



Attendees of ACWA's 2026 D.C. Conference gather on the steps of the U.S. Capitol during the Feb. 24-26 annual event that allowed them to engage with members of California's congressional delegation and Trump Administration officials.

D.C. Conference Spotlights Latest Federal Water Policy Developments

ACWA's 2026 D.C. Conference welcomed 140 California water leaders to our nation's capital during a pivotal week in federal water policy that saw Congress hold multiple hearings focused on reauthorizing vital water infrastructure programs. The event provided numerous opportunities to hear from and engage with members of California's congressional delegation and key federal agency leadership.

ACWA Vice President Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady opened the conference, welcoming members by emphasizing the power of a unified voice in advancing California's priorities on Capitol Hill. And for the first time since the pandemic, members of the Federal Affairs Committee also participated in coordinated

outreach meetings, strengthening relationships and reinforcing ACWA's policy priorities at a critical time in the federal budget and appropriations cycle, including early discussions surrounding fiscal year 2027 water infrastructure funding. Advocacy efforts also focused on improving the regulatory process, the 2026 Water Resources Development Act, forest health legislation, PFAS, and the reauthorization of the Farm Bill, and the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs.

Tuesday, afternoon's program provided further opportunity for congressional engagement, with remarks from U.S. Representatives Jared Huffman (D-

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ACWA Marks Progress on Vision for Our Water Future Policy Initiative

ACWA is continuing work on the new policy initiative Vision for Our Water Future, to elevate water-related priorities with California's gubernatorial candidates, legislative leadership and administration officials while further positioning the association as a leading voice on water.

A General Manager Working Group representing all 10 ACWA regions has met several times to help combine all member input into a concise, strategic Vision document. This document will reflect members' unified priorities and recommendations while laying the groundwork for more detailed policy discussions with the next governor and their administration.

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Access ACWA News Online

ACWA members, associates and affiliates can view current and past issues at acwa.com/newsroom. Member login required.

ACWA Interim Executive Director
MARWAN KHALIFA

Member Survey Results Show ACWA Fulfilling Mission



ACWA's most recent member engagement survey confirmed that your association is on the right track.

Completed late last year, the survey let us know that legislative advocacy and networking opportunities continue to be popular reasons for your membership. The results also showed that you are broadly satisfied with ACWA's statewide policy advocacy and would like more updates on our federal advocacy. It reassures me that our members see their membership overall as providing good value; however, I also interpret the survey feedback as an unmistakable call to action.

One message came through clearly: elevating water infrastructure funding among policymakers in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. remains an urgent priority. This need drives the agenda at nearly every ACWA member agency. Whether it's a 100-year-old wooden flume in the Sierra Nevada or a 70-year-old water main beneath a city street, critical infrastructure across our state must be replaced and modernized. Each project represents one of many infrastructure needs competing for limited state and federal resources.

Strengthening ACWA's advocacy is essential to ensuring water remains a top priority for policymakers. Your feedback was clear that you wanted to see ACWA be more proactive. In response to that, we launched the Vision for Our Water Future initiative. Through this effort, ACWA is bringing together staff, member agencies and key partners to elevate water as a top statewide priority during the gubernatorial campaign and help shape the agenda of the next administration. The initiative will culminate in a concise policy framework outlining the strategic priorities and actions to support a secure, reliable and resilient water future

for California. You can learn more about the initiative on Page 1.

Through the survey results, members also expressed high satisfaction with ACWA's communications, toolkits and events. Members value the many ways we stay connected — through conferences, region meetings, policy committees and direct engagement. In a state as large and diverse as California, those connections do not happen automatically. They require intention and commitment. With your feedback, we've developed ways to enhance and elevate the communications pipeline that runs through our region and committee structure, which in turn will allow for increased member engagement and input into policy development.

One survey result that really stands out and sets an extraordinarily high bar is the 97% satisfaction rate with ACWA staff. Thank you for the level of confidence you have in us. It reflects a team of professionals who are knowledgeable, responsive and deeply committed to serving our members every day. I could not be prouder of the professionals who represent this world-class organization.

Overall, the survey tells a powerful story: strong satisfaction, clear priorities and a mandate to lead boldly. I sincerely thank you for taking the time to provide us with your feedback. We will continue listening, engaging and advancing an agenda that reflects the needs of water agencies across California. This latest survey collected the highest response rate yet, and I want to extend my appreciation to everyone who participated, which included members from all 10 ACWA regions. You can see a snapshot of a few survey results on the opposite page.

