



Attendees of the Oct. 23 Region 2 event enjoy a tour of Oroville Dam after visiting the Feather River Fish Hatchery. See page 8 for more details and photos from the event.

ACWA Plans Ahead for 2026 State Legislative Advocacy

ACWA's State Legislative Committee (SLC) met Nov. 7 to review legislative proposals and consider requests for assistance on policy issues from member agencies, as well as discuss draft advocacy priorities during 2026.

The SLC reviewed four member-submitted legislative proposals and acted to:

- Support amending the Surplus Lands Act
- Support sponsoring, in concept, the initiation of low-income water rate assistance legislation
- Sponsor legislation regarding wildfire liability, pending final approval at the January SLC meeting
- Refer to ACWA's Legal Affairs Committee a proposal to amend procedures within the State Water Resources Control Board's Administrative Hearings Office

For the first time, the SLC also reviewed policy-related requests for assistance intended to strengthen coordination between it, policy committees and ACWA regions as part of implementing the 2025-'29 Strategic Plan. All requests were referred to ACWA policy committees for technical input. Subjects included:

- Housing and land-use permitting
- State Water Board budget and fee development
- New California Endangered Species Act law
- Access to safe drinking water remediation funding for disadvantaged communities
- Water efficiency and turf replacement
- Permit reform ♦

Tuck Leaves Behind Legacy at ACWA

Deputy Executive Director Cindy Tuck retired from ACWA this month after more than a decade leading the association's government relations team.

Tuck came to ACWA in 2011 after serving in the administrations of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Gov. Jerry Brown as the first woman to be appointed California Environmental Protection Agency Undersecretary. She also arrived as a licensed professional engineer and attorney — an ideal combination given her role at ACWA and the work of its member agencies. However, titles and credentials don't fully highlight the essential skills behind Tuck's successful work on behalf of members.

Tuck is a builder. The legislative and regulatory challenges facing ACWA have varied widely, but her strategy in solving them shares the same essential steps: understanding the intent, obtaining input from ACWA members regarding the impacts as proposed and possible solutions, developing consensus on how to write the solution, building a coalition, and reaching out to bill sponsors, the Legislature or governmental agencies and other interested parties. She enjoys collaborating with partners such as labor, environmental, agricultural and business organizations to achieve mutual goals.

It's an approach that reduces or avoids adversarialism and embraces collaboration, no small task given the often-contentious world of California

TUCK continued on page 4 >

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ACWA PRESIDENT CATHY GREEN

Leading with Gratitude: Reflections on My Tenure as ACWA President



Celebrating the collaboration, compassion and shared commitment that make ACWA a powerful force for California's water future.

Leading ACWA as Vice President and then President over the past four years has brought countless memories I will always cherish. Chairing Board meetings, engaging in policy discussions and helping strengthen this incredible association have been deeply rewarding experiences.

But what stands out most is the privilege of meeting hundreds of dedicated water professionals who make ACWA such a dynamic force for good in California. Time and again, our members demonstrate a remarkable willingness to support one another and to turn challenges into opportunities for collaboration and progress.

One experience that captures this spirit occurred last January, when devastating wildfires swept through the Los Angeles region, impacting several member agencies. ACWA acted quickly, offering support and helping ensure accurate information reached the public and policymakers. We engaged with news media and legislators to correct misinformation about urban water systems — explaining that these systems were never designed to combat the weather-driven ferocity of modern wildfires. Working with our Headwaters Workgroup, we also fast-tracked production of the “F.I.R.E. Fix” video series and other educational tools to help members raise awareness among the public and lawmakers about the urgent need to protect California’s headwaters from unnaturally extreme wildfires.

Just as inspiring were the member agency leaders who had endured previous wildfire disasters and immediately stepped up to

assist their colleagues in Southern California. They offered guidance, shared resources, and helped navigate the thickets of red tape that often accompany recovery efforts. That kind of compassion and collaboration truly embodies the spirit of ACWA.

