



Yuba Water celebrates Water Professionals Appreciation Week with a group photo posted on social media. ACWA member agencies throughout California recognized employees and engaged with their communities during Oct. 4-12. See page 6 for more photos. *Photo courtesy of Yuba Water Agency*

ACWA Members Elect New Board Leadership for 2026-'27



Ernie Avila

ACWA members have elected Ernesto "Ernie" Avila as President and Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady as Vice President for the 2026-'27 term. The results of ACWA's 10 region board elections have also been announced and are on page 3.



Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady

Avila, who currently serves as ACWA's Vice President, has served

on the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) Board of Directors since 2016 and has been the Board President since 2022. He has also served two terms on the ACWA Region 5 Board and chaired ACWA's Local Government Committee.

Avila is a nationally recognized engineer, honored by the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Multi-State Salinity Coalition for his leadership and contributions to the water profession. He brings more than 42 years of professional experience in planning, environmental compliance,

ELECTION continued on page 2 >

ACWA Members Celebrate Water Professionals Appreciation Week

Water agencies throughout California celebrated Water Professionals Appreciation Week Oct. 4-12 by highlighting the essential role that water industry professionals serve in their community.

As part of the designated week, urban and agricultural water agencies utilized their communication channels to educate media, customers, local elected leaders and other key audiences on the essential role that water professionals play in providing safe and reliable water services. The annual celebration also includes public tours and other events. In addition, agencies honored their employees and highlighted the value of careers in water.

ACWA developed and distributed a customizable toolkit to member agencies that included talking points, a template Board resolution/proclamation, sample social media posts, logos, customizable social media graphics and a bill insert. Additionally, the toolkit offered a template for customizing a short slideshow video to post on social media.

Water Professionals Appreciation Week was established in 2017 by Senate Concurrent Resolution 80 (SCR 80), by Senator Bill Dodd (D-Napa). The measure was sponsored by a coalition of water associations led by ACWA that included WateReuse California, California Municipal Utilities Association, California Association of Sanitation Agencies and the California Water Association. 💧

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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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ELECTION continued from page 1

regulation, design, and construction of water, wastewater, and recycled water works and municipal facilities. He has previously served as Director of Engineering at CCWD and as General Manager of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.

Avila issued a statement in a CCWD news release:

“I am truly honored to have the opportunity to serve as President of ACWA. My roots are with Contra Costa Water District, and I look forward to bringing our local experiences and perspectives to my statewide leadership role. ACWA is already a trusted leader in shaping California water policy, and I look forward to adding to that legacy representing all of our ACWA member agencies.

“It is imperative that ACWA advocates for statewide water policy issues and expertly navigates policy shifts at the state and federal level. With a focus on advocacy, connections, education and organizational effectiveness, I plan to strengthen the collective voice of ACWA’s member water agencies statewide, particularly in the areas of water supply reliability and infrastructure funding.”

Replacing Avila as Vice President, Gonzales-Brady has served on the Rancho California

Water District Board of Directors since 2017, including two terms as Board President. Her professional experience spans federally regulated industries such as water and electric utilities. She currently is ACWA Vice Chair for Region 9 and was elected by the ACWA Board to serve on the Executive Committee. She is also on the Southern California Water Coalition Board of Trustees and the Urban Water Institute Board of Directors.

Gonzales issued the following statement in a Rancho Water news release:

“I am deeply honored to serve as Vice President of ACWA. California faces complex water challenges, but by working together, we can build sustainable, innovative solutions that protect our most precious resource. I look forward to serving our members statewide and advancing policies that benefit communities, businesses and agriculture throughout California.”

All the newly elected members will begin their term of service on Jan. 1, 2026, and serve until Dec. 31, 2027.