Thank you for your trust and partnership. The work ahead is significant, and we are ready for it. ♦

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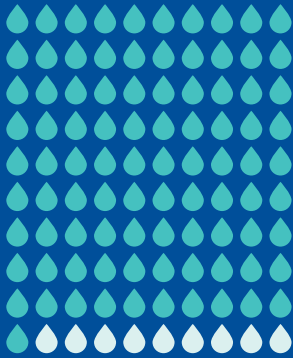
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Survey Demonstrates ACWA's Value to Members

ACWA surveys its membership about every three years to help the association prioritize issues affecting members, guide how resources are allocated and elevate the level of its services. Below are a few results from the most recent survey conducted between Oct. 6 and Nov. 18, 2025, based on 178 interviews with representatives from ACWA member agencies.

Member Satisfaction with ACWA Performance

91% satisfied



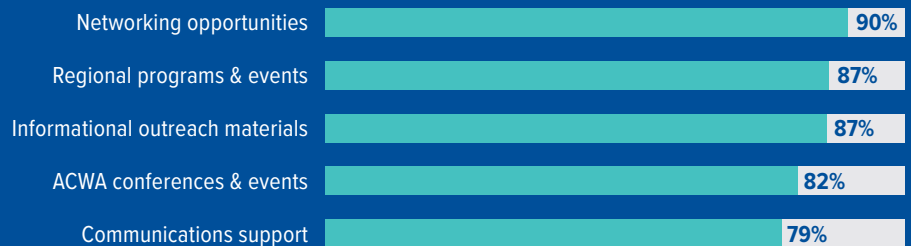
Top Reasons Agencies Join ACWA

- 1 Advocacy
- 2 Networking & events
- 3 Insurance & JPIA services
- 4 Training & professional development
- 5 Information sharing & industry updates

Top 4 Areas of Effectiveness

- 1 Communications & outreach support
- 2 Statewide legislative advocacy
- 3 Statewide regulatory advocacy
- 4 Leadership in policy development

Agency Satisfaction with ACWA's Member Services



Top Priority for Agencies

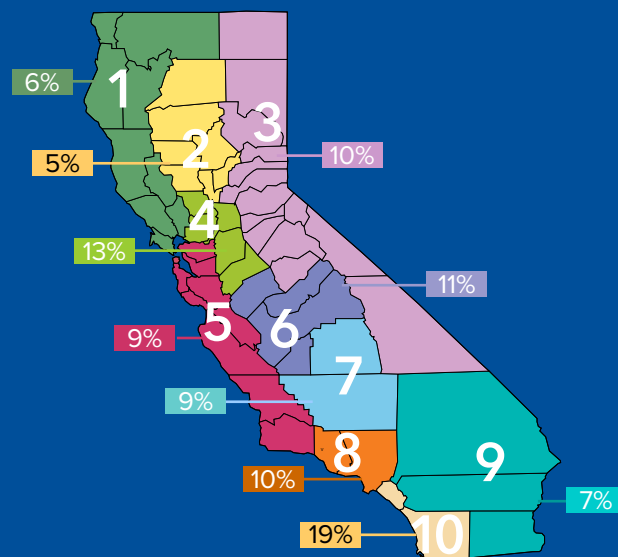
90% Infrastructure Funding

Water rights – 79%
Groundwater sustainability & replenishment – 76%
Water storage & dam safety – 73%
Water conveyance solutions – 73%

Satisfaction with ACWA Staff Interactions

97%

Respondents by Region





Legislative Year Taking Shape in Sacramento

As of mid-March, ACWA advocacy staff were tracking and advocating in support or opposition on more than 50 bills in the state Legislature. The bills address a wide range of topics of interest to association member agencies, including infrastructure funding, wildfire policy, invasive species and Proposition 218 reform affecting rate settings. A few key bills are summarized below.

Wildfire Liability

Author: Senator Anna Caballero (D-Merced)

ACWA Position: Sponsoring

What it would do: SB 1153 would clarify and declare the limited role of public water systems during wildfires. While water systems support firefighting, they are not designed or intended for wildfire defense or suppression, and it would be impractical and costly to require them to function as such. The bill would establish that water supply or pressure limitations during a wildfire are not a substantial cause of wildfire damages and that wildfire spread is not an inherent risk of water system design. It also would require certain urban water suppliers in high fire-risk areas to include wildfire specific response procedures in their emergency response plans.

