific decisions that are based on sound, peer-reviewed science and standard-setting that is based on rigorous analyses, including cost analyses as part of economic feasibility determinations. Additionally, public processes that allow for meaningful input into these actions are critical.

A well-designed low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program could help low-income households with water affordability, but the details matter. The program needs to be reasonable and efficient. SB 1255 (Durazo, D-Los Angeles) was initially a study bill, but it was amended on June 3 in the Assembly to propose a LIRA program that would be funded with voluntary contributions. ACWA members have strong concerns that the bill, as currently drafted, would not work. For example, if customers did not see a notice and affirmatively opt out, they would be charged a "voluntary" contribution. ACWA is suggesting an "opt-in" approach, along with other amendments, and the work on this bill continues.

In the bigger picture, public water agencies are managing aging infrastructure that requires significant investments in the near term to ensure safe and reliable water service in the future. A long-term approach on water affordability will require continued advocacy by ACWA regarding standard-setting, water infrastructure and low-income rate assistance.

As water leaders, managers and stewards, ours is a job that never gets easier. But we always discover innovative strategies that produce solutions. I am confident that will prove the case with addressing water affordability and reliability.

ACWA Continues Advocacy on Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation

ACWA continues to advocate for amendments to the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) regulation to ensure it reflects the provisions of AB 1594 (Garcia, D-Coachella), signed into law last year and which requires greater flexibility for public agencies faced with challenges in upgrading to zero-emission vehicles.

The ACF regulation requires vehicle fleet owners and operators, including all public agencies, to begin purchasing zero-emission vehicles. However, a key issue is allowing flexibility in the purchase of replacements for traditional utility-specialized vehicles that are at the end of their life but are also vital to maintaining reliable service and responding to major foreseeable events.

CARB has also requested that ACWA act as a resource by compiling a list of member agencies' TRUCRS IDs.

More background and a link to submit information is available in an Advisory distributed to ACWA member agencies on July 8. The advisory can be accessed at **www.acwa.com/notifications** (member login is required).

The advisory also contains links to the regulation, fact sheets, training webinars, reporting guidance documents and additional resources.

WATER USE continued from page 1

"This is just the beginning of a multi-decade process," Haines said. "We are going to learn a lot, we'll have new data, new partnerships and we look at the success of this regulation as compliance; compliance being healthy landscapes, shade trees, equity among communities and implementing cost-effective strategies."



Download toolkit at **www.acwa.com/resources** (member login is required).

Now Accepting Entries and Nominations for Fall Awards

HUELL HOWSER EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATION

Honors outstanding public water agency efforts in communicating important information to customers, legislators, media and the public.

Deadline: Sept. 3

John P. Fraser EMISSARY AWARD

Recognizes individual ACWA member volunteers who have made remarkable and visible contributions to the enhancement, protection or development of water resources in California by participating in, supporting and advancing ACWA's goals.

Deadline: Sept. 3

ACWA EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION

Recognizes groundbreaking and unique programs, projects, practices and/or technologies implemented by ACWA member agencies

Deadline: Sept. 3

ACWA OUTREACH

Acknowledges members for their advocacy on issues critical to the water industry and the most active member agencies in each region.

Deadline: Oct. 1

Visit www.acwa.com/awards for more information and award guidelines.

CAPITOL CORNER continued from page 1

develop proposals, which were treated as confidential. They were then merged into the final bond proposal.

The resulting agreement between the Senate and the Assembly for a $10 billion climate resilience bond went into print in SB 867 (Allen, D-Santa Monica) during the weekend before the July 3 deadline for the Legislature to approve measures to appear on the ballot. Since a bill must be in print 72 hours before it can be voted on for final passage, there was no time for amendments.

SB 867 includes $2.91 billion in funding for nine of 10 water-related categories that ACWA and an ACWA-led coalition supported based on guidance from a large State Legislative Committee working group. There are positive aspects, such as significant funding for safe drinking water and dam safety projects. At the same time, the level of funding for the included categories is less than one-third of the bond, and funding is low for some categories that are fundamental to water management, such as regional conveyance.

