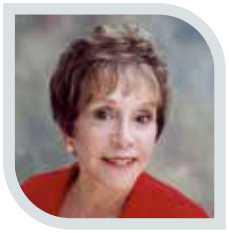
ACWA NEWS
VOL. 52 | 10 Oct. 18, 2024





ACWA members showcased their employees on social media during Water Professionals Appreciation Week Oct. 5-13. **Left:** Desert Water Agency highlights its Public Affairs and Conservation team members at work keeping customers informed. **Right:** The Water Replenishment District shines a spotlight on members of its Hydrogeology team at a monitoring well. See pages 6-7 for more photos.

ACWA Mourns Past President Boatmun



Past ACWA President and long-time Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) Board of Directors member Bette Boatmun passed away on Sept. 20.

Boatmun served as ACWA President during the 2002-'03 term and served as Vice President during the 2000-'01 term. She was ACWA's second female President and was actively involved in the association throughout her career, serving as a Board member and being engaged in ACWA Region 5.

Boatmun dedicated 46 years of her life to representing her community on the CCWD Board of Directors, having been first appointed in 1974 and retiring in 2020, when ACWA honored her with its Lifetime Achievement Award. Boatmun was also previously honored with ACWA's Emissary Award in 2014.

Leaders within the ACWA community frequently described her as a mentor and pioneer in establishing the role of women in California water leadership.

"Bette was a wonderful mentor, as well as a fierce and stubborn supporter for issues she felt strongly about," said ACWA President Cathy Green. "She was plain spoken, and you never had to wonder about how she felt about something — she told you directly. She loved ACWA and was extremely loyal. We will miss her immensely."

Under her leadership at CCWD, Boatmun supported numerous projects that included the construction and expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir and building the Randall-Bold Water Treatment Plant.

She also chaired the Governing Board of the East County Water Management

BOATMUN continued on page 8

ACWA Board Approves Next Strategic Plan

The ACWA Board of Directors during a regular meeting Sept. 20 moved forward with a new five-year strategic plan, approved new annual budgets and received updates on federal and state legislative issues.

Strategic Plan

Board members unanimously approved a new ACWA Five-Year Strategic Plan that will guide the association through 2030. The plan will be shared with members during the 2024 ACWA Fall Conference & Expo. Developed this year by a Board-level task force, this will be the association's second five-year strategic plan.

BOARD MEETING continued on page 3

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4 Final Status of Key Water Bills for 2024 Legislative Year

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ACWA East works on member agencies' behalf in Washington D.C., where ACWA Executive Director Dave Eggerton recently visited with team members (l-r) Office Manager AnnaLee Taylor, ACWA Federal Relations Representative Caleb Raspler, Eggerton and ACWA Director of Federal Relations Ian Lyle.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COLUMN BY DAVE EGGERTON

Meet the ACWA East Team

Maybe your agency is impacted by wildfires, or among those facing the possibility of legal exposure from PFAS contamination. Are you affected by the Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation or by any federal agency?

Add acts of Congress and regulatory decisions by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and that's still not a complete list of boxes to check when considering how decision making in Washington D.C. can impact your operations. That's why I cannot overstate the importance of our members having a voice in our nation's capital.

The decision by ACWA to open ACWA East more than 30 years ago established our association's position as the leading voice for California water in Washington D.C. and a trusted voice in Western water policy. That incredibly effective resource works on your behalf every day, and its continued success relies on our small, but mighty ACWA East team led by Ian Lyle.

Ian assumed the role of Director of Federal Relations at the beginning of this year, bringing with him invaluable experience in federal water policy, including having led the National Water Resources Association (NWRA) as its Executive Vice President.

We've also hired Caleb Raspler as Federal Relations Representative. Caleb earned his law degree in San Diego while working for U.S. Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA-50) as a congressional staffer before managing the federal policy work of a national association of landscape architects that advocated on water policy.

Caleb joined AnnaLee Taylor, who works for us on a contract basis as Office Manager. She is a proud Navy veteran with a wealth of experience working with water associations. AnnaLee and Ian worked together for many years at NWRA. Her experience also includes working with some of the absolute best leaders in our business, such as past Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Bob Johnson.