Status: In Senate

Prop 4 Funds

Author: Assemblymember David Alvarez (D-San Diego)

ACWA Position: Support

What it would do: AB 35 would exempt Proposition 4 spending from the regulatory process. A full exemption would enable funds to be deployed more quickly and efficiently, ensuring that protracted administrative processes do not hold up vital projects. An exemption from the Administrative Procedure Act would not eliminate transparency, consultation or public engagement, but would instead streamline implementation, maintain consistency across programs and avoid creating barriers to delivering critical funding where it is most needed.

Status: Passed Assembly, in Senate

Wildfire Impacts

Author: Senator Shannon Grove (D-Bakersfield)

ACWA Position: Co-sponsoring with California Forest Watershed Alliance

What it would do: SB 899 would require the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, created by Gov. Gavin Newsom, to assess the health costs and impacts of high-severity wildfire smoke to better value the importance of investing in achieving the Task Force's Action Plan goals. ACWA is co-sponsoring the bill with the California Forest Watershed Alliance, led by The Nature Conservancy

Status: In Senate

Rate Setting

Author: Assemblymember Chris Ward (D-San Diego)

ACWA Position: Sponsoring

What it would do: AB 2180 would clarify how water agencies comply with Proposition 218 when setting water rates. This clarification will provide predictability for agencies, support California's water-use conservation goals and help minimize unnecessary legal disputes over water rates. ACWA is leading a coalition supporting the bill.

Status: In Assembly

Golden Mussels

ACWA advocates are monitoring three bills in the early stages of development that could strengthen California's response to invasive species, specifically golden mussels. The bills would build on the success of a coalition formed earlier this year, and supported by ACWA, led by Metropolitan Water District and East Bay Municipal Utility District. That effort resulted in a \$20 million allocation being added to a budget trailer bill from an invasive species account for use in responding to golden mussel issues such as severe damage to water infrastructure.

Take Action

These are among dozens of priority bills that could affect ACWA member agencies. Support and strengthen ACWA's advocacy by joining a coalition today at acwa.com/coalitions.

Farm Bill Passes Out of House Committee

The U.S. House of Representatives' Agriculture Committee on March 4 passed the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (H.R. 7567) by a vote of 34–17. The bill is now headed for a floor vote in the House. The Senate is still working on its version of the legislation.

Otherwise known as the Farm Bill, the legislation focuses on agriculture,

conservation, rural development and infrastructure resources for farmers and ranchers, as well as important resources for water providers including ACWA member agencies. The bill also includes headwaters priorities championed by ACWA and other partners in the Western water community, such as the expansion of Good Neighbor Authority, long-term stewardship

contracting and expanded use of categorical exclusions to treat critical forested areas.

Among other provisions in the bill are reauthorizations and investments in rural water infrastructure programs, including U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development water and wastewater facility grants and circuit rider technical assistance. ♣

Governor Launches California Water Plan 2028

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Feb. 25 launched California Water Plan 2028, which sets the first water supply target in state history — 9 million acre-feet by 2040 — through a blueprint designed to close water gaps driven by extreme swings between drought and floods widening every year.

The California Water Plan fulfills goals set by ACWA-supported SB 72, authored by Senator Anna Caballero and signed into law by Newsom last year. A 35-member advisory committee convened by the Department of Water Resources will shape a workplan for both the 2028 and 2033 Water Plan updates. ACWA Interim Executive Director Marwan Khalifa and leadership from a dozen ACWA member agencies serve on the committee.

The committee reflects the diversity of California's water system, including representation from urban and agricultural water suppliers, tribal, labor, environmental justice and environmental interests, local government, business and other interested parties, according to a news release from the Newsom Administration.

The launch initiates the first phase of work under SB 72, which mandates modernization of the California Water Plan by improving data and setting measurable water supply targets. It also creates a more coordinated, transparent planning framework that aligns state, regional, and local actions, which includes

close collaboration with the California Water Commission.

At the center of SB 72 is an interim statewide planning target of 9 million acre-feet by 2040, which is the amount of water supply California could lose as climate change reduces snowpack and intensifies drought. Roughly equal to two Shasta reservoirs, or enough for 18 million homes, the target is a shared benchmark that includes supply, conservation, recharge, and storage strategies to close projected water supply gaps and strengthen long-term water reliability.