ACWA, as a statewide organization, has focused on the climate resilience bond as an opportunity for the state to provide funding assistance for water infrastructure at a level that would meaningfully improve California's resilience to climate change. In an emergency meeting on July 1, the State Legislative Committee adopted a neutral position on the bond.

Low-Income Rate Assistance

A low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program in California needs to be workable and efficient. On May 31, the State Legislative Committee took an oppose-unless-amended position on SB 1255 (Durazo, D-Los Angeles) as proposed to be amended with author's amendments that went into print on June 3. These amendments, which were added to the bill in the second house, proposed for the first time in the bill a program for systems with more than 3,300 residential connections. The State Legislative Committee's SB 1255 Working Group guided the development of ACWA's suggested amendments. Senator Durazo included some of ACWA's amendments in the June 19 version. The June 19 version improved the bill, but SB 1255 still is not workable. The Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee passed the bill on June 25. The Assembly Utility & Energy Committee passed the bill on July 1, and the bill will next be considered by the Assembly Appropriations Committee when the Legislature returns in August.

Under SB 1255, each system would be required to establish a LIRA program with specified minimum requirements. The funding would come from voluntary contributions from ratepayers who are not eligible for the assistance. The approach would be an "opt-out" approach, so these ratepayers would be charged the voluntary contribution unless they affirmatively opted out. ACWA is suggesting an "opt-in" approach and other amendments to make the program workable.

Rate Setting Process

AB 2257, which is sponsored by ACWA and would aid public agencies in defending against Proposition 218 lawsuits, passed the Senate Local Government Committee on July 3. The bill is now on the Senate floor. Should it pass the Senate, it would go back to the Assembly floor and then to the governor's desk.

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 the 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.







Colette Curtis with the Town of Paradise (left) and Calli-Jane West with the Butte County Fire Safe Council (right) were among the speakers at the Region 2 program and tour who shared details about the town's recovery from the 2018 Camp Fire.

Region 2 Event Explores Paradise's Post-Fire Recovery Efforts

By Region 2 Chair Eric Larrabee

ACWA Region 2 hosted a program and tour on June 27 that explored efforts by Paradise Irrigation District (PID) and the broader community to recover and rebuild following the 2018 Camp Fire, which was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in the state's history.

The event started with a panel presentation featuring speakers from PID, the Butte County Fire Safe Council, the Paradise Ridge Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Paradise sharing progress in rebuilding the town.

For PID, primary challenges included water contamination, destruction of infrastructure, loss of a customer base and employee turnover.

Today, the water contamination has cleared, and the number of service connections is rebounding. The district served approximately 10,500 connections before the fire, with only 1,550 standing structures immediately following. There are now 9,400 connections, of which 5,300 are active.

The district replaced a 3-million-gallon earthen reservoir that was damaged in the fire with two 1.5-million-gallon steel tank reservoirs. The two other largest infrastructure projects are replacing water meters and laterals and replacing 15 out of 173 miles of main line. Work on the last two projects continues.

PID estimates the cost for these three largest infrastructure projects to be $138 million. Of that total cost, PID is responsible for $6.8 million with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Cal OES, insurance and grants funding the remainder.

A tour of the community included a drive-by of the district's new reservoirs and highlighted efforts to make the community less vulnerable to wildfire, including tree removal and creating fuel breaks around buildings. Representatives from the Butte County Fire Safe Council shared their efforts to support residents to work together to enhance their local area's wildfire resilience through the Firewise USA program.

While visiting a park inside a Firewise Neighborhood, Connor Gilmartin, Assistant Director of Butte County Fire Safe Council, shared how his nonprofit is working to educate the public about proper forest management and how to prevent the negative impacts of high severity wildfires.

"There really is a paradigm shift happening where members of the public are realizing … there's work that needs to be done – and it's not only landscape work — if we want to keep these communities we love," Gilmartin said.