The ACWA East team leverages the knowledge and experience of our members through ACWA's Federal Affairs Committee, which is led by Chair Jolene Walsh and Vice Chair Scott Petersen. Together they have been working hard with elected and regulatory decision-makers on finding ways to fund water infrastructure, improve the federal regulatory process, and limit our members' exposure to legal liability for passively receiving PFAS during water and wastewater treatment. Also, ACWA's presence in Washington D.C. allowed us to actively engage members of congress to support Congressman Peters' Fix Our Forest Act, which passed the House of Representatives in late September.

These are only a few recent examples from a long list of how the ACWA East team consistently delivers value to our members. If you want to see for yourself, join us in our nation's capital next Feb. 25-27 for our annual Washington D.C. Conference.

Our members must continue to be represented by the best and brightest water professionals here in California and in Washington D.C., working as a team to effectively shape state and federal decisions in ways that benefit our member agencies and the communities they serve. I can say with absolute certainty that we have that team today with Ian, Caleb, and AnnaLee.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
at ACWA's 2024 Fall Conference & Expo

A Membership Meeting will be held at ACWA's 2024 Fall Conference & Expo to conduct a vote by the membership on proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws.

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 1:30 p.m.

Location: JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa, Palm Desert, Main Stage in the Springs Ballroom F & G

Get more details at:
www.acwa.com/2024-membership-meeting

Important Next Steps for Public Agency Members

1. Designate your voting representative by Nov. 25.
2. Review the proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws.
3. Have your designated voter pick up their keypad during ACWA's Fall Conference & Expo on Wednesday, Dec. 4, between 9 a.m. and noon.
4. Have your designated voter attend the Membership Meeting on Dec. 4 at 1:30 p.m. The voting representative must be present to vote.

BOARD MEETING continued from page 1

Budget

Board members approved a two-year budget covering 2025 and 2026. The budgets reflect ACWA's goals of maintaining financial stability while continuing to provide high levels of service to association members. The Board approved $13 million in budgeted expenditures for both 2025 and 2026.

The Board also approved a 15-year amortization schedule that accelerates ACWA's paying down unfunded CalPERS liability. ACWA's Finance Committee recommended the action, which will save the association money in the long-term and reduce reliance on dues increases in the future.

Proposition 4

Board members voted to remain neutral on Proposition 4, the climate resilience bond slated for the Nov. 5 ballot that includes $2.91 billion for water-related categories. While the bond would fund some important projects in certain regions of the state, the benefits to agricultural and urban water agencies across California fell short of ACWA's comprehensive proposal for infrastructure funding.

Federal and State Advocacy

ACWA Director of Federal Relations Ian Lyle provided an update on how his team is working to ensure federal priorities important to association members are considered in as many legislative vehicles as possible in the remaining days of the 118th Congress. The ACWA East team is also beginning to look ahead to the 119th Congress and has begun the process to develop federal policy priorities and strategies for the association into next year.

ACWA legislative advocacy staff also briefed the Board on ACWA's wins in the California Legislature during the past year, which included passage of ACWA-sponsored AB 2257 (Wilson), which would help member agencies defend against Proposition 218 lawsuits.

For an overview of the final status of some key water bills, see the chart on page 4.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Nov. 22.

ACWA IN ACTION

ACWA Executive Director Dave Eggerton (far left) presents an ACWA Board of Directors Resolution on Oct. 8 to Sonoma Water leadership in recognition of their agency's 75th anniversary and many accomplishments. Eggerton's visit also included meetings with ACWA Region 1 member agencies Town of Windsor, City of Santa Rosa Water Department and North Marin Water District. Eggerton and ACWA staff travel statewide throughout the year to stay updated on member agencies' priorities and learn more about how ACWA can support them.



Final Status of Key Water Bills for 2024 Legislative Year

The below chart summarizes the final outcome of several key bills, among many, on which ACWA staff advocated during 2024.