For more information about the election results, visit acwa.com/elections. 💧

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ACWA

ACWA Fall 2025 Conference + EXPO

SCAN TO REGISTER



Dec. 2–4, 2025
San Diego

ACWA Region Boards Announced for 2026-'27 Term

Region	Chair	Vice Chair	Board Members
1	David Rabbitt , Director, Sonoma County Water Agency	Ranjiv Khush , Director, Marin Municipal Water District	Peter Martin , Deputy Director Water Resources, City of Santa Rosa Water Dennis Mayo , Director, McKinleyville Community Services District Bruce Rupp , Director, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District
2	Eric Larrabee , Director, Western Canal Water District	Josh Watkins , Water Utility Manager, City of Redding	Kyle Morgado , Water Resources Manager, Yuba Water Agency Kevin Phillips , District Manager, Paradise Irrigation District Dean Sherrill , Regulatory Officer, Rio Alto Water District Shandon Smith , Director, Tehama Colusa Canal Authority
3	Michael Saunders , Director, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District	Larry McKenney , General Manager, Amador Water Agency	Sean Barclay , General Manager, Tahoe City Public Utility District Rebecca Guo , General Manager, El Dorado Water Agency Michael Minkler , General Manager, Calaveras County Water District Jessica Self , General Manager, Union Public Utility District Pravani Vandeyar , General Manager, El Dorado Irrigation District
4	Cary Keaten , General Manager, Solano Irrigation District	Kristin Sicke , General Manager, Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District	Ronald Davis , Director, Carmichael Water District Thomas D. Orvis , President, Oakdale Irrigation District Andrew Watkins , Director, Stockton East Water District David Weisenberger , General Manager, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District
5	Sarah Palmer , Director, Zone 7 Water Agency	John Varela , Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District	Steve Huber , Director, United Water Conservation District Antonio Martinez , Vice President, Contra Costa Water District John H. Muller , Director, Coastside County Water District John H. Weed , Director, Alameda County Water District Floyd Wicks , Director, Montecito Water District
6	Sarge Green , Director, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District	Deanna Jackson , Executive Director, Tri- County Water Authority	Brian Davis , Director, Madera Irrigation District Ross Franson , Director, Westlands Water District Jamie Marquez , Water Resources Manager, Dudley Ridge Water District Anthony Nonini , Director, Kings River Conservation District Darcy Villere , Director, Firebaugh Canal Water District
7	Tom Barcellos , President, Lower Tule River Irrigation District	Sheridan Nicholas , Engineer Manager, Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District	Johnny Amaral , COO/CEA, Friant Water Agency Byron Glennan , Director, Rosamond Community Services District Trent Taylor , Assistant General Manager, Rosedale Rio-Bravo Water Storage District
8	Anthony R. Fellow , Director, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	Scott Quady , Director, Calleguas Municipal Water District	William Cooper , Vice President, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Robert W. Lewis , Director, Rowland Water District Jacquelyn McMillan , Director, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Chisom Obegolu , Assistant General Manager – Water Services, City of Glendale Water & Power Richard Wilson , Assistant General Manager – Water, Burbank Water & Power
9	Joseph Grindstaff , Director, Eastern Municipal Water District	Paul Ortega , Board President, Desert Water Agency	Brenda Dennstedt , Director, Western Municipal Water District Russ Martin , Director, Mission Springs Water District James Morales Jr. , Chairman of the Board, East Valley Water District G. Patrick O'Dowd , Executive Director/General Manager, Salton Sea Authority Harvey R. Ryan , Director, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
10	George Murdoch , President, East Orange County Water District	Dana Frieauf , Director, Santa Fe Irrigation District	Alexandra Berenter , Deputy Director of External Affairs, City of San Diego Marice H. DePasquale , President, Mesa Water District Scott Maloni , Director, Olivenhain Municipal Water District Jose Martinez , General Manager, Otay Water District Deborah Neev , Commissioner, Laguna Beach County Water District



Final Status of Key Water Bills for 2025 Legislative Year

The chart below summarizes the final outcome of several key bills, among many, on which ACWA staff advocated during 2025. Gov. Gavin Newsom had until Oct. 12 to veto or sign legislation into law. ♦