More information is available at californiawaterplan.com. ♣

From Page 1 | Vision

The ACWA Board of Directors was scheduled to review a draft policy document at its March 20 meeting. Once the policy document is approved, members will be called upon to use the document to amplify the initiative by reaching out to key decision-makers.

ACWA has also hired a public affairs firm to assist with the amplification and outreach efforts.

This initiative represents an important opportunity for ACWA and its members to shape the statewide water policy conversation and position ACWA as a trusted resource for the next administration. For more information, visit acwa.com/vision. ♣

ACWA BY THE NUMBERS 2025

ACWA staff continued to engage with members, policymakers, media and other stakeholders to deliver impactful results on behalf of member agencies.

Advocacy

138
Members and Organizations Participated in ACWA-led Coalitions

562
Member Interactions on Key Bills

*This interaction calculated to ACWA

196
Water-related Bills Tracked

116
Bill Positions Taken

48
Position & Comment Letters Submitted

4
Infrastructure Funding Initiatives

Advocacy Issues

Infrastructure Funding Initiatives

Infrastructure Funding Initiatives

Infrastructure Funding Initiatives

23,621
Social Media Followers

Total Engagement

18,933

Total Impressions

331,135

22
News Media Interviews

174
Mentions in News Media

15
News Releases

6
Reports Developed

52
Alerts & Advisories Distributed

132
Member Meetings

Who We Are

468
Public Agency Members

204
Associates

20
Affiliates

2
New Public Agency Members

City of Lincoln

Joint Lake Public Utility District

Education and Networking

5
Signature Events

Spring Conference & Expo

Fall Conference & Expo

SAC Conference

Legislative Symposium

CL&E Workshop

4
Webinars

6
In-Person Region Events

ACWA 2025 Year in Review

The "2025 Year in Review" highlights key accomplishments, advocacy efforts and member engagement that supported ACWA and its members throughout the year.



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MARCH 20, 2026 • 5



ACWA Senior State Relations Advocate Soren Nelson, right, moderates a panel discussion between (l-r) water lobbyists Jonathan Clay, Mark Fenstermaker and Beth Olhasso about what to expect during the legislative year.

ACWA Event Looks Ahead at Legislative Year, Governor Race and Association's New Initiative

ACWA's 2026 Legislative Symposium delivered an afternoon of insights, predictions and expert analysis on where water stands as a priority in the emerging race for governor and developing state legislative year.

The Feb. 11 event in Sacramento also detailed and underscored the need for ACWA's recently launched initiative — Vision for Our Water Future — designed to elevate water-related priorities with California's gubernatorial candidates, legislative leadership and administration officials in advance of a new governor taking office in 2027.

More than 100 people attended the annual event, which was made possible by sponsors Rancho Water, United Water Conservation District and the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District. It was followed by a networking reception.

The summaries below encapsulate topics, discussions and panelists.

Inside California's Governor's Race

A conversation between ACWA State Legislative Director Julia Hall and Politico

Environmental Reporter Camille von Kaenel focused on this year's race to replace termed-out Gov. Gavin Newsom, which in mid-February included 10 candidates. Von Kaenel based many of her observations on a January forum that probed candidates' position on climate.

Affordability within the context of housing and electricity costs dominate conversations so far; however, von Kaenel said that she had yet to see candidates really differentiate themselves yet on the environment.

"It seems like, primarily, electricity and housing costs are a talking point. Water is, maybe not quite up there," von Kaenel said.

What's on Tap for Water in 2026

Panelists: (Moderator) Soren Nelson, Senior State Relations Advocate, ACWA; Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors; Jonathan Clay, JGC Consulting; Mark Fenstermaker, Pacific Policy Group

Key issue(s): With the 2026 legislative session underway, an expert panel of leading water lobbyists explored key

water-related issues expected to shape the year ahead, including the state budget, the rollout of Proposition 4 funding and impacts from new legislators replacing termed out senators and assemblymembers.

Fenstermaker quote: "To me, the real indecision right now has to do with the state budget, and just wildly different projections from the LAO (Legislative Analyst's Office), from Department of Finance, and what the governor put out. We're going to see something probably very different in mid-May."

