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Left: (l-r) ACWA Director of State Legislative Relations Julia Hall interviews State Sen. Jerry McNerney during the ACWA 2025 Legislative Symposium held in Sacramento. **Right:** Attendees of the ACWA Region 4 event on April 16 listen to a riverside presentation about research into non-native fish in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta and impacts to native salmon populations. More details on page 8.

ACWA Legislative Symposium Explores Emerging Water Policy Trends

From PFAS to an unusually challenging state budget and how Southern California's recent wildfires are driving policy discussions, ACWA's 2025 Legislative Symposium connected the dots on a wide range of water-related issues churning inside California's capitol.

The March 26 event in Sacramento drew approximately 125 people and was made possible by sponsors Rancho Water, United Water Conservation District and the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District.

The summaries below encapsulate topics, discussions and panelists featured during the afternoon event, which was followed by a networking reception.

Title: "A Conversation with California Senator McNerney"

California State Sen. Jerry McNerney (D-Stockton) discussed his legislative priorities on water policy during a conversation with ACWA State Legislative Relations Director Julia Hall. This included SB 545, the ACWA co-sponsored bill he authored that would create a statewide PFAS Mitigation Fund intended to help local agencies pay for manmade PFAS contamination cleanup in drinking water and wastewater. McNerney also emphasized his overall commitment to making California a water-sustainable state.

SYMPOSIUM continued on page 5 >

CAPITOL CORNER

ACWA Co-Sponsored Bills Advancing Through Committee Process

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

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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 INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARWAN KHALIFA

Why ACWA Conferences Matter



What we do affects every single person in California because water is life. Few professions can capture their ultimate purpose with such clarity.

Contrast fulfilling that vital purpose against what it really takes: dozens of professional skill sets working within a vast array of water agencies serving a wide variety of purposes and communities. This spans agricultural water suppliers to urban agencies, wholesalers and retailers, all operating within a statewide system that ranges from organizations employing hundreds of workers in major urban centers to teams of two or three people serving tight-knit rural communities.

For California's water industry, it all comes together twice a year during ACWA conferences.

Personally, one of so many reasons I look forward to ACWA conferences is being around people who get water, and by extension get me, and who share a passion for learning more about what we do and how to do it better. No matter what your role, an ACWA conference is for everyone within the water industry, regardless if you are new to the field, in the middle of your career or a seasoned water professional.

Next month's ACWA Spring Conference & Expo in Monterey will be no different and it will be my 13th ACWA conference; however, I will be experiencing it for the first time from another perspective.

Seeing how the association works from the inside has given me a deep appreciation for the massive effort undertaken by ACWA staff to consistently make conferences successful, rewarding and highly informative events. Their work delivers on all fronts when it comes to what conference attendees value most — gaining information, making connections, enjoying networking, learning about innovations and continuing education opportunities.

That said, no organization on earth operates within a vacuum of flawless perfection. One of my priorities is transforming ACWA into a world class organization and elevating its position as a leading voice on state and federal water policy, as well as how we can provide the most valuable and relevant service to members.

Water will always be essential, and so will the ACWA community. Let's keep learning from each other, growing together and shaping the future of water in California. I look forward to seeing you in Monterey.



Board Updated on Advocacy Progress, Future Conference Sites

The ACWA Board of Directors met April 4 and received briefings on state and federal advocacy, while also discussing venues for future ACWA Conferences along with an update on preparations for ACWA's 2025 Spring Conference & Expo in Monterey May 13-15.

Advocacy

ACWA advocacy staff outlined a number of bills affecting member agencies that are now moving through the Legislature, including two bills co-sponsored by ACWA. ACWA is also opposing or seeking amendments on bills regarding water rights, water regulations and low-income rate assistance. For more information, see Capitol Corner starting on page 1.

Board members also received a report about the association's advocacy team planning meetings with nearly three dozen newly elected senators and assemblymembers to share ACWA's policy priorities.

On the federal side, ACWA staff briefed Board members on several congressional bills supported by the association regarding wildfire risk mitigation, Endangered Species Act reform, Waters of the United States policy and federal tax exemptions for conservation and energy rebates offered by utilities.

