ACWA NEWS
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D.C. Conference 2025 Showcases Water as Bipartisan Issue

Another sold-out ACWA D.C. Conference drew more than 150 attendees to the nation's capital Feb. 25-27 and featured significant engagement with congressional leaders and federal agency decision makers.

"ACWA's 2025 D.C. Conference was a huge success, both from a member participation perspective as well as a congressional and federal agency engagement perspective," said ACWA President Cathy Green. "I want to express my sincere appreciation to our speakers, attendees and ACWA staff who organized this really valuable opportunity."

The conference included robust panel discussions that explored regulatory issues affecting water providers, wildfire impacts on water resources, energy policy and the fate of the Farm Bill.

D.C. CONFERENCE continued on page 3 >



Attendees of ACWA's 2025 D.C. Conference gather for a group photo in the Willard InterContinental Hotel. This year's event attracted more than 150 attendees who heard from several members of California's congressional delegation during a deep dive into federal policy affecting the state's water industry.

ACWA Board Names Khalifa as Interim Executive Director



The ACWA Board of Directors in February named Marwan Khalifa as Interim Executive Director, overseeing day-to-day operations of the association and managing approximately 40 staff in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

Khalifa previously served as Chief Financial Officer and District Treasurer for Mesa Water District, where he had worked since 2017. Prior to his appointment, he also served as Chair of ACWA's Finance Committee and member of the ACWA Board and Executive Committee.

"I'm so pleased to see Marwan assume this pivotal role. As a recent ACWA Board member and staff member at an ACWA member agency, he has a deep understanding of the association's priorities and our members' challenges," said ACWA President Cathy Green.

"Under his leadership, staff will continue to implement the Board-approved Strategic Plan and provide comprehensive leadership and advocacy on behalf of members."

At Mesa Water, Khalifa provided strategic leadership in achieving a number of significant financial and operational objectives. He has also served as Audit & Fiscal Committee Member for California Special Districts Association, is a member of the California Board of Accountancy,

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916.441.4545
acwa.com

Interim Executive Director
Marwan Khalifa

Director of Communications
Heather Engel

Editor
Will Holbert

Staff Writers
Caroline Meade
Ellen Martin

Graphic Design
Katherine Causland

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ACWA VICE PRESIDENT ERNIE AVILA, P.E.

New Strategic Plan Optimizes ACWA's Value to Members



Our members expect ACWA to make their voices heard in Sacramento and Washington D.C. They also want an organization that unites them, fosters collaboration, keeps them informed and creates a unique sense of community among California water professionals. It's a big job, and we do it well, but fulfilling our value to members requires constant attention to how we can improve and transform ACWA into a true world class organization.

During the next five years, ACWA leadership will utilize the association's 2025-'29 Strategic Plan as an instrument for translating that attention, this never-ending search for ways to serve you better, into measurable action and demonstrable results.

The plan updates ACWA's first five-year Strategic Plan with a revised mission, vision and values before identifying four primary goals: Advocacy, Connections, Education and Organizational Effectiveness. Clearly defined strategies and objectives chart a path toward achieving each goal. Progress will be measured by 50 key performance indicators, or KPIs, allowing ACWA leadership at the Board and staff level to gauge progress.

This plan is far more than an aspirational document. Accountability is built into it at every level, with specific responsibilities assigned to ACWA departments and association committees who will often work in tandem.

Looking at the advocacy goal in particular, ACWA has functioned in the same way for quite some time, and it has produced many positive outcomes. Think of the water rights issue, where we stopped incredibly overreaching legislation. Or, take our sponsored legislation that has steadily reformed the Proposition 218 process to prevent agencies from being sandbagged with lawsuits after setting rates. These are two among numerous examples of ACWA advocacy, in collaboration with members, that have directly benefited most, if not all association members.