There have been joyful surprises, too — like the day the Governor walked into our 2024 Spring Conference & Expo and took the time to address our members. Regardless of one’s political perspective, it was a powerful reminder of ACWA’s influence and the respect this organization has earned through decades of steady, principled leadership.

As my term as President draws to a close next month, I am filled with gratitude. I will continue to serve on the Board as Immediate Past President and remain deeply committed to ACWA’s mission and community.

Ours is an extraordinary organization, and anyone in the ACWA family can experience that firsthand. Volunteer for committees, run for region boards, get involved, and attend events and tours beyond your own region. The people you meet and the insights you gain into water management across this great state will inspire you — no matter how long you’ve been in the water industry.

Serving as ACWA President has been one of the greatest honors of my career. Thank you for your trust, your friendship, and your shared dedication to California’s water future. I look forward to seeing you in San Diego for our Fall Conference & Expo — and at many more ACWA gatherings in the years ahead. ♦



Left: ACWA Vice President Ernie Avila talks with U.S. Rep. Vince Fong during the Region 6/Region 7 evening reception.
Right: The Region 6/Region 7 tour wraps up with a group photo at Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District.

From Carrots to Canals and Congressmen, Regions 6 and 7 Host Informative Event in Bakersfield

By Region 6 Chair Deanna Jackson and Region 7 Chair Sheridan Nicholas

You might know that 95% of our nation's processed carrots come from Kern County, but it's unlikely you have ever toured a massive facility where millions of the tasty root vegetables begin their journey from farm to produce aisle.

This is because Grimmway Farms rarely hosts visitors at its carrot processing plant, but an exception was made for attendees of the ACWA Region 6 and Region 7 event in mid-October. The experience became one of several highlights from a two-day program that brought more than 50 people to Bakersfield, providing the latest example of how ACWA region events routinely offer exclusive access to the people, places and policy insights behind California water.

The event kicked off with an evening reception that featured U.S. Rep. Vince Fong (R-CA-20), who joined us for over an hour at Bakersfield's celebrated Basque Wool Growers Restaurant. The reception also included an update on the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley delivered by Scott Hamilton, with its Technical Work Group, and a presentation

by California Farm Water Coalition Executive Director Mike Wade.

The next day's tour started at the Kern County Water Agency and proceeded to the Water Operations Intertie, where the Cross Valley, Arvin-Edison and Friant-Kern canals intersect. During flood conditions in 2023, this system enabled the diversion of millions of acre-feet of water for groundwater recharge.

A common theme running through Regions 6 and 7 events over years is the incredible resilience of our agricultural community, as well as its dedication to innovating ever more efficient uses of water. And that dedication is shared by water managers and members of the agricultural industry such as Grimmway Farms. While touring its Bakersfield facility, we learned that the plant was saving a million gallons of water a week compared to last year through innovations in water recycling.

Up until that point, our region event was on a fast-paced tour. Until it wasn't.

An engine malfunction on our rented bus reduced our speed to a five-mile-an-hour crawl to our next destination, Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District. But people in California water are nothing if not resilient in the face of adversity. Mike Wade and ACWA Interim Executive Director Marwan Khalifa turned to trivia and improv comedy, while the team at Rosedale delivered our lunch enroute.

We had to cut the itinerary short by one afternoon stop, but not before we enjoyed a presentation at Rosedale that delved into the agency's extensive and successful work in groundwater recharge, described as "hyper-coordinated."

I want to thank Rosedale Engineer-Manager Dan Bartel and his team for delivering lunch, hosting us and helping our attendees back to our starting point at Kern County Water Agency. Also, the event would not have been possible without sponsors California Farm Water Coalition, ACWA JPIA, HDR and Stantec. And as always, ACWA staff did an amazing job organizing the event and nimbly responding to unexpected developments. ♦

TUCK continued from page 1

water. But with Tuck, it has worked. And it hasn't gone unnoticed inside and outside ACWA.

"Cindy Tuck retiring from ACWA means saying goodbye to a huge amount of experience," said Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth. "Water policy is complicated, especially in the Legislature, because good water policy requires lawmakers to take a statewide perspective. Nobody understands that so well as Cindy. Everyone who works with ACWA will miss her knowledge, judgment, instinct, professionalism and constructive approach."