ACWA Director of Federal Relations Ian Lyle also provided an overview of potential impacts on members from recently implemented tariffs on foreign trade, such as on steel, and cuts to staff at agencies such as the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and how that could affect permitting.

ACWA Conference

Board members discussed and approved moving forward with securing the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento for the 2028 ACWA Spring Conference & Expo and the Long Beach Convention Center to host that year's ACWA Fall Conference & Expo, following a presentation by ACWA Events Manager Danelle Buckley. The Board previously approved finalizing negotiations to host the 2026 and 2027 fall conferences in Anaheim.

ACWA Business Development Representative Joseph Ramos also briefed Board members on Exhibit Hall booth sales at the upcoming ACWA Spring Conference & Expo, which have sold out at 80, boosting the association's non-dues revenue.

LIKE, SHARE & FOLLOW

EXPLORING THE WATER WORLD ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA

The competition for attention on social media is fierce. For long-term success, water districts want their customers to view them as a valuable source of information. While being trustworthy and reliable is important to achieving that goal, you also must grab their attention. According to a Hootsuite study on social media trends for 2024, the second main reason people use social media is for entertainment and relaxation, after staying in touch with family and friends. Below are some examples of how ACWA members used April Fools' Day to grab the attention of their followers.



City of Sacramento, Department of Utilities (@sacdou) touted some new water flavors available for customers for its April Fools' joke.



Eastern Municipal Water District (@easternmuni) pranked followers by saying that its mascot "Patrick the Poo" was going to no longer be an EMWD mascot.



Citrus Heights Water District (@citrusheights waterdistrict) introduced a limited-time-only option for customers to receive "solid water on tap" on April Fools' Day.

For more creative ways to keep your customers and followers engaged so they see your content when you really need them to, follow ACWA (@ACWAWater) on

CAPITOL CORNER continued from page 1

Municipal Water District, passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee April 2. The bill 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.

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. SB 454 advanced out of the Senate Appropriations Committee April 21.

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.

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 opposes the bill because it would set precedent for extending emergency regulations in place of following established processes for emergency regulations in times of drought.

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), passed out of the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee April 21.

The bill 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.

While ACWA is encouraged by the amendments, and progress is being made, SB 350 could be further improved to maximize the funding spent on direct assistance to ratepayers, enhance public processes 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.

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 (WOTUS). 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 opposes the bill, which is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 29.

Atmospheric River Forecasting

SB 599 (Caballero, D-Merced) would require the Department of Water Resources to include the use of experimental tools that produce seasonal and sub-seasonal atmospheric river forecasts. This would encourage research, development and implementation of novel forecasting methods to improve predictions of atmospheric rivers and their impact on water supply, flooding, post-wildfire debris flows and environmental conditions. ACWA is supporting the bill.

SYMPOSIUM continued from page 5

McNerney quotes: Regarding PFAS, "In my opinion, the ratepayers aren't the ones who caused the PFAS contamination, and so they shouldn't have to bear the brunt of the entire cost of cleanup and maintenance."

About working with ACWA, "I've worked with ACWA in the past and continue to do that, because this is an organization that wants practical solutions."

Title: "What's on Tap: Exploring Which Water Issues Will Dominate the 2025 Session"

Panelists: (Moderator) Soren Nelson, Senior State Relations Advocate, ACWA; Keith Cialino, Policy Consultant, Office of Speaker Robert Rivas; Kyle Jones, Policy & Legal Director, Community Water Center; Kathy Viatella, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, East Bay Municipal Utility District

Key Issue(s): With the 2025 legislative session well underway, panelists identified key water-related issues they expect to attract the attention of state legislators. These include the creation of a low-income rate assistance program and the still-developing state budget situation, as well as the rollout of Proposition 4 funding.

Viatella quote: Regarding a low-income rate assistance program for water agencies, "I think right now, we're really trying to grapple with something which is very difficult to do, not only from a funding standpoint, but from an implementation standpoint across the state, with the variety and the differences among the agencies in trying to craft a thoughtful policy."

Cialino quote: Regarding the state budget, "I think it's going to look worse, unfortunately, than the January proposal. So, then the discussion is, 'Where are the cuts, where do we find funding, and then what from Prop 4 may we need to substitute for some General Fund programs that we already approved?' That's not a popular thing, though … and so it's going to be a difficult discussion between the Legislature and the administration to figure that out."