Panel: "Rebuilding Paradise, a Tale of Community Strength"

Speakers: Mickey Rich, Assistant District Manager, Paradise Irrigation District; Colette Curtis, Recovery and Economic Development Director, Town of Paradise; Monica Nolan, Executive Director, Paradise Ridge Chamber of Commerce; Mark Thorp, Business Advocate, Paradise Ridge Chamber of Commerce; Calli-Jane West, Executive Advisor, Butte County Fire Safe Council

Tour speakers: Chris Rehmann, PID Board of Directors; Connor Gilmartin, Assistant Director, Butte County Fire Safe Council

It was truly impressive to see how PID and the entire community have recovered, and the event offered other agencies valuable information and lessons learned that could help them if they ever experience a similar tragedy.

On behalf of ACWA's Region 2 Board, I want to extend my gratitude to our event sponsors, ACWA JPIA, Stantec, PID and Water Works Engineers. We couldn't host these informative events without your support. Thank you, also, to ACWA staff for helping to organize the event.

ACWA region events are a great way to learn how member agencies are addressing various water industry challenges. There are several region events being held this summer and fall. Visit **www.acwa.com/events** for dates and details.

SPOTLIGHT



Member Agencies Assist in

Boosting Firefighting Air Power

For firefighting helicopters, the fewer minutes between a water source and wildfire is the difference between successful containment and an explosive catastrophe threatening homes and possibly lives. Several ACWA member agencies are helping make that difference an advantage for firefighters by establishing water refill dip sites beside their treatment and storage facilities.

In July, a dip site beside SCV Water's E. G. "Jerry" Gladbach Water Treatment Plant was the primary source for helicopters fighting a 77-acre wildfire near Santa Clarita. The site employed what's known as a HeloPod, installed through a partnership between SCV Water and the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Additionally, Santa Margarita Water District and Moulton Niguel Water District have recently assisted the Orange County Fire Authority in activating HeloPods by extending hydrants to the dip sites.

Manufactured by PumpPodUSA, an ACWA Associate, HeloPods can hold 3,700 up to 8,200 gallons of water and feature fill valves that allow for automatically refilling from a nearby water source, such as a storage tank. Helicopters hover above and lower a snorkel, which can fill their tanks within minutes.

Most HeloPods have been installed for strategic, long-term placement in anticipation of fires. They can also be re-positioned closer to a fire on a trailer. HeloPods can be remotely activated by phone or through the internet.

The concept isn't new. For years, firefighting helicopters sucked water out of orange and black vinyl "pumpkins." That solved the problem of getting water sources for helicopters closer to fires, but they frequently became unstable with propwash from heavier duty helicopters, and snorkels occasionally punctured vinyl bottoms. Metal HeloPods evolved as a solution over the past few years, with the true value measured in time saved.

"The closer they are to the communities, the shorter the dip to drop cycle, which means more gallons of water dropped on the flames per hour and best use of fuel. And in rural and remote areas, helping to keep them close by to protect the evacuation routes," said Bill Ward, Vice President and Co-Owner of PumpPodUSA.

For firefighters, that's a game changer in wildfire-urban interface areas.

Vallecitos Water District (VWD), the City of San Marcos, and CAL FIRE recently collaborated on placing a HeloPod next to VWD's water storage tank. The 5,000-gallon HeloPod is controlled through the district's SCADA system

and can be filled within five minutes on average, according to the district. City of San Marcos Fire Department Fire Marshal and Battalion Chief Jason Nailon credits HeloPods as providing a previously unavailable water source within a vulnerable wildfire-urban interface area.

"The joint effort between CAL FIRE, Vallecitos and the San Marcos Fire Department was pivotal in bringing this project to fruition," Nailon stated via email. "Vallecitos spearheaded the development of the necessary infrastructure to make the HeloPod a reality."

Similar to HeloPods, Heli-Hydrants serve as stationary, permanent water sources for air attacks on wildfires.

The Rainbow Municipal Water District (RMWD) pioneered this approach through its Rapid Area Water Supply project. Built in 2021, it consists of a 5,000-gallon open-top tank backed up by a five-million-gallon storage tank with inlet and drain valves that can be opened or closed from an in-bound helicopter. It was the first project of its kind in San Diego County. It has yet to be used, but that doesn't lessen its value.