Identifying solutions that can earn broad support, even with those who start with different or opposing viewpoints, has become a hallmark of Tuck's policy work and advocacy. A few among many examples tell the story.

Action Plans

In 2013, Tuck co-facilitated an extensive internal process for the development of ACWA's recommendations to inform the Brown Administration's development of the "California Water Action Plan." ACWA's process resulted in ACWA's "State Water Action Plan for California." The ACWA plan was a key input into the State's plan development – in part because it represented a unified, statewide perspective from local and regional public water agencies.

Proposition 1

In 2014, there was general consensus that water bond legislation — originally approved in 2009 and supported by ACWA but delayed due to economic conditions — needed to be downsized. Tuck, together with ACWA members and key partners, advanced ACWA's "bond math" for scaling the bond back. The revised legislation that the Legislature passed and Gov. Brown signed was close to ACWA's proposal. The public overwhelmingly approved the \$7.5 billion water bond measure that year as Proposition 1.

SGMA

When ACWA decided in 2013 to develop specific recommendations for how groundwater should be sustainably managed in California, Tuck pushed for ACWA's proposal to be ready in time for the legislative discussions that would start in the spring of 2014. The timely and well-thought-out ACWA recommendations gave ACWA's advocacy team led by Whitnie Wiley a seat at the table in the extensive negotiations over many months. Tuck helped close the negotiations later in 2014. Ultimately, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, known widely as SGMA, was enacted with a strong focus on local groundwater management.

Low-Income Rate Assistance

Tuck led ACWA's internal discussions and advocacy on the development of a feasible low-income rate assistance program, which laid a foundation for ACWA advocacy that continues today.

Proposed Water Tax

During 2017, 2018 and 2019, Sen. William Monning (D-Carmel) and other Legislators proposed the establishment of a statewide tax on drinking water to fund safe drinking water solutions for disadvantaged communities. Tuck led an advocacy campaign with a large coalition that made it abundantly clear that ACWA was identifying alternative approaches. ACWA and coalition members explained why a tax on drinking water would work against water affordability. This was an all-hands-on-deck issue for ACWA and the coalition.

Ultimately, Sen. Monning, the Legislature and Governor Brown created the ACWA-supported Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, which relies on a different funding mechanism and is providing \$130 million annually for 11 years.

Knowledge, experience, perseverance — these are attributes people list when talking about working with Tuck.

"Cindy's calming presence in the midst of the chaos of a legislative season was truly



amazing. Her knowledge of the system allowed her to calm the rest of us down. A true professional in every way," said Past ACWA President Brent Hastey, who led ACWA during the 2018-'19 term.

Central to Tuck's job was working closely with the ACWA State Legislative Committee. Committee Chair Lauren Layne has worked with Tuck for years.

"Cindy is a very thoughtful person who goes out of her way to make sure you have all of the background information in order to make an informed decision, which has been a great benefit to those of us who sit on the ACWA State Legislative Committee," Layne said.

Tuck's plans for her next chapter include consulting, travel, photography and fun times with friends and family.

"I am so thankful for the opportunities ACWA has given me," Tuck said. "It has been a privilege working with the Board of Directors, the public water agency members across California, the highly skilled ACWA staff, the elected and appointed leaders and their staffs, and the great partners who walked arm in arm with us." ♦



Opposite page and above: Cindy Tuck's advocacy on behalf of ACWA spans more than 14 years working with leaders within the association, as well as California governors and federal, state, local and international decision makers.

ACWA An Experience of a Lifetime – Thank You

By Cindy Tuck

As of Nov. 8, I am an ACWA retiree and am planning my next chapter.

Being in a leadership role at ACWA since 2011 has been the experience of a lifetime. I am so grateful for the opportunity to work on California water and for the relationships that have been a gift. This column gives me a chance to say "Thank you."