Bill	Author	Status	Details
AB 2257/Rate Setting	Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City)	Signed	This ACWA-sponsored legislation will help member agencies defend against Proposition 218 lawsuits. It will create a robust optional public process that facilitates dialogue, transparency, and the opportunity to resolve issues and avoid costly litigation. If an agency elects to follow the public process, litigants will be required to participate and raise specific objections during the public administrative process in order to challenge rates or assessments in court. This bill will also limit the administrative record to evidence presented to the agency during the ratemaking process.
SB 1255/LIRA	Senator Maria Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles)	Failed to advance out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee	ACWA supports the need for a water low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program, but such a program must be workable and efficient. The LIRA program this bill proposed raised significant concerns that it could not be successfully implemented because the program would have relied on voluntary contributions and would have required ratepayers to affirmatively opt-out of the program, rather than an opt-in approach.
AB 460/Water Rights	Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda)	Signed	After a sustained advocacy effort by ACWA and others, ACWA removed opposition to this bill after significant amendments limited it to increasing penalties for certain violations, including illegal diversions. Without the amendments, the bill would have granted the State Water Resources Control Board new and sweeping authority to prevent diverters from exercising their water rights. As signed into law, AB 460 will now ensure penalties serve as a deterrent to illegal diversions.
AB 2079/ Groundwater	Assemblymember Steve Bennett (D-Ventura)	Failed to advance out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee	This bill would have banned local agencies from permitting some new groundwater wells. ACWA adopted an oppose-unless-amended position due to concerns over the moratorium on certain new wells throughout much of the state and the potential legal liability it would have created for local agencies.
SB 867/Climate Resilience Bond	Senator Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica)	Signed	Now Proposition 4, this $10 billion climate resilience bond will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot. 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 10 key water categories is less than one-third of the bond, and funding levels are very low for some categories that are fundamental to water management.
SB 108/Bay-Delta	Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco)	Signed	This bill restored nearly $500 million in funding for the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program, formerly known as the Voluntary Agreements. The program represents an unprecedented opportunity to improve California's 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.
AB 2599/ Discontinuation of Water Service	Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee	Signed	This ACWA-sponsored clean-up legislation addresses needed changes to SB 3 of 2023, regarding the Water Shutoff Protection Act. The California Attorney General was granted restitution authority in SB 3, but there was not enough time to amend that bill to provide some needed protections. With these clean-up changes, that new authority will not cover personal property and only applies where there "has been unlawful conduct," as opposed to where there "may have been" unlawful conduct.





Left: Attendees of the Sept. 13 ACWA Region 5 event pose for a photo following a tour of the Watsonville Area Water Recycling Facility. **Right:** Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Board of Directors member Mary Bannister moderates a discussion on the area's flooding and farming future.

Region 5 Hosts A Day of Learning and Exploration in Pajaro Valley

By Region 5 Vice Chair Sarah Palmer

ACWA's recent Region 5 event in Watsonville packaged more than 70 years of history into a fascinating two-hour tour through water management in the coastal Pajaro Valley.

More than 40 people gathered on Sept. 13 for panel discussions featuring the history of water and agriculture in the Pajaro Valley, all of it overshadowed by the flood-prone Pajaro River. We learned about decades of determined work by local agencies to strengthen levees by engaging the state and Army Corps of Engineers.

Behind this generational effort were people new to the area, as well as people whose grandmothers and grandfathers had invested their livelihoods in the region's rich agricultural heritage. There were points where it looked like design projects to vastly improve the levees would "live on the shelf" even as disastrous floods hit the area, most recently in 2023.

"Many careers have been built around pushing this project up this Sysiphean Hill," said Mark Strudley, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency.

Today, the Corps is proceeding with plans for a $600 million, 100-year flood protection project that will finally shield the cities of Pajaro and Watsonville from repeated flood disasters. Local legislative advocacy also secured an exemption for the levee work from the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA, in a huge win for keeping the project moving toward reality.

Learning more about fellow ACWA member agencies always plays a valuable and enjoyable role in ACWA region events. In this case, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water) General Manager Brian Lockwood walked us through unique challenges and accomplishments, among them avoiding groundwater overdraft and seawater intrusion while preserving their area's nearly $1 billion agricultural economy. In the 1990s, PV Water was among the first to set groundwater pumping fees, and its work in this area earned them coverage in the New York Times through a case study about its application to strawberry farming.

The task before PV Water requires innovation and collaboration, the subject of the Region 5 event tour of the Watsonville Area Water Recycling Facility, operated in partnership with the City of Watsonville. The facility has the capacity to produce up to 4,000 acre-feet a year of tertiary, disinfected water, which is distributed to growers and in turn helps take pressure off the area's groundwater supply.

Panel: "Navigating Waters: Pajaro Valley's Flooding & Farming Future"

Speakers: Mary Bannister, Director, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency; Tom AmRhein, Director, Ag Land Trust and Past President, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau; Mark Strudley, Ph.D., Executive Director, Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency

Presentation: "Overview of PV Water," by Brian Lockwood, General Manager, PV Water

On behalf of ACWA's Region 5 Board, I want to extend my gratitude to our event sponsors, HDR, Valley Water, Stantec and ACWA JPIA. These rewarding experiences wouldn't be possible without the support of sponsors. Thank you also to ACWA staff for helping organize this event down to the last detail.