"Where it's at, there's not a lot of water sources. Unfortunately, it's just a matter of time before it does get used," said Robert Gutierrez, RMWD Chief Operating Officer.

Yorba Linda Water District (YLWD) supports two Heli-Hydrants. During a 2020 fire in Orange County, the YLWD's Marc Marcantonio Heli-Hydrant supported firefighters by supplying water to Boeing Chinook CH-47 helitankers that filled up with roughly 2,000 gallons in just under a minute, making drops on spot fires and then returning in four minutes to repeat the process, according to the district's website.

With the 2024 fire season seriously getting underway, Heli-Hydrants and HeloPods at water districts are positioned to play a critical role. VWD celebrated its HeloPod going online in April.

"It turned out well, and it can do everything we need it to do," said Ed Pedrazzi, VWD's Operations and Maintenance Manager. "Knock on wood, hopefully it won't have to be used any time soon. But the way this summer is shaping up, I wouldn't be surprised if it will be."

Opposite page: A CAL FIRE helicopter drops water on a wildfire. A number of ACWA member agencies have established and support water sources that can save firefighting helicopter crews precious time when combatting wildfires. *Photo courtesy of PumpPodUSA, by Jeremy Ulloa @Surface 2 Air Design*

Below left: A Los Angeles County Fire Department helicopter hovers over a HeloPod hosted at SCV Water to refill on water before flying back to drop on a wildfire. *Photo courtesy of PumpPodUSA, by Victor Luna, IG@p.e.s.t.o*

Below right: A CAL FIRE helicopter hovers over YLWD's Wells Fargo Heli-Hydrant & Landing Zone. *Photo courtesy of YLWD*

Use your mobile phone's camera to view a video of how HeloPods work, courtesy of Vallecitos Water District. You can also learn more and access other videos at **www.pumppodusa.com**.





San Diego Region 'Not Immune' to Calgary Pipeline Failure

As soon as the San Diego County Water Authority's (Water Authority) Martin Coghill heard about a catastrophic pipeline failure in Calgary in June, he knew how distressing it could be.

"When they're in a situation where they call us for help from over 1,600 miles away, that's a bad, bad day," Coghill said in a feature in the Water Authority's Water News Network.

The Water Authority was quickly able to send the final pieces of the infrastructure puzzle to Calgary to speed the Canadian city's repairs. But Coghill, the Water Authority's Asset Management Manager, knows that similar problems could quickly impact San Diego County.

"In our aqueduct system, there are 80 miles of pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe," Coghill said. "That's the same type of pipe that suffered catastrophic failure in Calgary."

The Water Authority experienced the same kind of problem in 1979, when pre-stressed pipes failed in the region for the first time, impacting the county's water supply.

In response to that failure, the Water Authority spent the past 42 years relining 48 miles of pre-stressed pipe – or 60% of that type of pipe in the system – through a process called steel relining. That ongoing investment has significantly decreased the risk to the region's water supply.

Coghill knows that even with all the advancements and investments in inspection and monitoring technologies, there are still gaps in the Water Authority's ability to see problems coming.

For the Water Authority, protecting against a break in San Diego County happens on two parallel tracks and involves investing in critical infrastructure upgrades and testing.

"There are two roads we go down," Coghill said. "One is a proactive approach in which every two years we re-evaluate what sections of the pre-stressed pipe are the next priorities based on risk and consequence of failure. That is put into the recommendation for the upcoming budget cycle for rehabilitation using steel liners. The other one is a more reactive approach, which I call the 'imminent failure watch.'"

That's where the Water Authority's installation of acoustic fiber optic cable allows engineers to hear a localized problem starting in real time, allowing the



Photo courtesy of San Diego County Water Authority

Water Authority to shut things down to fix the problem, and ideally with enough time to prevent a break.

This parallel track methodology has served the organization well since 2006 — the last time a major failure of a pre-stressed pipe occurred.