When I was considering joining ACWA, a good friend told me that water people are good people. That was an understatement. After one week in the State Legislative Director position, I participated in my first ACWA State Legislative Committee meeting. I was so impressed with the written bill analyses prepared by ACWA's analysts and advocates. I was impressed that the dialogue was smart and brought together a statewide perspective. Members were friendly. The committee's work provided a solid foundation for advocacy.

Later I also participated in the ACWA Federal Affairs Committee meetings and also found them to be impressive.

The committee processes at ACWA are essential, and I am thankful for my opportunity to work with the committees and to advise the Board of Directors on policy and politics. I want to thank the ACWA Board of Directors for supporting and trusting the Government Relations Team and ACWA staff as a whole.

Former executive Director Timothy Quinn promoted me to Deputy Executive Director for Government Relations. I started leading regular Government Relations Team Meetings, which created synergy between ACWA's California and Washington, D.C. advocacy. I am so thankful for the time I had working with and learning from this talented team.

As an ACWA advocate, I enjoyed leading working group meetings on countless topics. Working groups on legislative and regulatory issues have been a great place to get to know and learn from ACWA members. I am thankful for member input – it leads to great outcomes.

ACWA has such a talented staff across the board. They are skilled professionals from many fields. The staff cares about the organization and the members – and really goes beyond the call to make the organization effective for its members. I am thankful for the chance to work with them.

I have been so lucky to have great opportunities come my way over my entire career, meeting exceptional people who became mentors, trusted partners and great friends, not only during my time at ACWA, but over my entire career.

I am fortunate to have had a fulfilling tenure at ACWA and the opportunity to have a next chapter. After taking a break, I look forward to consulting, travel, photography and fun times with friends and family.

If I don't get to tell you in San Diego, I can tell you now:

Thank you for the privilege — and the joy — of collaborating and making real progress on California water together. ♡

El Dorado Irrigation District Celebrates a Century of Public Service

DISTRICT FACTS

Headquarters Location

Placerville, El Dorado County

Population Served

Approximately 134,000 people

Service Territory

220 square miles

Water Supply and Operations

- Jenkinson Lake
- Silver Lake
- Caples Lake
- Echo Lake
- Lake Aloha
- Forebay Reservoir
- Weber Reservoir
- Folsom Lake (EID-owned as well as contractual supplies)

Water Treatment Plants

- El Dorado Hills Water Treatment Plant
- Reservoir A (Sly Park) Water Treatment Plant
- Reservoir 1 (Forebay) Water Treatment Plant
- Strawberry Water Treatment Plant
- Outingdale Water Treatment Plant

Wastewater Treatment and Recycled Water Production Plants

- El Dorado Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Deer Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

Website

www.eid.org



In 2025, the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) celebrates its centennial, marking 100 years of public service rooted in Gold Rush history and growing into serving farmers and thriving communities in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Formed on Oct. 5, 1925, by county residents, the district's mission was clear from the start — deliver water to sustain local agriculture and a growing population. Yet the story of EID is intertwined with the deeper history of El Dorado County, where water was once valued more than gold.

Water and the Gold Rush

The Gold Rush of the mid-1800s brought tens of thousands to the Sierra Nevada in search of fortune. But the miners quickly discovered that water was the real currency. Hydraulic mining, introduced in the 1850s, used high-powered water cannons to wash away entire hillsides and expose buried deposits of gold. This technique demanded vast amounts of water, prompting the construction of intricate

networks of canals, reservoirs, and wooden flumes that redirected Sierra snowmelt into mining camps.

In El Dorado County, engineers like John Kirk and Francis Bishop were at the forefront. Kirk staked a claim on the South Fork of the American River in 1856 and partnered with Bishop to construct the South Fork Canal, a gravity-fed system that wound across rugged terrain. Their engineering feats not only sustained mining but also laid the foundation for modern water delivery in the region.

From Gold to Agriculture

Hydraulic mining came at a cost. The massive amounts of sediment washed downstream and clogged rivers, buried farmland, and threatened communities. In 1884, the landmark Sawyer Decision effectively banned hydraulic mining, declaring it a public nuisance. With mining diminished, El Dorado County shifted toward farming, relying on the same canals and reservoirs once built for gold mining to irrigate orchards, vineyards, and fields.