Title: "California Wildfires"

Panelists: (Moderator) Catherine Freeman, Senior Legislative Advocate, California State Association of Counties; Charlotte Holifield, Manager of External Affairs and Public Information Officer, Calleguas Municipal Water District; Lisa Lien-Mager, Deputy Secretary for Forest and Wildfire Resilience, California Natural Resources Agency; David Rabbitt, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors/ Board of Directors, Sonoma Water

Key Issue(s): Catastrophic wildfires earlier this year in Southern California have prompted a broad discussion about water agencies' responsibilities and roles in combating wildfires within the wildland urban interface. Panelists discussed wildfire preparedness, communications during fire disasters and impacts from fires on the forming of state policy.

Holifield quote: "I think one of the things that's coming out is that systems aren't built to fight infernos. They're just not. And I feel like that narrative is becoming more prevalent, which is a good thing, because it increases understanding of how residential water systems are supposed to work."

Lien-Mager quote: Regarding policy on mitigating residential fire risk, "We're finding there is tremendous interest and support in the Legislature to make sure we're helping homeowners get the tools and information they need. It's been really striking how quickly that's come about."







Top: (l-r) ACWA Vice President Ernie Avila, State Sen. Jerry McNerney and ACWA President Cathy Green pause for a photo during the 2025 Legislative Symposium, which attracted about 125 people.

Center: Kathy Viatella with East Bay Municipal Utility District fields a question during a panel discussion about water policy issues dominating the 2025 legislative year.

Bottom: Catherine Freeman with the California State Association of Counties moderates a conversation about legislative and policy impacts following catastrophic wildfires in Southern California.

SPOTLIGHT

Cucamonga Valley Water District Celebrates 70 Years of 'Service Beyond Expectation'

DISTRICT FACTS

Location
Rancho Cucamonga (San Bernardino County)

Established
1955

Service Area and Connections
- 47 square miles Including the City of Rancho Cucamonga, portions of the cities of Fontana, Ontario, Upland and some unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County
- 205,000 estimated population
- 50,000 water and 38,000 sewer connections

Average Daily Demand
39 million gallons

Water Supply and Operations
- 35 reservoirs with 90 million gallons storage capacity
- Over 21 billion gallons in groundwater storage
- 31 wells
- 709 miles of water and 420 miles of sewer pipeline

Website
www.cvwdwater.com



What began as the consolidation of more than a dozen small water companies in 1955 has grown into one of the Inland Empire's most forward-thinking and community-centered water agencies: the Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD), which proudly marked its 70th anniversary this March.

"The 70th anniversary is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team, past and present," said Board President Randall Reed. "We take pride in our commitment to providing reliable water services and look forward to continuing our mission for many years to come."

Since its founding, CVWD has supported a region undergoing dramatic transformation—from a thriving agricultural valley to a growing urban hub with extensive residential, commercial, and industrial development.

Formed during a historic drought in the 1950s, CVWD emerged to address dropping groundwater levels and the need for a sustainable, centralized water system. Approved by voters in March 1955, the district quickly got to work—completing its first water system in 1956, acquiring 14 private water companies by 1957, and building new storage facilities. The 1960s saw further expansion, with service extending into Etiwanda and parts of the City of Fontana, and the development of surface water sources from Deer and Cucamonga canyons.

CVWD's focus on long-term planning has remained a defining trait. In 1979, CVWD connected to the State Water Project and opened its first water treatment facility — the Royer-Nesbit Water Treatment Plant. A decade later, the district continued to expand its treatment capacity, with the 1989 opening of the Lloyd Michael Water Treatment Plant, now capable of processing up to 90 million gallons per day.

A defining hallmark of CVWD has been its strategic planning and long-term investments in local water sources. Key milestones include

securing water rights in 1992 through a partnership with Kaiser Resources and acquiring stock in the Fontana Union Water Company in 2001, adding supply reliability.