"Provided that we maintain a commitment to steel relining our prestressed pipe, and we maximize the use of available technologies, we are doing everything we possibly can to manage this type of pipe," Coghill said.

TUD Celebrates Completion of Regional Treatment Facility

Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) in June celebrated the completion of its Sonora Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Construction began in 2021. The new facility can treat an average of two million gallons of wastewater per day. It replaces an outdated plant built in the 1970s.

Specific improvements include a new headworks screening and grit removal system, a secondary treatment process consisting of rehabilitation, and conversion of existing secondary anaerobic digesters to aerobic digesters. It also includes a new sludge screw press for solids dewatering, emergency standby power, and a new administrative and operations building.

The majority of the project's $42 million cost was covered by a U.S. Department of Agriculture package that included more than $8.5 million in grant dollars and approximately $24.9 million in low-interest loans. TUD contributed approximately $8.8 million of its own wastewater reserves.

"This state-of-the-art facility represents a major investment in our community's future and our commitment to environmental sustainability," stated TUD General Manager Don Perkins in a news release. "It will ensure we have the


Photo courtesy of TUD

infrastructure in place to meet current and future wastewater treatment needs. We are proud to mark the completion of the Sonora Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, a testament to our ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and community well-being."

THIS MONTH IN ACWA HISTORY

10 years ago

The State Water Resources Control Board unanimously passed emergency regulations that prohibited certain outdoor water uses and required water agencies to file monthly reports on water use and production. The action took place as drought conditions worsened and the Save our Water campaign urged Californians to conserve water, including with a public service announcement featuring Lady Gaga.

20 years ago

ACWA participated in a full-scale effort to protect its members from future raids on local tax revenues by the state through the Leave Our Community Assets Local (LOCAL) campaign. The statewide campaign mobilized to inform Californians of the immediate need to support a local government budget agreement, which eventually resulted in the placement of Proposition 1A on the November ballot. The proposition passed.

30 years ago

ACWA submitted a framework for a Comprehensive Protection Plan to the State Water Board as an alterative to water quality standards proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta. The plan sought to address habitat needs for a variety of species beyond those that were listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as factors affecting the Bay-Delta in addition to water project operations.



Former Sacramento County District Attorney Jan Scully speaks at a July 2004 news conference as part of the statewide LOCAL campaign.

40 years ago

California Water Forum II attracted more than 170 attendees from diverse and special interest groups from throughout the state to U.C. Davis to analyze and compare water policy positions. ACWA was among the co-sponsors of the event, which explored possibilities for consensus on California water development and management issues.

50 years ago

ACWA hosted Australian water official Len Redmond during his trip planned around the Second International Drip Irrigation Congress in San Diego. Redmond, a Commissioner with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission of Queensland, extended his visit with ACWA's help to see as many examples as possible of California's various irrigation methods.

MEMBER NEWS

SCV Water Dedicates Treatment Plant in Honor of Gladbach



SCV Water recently held a dedication ceremony to rename its Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant as the E. G. "Jerry" Gladbach Water Treatment Plant in honor of the late SCV Water Board Vice President Jerry Gladbach, a water industry leader locally, state-wide and nationally, with a career stretching back more than 60 years.

Gladbach served on the SCV Water Board of Directors, and its predecessor, the Castaic Lake Water Agency, from 1985 until his passing in July 2022. An active member of the ACWA community, Gladbach served as association President during the 2002–2004 term and participated on many ACWA committees. At the time of his passing, he was also Board President of ACWA JPIA.

NID Faces Dry Summer After Wet Winter

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is conserving like it's 2022, as if the last two wet winters never happened while water levels at two of its reservoirs plummet toward the halfway mark.

The Northern California ACWA member agency recently went from a voluntary to mandatory 20% cutback in water use, but it has nothing to do with drought or its overall water supply. NID entered this year with above-average reservoir storage backed by an equally robust Sierra Nevada snowpack.

Instead, a winter storm rockslide in February severely damaged a 240-foot-long stretch of pipeline owned by PG&E. The pipeline is part of PG&E's hydroelectric infrastructure at Lake Spaulding in Nevada County's remote high country. Snow and wet mountainsides prevented crews from safely accessing the site until April, and PG&E expects to complete repairs by the end of August.