Bill	Author	Status	Details
SB 394/Water Theft	Senator Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica)	Signed	Co-sponsored by ACWA and the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, SB 394 will allow local water agencies to adopt an ordinance with enhanced penalties for water theft from a fire hydrant. Additionally, it removes the one-year reset on existing penalties for the third and additional violations for water theft committed via meter tampering and other methods. It will 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.
SB 454/PFAS	Senator Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton)	Vetoed	Co-sponsored by ACWA and the League of California Cities, SB 454 would have created a statewide PFAS Mitigation Fund to help local agencies provide safe drinking water and treated wastewater for their communities. The bill was vetoed by the governor in September.
SB 72/California Water Plan	Senator Anna Caballero (D-Merced)	Signed	Supported by ACWA, this bill as law will direct the Department of Water Resources to modernize the California Water Plan with changes to address California's new climate reality. The changes include developing water supply targets that will result in an adequate and reliable water supply for all beneficial uses, including the environment, agriculture, economy and all Californians.
AB 1319/Endangered Species Act	Assemblymember Nick Schultz (D-Burbank)	Signed	ACWA maintained an oppose-unless-amended position and urged a veto on this legislation because it could circumvent public process by allowing the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to deem any federally listed or candidate endangered species as a "provisional candidate" under California law, to remain in effect through 2031 with no public justification and no public appeal or comment process.
AB 105/Proposition 4 spending	Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D-Encino)	Signed	ACWA helped lead a coalition successfully urging legislative leadership to implement a spending plan this year for Proposition 4, the \$10 billion climate resilience bond approved by voters. Proposition 4 includes \$3.8 billion in funding for water-related categories and there are shovel-ready projects ready to move forward in nearly every category.
AB 102/Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program	Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D-Encino)	Signed	ACWA staff, in coordination with other associations and individual ACWA members, successfully urged legislators to restore \$351 million in funding for the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Program in June. An Outreach Alert encouraging members to engage with legislators had a significant impact on restoring the funding, representing progress toward improving the health of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta (Bay-Delta). ACWA is a long-standing supporter of the HRL Program, previously referred to as Voluntary Agreements, as the best approach to protecting, restoring and enhancing the Bay-Delta.
AB 149/Invasive Golden Mussels	Assembly Budget Committee	Signed	ACWA worked within a member-driven coalition to support adding a solution for golden mussels to a budget trailer bill. This resulted in a policy solution, along with a \$20 million allocation from an invasive species account for issues related to golden mussels.
SB 601/Water Quality	Senator Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica)	Stopped in Legislature	The bill was introduced with the intent of safeguarding California's water quality protection regime from federal rollbacks; however, its approach would have gone far beyond simply maintaining the status quo. The bill would have complicated the state's water quality permitting system and expanded upon federal permitting requirements, without a corresponding increase in water quality. ACWA and many member agencies were part of a large coalition opposed to the bill.



Left: Attendees tour Shone Farm and get a glimpse of what Santa Rosa Junior College students learn about water and agriculture. **Right:** Shannon Cotulla, Public Works Director of the Town of Windsor, welcomes attendees to the Region 1 Program and his community.

Water Innovations Take Center Stage at ACWA Region 1 Event

By Region 1 Chair Elizabeth Salomone

ACWA Region 1 hosted attendees in Windsor on Sept. 12 for a full-day program and tour highlighting innovative water sustainability practices across the North Bay. The event brought together local leaders, water professionals and ACWA members to explore forward-thinking approaches to water management — from reclamation and reuse to water-smart agriculture and brewery operations.

The morning program featured Molly Oshun, Climate Resiliency Engineer at Sonoma Water, who discussed the region's efforts to prepare for future water challenges through innovation and collaboration.

"It is important to be storing water in water years, utilizing all our tools, like water banking, recharge, storage and FIRO," Oshun shared.

Peter Martin, Deputy Director of Water Resources at Santa Rosa Water, followed with a presentation on Santa Rosa's adaptive supply planning approach noting that the "goal is not to oversimplify the process, but make the process feel simple."

Participants then toured the Windsor Water Reclamation Plant, learning how the facility is leading the way toward net-zero energy. Through advanced reuse and renewable energy systems, 80% of the Town of Windsor is powered by water treated at this plant. Attendees saw firsthand how Windsor's integrated approach to water recycling supports both community and environmental sustainability.

Attendees also traveled to Shone Farm, operated by Santa Rosa Junior College, for a "Lunch & Learn" session focused on

water-smart agriculture. The presentation highlighted how students and faculty use recycled water, soil moisture data, and sustainable farming techniques to conserve resources while supporting local food production.

The day concluded with a tour and tasting at Russian River Brewing Company, where participants learned about water efficiency and reuse in brewing operations.