Beyond infrastructure, CVWD has also led in environmental stewardship and customer service. In 2014, the district marked a major sustainability milestone by activating its 100th recycled water customer. The same year, the district reopened the Arthur H. Bridge Water Treatment Plant after an extensive upgrade, further reducing reliance on imported water and strengthening local supply resilience.

CVWD has also responded proactively to state and federal water quality regulations. In 2015, it completed a $40 million upgrade to the Lloyd W. Michael Plant, ensuring compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act while boosting onsite storage.

Technology has played a central role in shaping CVWD's modern era. From launching a water meter upgrade program in 2016 to completing its Automated Meter Reading Infrastructure (AMI) project in 2019, CVWD has empowered customers to conserve water and detect leaks with real-time data. In recent years, the district has reinforced its commitment to water supply reliability through the construction of Reservoirs 1 and 3A, along with Wells 48 and 49. These efforts, alongside the ongoing expansion of recycled water projects, reflect CVWD's dedication to building a resilient and sustainable water system.

Under its current General Manager, CVWD has also underscored a commitment to operational excellence and workforce development through cross training programs that invest in the next generation of water professional leaders. One of their current programs, the Comprehensive Operating Training Program, builds on the foundation of regulatory compliance, real-world application, and technical knowledge to strengthen career advancement for their Treatment Plant Operators.

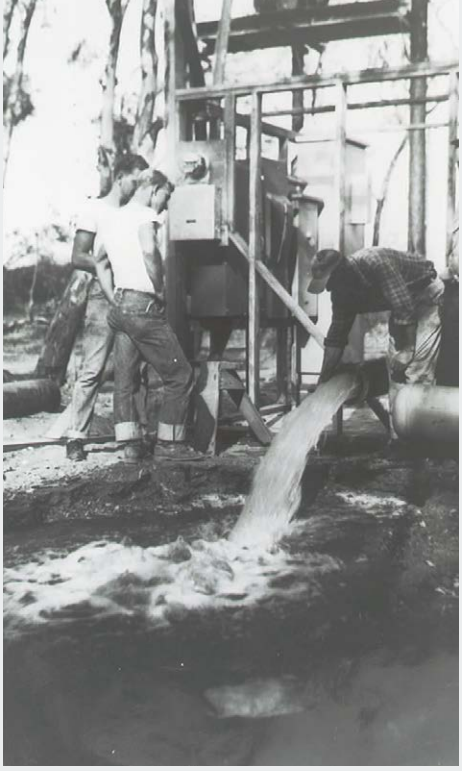
"CVWD's core value of being good stewards of our natural and financial resources is reflected in the investments we've made in both our water supply and our workforce," said Board Vice President Jim Curatalo.

A key strength of CVWD is its diversified water supply strategy, which enhances drought resilience and reduces dependence on a single source. The district draws from:

- **Local Groundwater**: (52%): Sourced from 31 wells in the Chino and Cucamonga Basins.
- **Imported Water**: Delivered through the State Water Project and treated locally at the Lloyd W. Michael Water Treatment Plant before distribution.
- **Local Surface Water**: Collected from local canyons and tunnels along the San Gabriel Mountains.
- **Recycled Water**: (3%): Used for irrigation and industrial purposes in order to conserve CVWD's potable water supply.

CVWD's leadership has extended beyond the local level. The district joined ACWA in 1958 and has remained an active member. Notably, past CVWD Board Member Kathleen Tiegs served as ACWA Vice President from 2014 to 2015 and President from 2016 to 2017. The ACWA Board of Directors recognized CVWD's 70th anniversary with a resolution at its April 4 meeting.

In March, CVWD hosted a commemorative event during a special Board of Directors meeting, bringing together past and present leaders, community members, and stakeholders to celebrate the district's legacy. The event also debuted a video presentation — accessible via the accompanying QR code — highlighting CVWD's major achievements and evolution over the decades.



Opposite page: CVWD employees gather for a group photo as part of the district's celebration of its 70th year in service.

Above: Workers install a well during CVWD's early years, when it quickly got to work by completing a water system, acquiring 14 private water companies and building storage facilities.