However, if there was ever a time that we rededicate ourselves to finding new and more ways to benefit our members, that time is now. We just saw a historic surge in newly elected legislators eager to make their name in Sacramento. It is imperative that we engage and educate them about the practical realities of reliable and sustainable water management, as well as educate the communities we serve.

Region 9 Vice Chair Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady and I will also lead a 10-region task force focused on how we develop and approve water policy initiatives and their implementation. This will ensure that our advocacy reflects our members' key interests as closely as possible and improves the viability of support for these initiatives in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

Within the ACWA community itself, we are witnessing a generational transition in leadership. Now is the time to elevate networking and knowledge sharing among members to an entirely new level, and in doing so set up a blueprint for the success of the organization for this generation and those that follow.

Meanwhile, our committees and workgroups, the collective brain trust we rely upon for expertise unique within California's water industry, must be further empowered in developing specific and actionable initiatives and related implementation strategies that advance ACWA's highest priorities.

We find ourselves in very different and challenging times. Our new Strategic Plan acknowledges the shifting landscape of water policy in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., the internal evolution of ACWA itself, and the critical need to engage the next generation of water leaders. As we stand at a crossroads, this plan provides a framework to unify our collective efforts and better assert ACWA's leadership in shaping California's water policy.

D.C. CONFERENCE continued from page 1

"We had a very successful D.C. conference featuring excellent engagement from key decision makers in the U.S. Congress and the administration. The conference was made even more successful thanks to the active participation of ACWA's members, whose commitment to sound federal water policy makes the event possible," said ACWA Director of Federal Relations Ian Lyle. "Our D.C. conference lays a strong advocacy foundation that we build on throughout the year to achieve additional policy wins for ACWA's members."

The evolving political landscape was a key topic, largely due to narrow majorities in both chambers of Congress and the new presidential administration's approach to water policy through executive actions. Discussions centered on the dual importance of securing funding for water infrastructure and ensuring a functional regulatory environment.

ACWA members specifically had the opportunity to engage directly with lawmakers and administration officials, reinforcing the bipartisan nature of water policy and allowing deeper dives into pressing policy issues. Notably, Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) and U.S. Representatives Doug LaMalfa (R-01), Jared Huffman (D-02), Jim Costa (D-21), Laura Friedman (D-30), and Ken Calvert (R-41) participated in the Congressional Speakers program. Additionally, Lyle, ACWA President Cathy Green, Vice President Ernie Avila and Federal Affairs Committee Chair Jolene Walsh attended a water sector group meeting with Senator Adam Schiff (D-CA) to discuss pressing water policy matters.

Conference attendees also had the opportunity to connect with senior leaders from key federal agencies. Edward Belk, Director of Civil Works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Scott Cameron, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget at the Department of the Interior, spoke to a packed ACWA attendee crowd. The conference also highlighted the importance of both cyber and physical security in the water sector featuring presentations from the FBI and the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of National Security.

In addition, the event provided an opportunity for ACWA members to schedule individual meetings with congressional and agency officials, maximizing the impact of their time in the nation's capital. Walsh thanked ACWA members for their continued dedication to advocacy in Washington D.C.

"Numerous members of Congress who care deeply about California water shared their priorities and encouraged ACWA to continue its excellent, solutions-oriented work," Walsh said. "We heard the same message from administrative officials, who appreciate the long- standing partnership with ACWA and its members."





Left: U.S. Rep. Jim Costa (D-21), left, and Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA) share a lighthearted moment during ACWA's D.C. Conference. **Right:** U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-01) poses for a photo with ACWA President Cathy Green and ACWA Vice President Ernie Avila.

ACWA ELECTIONS
BOARD OFFICERS & REGION BOARDS
2025

Get Involved in ACWA's Elections

ACWA has launched the 2026-'27 election process for President, Vice President, and region board members. This year, the officer and region board elections are combined, with voting for both sets of candidates conducted electronically on one ballot.

Designate Your Voter by June 20!

Each member agency must select one voting representative to participate.