On behalf of ACWA's Region 1 Board, I want to thank our event partners and sponsors, ACWA JPIA, Stantec, HDR, Town of Windsor, Russian River Brewing Company and Shone Farm for making this informative day possible. Thank you also to ACWA staff for your work coordinating and organizing this successful event. ♦

ACWA region events are a great way to learn how member agencies are addressing various water industry challenges. Visit acwa.com/events for dates and details of other upcoming events.

ACWA Members Celebrate Water Professionals Appreciation Week



I am a WATER PROFESSIONAL

As an NID Electrical Systems Technician, I ensure our equipment operates efficiently so we can reliably deliver water to you.

CALIFORNIA
WATER
PROFESSIONALS
APPRECIATION
WEEK

OCT. 4-12, 2025



I am a WATER PROFESSIONAL

What I love most about my role is supporting transparency, working with our board and internal department and connecting with the public.

CALIFORNIA
WATER
PROFESSIONALS
APPRECIATION
WEEK

OCT. 4 - 12, 2025



We are WATER PROFESSIONALS

OUR MISSION IS TO DELIVER RELIABLE, HIGH-QUALITY WATER, AND RECLAMATION SERVICES TO ITS CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES IN A PRUDENT AND SUSTAINABLE MANNER.

CALIFORNIA
WATER
PROFESSIONALS
APPRECIATION
WEEK

OCT. 4 - 12, 2025



I am a WATER PROFESSIONAL

Through my work supporting the Kings River Fisheries Program I raise rainbow trout for stocking in the Kings River, and through the annual fish population surveys I can monitor ecological trends in the Kings River.

CALIFORNIA
WATER
PROFESSIONALS
APPRECIATION
WEEK

OCT. 4 - 12, 2025

Lori Werner
Resource Analyst II
KRCD



Board Votes to Cut Planned Increase in Member Dues

The ACWA Board of Directors on Sept. 19 voted unanimously to reduce a previously approved member dues increase for 2026 from 2.5% to 1%.

The Board based its decision on a recommendation from ACWA's Finance Committee, which cited ACWA's current financial health and the association's continued commitment to being fiscally responsible and sensitive to the impact of dues increases on members. Current invoices for member dues were mailed out in late September and are due on Jan. 31, 2026.

"ACWA is currently in a strong financial position, with robust cash balances that have grown year over year," stated a Finance Committee report to the Board. "Financial projections indicate continued growth in net position and growth in cash, even as the organization strategically addresses its unfunded CalPERS pension liability through a newly adopted paydown method."

ACWA Scholarship Program

Board members accepted several recommendations from ACWA's Communications Committee to revise and approve the association's scholarship program. The approved changes apply to eligibility and include:

- Expanding undergraduate scholarship eligibility to students attending any accredited four-year university in California, rather than limiting eligibility to California State University and University of California campuses.
- Replacing the two existing \$3,500 ACWA Undergraduate Scholarships with a new ACWA Water Law and Policy Graduate Scholarship of \$5,000.

ACWA will open its scholarship application process for the 2026-'27 school year this December.

Request for Assistance

Board members approved a request from member agency City of San Diego

Public Utilities to file an Amicus Curiae letter in support of petition for review by California Supreme Court in *Patz v. City of San Diego* at no cost to ACWA. The association's Legal Affairs Committee recommended approving the request because the published decision affects all ACWA member agencies that make rates subject to Proposition 218.

Resolutions in Honor

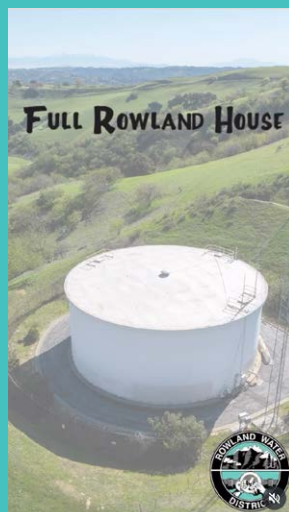
The Board passed three resolutions honoring member agencies that are celebrating milestone anniversaries. They included:

- Eastern Municipal Water District on its 75th anniversary;
- Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District on its 75th anniversary; and
- El Dorado Irrigation District on its centennial. ♦

LIKE, SHARE
& FOLLOW

EXPLORING THE WATER WORLD ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA

Many water agencies took the opportunity to showcase their amazing employees that keep our state's water flowing during Water Professionals Appreciation Week. Here are a few examples of videos on Instagram.