Photos courtesy of CVWD

"As we enter our eighth decade, the district remains steadfast in its mission to provide high-quality, safe and reliable water and wastewater services," said General Manager/CEO John Bosler. "Our partnerships with regional agencies and investments in our diversified water supply will be key as we meet future challenges." ♦





Left: Attendees of ACWA's Region 4 event gather for a group photo at Two Rivers – the San Joaquin and Stanislaus river junction.
Right: A researcher displays a striped bass, one of the primary non-native species responsible for significant predation on native fish populations such as salmon and steelhead trout.

Region 4 Hosts a Day of Fish, Facts & Fyke Traps

By Region 4 Chair Brian Sanders

ACWA Region 4 hosted a program and tour on April 16 that highlighted the role of non-native fish in native fish recovery. More than 40 attendees learned about two groundbreaking studies by FISHBIO conducted on the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers that revealed surprising insights on the impacts of predation on native salmon populations.

The day kicked off with a tour to Sturgeon Bend and Two Rivers, where attendees observed examples of fyke traps and electrofishing — two techniques being used by FISHBIO to quantify the number of non-native fish in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has been using fyke traps since the 1950s. They function as large 10-ft. diameter cages with a funnel-shaped opening that narrows toward the interior of the structure. Migrating fish, like the non-native striped bass, swim into the opening. FISHBIO checks these traps once a day and we got to watch as fish were pulled out, classified, measured and tagged before being returned to the river.

After the tour, a presentation by Andrea Fuller and Dana Lee, both Senior Fisheries Biologists at FISHBIO, shed more light on the work being done to recover native fish species in the region.

The main drivers of salmon abundance and recovery efforts focus on flow, habitat, hatcheries and harvest, but one critical knowledge gap is on the role of non-native fish populations. As Fuller explained, flow has been the focus for salmon restoration.

"We see this boom-and-bust cycle and the thinking behind this is that it correlated to flows, but when you get to recent times like 2012-2016, in the middle of the drought, we had record salmon runs," said Fuller. "It was because fisheries were releasing all the fish in the Delta, surpassing all the non-native predators."

The FISHBIO team continues to collect scientific data that can improve understanding of how habitat conditions, water management and other factors influence non-native fish population dynamics. From recent studies conducted, it's known that non-native fish dominate the lower San Joaquin River with native species comprising less than 1% of sampled fish.

"Recent estimates show about 60% of the salmon population are lost to predation.

Presentation: "Impacts of Non-native Fish on Salmon Recovery"

Speakers: Andrea Fuller, Vice-President, Senior Fisheries Biologist, FISHBIO; Dana Lee, Senior Fisheries Biologist, FISHBIO

All these fish are being consumed upstream, and they aren't even making it to the Delta out of the tributaries," said Lee. "This is very surprising because tributaries should be a better habitat, but we are still seeing higher loses."

Two videos, available on Banta-Carbona Irrigation District's website, share more information on this important topic. The videos are available on the district's website at banta-carbona.org.

On behalf of ACWA's Region 4 Board, I want to extend my gratitude to our event sponsors, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District, Oakdale Irrigation District and Stantec. These tours and experiences wouldn't be possible without the support of our sponsors. Thank you also to ACWA staff for helping organize a very successful event and ensuring that everything happened as it was supposed to.

ACWA region events are a great way to learn how member agencies address various water industry challenges. There are more region events being held later this year. Visit **acwa.com/events** for dates and details.

THIS MONTH IN ACWA HISTORY

10 years ago

ACWA hosted a drought briefing in Sacramento attended by more than 300 people with approximately 3,000 watching a live webcast just over a week after Gov. Jerry Brown, standing in a dry meadow usually buried in snow, ordered a 25% statewide cut in water use.

20 years ago

ACWA members testified during a water symposium held by the U.S. Senate, Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing. Topics included the potential for resource management coordination and the evolving role of the Bureau of Reclamation.

30 years ago

More than 1,500 people packed a field hearing in Stockton on reforming the Endangered Species Act. With emotions running high and the Oklahoma City bombing the same month, authorities screened attendees with metal detectors and posted armed police officers as a precaution.



Gov. Jerry Brown orders a 25% cut in water use during a snowless snow survey in this April 2015 photo that illustrated the severity of drought conditions.

40 years ago

ACWA unsuccessfully argued against a PG&E rate increase in a hearing before the California Public Utilities Commission, urging it to adopt a cost-of-service approach and avoid hiking members' energy bills.