Opposite page: Workers float down a canal in this 1922 photograph from EID's historical archives. EID built upon Gold Rush era mining infrastructure to become a thriving water supplier serving domestic and agricultural customers.

Above left: (l-r) ACWA Interim Executive Director Marwan Khalifa presents an ACWA resolution honoring EID on its centennial to district General Manager Pravani Vandeyar and Board President Pat Dwyer during a community event celebrating the milestone.

Above right: A crowd gathers for the dedication of Sly Park Reservoir in 1956. Today, the reservoir serves as EID's single largest water storage facility as well as a popular recreation area hosting more than 300,000 visitors a year.

Photos courtesy of EID

As agriculture flourished, so too did the need for a reliable, organized water system. By the early 20th century, competition with hydropower producers and inconsistent access to water left farmers vulnerable to unreliable water supplies. Seeking water security, in 1925, residents voted to form the El Dorado Irrigation district, cementing local control over the county's most vital resource - water.

Building a System for Public Services

Just two years later, EID purchased the assets of the El Dorado Water Corporation, which had struggled financially despite constructing Weber Reservoir in 1924. The acquisition included 70 miles of canals and laterals, giving the district the infrastructure backbone it needed to stabilize water delivery. The Great Depression brought financial strain, but EID pressed forward, expanding its system to serve both farms and a growing population.

Over time, the district's mission evolved beyond serving irrigation water. Today, EID operates and maintains drinking water,

wastewater treatment, recycled water, hydropower generation, and recreation facilities while staying true to its founding commitment: delivering safe, reliable service in a fiscally responsible way.

Challenges of the Modern Era

The district's century of service has been defined by resilience in the face of challenges. Fires, floods, droughts, and winter storms are part of EID's history and will remain part of its future. For example, in 2021, the Caldor Fire tore through El Dorado County, destroying four of the district's raw water conveyance flumes and causing approximately \$30 million in damages, and threatening critical supplies. Thanks to the rapid response and dedication of EID staff and local contractors, service to customers continued uninterrupted, and the damaged infrastructure was quickly rebuilt. The experience reinforced the district's wildfire preparedness strategies, which remain central to operations today.

Another looming threat is ecological, and happening right now. The golden mussel, an invasive species capable of devastating

California's water systems, is now closer than ever. To protect Jenkinson Lake at Sly Park, one of EID's most important reservoirs that serves all district customers throughout the year, in collaboration with its regional partners, the district has imposed strict boat-launching restrictions in an effort to prevent the introduction of this destructive species. These measures are critical to ensuring safe, reliable water treatment and conveyance, now and into the future.

Looking Ahead

The story of EID is one of adaptation. To meet the growing needs of families, farms, and businesses, the district has evolved alongside the community it serves.

As EID marks its centennial, it honors the early regional visionaries who built the foundation for local services and the generations of employees, leaders, and residents who carried it forward. The challenges of the future loom large, but the district's century-long track record of providing reliable public services demonstrates it is well-equipped to persevere during its second century. ♠



Left: Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea recalls events surrounding the 2017 Oroville Dam spillway crisis. **Right:** The Oct. 23 Region 2 event begins with a tour of the Feather River Fish Hatchery and its role in maintaining the river's salmon fishery.

Region 2 Event Takes Look at Oroville Dam, Then and Now

By Region 2 Chair Eric Larrabee

Dams feature prominently in a lot of ACWA region events, and attendees of our Oct. 23 Region 2 event got an up-close look at the most famous one in California: Oroville Dam on the Feather River, the tallest dam in the nation. We also gained insights into how the dam and Lake Oroville exist as one part of a much broader history of central Northern California, as well as its environment and thriving agriculture economy.

More than 50 people joined us for a day that began at the Feather River Fish Hatchery, one of the most successful hatcheries in the nation for its ongoing work to preserve and enhance the river's steelhead and Chinook salmon runs. Watching the meticulous care and methodical approach used to maintain biogenetic diversity was truly fascinating. It's clear the hatchery continues to prove its worth by sustaining healthy fish populations and contributing to the broader health of the Feather River ecosystem.