Rowland Water District (@rowlandwaterdistrict) introduced some of its staff using the Full House theme song – a trending audio on Instagram right now.



San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (@mysfpu) shared a video from its Assistant General Manager, thanking staff for keeping San Francisco's taps flowing.





Left: SFPUC hosts a tour of its Southeast Treatment Facility.

Right: Attendees pause for a group photo at SFPUC's Twin Peaks Reservoir overlooking San Francisco.

Region 5 Event Hosts Tour of SFPUC's Water System

By Region 5 Vice Chair Sarah Palmer

Hosted by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), the ACWA Region 5 event Sept. 25–26 combined valuable networking opportunities with an in-depth tour of San Francisco's water distribution system and its unique collaboration with the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD).

From the very start, participants could see the extraordinary level of preparation that went into the day. Each stop highlighted both the history and the incredibly detailed planning that shapes San Francisco's approach to water, wastewater, and emergency management. Attendees gained insights into how the city's systems connect and maximize resiliency in water supply, wastewater treatment, flood protection, seismic resilience and preparation for sea level rise.

For seasoned water professionals from across Region 5 and the state, it was an unusually rich and detailed experience. About 50 people joined us.

One of the highlights was a visit to SFFD's Pumping Station #2 at Fort Mason, a living time capsule of early 20th century engineering. Built in 1913, the facility still houses its original pumping equipment, designed to push saltwater uphill at 300 pounds per square inch in the event of a major fire. Though it has never been used, the station remains a critical part of San Francisco's fire protection network. The visit offered attendees a powerful reminder of how durable infrastructure from the past continues to underpin resilience today.

The tour covered the city from top to bottom—from Twin Peaks Reservoir beneath Sutro Tower to the Southeast Treatment Facility, a 1950s-era wastewater

plant now undergoing a major retrofit. Along the way, SFPUC Assistant General Manager for Water Enterprise Steve Ritchie along with several other SFPUC staff volunteered their time serving as tour guides, providing historical context, technical insights as well as a glimpse into the future of San Francisco's water systems.

From cisterns and color-coded fire hydrants to innovative upgrades and emergency preparedness, participants came away with a deep appreciation of how water and fire protection work hand in hand in San Francisco. Perfect weather, an engaged audience and a lively networking reception organized by ACWA staff made the event a resounding success.

Region 5 extends thanks to event sponsors ACWA JPIA, HDR, Kleinfelder, Stantec and Valley Water for making the experience possible. 💧

ACWA region events are a great way to learn how member agencies are addressing various water industry challenges. Visit acwa.com/events for dates and details of other upcoming events.

Members Link International Communities Through Water

From Mexico to the Philippines, California water agencies are forging international partnerships that are improving water quality, strengthening operations, and building lasting relationships rooted in shared expertise.

In November 2024, the City of Santa Ana's Water Resources Division traveled to its sister city, Sahuayo, Mexico. The trip began with a joint press conference at Sahuayo's municipal presidency, where officials outlined a water quality and treatment project as a step toward long-term sustainability. Over several days, Santa Ana's team worked closely with Sahuayo's public works and drinking water staff on leak control, treatment plant efficiency and system reliability.

"This visit brought together the skilled expertise of both cities, demonstrating how collaboration across borders can deliver real solutions for utility services," Santa Ana Acting City Engineer Cesar E. Barrera stated in a news release.

Santa Ana City Manager Alvaro Nuñez emphasized the importance of leadership in building momentum for the future. "With new leadership, Santa Ana is bringing fresh vision and strong partnerships that open doors to innovation. Our collaboration with Sahuayo is not only improving water service today but also shaping a brighter future for both communities."

While Santa Ana was working in Mexico, Rowland Water District (RWD) in Los Angeles County launched its own exchange with Norzagaray Water District (NorWD) in the Philippines.

"When our team saw firsthand the dedication and resourcefulness of our colleagues in the Philippines, it deepened our commitment to public service," RWD General Manager Tom Coleman stated in a news release. "It's a reminder that water connects us all, no matter where we live, and that by helping each other we all grow stronger."