Olhasso quote: About legislators "I think it's really important for them to understand that the more regulatory burden you put on us, the more it's going to cost our rate payers. ... those are their actual constituents. ... The regulatory burden is a problem."

Vision for Our Water Future: Preparing for the Next Administration

Panelists: (Moderator) Chelsea Haines, Director of State Regulatory Relations,

Foundation Survey Seeks Input on Water Workforce

The ACWA Foundation is partnering with the Kings Water Alliance (KWA) and its Ripple Effect Initiative to better understand statewide workforce needs by encouraging ACWA member agencies to take a survey on water workforce issues.

In collaboration with the California Water Institute at Fresno State, the goal of the KWA survey is simple: identify where workforce gaps are most urgent and whether targeted, region-specific strategies are needed. Survey responses will be reported in aggregate to guide project-level planning and investments.

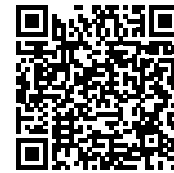
Water agencies statewide are grappling with hiring constraints, certification bottlenecks, and uneven training capacity. At the same time, educators and workforce partners are working to open clearer pathways into water careers. This survey connects these realities, helping create data-driven, place-based solutions instead of one-size-fits-all programs.

Utilities, agencies, nonprofits, and educators across California are encouraged to participate — the stronger the data, the stronger the workforce strategy.

For more information on the Ripple Effect Initiative, upcoming roundtables, or to

connect with KWA, contact info@kingswateralliance.org.

The ACWA Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)3 formed by the ACWA Board of Directors in 2022. The Foundation and its Board operate separately and independently from ACWA and its Board of Directors. For more information, visit acwa-foundation.org. ♦



Scan code to
take survey

From Page 6

ACWA; Kathy Viatella, Manager of Legislative Affairs, East Bay Municipal Utility District; Frederico Barajas, Executive Director, San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority; Andy Fecko, General Manager, Placer County Water Agency; Joe Mouawad, General Manager, Eastern Municipal Water District

Key issue(s): Members of ACWA's General Manager Working Group shared updates on the ongoing work to develop a document with policy recommendations the next governor's administration.

Mouawad quote: "There is no more important time for ACWA to speak with a unified voice. Today is a time for us to come together on the same set of priorities, the same deliverables, that we need to advocate for in the same voice. ... I really appreciate the fact that ACWA has put this together. From across the state, agricultural water agencies, urban water agencies like mine and really just different interests. But that's where our strength lies, because if we can come together with such diversity, then no one can ignore us and they're going to have to hear us out." ♦

ACWA Honors Assemblymember Rubio with Legislative Leadership Award

ACWA presented Assemblymember Blanca E. Rubio (D-West Covina) with its Legislative Leadership Award during the symposium. The award recognized her longstanding work as a champion of California's water community.

Elected in 2016, Rubio has consistently and effectively advocated for practical, locally informed water policy and for ensuring that the voices of public water agencies are reflected in state decision-making.

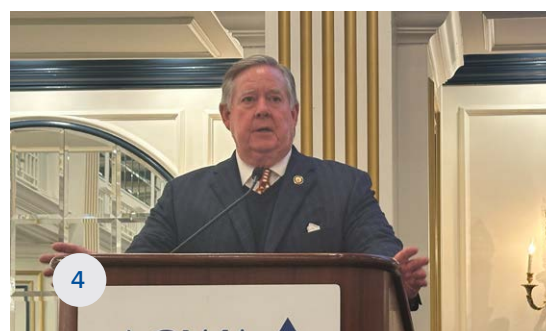
She has authored and carried multiple measures advancing priorities supported by ACWA and its members, including legislation addressing public safety power shutoff impacts on water and wastewater agencies and

Brown Act reforms important to local agencies, to name a few examples.

Before her election to the Assembly, Rubio spent 16 years as a teacher and over 20 years in elected office, including serving on the Board of Directors for ACWA member agency Valley County Water District. ♦

ACWA President Ernie Avila presents Assemblymember Blanca Rubio with the association's Legislative Leadership Award. ▶





Photos from ACWA's 2026 D.C. Conference include: 1. (l-r) ACWA Federal Affairs Committee Vice Chair Scott Petersen, ACWA Vice President Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady, U.S. Rep. Jim Costa (D-21), ACWA Immediate Past President Cathy Green and ACWA Interim Executive Director Marwan Khalifa. 2. Federal Affairs Committee Chair Jolene Walsh, Gonzales-Brady, U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz and Khalifa. 3. Sen. Adam Schiff (D-CA) delivers a speech during the conference. 4. U.S. Rep. Ken Calvert (R-41) speaks as one of several members of California's congressional delegation participating in the conference. 5. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Brian Nesvik addresses attendees.