50 years ago

Gov. Jerry Brown signed three ACWA-supported measures into law, with one regarding revenue bond authority, a second affecting special elections and a third permitting ACWA to act as a group insurer for member agencies for workers' compensation.

ACWA Foundation Building Strategic Partnerships to Power California's Water Future and Workforce Development

With foundational infrastructure in place and strong momentum from early outreach, the ACWA Foundation is poised to take bold next steps in addressing the critical workforce shortage facing the water industry.

The Foundation — a nonprofit 501(c)3 formed by the ACWA Board of Directors in 2022 — is convening water agencies, industry leaders, higher education institutions, and educators to co-create pilot programs focused on training water operators in key regions of California. Lean focus groups — featuring representation from each interested group — will collaborate to develop curriculum and training pathways that align with the real-world needs of a qualified, mission-ready workforce.

More details will be unveiled during the ACWA Foundation's Solution Spotlight at the upcoming ACWA Spring Conference & Expo.

In addition, the Foundation recognizes and celebrates those already leading the charge in inclusive recruitment. To support continued innovation in building welcoming, diverse workplaces, the Foundation is launching a new webinar series this June. Industry experts will share cutting-edge strategies for attracting and retaining top talent, and attendees will have the chance to engage directly with peers to exchange ideas and actionable solutions.

To learn more about the ACWA Foundation's work, please visit its new website at **acwa-foundation.org**. The ACWA Foundation and its Board of Trustees operate separately and independently from ACWA and its Board of Directors.

ACWA **FOUNDATION**

Sacramento-Area Water Providers Boost Groundwater Reserves in 2024



The Regional Water Authority (RWA), representing nearly two dozen water providers in the Sacramento region serving 2.2 million people, recently announced that local water providers banked 35,231 acre-feet of water in the Sacramento Regional Water Bank during 2024. This amount is equivalent to nearly 11.5 billion gallons of water—enough to serve nearly 105,700 households for a year.

The Water Bank is a network of groundwater wells, pumps, and pipelines that enable local water providers to store excess water in underground aquifers. It is estimated that the region's aquifers can store twice the volume of water as Folsom Reservoir, with a capacity of 977,000 acre-feet.

"Once again, water banking has proven to be an effective solution for storing water that will be available when it's needed most," stated RWA Executive Director Jim Peifer in a news release. "In a year with near-average conditions in the American River watershed, local water providers were still able to bank a significant amount of water to support both our communities and the environment during dry periods."

In 2024, all deposits into the aquifer were made through In-lieu recharge, the combined management of both surface water and groundwater use, resulting in the replenishment of groundwater supplies within the aquifers.

In 2024, several agencies contributed to boosting groundwater levels by increasing their use of surface water and reducing reliance on groundwater to build reserves. North of the American River, the City of Sacramento and Sacramento Suburban Water District participated, along with the Carmichael Water District and California American Water. South of the American River, the Sacramento County Water Agency was also a key contributor.

"These actions represent a powerful tool for us to store water during good years to protect against shortages in dry periods ahead," said Brett Ewart, RWA Board Chair and Supervising Engineer with the City of Sacramento. "We're giving the same level of focus to managing surface water when it's plentiful as we do to managing groundwater during times of scarcity."

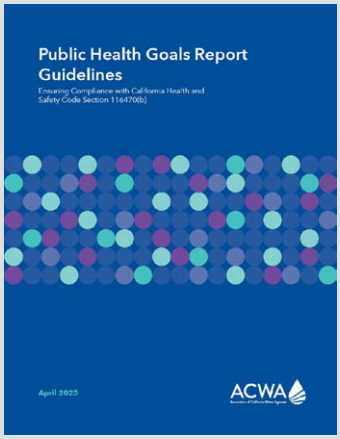
New Resources for Member Agencies

ACWA has developed two new resources to support member agencies.



Water Awareness Month Toolkit

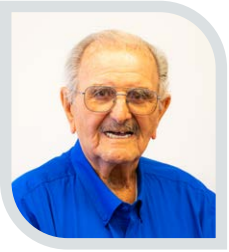
The toolkit includes customizable social media posts and graphics, content tailored for both urban and agricultural agencies, and the Water Awareness Month logo.