Rowland Water District's leadership team visits with fellow water professionals in the Philippines. Photo courtesy of Rowland Water District

Though half a world apart, these efforts share the same goals: improving infrastructure, boosting efficiency, and ensuring reliable access to safe water. They reflect a growing trend in the water sector, with international collaboration emerging as a powerful way to elevate local service. ♡

Desert Water Welcomes Mideast Delegates

In September, Desert Water Agency hosted 12 delegates of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program at its headquarters to discuss water delivery in the desert. The meeting was arranged by the International Citizen Diplomacy of Los Angeles.

The professional and cultural exchange program aims to promote global awareness and build international relationships. The delegates were from Egypt, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Israel and the United Arab Emirates. They were comprised of researchers and experts in the fields of civil, mechanical and technical engineering, as well as chief executives of companies that focus on clean and renewable energy and safe water solutions.

The visit provided a beneficial exchange of ideas and perspectives. Discussion



Delegates from the Middle East visit with Desert Water Agency leaders during a September visit. Photo courtesy of Desert Water Agency

focused on water delivery management best practices and sustainability priorities, including the importance of imported water and groundwater recharge, water sources, infrastructure, and water quality.

"We appreciated the opportunity to share with our esteemed guests the Agency's

rich history in water management as a State Water Project contractor, and to showcase water delivery in the desert as it travels from the ground to the tap," DWA General Manager Esther M. Saenz stated in a news release. ♡

ACWA Continues Search for New Executive Director

After thoughtful consideration, the ACWA Board of Directors has decided to re-open the recruitment effort for a new Executive Director and retain a new executive search firm to support this important process.

“The Board of Directors remains fully committed to finding the right leader to guide the association into the future,” said ACWA President Cathy Green. “Because of the critical nature of this decision, the Board agreed it was in the best interest

of members and staff to engage a new recruitment firm and continue the search effort to ensure the best possible outcome.”

Marwan Khalifa, who has served as Interim Executive Director since February, will continue to lead the association until the position is filled. He previously served as Chief Financial Officer and District Treasurer for Mesa Water District, as well as Chair of ACWA’s Finance Committee

and member of the ACWA Board and Executive Committee.

“ACWA staff remains committed to delivering exceptional value to all members during this transition period,” Khalifa said. “We look forward to continuing our engagement with the California water community through collaboration, strong legislative and regulatory advocacy and world-class region events and fall conference.” ♦

THIS MONTH IN ACWA HISTORY

10 years ago

The results of a Field Research Corporation poll of 1,002 registered California voters showed a far greater percentage of them viewing the state’s drought as “extremely serious” as compared with voters in 1977, during the state’s previous severe drought.

20 years ago

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner John Keys visited the Coachella Valley Water District and presented a \$300,000 grant for assisting comprehensive efforts to help area growers further reduce demand for irrigation water. Keys, a former Alabama cotton farmer, stated he was impressed with the sheer variety of produce grown in the Coachella Valley.

30 years ago

Six Sacramento area water agencies broke ground on the \$30 million, 12-mile-long Cooperative Transmission Pipeline Project. Speaking at the groundbreaking, then-ACWA Executive Director Stephen Hall said: “In the nervous ’90s, when the more government tries to do, the less it seems to accomplish, this pipeline project stands as one of the bright candles being lit to remind us of what can be



Then-ACWA Executive Director Stephen Hall speaks during an October 1995 groundbreaking for the Cooperative Transmission Pipeline Project in the Sacramento area.

accomplished when we come together to solve problems.”

40 years ago

ACWA made the final touches to “ACWA’s 75-Year History” as the association prepared for its diamond jubilee, which was celebrated at the ACWA Fall Conference at San Diego’s Hotel Coronado. The book detailed the association’s history up until 1985 and included data and brief histories on each member agency.

50 years ago

ACWA News reported on the latest development in the long-running battle over New Melones Dam, still years away from completion. A potential landmark decision by the U.S. District Court sided with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, holding that the State Water Resources Control Board could not impose conditions on the Bureau in the operation of federal water projects through its Decision 1422. The State Water Board planned to appeal. ♦



Jenny Scheer

Western Canal Names Scheer as GM

Western Canal Water District has announced the appointment of **Jenny Scheer** as its new General Manager, effective in December. She will succeed current General Manager **Ted Trimble**, who is retiring but will continue serving the district by contributing to key projects in a part-time capacity.