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02), Ken Calvert (R-41) and Jim Costa (D-21).

Wednesday morning featured comments from the leadership of the U.S. Forest Service, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of the Interior, reflecting the depth of ACWA's engagement with federal agency leadership. Tom Schultz, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, highlighted the critical connection between forest health and watershed protection, emphasizing the need for proactive management to safeguard water supplies. Dustin Sherer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the U.S. Department of the Interior, discussed water infrastructure investment and implementation priorities as well as ongoing regulatory reform efforts. Additionally, Brian Nesvik, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, spoke about collaborative

approaches to Endangered Species Act implementation and efforts to address invasive species challenges.

On Wednesday afternoon attendees headed to Capitol Hill to hear from U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff (D-CA), who addressed the importance of federal financing tools such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, or WIFIA program, Water Resources Development Act, and the reauthorization of the State Revolving Fund programs signaling continued Senate attention to ensuring water agencies have timely access to infrastructure funding resources. Conference attendees also heard from key staff on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the House Committee on Natural Resources, and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

During the conference, ACWA presented United Water Conservation District with ACWA's Most Effective Agency on a Federal Issue Award for its 2025 outreach efforts, which elevated science-based water policy to the national stage.

Attendees also heard from ACWA Director of State Regulatory Relations Chelsea Haines and State Relations Analyst Jen Stein, who outlined ACWA's Vision for Our Water Future initiative and highlighted the strong alignment between ACWA's state and federal advocacy strategies.

ACWA extends its thanks to this year's conference participants and event sponsors Best Best and Krieger and United Water Conservation District for their partnership and support of this year's DC conference. ♦

IEUA Celebrates Opening of Water Discovery Center

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) in early March celebrated the opening of the Water Discovery Center, a new facility designed to support the agency's Water Discovery Education Program for K-12 students across its service area.

IEUA's Water Discovery Education Program provides students with hands-on learning opportunities focused on water resources, environmental stewardship, and sustainable water management.

A key component of the program is the Discover the Environment and Water field trip, which brings students to the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park for guided activities and tours designed to teach about water conservation, wetland ecosystems, and regional water challenges. Educational programming aligns with California State Curriculum Standards and supports Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) and Next Generation Science Standards.

"For years, our Discover the Environment and Water Program has inspired tens of thousands of students through outdoor field trips and interactive learning experiences," stated IEUA Board President



Photo courtesy of Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Steve Elie in a news release. "We are deeply grateful to the California Department of Parks and Recreation for their grant support that now expands meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities for students across our service area for years to come."

The Water Discovery Center expands IEUA's ability to provide year-round educational programming by offering a dedicated indoor learning space to support the field trip program in an engaging

environment where students can explore the science of water, environmental stewardship and sustainability.

"Education is one of the most powerful tools we have to inspire the next generation of water stewards," stated IEUA Board President Elie in the news release. "The Water Discovery Center represents an investment in our students, our communities and the future of water in our region." ♦

Facts About California Food
DID YOU KNOW?

- DAIRY WATER REUSE**
California dairies recycle and reuse the same water an average of four times.
- WINE PRODUCTION LEADER**
Vineyards dot nearly every corner of California, where more than 4,200 wineries produce approximately 80% of America's wine, making California the fourth-largest wine producer in the world.
- SUSTAINABLE ORGANIC FARMING**
California leads the nation in organic farming, accounting for 40% of all certified organic operations in the U.S. Organic farmers by definition commit to nurturing the soil, conserving water and promoting biodiversity.
- WATER USE EFFICIENCY**
Californians consume 11.3 trillion gallons of water through food products grown by farmers, who use 1.2 trillion gallons to produce that food along with fiber products.
- CROP DIVERSITY**
California farmers grow more than 400 different commodities produced throughout the state, ranging from almonds and avocados to tomatoes, lettuce and citrus. California accounts for 90% of all fresh citrus grown in the U.S.

Toolkit Celebrates California Agriculture in March

ACWA created a communications toolkit for all member agencies to celebrate California agriculture and its innovative water stewardship during National Agriculture Month.