ACWA region events are a great way to learn how member agencies are addressing various water industry challenges. The next and last ACWA region event of the year will be hosted by Region 1 on Oct. 30. Visit **www.acwa.com/events** for dates and details.

CALIFORNIA WATER PROFESSIONALS APPRECIATION WEEK

ACWA Members Celebrate Water Professionals Appreciation Week











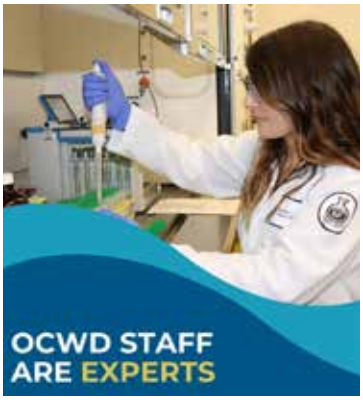








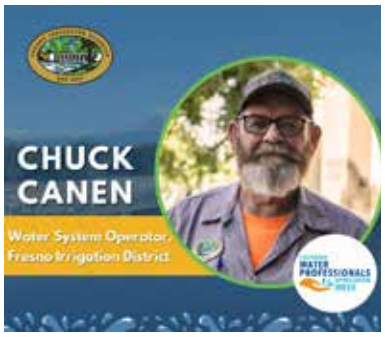




Water agencies throughout California celebrated Water Professionals Appreciation Week, Oct. 5-13, by highlighting the essential role that water industry professionals serve in their communities. Many relied on ACWA's updated toolkit that shared several communication resources, including customizable documents, videos and graphics. Created in 2017, Water Professionals Appreciation Week provides agencies an additional opportunity to engage with their communities through social media campaigns, public tours and other events. In addition, agencies honored their employees and highlighted the value of careers in water.











LIKE, SHARE & FOLLOW

EXPLORING THE WATER WORLD ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA

During California's Water Professionals Appreciation Week, many water agencies took the opportunity to showcase their amazing staff that keep our state's water flowing. As you can see to the left there are many creative ways that ACWA members shared their appreciation on social media through pictures.

Tahoe City Public Utilities District (@tcpud) brought pictures to life using a reel and some music to make a post featuring its Engineering team.

Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (@upperdistrict) used the "Full House" theme song and the very recognizable title font to highlight its staff for a fun reel.

Be sure to check out all these reels and more. Browsing reels is a great way to get inspiration and find trending audios that can help expand your reach!



Scan to watch the TCPUD reel.



Scan to watch the Upper District reel.

To see more creative efforts on social media by ACWA members, be sure to follow along on **@ACWAWater**








1. Boatmun poses for a photo with then-ACWA Deputy Director Jennifer Persike and former Contra Costa Water District Board President Joseph L. Campbell during the ACWA 2011 Fall Conference & Exhibition. **2.** ACWA Executive Director Steve Hall and ACWA President Boatmun present Senator Dianne Feinstein with the association's 2002 Excellence in Water Leadership Award. **3.** Boatmun with 2000-'01 ACWA President James Blake, who was among countless association leaders who worked with her across a multi-generational career in California water. **4.** Boatmun actively participated in ACWA's decision-making process as a Past ACWA President up until her passing. She is pictured here, in the center, with past ACWA Presidents (l-r) Paul Kelley, Randy Fiorini, Jerry Gladbach, Randy Record, Glen Peterson and Kathleen Tiegs. **5.** Boatmun speaks as President during the ACWA 2003 Fall Conference & Exhibition. **6.** Placer County Water Agency's David Brenner pauses for a photo with Boatmun and his wife Linda Breninger during the 2015 ACWA Spring Conference & Exhibition.

BOATMUN continued from page 1

Association, the Contra Costa Special Districts Association and the Sanitation and Water Agencies of Contra Costa County.

"In a world where the voices of many often go unheard, Bette Boatmun stood as a beacon of strength and support," said Immediate Past ACWA President Pamela Tobin. "Her 46 years in politics were not just a career, they were a calling; one that she answered with unwavering dedication and passion. To those of us who were fortunate enough to know her, Bette was more than a mentor. She was a teacher, a confidant, and an advocate for all who dared to dream."