PHG Report Guidelines

A comprehensive guidance document to help agencies prepare their Public Health Goals (PHG) Contaminant Report.

Both resources available at acwa.com under the Resources tab.



Alvin Cortopassi

OBITUARY

Stockton East WD Mourns Cortopassi

Long-time member of the Stockton East Water District Board of Directors **Alvin Cortopassi** passed away peacefully on April 15.

Cortopassi had served on the Board since 2007 and was instrumental in guiding the district through numerous challenges and achievements during his tenure. He was known for his integrity, sound judgment, and unwavering dedication to the constituents he served.

"We are heartbroken by the loss of our colleague and friend, Alvin Cortopassi," stated Board President **Thomas McGurk** in a news release. "His legacy is one of service, leadership, and genuine care for the people and communities of our region. He will be deeply missed."



Kristine Day

SMWD's Names AGM, Deputy GM

Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) has named **Kristine Day** as Assistant General Manager and **Lindsay Leahy** as Deputy General Manager.

Day brings over 25 years of experience in local government, having served as an Assistant City Manager in Texas and California communities. She will oversee daily operations and play a vital role in budgeting, compliance and strategic planning.

Leahy has a background in engineering and plays a crucial role in enhancing efficiencies across the district, optimizing cross-functional teams to support SMWD's commitment to progress.



Dan Ruiz

Rancho Water Promotes Ruiz to AGM

Rancho California Water District has promoted **Dan Ruiz** as its new Assistant General Manager – Engineering and Operations.

Ruiz has served at Rancho Water since January 2023, first as the Director of Engineering and then Senior Director of Engineering. Prior to joining Rancho Water, Ruiz served as Engineering Manager at Coachella Valley Water District. He also has extensive experience in the private sector, having held leadership roles at firms where he managed engineering, planning and environmental teams.

Ruiz holds a Bachelor of Science in engineering from California State University, Fullerton, and is a licensed professional civil engineer in California.



Ebin Lanfried

Olivenhain Board Welcomes Lanfried

The Olivenhain Municipal Water District Board of Directors in March appointed **Ebin Lanfried** to fill a seat vacated by **Marco San Antonio**, who resigned earlier this year to serve on the Encinitas City Council.

The Board also named **Scott Maloni** as Board Treasurer. Maloni is a water industry executive with more than 25 years of experience and was elected to the Board in 2024. Lanfried's professional experience includes management of capital projects, new construction, renovations and business process implementation.



Jacque McMillan

Region 8 Appoints McMillan to Board

Jacque McMillan has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the ACWA Region 8 Board.

She currently represents Calleguas Municipal Water District on the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board of Directors. Active within ACWA and Region 8 for 18 years, McMillan also served 31 years as a Principal Government Affairs and Regional Representative with Metropolitan before retiring.

Region 8 is comprised of Ventura and Los Angeles counties and approximately 56 public water agencies make up its membership. The region spans roughly 6,000 square miles and has a population of over 11 million.

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- Meet Lindsay Leahy, SMWD's Deputy General Manager – Apr. 1
- Fresno Area Agencies Collaborate on Resiliency – Mar. 21
- Rancho Water Promotes Water Industry Leader Dan Ruiz to Assistant General Manager – Mar. 25
- Underground Water Monitoring Project Sheds Light on Water Quality – Apr. 15
- Sacramento-Area Water Providers Boost Groundwater Reserves in 2024 – Apr. 9

UPCOMING EVENTS

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MAY 2025
1

WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION OPEN HOUSE & RECEPTION

WEF | Sacramento

Stop by for refreshments, meet the team, and learn about our water education programs during the Big Day of Giving!

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
8

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY FORUM

SACDOT, CISA | Citrus Heights

Join public sector leaders and industry professionals for a day of education, collaboration, and updates on preparedness, trust, and recovery in infrastructure security.

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.

AUGUST 2025
13

ACWA QUARTERLY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ACWA | Virtual

The Agriculture, Energy, Groundwater, Water Management, and Water Quality Policy committees will meet to discuss key water policy issues. Open to non-committee members with registration required.

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