



ACWA Executive Director Karla Nemeth addresses attendees of the recent Region 3 event. Nemeth, who started her new position Sept. 1, shares her vision for the association in a Q&A feature on pages 6-7. Members will have an opportunity to hear from Nemeth during a Virtual Town Hall and subsequent regional webinars.

Vision Support Grows, Advances Toward Detailed Recommendations

Momentum continues to grow for ACWA's Vision for Our Water Future initiative, with more than 80 member agencies and other partners now officially showing their support.

The initiative continues with work on a second deliverable: detailed recommendations that will provide an actionable roadmap for the next governor and administration, consistent with the Vision Policy Framework. Recently, ACWA's General Manager Working Group met to review the detailed recommendations developed through member input and outreach to other thought leaders. The recommendations are being designed to help advance a unified policy agenda focused on safe, reliable and affordable water for California.

ACWA staff will present these recommendations to the Board of

Directors on Nov. 20 as the initiative moves toward the next phase of engagement with the incoming governor's administration after the election. As this work continues, members are encouraged to stay engaged, share the Vision within their networks and help elevate water as a priority in conversations about California's future.

Updated Vision toolkit materials are available online to help members and partners share the initiative with their boards, local elected officials, communities and networks. Learn more about Vision for Our Water Future at acwa.com/vision. ♦

VISION 
FOR OUR WATER FUTURE



2025-'26 Legislative Session Ends with Key Wins for ACWA Members

ACWA advocacy and coalition building helped advance multiple priority water bills through the Legislature and onto the governor's desk after the close of the 2025-'26 legislative session.

Below are summaries and the status — as of Sept. 15 — of a few of the top issues among the approximately 75 bills on which ACWA engaged on behalf of member agencies this year. That advocacy continues as Gov. Gavin Newsom has until Sept. 30 to veto or sign bills into law.

For more details about these bills and ACWA's advocacy, visit acwa.com. In addition, ACWA will soon publish its annual "Summary of Legislation" booklet, which will be available on the website.

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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 President
ERNIE AVILA, P.E.

A September to Remember During a Dynamic 2026



Last January, I wrote that ACWA was entering what promised to be a dynamic year. Looking back, that was a bit of an understatement.

Former Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth has started as ACWA's newest Executive Director. Introducing her during our Spring Conference was among the most exciting experiences during my term as ACWA President. And what's even more exciting is how her role as a statewide water leader will continue through ACWA, directing our talented staff and engaging with ACWA member agencies.

At the same time, our Vision for Our Water Future initiative is progressing with meaningful work toward advancing long-term water reliability, affordability, infrastructure modernization and improved water management throughout California.

More than 80 allied organizations and ACWA member agencies have joined the coalition to make water a top priority for our next governor. This coalition equips participating organizations with ACWA-produced tools to elevate the importance of a reliable and affordable water future.

If your agency has not joined the Vision initiative, I urge you to learn more and consider doing so at acwa.com/vision. This member-driven process is developing detailed recommendations that will soon be presented to the ACWA Board of Directors. However, we need to keep this coalition growing to maximize its success in achieving a generational difference in how California manages its water.

We also entered September with several legislative wins. Two ACWA-sponsored bills passed the Legislature in August and, as of Sept. 15, are on the governor's desk. Member engagement proved critical in getting to this point, and I want to extend my deep

appreciation for member agencies' willingness to join coalitions behind these bills.

One is SB 1153 (Caballero, D-Merced), which would strengthen wildfire preparedness by requiring public water systems to include wildfire response procedures in their emergency response plans. The bill would also clarify the limited role of public water systems during wildfires, reducing their exposure to costly lawsuits that can ultimately increase water rates and negatively affect affordability.

The second bill, AB 2180 (Ward, D-San Diego), would benefit public water agencies by bringing more common sense into the rate-setting process. ACWA has championed this cause in past legislation signed into law, which today helps minimize unnecessary legal disputes over water rates. This bill would build on that success, codifying a process where water system costs may be allocated using reasonable methodologies and available data without having to determine the exact costs for each parcel.

We are also paying close attention to the continuing threat from golden mussels. My agency, Contra Costa Water District, is among members hit hard by this persistent menace to water infrastructure and spearheading research to reduce golden mussels' propagation and impact. I deeply understand why this is an urgent priority for many fellow water agencies. ACWA is responding to that urgency by supporting funding, educating the public and elected officials, as well as constantly engaging with regulators to strengthen our state's response to this and all invasive species impacts.

We have accomplished a great deal this year, but there is much more ahead.

As we close out what truly has been a remarkable and dynamic year for ACWA, I want to thank ACWA members for your continued engagement, leadership and commitment to California water. ♡

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Celebrate Water Professionals Appreciation Week Oct. 3-11

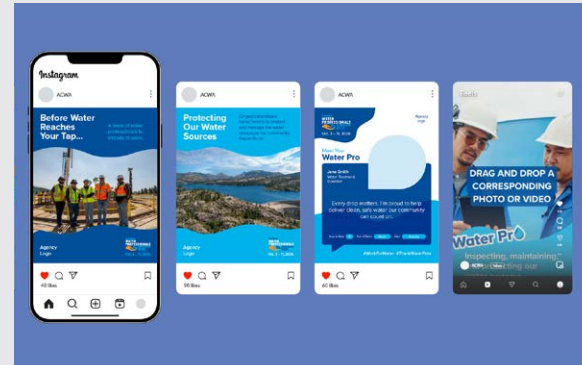
California's annual Water Professionals Appreciation Week will kick off Oct. 3 and highlight the important role of water industry professionals and local public water agencies in ensuring safe and reliable water, wastewater and recycled water operations in California.