Another tour highlight came from hearing Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea recount the tense days of February 2017, when a

powerful atmospheric river storm rapidly filled Lake Oroville and caused part of the spillway to disintegrate. Speaking candidly, and often colorfully, Honea brought to life the cascading events that led to his incredibly difficult decision to order a mass evacuation.

While the feared catastrophic failure of the dam never came to pass, his story reminded us just how close the region came to disaster, and how critical strong leadership, quick thinking and coordination are in moments of crisis.

On a lighter note, Honea also talked about how after the storm passed and the evacuation was lifted, the panic subsided and the conspiracy theorizing took hold. Some hyper imaginative and chronically suspicious types accused the state government of deliberately trying to engineer the dam's failure in order to uncover gold deposits beneath it that could be sold to pay off the state government's debt.

Our tour included exploring the dam itself and gaining a deeper understanding of its immense role in California's water system

in providing flood protection, recreation, habitat and reliable water supplies for farms and communities across the state. Oroville Dam quite literally put this region on the map. Without it, the valley floor would remain vulnerable to the kind of lethal and devastating floods that once plagued Northern California.

Our sincere thanks go to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for hosting our tour of the Feather River Fish Hatchery, and to California Department of Water Resources staff for their compelling presentations while on top of Oroville Dam and during our last stop at the Oroville Dam Visitors Center. Run by California State Parks, the Visitors Center tells the story of Oroville Dam and the surrounding region through a compelling mix of traditional and multi-media displays and videos.

Finally, a special thank you to our generous sponsors — ACWA JPIA, HDR, and Stantec — for making this event possible, and to the ACWA staff team for coordinating every detail of an informative and thoroughly enjoyable day. ♦

Inland Empire Utilities Agency Celebrates 75th

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) in Oct. 16 hosted an open house and career fair in honor of the Agency's 75th anniversary.

Approximately 350 community members attended the event to take part in festivities that not only engaged attendees on IEUA's programs and services, but also provided connections to careers at the agency for all ages.

The free, family-friendly event featured food trucks, educational activities for kids, touch-a-truck demonstrations, giveaways, networking opportunities to connect with industry professionals, and mock interview opportunities for attendees. Staff throughout the agency came together to host 15 interactive booths with engaging

demonstrations and activities highlighting the wastewater treatment process, including a homemade treatment plant model.

"IEUA prides itself on providing essential services in a regionally planned and cost-effective manner, while safeguarding public health, supporting community needs, and protecting the environment," stated IEUA Board President Marco Tule in a news release. "We are proud to showcase



Photo courtesy of IEUA

our commitment to public service by celebrating with the same community who has grown with us over the years. Thank you to everyone who joined us last week and contributed to the event's success." ♦

New FIRO Tool Implemented at Lake Mendocino

Leaders from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Sonoma County Water Agency, UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography Center of Western Weather and Water Extremes and California Department of Water Resources entered a new era in reservoir operations on Oct. 22 with the signing of updates to the water control manual for Coyote Valley Dam and Lake Mendocino.

The revised manual redefines the operating rules around flood control schedules for the first time in the dam's 66-year history by incorporating the principles of modern-day Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations.

FIRO is a flexible water management approach that uses data from watershed monitoring and improved weather forecasting to help water managers selectively retain or release water from reservoirs for increased resilience to droughts and floods.

"Today is a great day in the advancement of drought management, flood control, and fish habitat. With this update, operations will be based on the latest science instead



Photo courtesy of Sonoma Water

of outdated guesswork. FIRO's approach is leading the industry and will ensure more sustainable water supplies – something that's more urgent than ever in our changing climate," stated U.S. Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-02) in a Sonoma Water news release.

Since the Corps completed construction of Coyote Valley Dam in 1959, the water control manual has been updated just twice in its existence – once in 1986, when the City of Ukiah's hydroelectric power plant was installed, and in 2011, in order to define minimum flow capacity required

to maintain downstream aquatic habitats. But with each of these versions, the flood control schedules remained unchanged, until FIRO procedures were evaluated and tested through temporary planned deviations to Lake Mendocino's Water Control Manual.