Download at acwa.com/resources.



Marin Water Continuing Salmon Habitat Enhancement Work

Marin Water recently received a \$1.1 million grant funding commitment from the California Wildlife Conservation Board to support its Lagunitas Creek Coho Habitat Enhancement Project — a multi-year effort to create favorable habitat for threatened and endangered aquatic species.

The award will provide a major boost to funding the implementation of Phase 2 of the project and enable the continuation of Marin Water's habitat enhancement work in the Lagunitas Creek watershed through implementation, monitoring and beyond.

"We are thankful for California Wildlife Conservation Board's funding and collaboration on this tremendous project to protect the home of one of the largest

remaining populations of coho salmon in Northern California and ensure the ecological health of our watershed," stated Marin Water Board President Jed Smith in a news release.

This funding will be used to fully construct two instream habitat restoration sites in Lagunitas Creek to support recovery of coho salmon, steelhead, California freshwater shrimp and other native aquatic species. The project sites will be enhanced by the strategic placement of logs, boulders and gravel, which help to break up homogenous stream habitat, create deeper and slower pools for rearing, capture incoming gravels for spawning and improve insect production for the aquatic food web.



Photo courtesy of Marin Water

The project represents a collaborative approach to habitat restoration and includes a partnership between Marin Water and California State Parks, as well as technical and funding support from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Water Resources' Riverine Stewardship Program, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the California Wildlife Conservation Board. ♦

THIS MONTH IN ACWA HISTORY

10 years ago

ACWA's Legislative Symposium featured an in-depth discussion on a coalition effort to advance a constitutional amendment to address Proposition 218 issues, as well as a discussion on the challenges of the existing water market system and recommendations for improvement.

20 years ago

A huge snowpack in "Mammoth March" led the Department of Water Resources to boost its State Water Project allocation to 80% of requests. The water year had started out with a wet December, stalled in late January and February, but roared back in March with the Feather River Basin snowpack nearly doubling over three weeks.

30 years ago

ACWA member agency Reclamation District No. 108 celebrated 125 years in service as one of the oldest irrigation districts in California. The Northern California district hosted an event attracting about 300 landowners, water users and water managers, who also toured its Rough and Ready Pumping Plant built in 1915.

40 years ago

Fifteen representatives from ACWA traveled to Washington D.C. for the second annual Leadership Seminar for members of the association's Board of Directors. The weeklong event connected ACWA leaders with members of California's congressional delegation, their staff members and officials from the Reagan Administration for talks on federal water policy.

50 years ago

ACWA *News* led with an article quoting predictions made by then-Department of Water Resources Director Ronald Robie that higher priced water and increased emphasis on water conservation and reclamation would become certainties in California's future. Robie also encouraged changing pricing to move away from decreasing rates according to usage and instead increasing rates the more a consumer uses. ♦



The Wilkins Slough Crawdads kick off a Reclamation District No. 108 anniversary celebration in this 1996 photo.

ACWA Regions Announce Board Changes



Jessica Self

The ACWA Region 3 Board of Directors has appointed Union Public Utility District General Manager **Jessica Self** as Vice Chair. She

replaces **Larry McKenney**, who vacated the seat after being named General Manager at Trabuco Canyon Water District in Region 10.

Additionally, Nevada Irrigation District General Manager **Jennifer Hanson** has been appointed to the Region 3 Board as its newest member.

In ACWA Region 4, Patterson Irrigation District General Manager **Vincent Lucchesi** has been appointed its newest Board member. And in Region 7, Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District General Manager **Tom Neisler** was recently appointed to its Board to fill a vacancy, having previously served as Chair and Vice Chair. 💧