Learn more about the election process, including information on how to vote and become a candidate, at **acwa.com/elections**.



Water Bills Starting to Move Through Legislature

ACWA advocacy currently includes engagement and coalition building on two association-sponsored bills while tracking and engaging on numerous bills that could affect member agencies. The summaries below outline a few of those bills along with ACWA's positions on them.

Water Theft

SB 394 (Allen, D-Santa Monica), co-sponsored by ACWA and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, would allow local water agencies to adopt an ordinance with enhanced penalties for water theft from a fire hydrant. ACWA is leading a coalition in support of the bill.

Additionally, SB 394 would remove the one-year reset on existing penalties for the third and additional violations for water theft committed via meter tampering and other methods. This bill would also help agencies recover damages by authorizing utilities to pursue civil remedies against any person who tampers with or diverts water from a fire hydrant without authorization.

The bill was scheduled to be heard by the Senate Local Government Committee on March 19.

PFAS

ACWA is co-sponsoring SB 454, (McNerney, D-Pleasanton), in partnership with the League of California Cities, and helping lead a coalition in support of the bill.

If approved, the bill would create a much-needed funding tool to help water and wastewater agencies pay for costs that would otherwise be covered by local ratepayers on their water and wastewater bills. There are currently multiple sources of funding aimed at addressing PFAS contamination (current and potentially future legal settlements, federal funding, state bond funding, etc.) that could be directed to this fund.

Local water agencies are not the source of these chemicals or responsible for the development of the products that introduced PFAS into the water supply and wastewater systems, yet they are responsible for the costs of monitoring for their presence, treating the water and disposing of the contamination. These costs challenge water affordability, particularly in disadvantaged communities. SB 454 is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on April 2.

Water Rights

ACWA is advocating on two water rights bills nearly identical to legislation from last year in which ACWA had significant concerns. AB 263 (Rogers, D-Healdsburg) would keep in place emergency regulations adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board for the Scott and Shasta river watersheds until permanent rules implementing long-term instream flow requirements are adopted. ACWA has an oppose position on the bill because it would set precedent for extending emergency regulations in place of following established processes for emergency regulations in times of drought. AB 263 has been referred to the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildfire Committee.

The second bill, AB 362 (Ramos, D-Highland), would define "tribal water uses," designate them as a beneficial use of water and allow tribal water uses to be a primary factor in determining the highest water quality that is reasonable in all regulatory decisions. ACWA has adopted an oppose-unless-amended position.

LIRA

SB 350, (Durazo, D-Los Angeles), would require the State Water Board to create a statewide low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program. ACWA believes a water and wastewater low-income rate assistance program — if designed in a reasonable, efficient and effective manner — is an appropriate approach. However, SB 350 could be improved to maximize the funding spent on direct assistance to ratepayers, enhance public process and reduce unreasonable burdens on water providers. Also, any LIRA legislation must recognize and allow to continue local LIRA programs already operating through a number of ACWA member agencies.

ACWA is urging member agencies to join an association-led coalition to oppose SB 350 unless the bill is appropriately amended to create a workable and efficient LIRA.

The bill was scheduled to be heard by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on March 19.

Water Quality

SB 601 (Allen, D-Santa Monica) would create a classification of water called "nexus waters," a newly defined category of protected waters intended to cover all waters previously protected under federal authority prior to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on *Sackett v. EPA*. The bill would amend the Porter-Cologne Act in a manner that applies the more stringent federal Clean Water Act permitting regulations to former waters of the United States. The new provisions would also be enforceable by citizen lawsuits, which were previously not permitted.

Paired with the addition of a private right of action, SB 601 would inject regulatory uncertainty and almost certain litigation into water supply and treatment operations.

ACWA has adopted an oppose position on the bill, which is set to be heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on April 2.

THIS MONTH IN ACWA HISTORY

10 years ago

ACWA released its framework "Improving the Resiliency of California's Headwaters," making specific recommendations to improve the resiliency of water resources through better coordination among state, federal and local water managers as well as between upstream and downstream water users.