"FIRO is now inherently bound into our operating rules," stated Nick Malasavage, Operations and Readiness Division Chief for USACE's San Francisco District, in the news release. ♦



Steve Blois

OBITUARY

Calleguas MWD Mourns Blois

Steve Blois, a former President of the Calleguas Municipal Water District (CMWD) Board of Directors and past member of the ACWA Board of Directors, passed away Oct. 26.

Blois was active on the ACWA Region 8 Board, where he served as a member during the 2016-'17 term. He also led Region 8 as Chair from 2018

through 2021, when he also served on the ACWA Board of Directors. Additionally, he was CMWD's representative to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

"His extensive experience and positive attitude will be fondly remembered and deeply missed," stated Calleguas Board President **Raul Avila** in a news release. "The times I had the privilege of attending the ACWA conferences with him were truly special. It was as if he knew everyone at the conference." ♦



Bill Patterson

OBITUARY

EBMUD Mourns Patterson

Longtime East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) Board of Directors member **William "Bill" Patterson** passed away Oct. 21.

He is remembered as a dedicated leader, longtime public servant and unwavering champion of the East Bay community, having served on the EBMUD Board for more than 25 years representing major portions of Oakland. He

was also the first African American to serve as EBMUD Board President.

"Bill Patterson was a devoted public servant whose exemplary leadership and thoughtful voice strengthened our Board and enhanced our ability to serve our East Bay community," stated EBMUD Board President **Marguerite Young** in a news release. "His passion for people, his integrity, and his readiness to work collaboratively will be deeply missed by his colleagues, staff and the many residents whose lives he touched." ♦



Edward Duarte

DSRSD Selects Duarte for Board

The Dublin San Ramon Services District Board of Directors (DSRSD) in October swore in **Edward Duarte** as its newest member. He fills a vacancy left by **Ann Marie Johnson**, who resigned in August following her professional retirement.

Duarte previously served on the DSRSD Board from 2012 to 2020. He will serve a remaining four-year term through 2026.

A San Ramon resident since 1979, he retired in 2022 after a 50-year career as a general engineering contractor. He holds a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Fresno State University and is a graduate of the UCLA Anderson School of Business, Management Development for Entrepreneurs program. ♦



Shivaji Deshmukh

Met Board Appoints Deshmukh as GM

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in October unanimously voted to appoint **Shivaji Deshmukh** as General Manager following a five-month recruitment process. He will succeed retiring General Manager **Deven Upadhyay**, who began his career at Metropolitan in 1995.

Deshmukh comes to Metropolitan from the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, where he had been General Manager since 2019. He previously served as Assistant General Manager at West Basin Municipal Water District and as Program Manager

at Orange County Water District, where he oversaw the design, construction and operation of the Groundwater Replenishment System.

Deshmukh is also President-elect of the Water Reuse California Board of Trustees and serves on the US Water Alliance Board of Directors. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from UCLA.

He will work closely with Upadhyay during a two-month period as General Manager-Designate before assuming full responsibilities as General Manager on Jan. 1, 2026. ♦

THIS MONTH IN ACWA HISTORY

10 years ago

Early November snowstorms raised hopes that El Niño would bolster the state's record low snowpack. But climatologists warned that temperatures would need to dip lower than the previous year to support the significant snowpack needed for spring and summer runoff.

20 years ago

The ACWA Board of Directors gave the green light to moving ahead with fundraising for the Huell Howser public television series "California Water." The series, which turned into a huge public education success for ACWA, was based on topics featured in the association's "No Time to Waste — A Blueprint for California Water."

30 years ago

Voting attendees with member agencies elected Chester Gilbert as ACWA President and Gene Harris as ACWA Vice

President during the association's Fall Conference in Palm Springs. Gilbert served as a Director on Eastern Municipal Water District's Board of Directors, representing it on the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board of Directors, while Harris, a farmer, served as Richvale Irrigation District Board President.