Boatmun's lifetime career in water inspired a generation of women to follow her lead.

"Bette was among just a few women on the Board when I started at ACWA," said Jennifer Persike, former ACWA Deputy Director and President of Jennifer Persike & Company. "She took me under her wing and was a role model, mentor, and friend. Bette asked the tough questions and made things happen, starting ACWA's Women in Water and defending special districts. Bette was one of a kind — always encouraging others to be bold and made every day count."

Additionally, Boatmun's community involvement extended far beyond California water. She was a former Executive Director of the YWCA of Contra Costa County and volunteered her time at a number of community organizations, including the Concord American Association of University Women, League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley, Sons of Italy and Soroptomist International.

In 2017, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors recognized her as the longest-serving elected official in the county's history in an honorary resolution on her 80th birthday.

"The Contra Costa Water District Board of Directors and staff are extremely saddened to hear of Bette Boatmun's passing. Bette was a remarkable leader and a true visionary when it came to water conservation, education and public service," stated ACWA Vice President and CCWD Board President Ernie Avila in an announcement. "I am incredibly grateful for the time I spent with her serving on this Board. Her wisdom, vision, and friendship will be greatly missed."

Boatmun was born in New Rochelle, New York, in 1937 to Otto and Elizabeth Heidig. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in education at Russell Sage College, and then a master's degree in education from Holy Names College. She and her late husband, Charles, met while working at a San Francisco elementary school. They married in 1962 and moved to Concord in 1965, where she pursued her passion for community service, social interaction, art, and walking with her dogs.

She is survived by her two sons, Christopher and Antony, and by George Egan, her partner of more than 30 years.

THIS MONTH IN ACWA HISTORY

10 years ago

The National Weather Service released a three-month forecast that showed severe drought persisting in many parts of the state through the winter, with 2014 shaping up to be California's warmest year on record.

20 years ago

Congress approved landmark legislation reauthorizing the CALFED Program. ACWA and a coalition of business and environmental groups worked closely with U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, House Resources Committee Chair Richard Pombo, and U.S. Reps. Ken Calvert and Grace Napolitano to ensure passage of the legislation. President George Bush authorized $389 million in federal funding for CALFED through 2010 for water supply, water quality, flood control and environmental restoration efforts.

30 years ago

The United Water Conservation District broke ground on the Fox Canyon Seawater Intrusion Abatement Pilot Project. The project planned to increase recharge to the overdrafted Oxnard Plain by 3,000 acre-feet year.



Senator Dianne Feinstein speaks during an Oct. 6, 2004 news conference celebrating the landmark passage of the reauthorized CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

40 years ago

The State Water Resources Control Board held one of a series of hearings on the Kesterson Reservoir environmental crisis. The hearing was one part of a tense exchange about agricultural discharges into the San Joaquin Valley reservoir, which included U.S. Interior Secretary William Clark contemplating the ceasing of irrigation on the west side of the San Joaquin River.

50 years ago

ACWA Executive Director John P. Fraser emphasized the need for more work to defeat Proposition 17, which would possibly block construction of the New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus River and flood a stretch popular with rafters. Fraser noted many members of the environmental community were also opposed to the proposition, as well as the editorial boards of many of the state's major newspapers. Voters rejected it the following month.

MEMBER NEWS

CDFW Awards Grants for Member Habitat Projects

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in late September announced $41 million in grants that will fund 20 restoration and protection projects throughout the state, including two projects backed by Northern California ACWA members.

The grants will benefit wetlands and meadows, Southern California steelhead and watersheds impacted by cannabis cultivation, according to a CDFW news release.

The Montague Water Conservation District received $1.85 million for a project to enhance flows on Parks Creek. Located on a major tributary to the Shasta River, this project will provide year-round fish passage and update infrastructure by installing a compliant fish screen. The resulting instream benefit will support the upper Parks Creek flow strategy developed with CDFW and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The CDFW also awarded $1.36 million to the Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for its Upper Russian River Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem and Interconnected Surface Water Study. The project will examine surface water-groundwater interconnection and groundwater-dependent ecosystems that support Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Upper Russian River and its tributaries.

The GSA includes the Upper Russian River Water Agency, Willow County Water District and the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District.