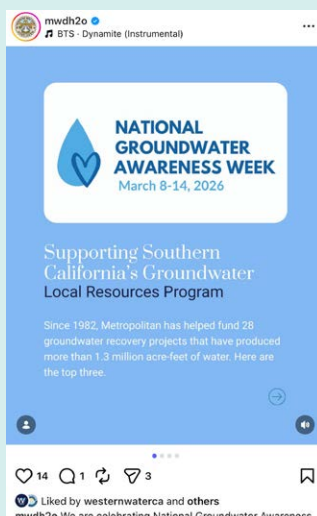
LIKE, SHARE
& FOLLOW

EXPLORING THE WATER WORLD ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA

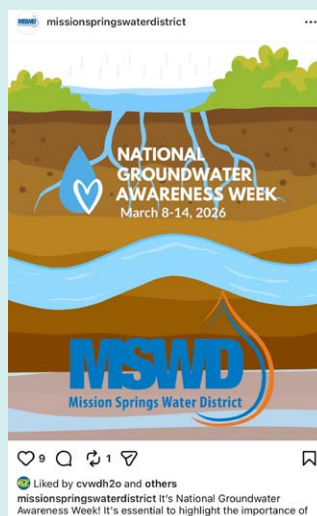
As an ACWA member, you have access to a variety of resources on our website, including toolkits designed to help communicate a unified message on important California water topics. Recent examples include **National Groundwater Awareness Week** and **National Ag Month** toolkits, which provide fact sheets, talking points, and social media graphics with sample posts. Below are some great examples of ACWA members posting for Groundwater Awareness Week.



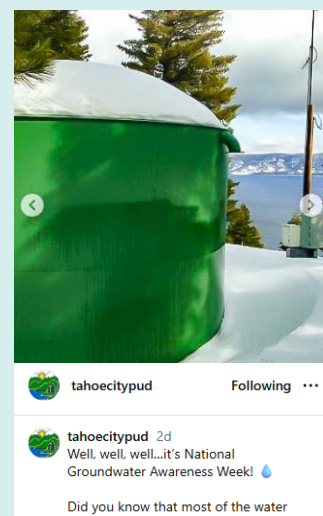
Alameda County Water District made a reel highlighting its trip to teach students about groundwater during the week-long celebration.



Metropolitan Water District of Southern California shared a post highlighting some of the groundwater recovery projects that it has helped fund over the years.



Mission Springs Water District posted a simple graphic with some groundwater facts to celebrate the week and educate customers.



Tahoe City Public Utility District shared pictures and videos of its groundwater wells and provided some tips on how customers can help protect this vital resource.

There is still time to post for National Ag Month, so check out the tools available in our toolkit to help get you started! Scan the QR code to the right to access the Ag Month toolkit.

ACWA highlights creative social media posts from member agencies so be sure to follow along (and tag us!) on Facebook, X, LinkedIn, YouTube and Instagram @ACWAWater.





Need to update your contact information?

Email updates@acwa.com

ACWA | '26 Spring Conference

May 5 – 7, 2026
Sacramento, CA

Register Today



MOST CLICKED

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

.....
Governor Launches California Water Plan 2028 – Feb. 25
.....

ACWA Members Take California Water Priorities to Washington – Feb. 25
.....

SMWD Earns Statewide MISAC Excellence in IT Practices Award – Mar. 3
.....

March 2026 Priority Issues Update Now Available – Mar. 10
.....

Yuba Water Recovering from Penstock Pipe Rupture – Feb. 18

Association of California Water Agencies
980 9th Street, Suite 1000
Sacramento, CA 95814-3577

Time Valued Material

Periodicals Postage
PAID
Sacramento, CA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit acwa.com/events
for complete listing and registration

MAR 2026
31–APR 2

19th Biennial Symposium on Managed Aquifer Recharge
GRA | Sacramento

Explore managed aquifer recharge through expert sessions, workshops, case studies and field-based practices, while connecting with peers to advance resilient groundwater and water resource management.

APR 2026
7–8

2026 Special District Legislative Days
CA Special Districts Assoc. | Sacramento

Join special district leaders in Sacramento for 1.5 days of advocacy, including briefings, a legislative reception, and scheduled Capitol visits to educate lawmakers on key public policy issues affecting communities statewide.

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.

ACWA EVENT

APR 2026
22

Central Valley Tour
WEF | Sacramento

Explore the San Joaquin Valley on this unique tour, hearing from farmers, water managers, and communities about groundwater sustainability, drought, water quality, and other challenges facing one of the nation's most productive agricultural regions.

APR 2026
29

Zero-Emissions Showcase +Ride & Drive
California Air Resource Board | San Diego

Join industry leaders, policymakers, and the public to explore the latest in zero-emissions technology. Test drive cutting-edge vehicles and see firsthand the innovations transforming transportation. Free registration required for admission.

MAY 2026
5–7

ACWA 2026 Spring Conference
ACWA | Sacramento

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.

ACWA EVENT