40 years ago

The National Water Resources Association (NWRA) honored ACWA Executive Director John P. Fraser and ACWA NWRA representative Doyle F. Boen with its Presidential Award. The awards recognized Fraser for his 15 years of service to NWRA's California Association Management Committee and Boen for being a major force behind the Small Reclamation Project Act.

50 years ago

The Nov. 21 edition of *ACWA News* included a notice pointing out that "The



An early November snowstorm in the Tahoe area raises hopes for a drought-busting 2015-'16 winter.

ACWA Fall Conference is an Equal Opportunity Conference." ACWA staff deemed the statement necessary after receiving inquiries "as to whether ladies might participate in the tennis and golf tournaments scheduled for December 2. In brief, these and all conference activities are open to everyone registered for the conference." ♦



Christiana Daisy

IEUA Names Daisy Interim GM

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) Board of Directors has unanimously appointed **Christiana Daisy** as Interim General Manager. She will lead the agency during a recruitment process to replace **Shivaji Deshmukh**, recently hired as General Manager at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Daisy brings more than three decades of experience in leadership, engineering, water resources management, construction, and operations and maintenance to the position. She most recently served as IEUA's Deputy General Manager, retiring in 2024 after more than five years in the role.

Prior to IEUA, Daisy worked for West Basin Municipal Water District and Metropolitan, serving in various engineering roles. ♦



Eric Averett

KCWA Hires Averett as GM

The Board of Directors of Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) recently approved a contract to hire **Eric Averett** as its new General Manager.

Averett started at KCWA in an entry level field staff position in 1991 and worked up to several management positions during his initial tenure,

which lasted approximately 17 years. He then served as General Manager of agency member unit Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District for roughly 13 years.

He has worked in the private sector for the past four years and joined the agency's Board of Directors in 2022 before resigning in early October 2025. ♦

Need to update your contact information?

Email updates@acwa.com

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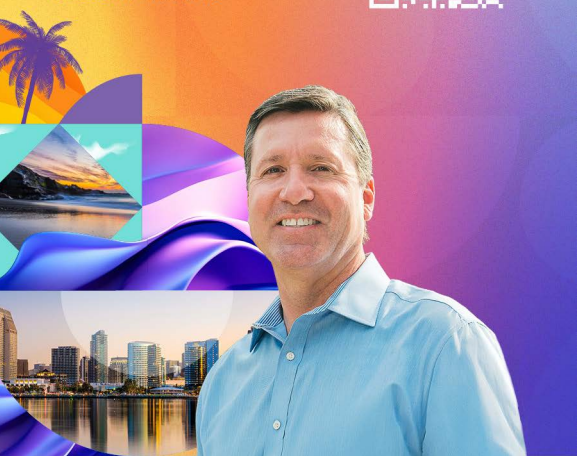
ACWA 2025 Fall Conference + EXPO

Dec. 2-4 • San Diego

FEATURING
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dave Puglia
President and CEO
Western Growers

See Full Agenda



UPCOMING EVENTS

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for complete listing and registration

DEC 2025
2-4



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

Join ACWA's 2025 Fall Conference & Expo to learn, network, and explore water industry innovations. Featuring keynote Dave Puglia, Western Growers CEO, sharing insights on ag-water collaboration and solutions for critical water challenges.

JAN 2026
29



ACWA Virtual CLE Workshop 2 ACWA | Virtual

Learn key differences between form and manuscript contracts, explore procurement and non-procurement agreements, and gain practical skills in redlining, version control, and two- vs. multi-party negotiations.

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.

FEB 2026
24-26



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Applications Now Open for PWD's 2026 Rate Assistance Program - Nov. 4

Kern County Water Agency Hires Eric Averett as New General Manager - Oct. 27

Calleguas Municipal Water District Remembers Former Board Member Steve Blois - Nov. 10

OCWD Receives Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies Sustainability Award - Nov. 4

APR 2026
16



ACWA Virtual CLE Workshop 3 ACWA | Virtual

This workshop covers core risk-management tools, including allocating duties and rights, insurance and indemnity, and key term, termination, default, and remedies provisions.

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