Most recently, Scheer served as an Ag Water Specialist with Water and Land Solutions, LLC, partnering with farmers

to respond to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and other water challenges. She previously worked as a consultant and also led the Santa Clara Farm Bureau as its Executive Director.

Scheer graduated from California State University, Chico in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business and a minor in Religious Studies. She earned her master's degree from the University of California, Davis in Agricultural and Resource Economics in 2016. ♦



Frederick Mayo

Oceanside Names Mayo Water Utilities Director

The City of Oceanside has announced the selection of **Frederick Mayo** as the city's new Water Utilities Director. Mayo succeeds **Lindsay Leahy** in the position.

Mayo brings more than 20 years of experience in managing medium to large municipal systems with a strong background in infrastructure

development. Prior to joining the city, he served as the Director of Public Works for the City of Oroville.

"We are excited to have Fred join the Oceanside team," stated Assistant City Manager **Michael Gossman**. "His extensive experience and leadership will continue to strengthen our ability to provide safe, reliable, and cost-effective water and wastewater utility services."



Lindsay Leahy

Valley Center MWD Names Leahy GM

The Valley Center Municipal Water District (VCMWD) Board of Directors has appointed **Lindsay Leahy** as the district's new General Manager, effective Nov. 3. She succeeds General Manager **Gary Arant**, who will retire at the end of this year after 36 years in the position.

A registered Professional Engineer, Leahy currently serves as Deputy General Manager at Santa Margarita Water District. Prior to that, she was Utilities

Director and Principal Engineer for the City of Oceanside. She brings more than 16 years of water, wastewater, and related industry experience to VCMWD.

Leahy holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from California State University, Chico, and a master's degree in public administration from San Diego State University. She also earned a Water Management and Leadership Certificate from California State University, San Marcos in 2019. ♦

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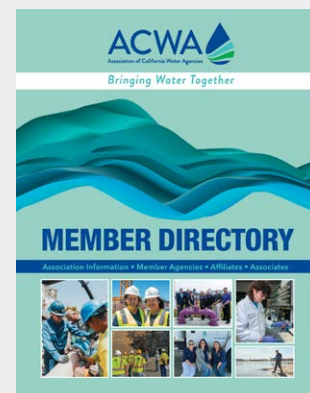
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Total: 2,970

Percent Paid: 98.86%



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VIRTUAL 2025-'26 ACWA CLE WORKSHOPS



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State Prepares for Extreme Weather Swings as New Water Year Begins - Sept. 30

Linking International Communities Through Water - Sept. 23

San Bernardino County and WWD Break Ground on Main Replacement Project - Oct. 1

ACWA Board Officers' Election, Region Election Results Announced for the 2026-'27 Term - Sept. 26

Western Water Completes Well 7 Project - Sept. 23

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for complete listing and registration

NOV 2025
3



ACWA's CLE Workshop 1 - Contract Drafting for Water Lawyers: Agreement Fundamentals
ACWA | Virtual

Kick off the ACWA 2025-'26 Virtual CLE Series with contract fundamentals for water lawyers. Get practical insights on structure, drafting, and communication – ideal for all experience levels.

NOV 2025
5

5th Biennial Flood-Mar Forum
The Flood-Mar Network | Sacramento

Join the Flood-MAR Network for its fifth biennial forum – California's leading event on using floodwaters for aquifer recharge. Connect, learn and shape the future of sustainable, resilient water management in California.

NOV 2025
13-14



ACWA Regions 8, 9 & 10 Event
ACWA | Irvine

Join water leaders and policymakers to explore Southern California's top water challenges. Featuring expert panels, federal insights, a Colorado River update, and ACWA advocacy priorities – plus a networking reception at the Irvine Marriott.

NOV 2025
21

MCWRA Fall 2025 Water Forum
MCWRA | Auburn

Join the MCWRA Fall 2025 Water Forum at the beautiful Ridge Golf Course & Events Center in Placer County. There will be statewide legislative debrief, keynotes, panel discussions, lunch and several networking opportunities.

DEC 2025
2-4



ACWA's 2025 Fall Conference & Expo
ACWA | San Diego

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. Register by Nov. 3 to save.

FEB 2026
11



ACWA 2026 Legislative Symposium
ACWA | Sacramento

Save the date for ACWA's annual Legislative Symposium featuring critical updates on California water policy for directors, managers, attorneys and staff.