20 years ago

The ACWA Board of Directors approved the final draft of ACWA's "No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California Water," concluding months of work by a statewide task force. Key recommendations included improving conveyance in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, evaluating long-term threats to Delta levees and funding local efforts to expand recycled water use, water use efficiency and desalination.

30 years ago

ACWA staff members attended a retreat hosted by the California Constitution Revision Commission in Napa to work on proposals to streamline the state government. Ideas discussed included changing to a unicameral legislature, eliminating the office of Lieutenant Governor and switching to a two-year state budget.



Senator Pete Wilson, center, meets with ACWA Board leadership and staff in this photo from March 1985.

40 years ago

Then-U.S. Senator Pete Wilson met with members of the ACWA Board of Directors and association staff during a March visit to Washington D.C., where they also visited with members of the administration of President Ronald Reagan.

50 years ago

Newly appointed Department of Water Resources Director Ronald R. Robie was quoted in *ACWA News* about his plans to subject the Peripheral Canal project to intense study before making a recommendation to Gov. Jerry Brown. Robie also called for bringing environmentalists and water developers together in a workable program to meet the "real water needs of the state for the maximum protection of the environment."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR continued from page 1

California Society of Certified Public Accountants, California Society of Municipal Financial Officers and Government Finance Officers Association.

"It is an honor to be entrusted by ACWA's Board to serve the association, our members, and our water industry colleagues throughout California," Khalifa said. "I look forward to working with and guiding ACWA's world class team in advancing the priorities of our members and the Board by focusing on state and federal advocacy, outreach, and visionary thought leadership."

Former Executive Director Dave Eggerton announced his resignation on Jan. 31. The Board named long-time staff member Tiffany Giammona, Senior Director of Operations and Member Engagement, as Acting Executive Director until the Interim Executive Director took over.

The Board also has started a nationwide recruitment effort with plans to announce a new Executive Director later this year.

SPOTLIGHT

Fresno Area Member Agencies Collaborate on Water and Climate Resiliency, Recharge and Reliability

PROJECT FACTS

Overview
The Upper Kings River Community Water and Climate Resiliency Program will provide needed community water supply and climate resiliency through the construction of 3,300 acres of basins.

Highlights
- Improves water supply reliability to an area that includes 79 disadvantaged communities
- Provides 450,000 acre-feet annually of groundwater recharge
- Includes environmental enhancement for wildlife habitat and waterfowl

Costs and Economic Benefit
- Phase 1 – $180 million
- Phase 2 –$150 million
- Creation of 330 jobs
- Positive economic impact of $600 million



Multi-beneficial use describes the gold standard sought and attained by many ACWA member agency projects, and one currently taking shape in the Central Valley exemplifies the concept on several levels.

In a coordinated effort to secure water supplies amid sporadic drought conditions and groundwater declines, the Alta, Consolidated and Fresno irrigation districts launched the Upper Kings River Community Water and Climate Resiliency Program. The initiative, covering more than 650,000 acres, is designed to capture surface water in wet years and recharge critical groundwater supplies for use during dry periods — benefiting over 733,000 people in an area that also includes 79 disadvantaged communities potentially impacted by water quality and quantity challenges, including dry wells.

The program will create 3,300 acres of recharge basins across the region in two phases. Phase one, already underway, covers 1,800 acres at a projected cost of $180 million and is expected to provide 250,000 acre-feet of underground water storage. Phase two will add 1,500 acres of recharge basins at a cost of $150 million, delivering an additional 200,000 acre-feet of recharge capacity. Full buildout is expected over the next 10 years, said Kassy Chauhan, Special Projects Manager at Fresno Irrigation District and Executive Officer of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

"Groundwater has long been our lifeline, and this project is really about ensuring we capture every drop when it's available," Chauhan said. "By pooling resources across district lines, we're creating a regional solution that goes far beyond what each district could do individually."