More information about these funding opportunities, including guidelines and how to apply, general information about CDFW's grant programs, as well as a schedule for upcoming grant solicitations, once available, can be found at **www.wildlife.ca.gov/grants**.



Esther Saenz

Desert Water Names Saenz as GM

Desert Water Agency (DWA) has appointed **Esther Saenz** as its next General Manager, effective July 2025, following the upcoming retirement of current General Manager **Steve Johnson**. Saenz will become the first female General Manager in the agency's history.

Saenz currently serves as Director of Finance and was selected to succeed Johnson based on her extensive fiscal experience, deep understanding of the agency's operations and proven leadership.

Johnson, who became General Manager in 2024 following the retirement of **Mark Krause**, is retiring after a 30-year career at DWA. The DWA Board of Directors approved Saenz' selection in September, well in advance of Johnson's retirement to guarantee a seamless transition.



Nick Serrano

SDCWA Elects Serrano as Chair

New officers for the San Diego County Water Authority's Board of Directors were elected in September, with **Nick Serrano** set to start a two-year term as Board Chair in October.

Serrano, 34, has served as Vice Chair of the Board for the past two years representing the City of San Diego. He was unanimously elected as Chair and will serve with incoming Vice Chair **Frank Hilliker** from the Lakeside Water District, along with incoming Secretary **Joy Lyndes** from the San Dieguito Water District.

Serrano will be the 28th board chair since the Water Authority's founding in 1944 and the first openly LGBTQ+ and youngest chair in the Board's history.



Scott Rogers

PWD Names Rogers AGM

Palmdale Water District (PWD) has promoted **Scott Rogers** to Assistant General Manager after five years as PWD's Engineering Manager.

Rogers has 31 years of experience in both the private and public sectors of the water industry. At PWD, he took the lead role in Pure Water Antelope Valley, PWD's upcoming advanced water purification project that will clean recycled water for potable use.

Rogers replaces former Assistant General Manager **Adam Ly**, who left PWD this summer. He will serve as PWD's second-in-command behind General Manager **Dennis D. LaMoreaux**, supervising the district's Operations, Engineering, and Facilities departments.



Francisco Rivera

Otay Water Names Rivera to Board

The Otay Water District Board of Directors has appointed **Francisco X. Rivera** to fill a vacancy that resulted from the resignation of **Tim Smith**. Rivera was one of three candidates vying for the position.

Rivera will serve the remaining 15 months of Smith's term, with the next election for the four-year seat scheduled for November 2026.

Rivera began his career with the City of Chula Vista in 1984, retiring in 2023 after holding key positions such as Principal Civil Engineer, Deputy City Engineer and Deputy Director of Engineering.



Estevan Bennett

WVWD Appoints Bennett to Board

The West Valley Water District (WVWD) Board of Directors has appointed **Estevan Bennett**, a retired water professional and community advocate, to fill a vacancy representing the communities of Rialto and Colton.

A resident of Rialto for more than 30 years, Bennett was unanimously appointed to serve the remainder of a term left vacant in August by the resignation of **Channing Hawkins**, who moved out of the area. The WVWD Board of Directors unanimously appointed Bennett in September following a public application process.

Orange County Water Agencies Dedicate New PFAS Treatment Plant

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) and East Orange County Water District (EOCWD) recently celebrated the dedication of a new PFAS treatment plant, marking a major milestone in ensuring safe and reliable water for the region.


Courtesy of OCWD

The dedication ceremony brought together local, state and federal representatives to recognize the proactive actions of both agencies in addressing PFAS, a group of manufactured chemicals increasingly found in water sources across the country, including the Orange County Groundwater Basin. The new treatment plant will benefit thousands of residents in the EOCWD service area, including the cities of Orange and Villa Park.

"We are incredibly proud to unveil this state-of-the-art PFAS treatment facility," stated EOCWD President Douglass S. Davert in a news release. "This project exemplifies our dedication to providing high-quality water to the communities we serve."

Since 2019, OCWD has taken the lead in addressing PFAS, in partnership with its 19 cities and retail water districts, to remove the contaminants from the groundwater basin, which supplies up to 85% of the water to 2.5 million people. The district is funding design and construction costs, along with a portion of operational and maintenance costs for treatment facilities like this one.

"We didn't create the PFAS issue, but we are committed to solving it," stated OCWD Second Vice President Van Tran in the news release. "By investing in this critical infrastructure, we are safeguarding the quality of our water supply for generations to come."