In addition, PG&E's Spaulding 1 powerhouse has been offline since early March following the discovery of a leak and subsequent damage that rendered NID's Drum Canal inoperable.

The severe damage to PG&E infrastructure effectively cut off water deliveries through Lake Spaulding to NID. The lack of access to normal watershed runoff has left NID relying on limited water storage at its Rollins and Scotts Flat reservoirs. The situation has impacted deliveries to NID customers in Nevada and Placer counties, while also having severe effects on lake levels and summer recreation opportunities this summer.

"The situation has become real for customers now. Dramatic drops in reservoir levels have driven mandatory implementation of short-term outages for a number of canals," said NID Assistant General Manager Greg Jones. "Messaging of impending drought conditions at the tail end of an above average water year has been an incredible challenge. We are thankful to those customers who responded early; however it has proven to be too little too late." ♦



Drastically lower levels at NID's Rollins Lake Reservoir illustrate pressure on NID's water storage. *Photo courtesy of NID*

LIKE, SHARE & FOLLOW

Follow us @ACWAwater

EXPLORING THE WATER WORLD ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA

The recent adoption of the Making Conservation a California Way of Life regulation presents a great opportunity for water agencies to provide the media, customers and policymakers with insight into the regulation. In doing so, they can combat confusion and share their agency's continued work in supporting water-wise decisions for all Californians.

ACWA has recently developed a toolkit that includes social media graphics and sample posts to help agencies get this message out. You can access the toolkit on our website at **www.acwa.com/resources**. Below are some examples of posts on social media following the State Water Board's adopting the regulation.









Gina Dockstader

Salton Sea Authority Selects Leadership Team

The Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors recently announced its new leadership team for the coming year.

Imperial Irrigation District Board Director **Gina Dockstader** will serve as President, Coachella Valley Water District Board Vice President **Castulo Estrada** will serve as Vice President, Riverside County Supervisor **Yxstian Gutierrez** will serve as Secretary and Imperial County Supervisor **Ryan Kelley** will serve as Treasurer.

The Salton Sea Authority is a Joint Powers Authority empowered to revitalize the Salton Sea in consultation and cooperation with state and federal governments. Its members include Imperial County, Riverside County, Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District, and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians.



Robert Lewis

RWD Honors Lewis

Rowland Water District (RWD) in June celebrated **Robert R. Lewis**' 30 years of service on its Board of Directors. Lewis, who joined the Board in 1993, is its longest-serving member.

Throughout his time at RWD, Lewis spearheaded numerous projects, including managing a $27.7 million annual budget, implementing critical infrastructure projects and driving forward-thinking strategies that ensured sustainable water resources for future generations. Lewis also represents RWD on the ACWA Region 8 Board.

"Director Lewis' extensive experience and thoughtful leadership have continued to advance our district's services and strategic goals," RWD Board President **Szu Pei Lu-Yang** stated in a news release. "It has been a privilege to work alongside him."





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- State Water Board Adopts Making Conservation a California Way of Life Regulation – July 3
- Funding Restored for Bay Delta Agreements – July 2
- A Climate Resilience Bond Must Invest in California's Water Future – June 14
- New East Valley Water District Facility Makes Every Source a Resource – June 21
- Emmy Awards Presented to Rancho Water and Post and Jam for PSA – June 20

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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 | Pasadena

Hear from Patricia Mulroy, senior fellow at UNLV's Boyd School of Law and former GM of the Southern Nevada Water Authority. She'll keynote and moderate a panel with women leaders discussing paths to leadership and ensuring resilient water supplies.

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.

SEPTEMBER 2024
13

ACWA REGION 5 PROGRAM AND TOUR
ACWA | Pajaro Valley

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

OCTOBER 2024
10

ACWA REGIONS 6 & 7 TOUR & WATER FORUM
ACWA | Central Valley

Save the date for the upcoming ACWA Regions 6 & 7 event. 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**"