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, or SGMA, acted as a catalyst for discussions between the three districts, which happen to be among the earliest ACWA members, with Alta Irrigation District being one of ACWA's founders.

The collaborative effort is being led by Alta Irrigation District General Manager Chad Wegley, Consolidated Irrigation District General Manager Phil Desatoff and Fresno Irrigation District General Manager Bill Stretch. Talks started in 2021, during the thick of the pandemic, with district leaders connecting with each other about how to combine and scale up their existing conjunctive use and groundwater recharge efforts into a regional effort offering multiple benefits from the planned projects.

The ongoing work to carve out recharge basins is funded through a combination of local, state and federal grants, including SGMA implementation grants. Of course, groundwater recharge is nothing new in the Central Valley, where irrigation districts have practiced it for over a century. But this collaboration has become a classic example of a sum being greater than its parts and also maximizes optimal conditions within its area.

Desatoff described how sandy soil within his district was ideal for groundwater recharge using releases from Pine Flat Reservoir.

"We're capable of putting hundreds of thousands of acre-feet in the ground per year," Desatoff said, adding that the program allows them to accelerate existing recharge work.

During 2023, more than 500,000 acre-feet were recharged within the Kings Subbasin, which includes the Alta, Consolidated and Fresno irrigation districts.

The Upper Kings River Community Water and Climate Resiliency Program stands out for its size and scale within California. The exact number of similar groundwater projects in California is unknown, but the Department of Water Resources (DWR) review of groundwater sustainability plans and management actions indicate that more than 290 recharge projects are either in progress or planned within medium and high priority basins, according to DWR SGMA Technical Assistance Manager Steven Springhorn.

"However, many are smaller, individual projects — projects of this size, scale, and level of coordination are rare," Springhorn stated by email, adding that "This project stands out among others not only in size, scale, and expected benefits for communities in the region, but also as an example of successful regional coordination and partnerships that maximize and enhance benefits to the subbasin." ♦

Opposite page: An aerial photograph shows a groundwater recharge basin completed within Fresno Irrigation District as part of the Upper Kings River Community Water and Climate Resiliency Program.

Left: A concrete pumper lines a new check structure and basin turnout to serve the Kenneson & Sanchez Basin located near Kerman, part of a large-scale, two-phase project that will eventually facilitate storage for nearly a half-million acre-feet of groundwater.

Right: The Upper Kings River Community Water and Climate Resiliency Program is creating an estimated 330 jobs in the Fresno area, driving a regional economic impact of $600 million.

Photos courtesy of Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group





LIKE, SHARE & FOLLOW

EXPLORING THE WATER WORLD ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA

National Groundwater Awareness Week was celebrated March 9-15 and saw a flurry of groundwater related posts on social media. Taking advantage of trending topics and relevant awareness weeks is a great way to educate your customers and talk about important issues, like groundwater.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency used Groundwater Awareness Week to feature its groundwater recharge team and specifically its operations and maintenance specialist on LinkedIn.

SFPUC shared a short video on X that highlighted groundwater as a source of its water supply and explained what groundwater was to followers.

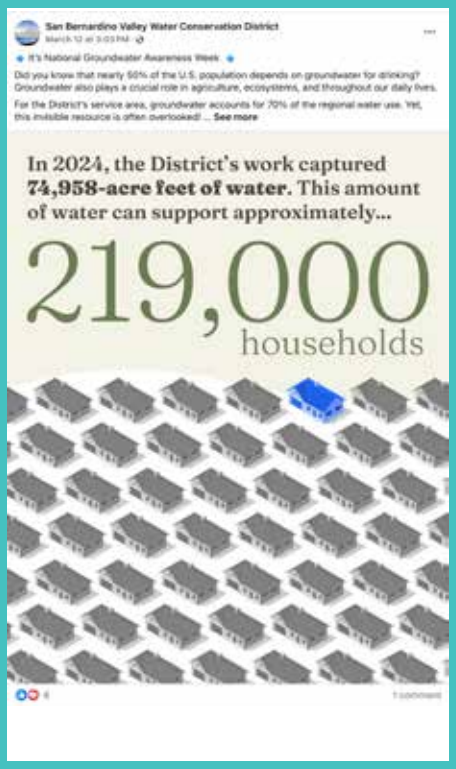
Over on Facebook, **San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District** highlighted the importance of groundwater to its district and shared specific numbers about groundwater captured in 2024.