The swift completion of this facility was made possible through the support of local elected officials and funding from programs such as the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan and Emerging Contaminant Principal Forgiveness Funding from the State Water Resources Control Board.

The PFAS treatment plant uses ion exchange technology to remove PFAS contaminants from groundwater, ensuring that the water delivered to residents and businesses is exceptional and continues to meet all state and federal drinking water standards.

PEOPLE NEWS

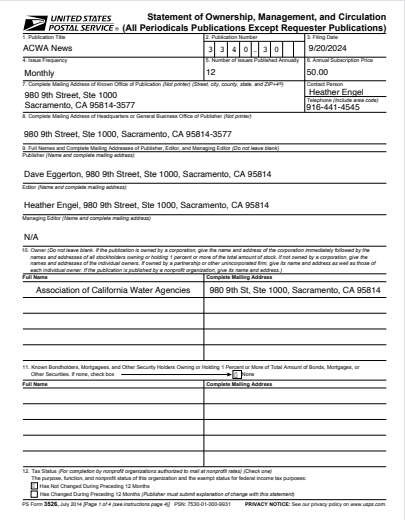

Jason Martin

Rancho Water Appoints Martin as New GM

The Rancho Water Board of Directors has officially appointed **Jason Martin** as General Manager. This decision comes after an extensive selection process, following Martin's successful term as Interim General Manager since June 1.

Martin, who has been with Rancho Water since 2006, previously served as the Assistant General Manager and Director of Administration. He has spearheaded several key initiatives at Rancho Water, including its regional CropSWAP program.

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Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Heather Engel, 980 9th Street, Ste 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): N/A

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

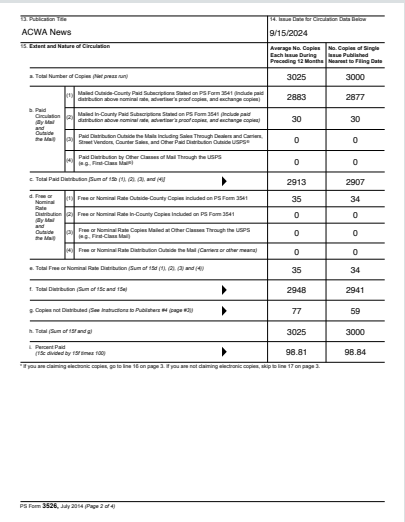
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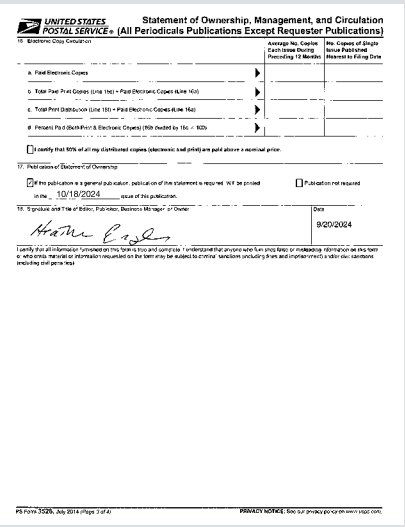


13. Publication Title: ACWA News — 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 9/15/2024

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
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b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	2883	2877
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f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		2948	2941
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		77	59
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		3025	3000
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		98.81	98.84

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OCTOBER 2024
30

ACWA REGION 1 EVENT
ACWA | Corte Madera

Join us for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of Marin Water's critical water infrastructure, including the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed, Marin Water's San Geronimo Treatment Plant, Alpine Dam, and more.

OCTOBER 2024
30

CYBERSECURITY ONLINE TABLETOP EXERCISE WITH EPA
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Join CISA, WaterISAC, and EPA for a webinar on cybersecurity incident response, SCADA cybersecurity readiness, and tabletop exercises tailored for non-technical professionals in small to midsized water/wastewater organizations.

NOVEMBER 2024
1

ADVANCED CLEAN FLEETS – EXEMPTIONS AND EXTENSIONS WEBINAR
California Air Resources Board | Virtual

The California Air Resources Board invites you to a public webinar on Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Exemptions and Extensions. Registration is required, and the session will be recorded for the ACF website.

NOVEMBER 2024
6–7

CALIFORNIA WATER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SUMMIT
California Water Association | Monterey

Join CWA's 2024 Annual Summit to celebrate the theme "From Source to Sink" at the Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa.

NOVEMBER 2024
14

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