South San Joaquin Irrigation District shared a post that highlighted its groundwater sustainability agency on Instagram.

Check out all the mentioned examples below.







To see more social media examples from ACWA members, be sure to follow along on **@ACWAWater**

West Basin Celebrates Completion of Water Recycling Project

West Basin Municipal Water District has made a significant investment in leading-edge infrastructure and recycled water treatment technology through the completion of the Juanita Millender-McDonald Carson Regional Water Recycling Plant Phase II Expansion Project. The substantial upgrades involved construction of a new custom-engineered membrane filtration (CEMF) system which significantly increases the low-pressure boiler feed supply capacity and reinforces West Basin's commitment to water innovation and resource management.



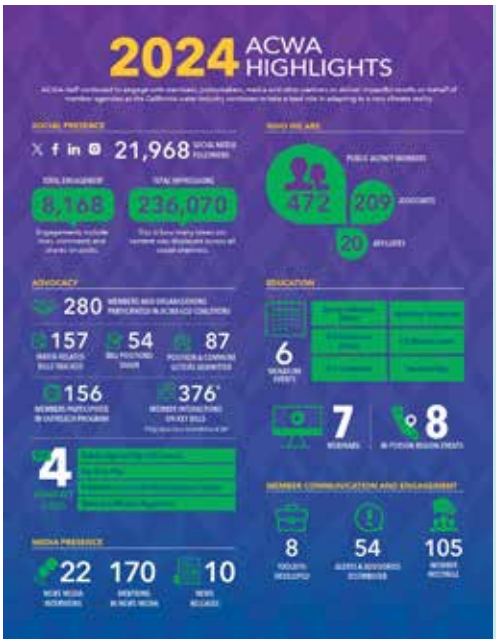
Photo courtesy of West Basin Municipal Water District

The newly installed CEMF system is an open platform microfiltration system that can accommodate up to six different membranes in the treatment skids and is able to process nearly six million gallons of recycled water per day, marking a milestone in the district's water recycling ingenuity.

The CEMF system will allow West Basin to obtain cost-competitive pricing to replace the membranes as needed, rather than being limited to replacement membranes from only the original equipment manufacturer. This significantly increases the plant's capacity while improving the system maintenance and reliability of recycled water deliveries to Marathon Petroleum's Los Angeles Refinery in Carson for its cooling towers and boiler system.

The State Water Resources Control Board helped bring the project to fruition with $15.7 million in assistance from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and a $8 million grant from voter-approved Proposition 1.

The design allows for more efficient cleaning and restoration of membrane permeability, ultimately enhancing the system's overall performance through improved system maintenance, water quality, and operational efficiency. The increased capacity to meet the rising demand for recycled water eliminates the need to use potable water for non-potable purposes.



ACWA '2024 Year in Review'

The 2024 "Year in Review" outlines key accomplishments, advocacy efforts and engagement that benefited ACWA members.

Download now at **acwa.com/resources**.

Marin Water Pursuing Largest Water Supply Measure in 40 Years

The Marin Water Board of Directors is proceeding with design and environmental review work for a new conveyance pipeline and pumping plant that will bolster water supply reliability in times of drought by diverting excess winter water from Sonoma County's Russian River to a local Marin Water reservoir.


Photo courtesy of Marin Water

At 1,485 square miles, the Russian River Watershed is 40 times larger than the watershed feeding Marin Water's seven local reservoirs, capturing tremendous amounts of water during winter rainfall events, often swelling and frequently flooding. Records show that even during drought years there are plentiful "winter water" supplies in the Russian River between October and May resulting from winter rainfall, even after accounting for the in-stream water required to support aquatic life. This winter water source is not reliant on Sonoma County's stored supply but instead capitalizes on rainfall and excess river flows, which currently stream out to the Pacific Ocean.

If constructed, the project would provide the infrastructure needed to capture and move excess water to be stored in Marin Water's reservoirs for later use, adding to the resilience of the North Bay's overall water supply during droughts.

The project proposes a pumping plant and a 36-inch-wide pipeline running 13.2 miles from the North Marin Aqueduct to Marin Water's Nicasio Reservoir. During dry years, the new infrastructure could replenish the district's local water supply with as much as 3,800 acre-feet of stored water. Potential future phases of this project could increase replenishment of stored water to up to 8,100 acre-feet. The project would mark the district's largest water supply resiliency project in 40 years.

"This conveyance project is the most appropriate and logical next step for Marin Water to take in support of a comprehensive solutions package aimed at addressing the water supply needs of our customers," stated Matt Samson, Marin Water Board President, in a news release. "The project's implementation timeline will allow us to increase our water supply within a few years, buying time while we focus on additional projects that will ultimately provide sufficient water supplies to further protect us from severe drought."

San Bernardino Valley and Partners Celebrate Recharge Project

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, in partnership with Western Water, City of Riverside Public Utilities and San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, in February marked the completion of the Santa Ana River Enhanced Recharge Phase 1-B Project with a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony.


Photo courtesy of San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

The $55 million infrastructure investment made by local water agencies significantly enhances regional water supply resilience by more than doubling local groundwater recharge capacity.

"This project is a shining example of what regional collaboration can accomplish," stated T. Milford Harrison, Board President of San Bernardino Valley, in a news release. "By investing in our local water supply with innovative solutions, we are making our region more resilient to drought while securing reliable water for our grandchildren and great grandchildren."

The Santa Ana River Enhanced Recharge Project will allow up to 80,000 acre-feet of stormwater per year to be captured and stored in the local aquifer, creating a critical supply of groundwater for future drought years. The project includes 20 new recharge basins, improved flood control structures, and inter-basin conveyance infrastructure, ensuring local water resources are managed efficiently.

The Santa Ana River Enhanced Recharge Project ensures that more local water is captured during wet years and stored underground for future drought conditions—a key strategy in preparing Southern California for long-term water challenges.



Mary Aileen Matheis

OBITUARY

California Water Community Mourns Passing of Matheis

California's water community is mourning the March 5 passing of former Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) Board of Directors member Mary Aileen Matheis. She was 98.

Matheis served on the IRWD Board from 1988 to 2020, leading it four times as President. She was pivotal in the creation of IRWD's San Joaquin Marsh and Campus, as well as contributing to making IRWD an internationally recognized leader in water-supply reliability.

The ACWA Board of Directors honored Matheis in 2020 by passing a resolution that recognized her leadership roles on the ACWA Legal Affairs and Local Government committees. The resolution also highlighted her wide-ranging involvement in workshops, seminars, regional meetings and tours and numerous ACWA and D.C. conferences.

A practicing attorney and Realtor, her civic and charitable activities included service with numerous organizations, such as the Urban Water Institute, Water Education Foundation, the Lincoln Club of Orange County and Catholic Charities of Orange County Board of Trustees, to name a few.

"I was always amazed at Mary Aileen's energy, focus and enthusiasm for life," stated IRWD Board President Doug Reinhart in a news release. "But despite her many significant accomplishments at IRWD, those things really pale in comparison to her inexhaustible faith and commitment to family."

Member Agency Boards Name Officers, Swear in Directors

El Toro Water District



The El Toro Water District Board of Directors has appointed **Wyatt McClean** to fill a vacancy opened after the resignation of former Board member **Fred Adjarian**, who moved out of the district's service area.

A long-time Lake Forest resident, McClean brings more than 35 years of public experience and currently serves as a Commissioner of the Juvenile Justice Commission for the Orange County Superior Court.

Utica Water and Power Authority





The Utica Water and Power Authority Board of Directors has selected **Caroline Schirato** as Chair, **Ralph Chick** as Vice Chair and **Tom Quincy** as Secretary for 2025



Schirato serves as Vice Mayor of Angels Camp and brings more than two decades of experience in development, event planning, and nonprofit leadership.

Yorba Linda Water District





The Yorba Linda Water District Board of Directors has appointed **Tom Lindsey** as President and **Gene Hernandez** as Vice President. Lindsey has served on the Board since 2021, while Hernandez joined in 2024. Both have prior experience on the Yorba Linda City Council as Mayor and councilmembers.

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) Board of Directors has welcomed **Sarah Wargo** as its newest



member. Elected last November, Wargo comes to SGPWA from an eight-year tenure as the Cabazon Water District's Board Chair.

Wargo's career in community service includes a role on the West Desert Municipal Action Committee and volunteer work for nonprofits Cabazon Association, Kid2Kid Closet. Heartland Assisted Equine Center and UCAN food drives.

West Basin Municipal Water District



The West Basin Municipal Water District Board of Directors has appointed **Tommy Faavae** to fill the seat left vacant by the January resignation of **Harold Williams**.

Faavae, a lifelong Carson resident, is Business Development Manager for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 11.

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Sacramento, CA 95814-3577

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Subscribe to ACWA's eNews at **acwa.com/newsletters/ACWA-eNews** for weekly email updates on the latest association news. Check out some of the top stories from the past month on ACWA's website.

- Federal, State Orders Aim to Speed Forest Management, Reduce Wildfire Risk – Mar. 5
- Khalifa to Lead ACWA as Interim Executive Director – Feb. 13
- Yuba Water Announces Major Milestone for Fish Habitat in the Yuba River Watershed – Feb. 20
- Tools Available for National Groundwater Awareness Week – Feb. 19
- PPIC Blog Looks at February Storms and Water Storage – Feb. 24

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

APRIL 2025
10

WATER 101 WORKSHOP: THE BASICS & BEYOND

WEF | Sacramento

The Water Education Foundation's popular "Water 101 Workshop" offers a one-day deep dive into California's water history, geography, legal aspects, and current issues. It explores key topics affecting the state's water management.

APRIL 2025
16

ACWA REGION 4 TOUR & PROGRAM

ACWA | Manteca

Join ACWA Region 4 and FISHBIO for a tour of Sturgeon Bend to see the fyke trap and an electrofishing demo at River Islands on the San Joaquin River. The tour will include a discussion on nonnative fish impacts on native salmon recovery, highlighting studies.

APRIL 2025
22–25

2025 CWEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CWEA | Palm Springs

The CWEA Annual Conference 2025, themed "Waves of Change," focuses on innovation and inclusivity in the wastewater industry, featuring workshops, technical sessions, and networking opportunities.

APRIL 2025
23–25

CENTRAL VALLEY TOUR

WEF | Sacramento

Join the Water Education Foundation on their Central Valley Tour to explore the challenges of sustaining the San Joaquin Valley, a key agricultural region dependent on imported water and dwindling groundwater.

MAY 2025
7

BAY-DELTA TOUR

WEF | Sacramento

This tour travels deep into California's water hub and traverses the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, a 720,000-acre network of islands and canals that supports the state's water system and is California's most crucial water and ecological resource.

MAY 2025
13–15

ACWA SPRING 2025 CONFERENCE + EXPO

ACWA | Monterey

ACWA conferences are the premier event for water industry professionals to learn, network, and engage through various programs and exhibits. It brings together experts and leaders to discuss key water issues and innovations.