To help members celebrate, ACWA has updated its **Water Professionals Appreciation Week toolkit** with customizable graphics, videos, sample social media content and other resources.

New this year are customizable Canva templates for images and videos, as well as a sticker kit that agencies can use to add some fun to their Water Professionals Appreciation Week celebrations.



Scan the accompanying QR code to access the toolkit or visit acwa.com.



News Briefs

ACWA Members Qualify for Discount Rate at NWRA Conference

ACWA members qualify for a discounted rate if they attend the National Water Resources Association's (NWRA) Annual Conference and Federal Advocacy Forum Nov. 2-5 in San Diego.

The discount results from the ACWA Board of Directors' decision earlier this year to rejoin NWRA, which automatically makes any agency belonging to ACWA a NWRA member as well. In addition to member pricing at NWRA events, benefits also include access to NWRA federal updates and monthly policy calls.

For registration information and more details, visit nwra.org.

ACWA Joins Coalition to Support WIFIA Funding

ACWA has joined a coalition of national water organizations urging swift review and approval of outstanding loan applications from water utilities seeking funding through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program.

Expressing support for WIFIA, a coalition letter was sent in August to the Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which administers the program. The letter

applauds unrivaled success of the WIFIA program and underscores the importance of timely loan disbursements for local sponsors to meet financial demands and project development deadlines.

Coalition Urges Action Ahead of El Niño

ACWA has joined a coalition urging Gov. Gavin Newsom to issue a statewide Executive Order that will help local water agencies prepare for the predicted El Niño 2026-'27 winter storm season.

The California State Association of Counties is leading the effort, with ACWA among more than 30 signatories.

The Sept. 9 coalition letter asks the governor to authorize expedited flood-protection activities such as vegetation management, debris removal and channel-capacity improvements while streamlining the regulatory process and temporarily suspending applicable requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA.

ACWA, Coalition Highlight Risks in Wildfire Court Decision

A coalition of organizations representing state and national water providers, including ACWA, has filed a joint legal

brief with the California Second District Court of Appeal in response to a lawsuit seeking to hold a water utility responsible for wildfire damage.

The lawsuit was filed following the Palisades wildfires in January 2025. A California Court of Appeal is on the verge of making a decision on the lawsuit that will pose significant implications for water providers and customers.

"While this wildfire devastated Southern California's communities, public water systems can only aid firefighting activities and should not be held to an unrealistic standard of fully combating a wildfire," said Caleb Raspler, ACWA Federal Relations Representative.

ACWA Foundation Announces Boatmun Awards

The ACWA Foundation has announced Leticia Munguia, JD, Director of Administrative Services at Sweetwater Authority, and Shane Johnson, Water Distribution Operator II at Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, as the inaugural recipients of the Bette Boatmun Emerging Leader Award.

Each award recipient will receive \$2,500 to support participation in an approved leadership development program.

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From Page 1 | Capitol Corner

Wildfire Preparedness (SB 1153)

ACWA position: Bill sponsor

What it will do if signed into law: Bolster wildfire preparedness, clarify the role of public water agencies and provide guidance to the courts by establishing that limitations in water supply or pressure during a wildfire are not a substantial cause of damages.

Status: Approved by Legislature and on governor's desk; ACWA advocating for a signature

Rate Setting (AB 2180)

ACWA position: Bill sponsor

What it will do if signed into law: Clarify how water agencies comply with Proposition 218 when setting water rates.

Status: Approved by Legislature and on governor's desk; ACWA advocating for a signature

Golden Mussels

ACWA ended the legislative session with support positions on three bills regarding golden mussels.

AB 1772

ACWA Position: Led support-if-amended coalition

Status: Failed to pass out of the Senate Appropriations Committee's suspense file, effectively stopping the bill

AB 1894

ACWA Position: Support

What it will do if signed into law: Co-sponsored by ACWA member agencies, it would prohibit a public agency, in some instances, from banning imported water deliveries for groundwater replenishment due to invasive mussels.

Status: Approved by Legislature and on governor's desk; ACWA advocating for a signature

AB 2032

ACWA Position: Support

What it will do if signed into law: Co-sponsored by ACWA member agencies, it would streamline rapid response actions, directing consistent interim guidance through a state task force, improving infestation mapping, and supporting pilot studies and scientific research.

Status: Approved by Legislature and on governor's desk; ACWA advocating for a signature

Water Affordability (SB 1125)

ACWA position: Support

What it will do if signed into law: Establish a statewide low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program.

Status: Approved by Legislature and on governor's desk; ACWA advocating for a signature

Tribal Policy

ACWA is continuing advocacy on two bills regarding tribal policy.

AB 1881

ACWA Position: Oppose-unless-amended

What it will do if signed into law: A state governmental agency would need to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of tribal entities before undertaking projects they know may pose a risk to a sacred site, such as the alteration of its essential characteristics.

ACWA worked with a coalition of partner organizations to seek amendments that would exclude water from the bill's provisions and clarify that the bill would not impact public infrastructure projects. ACWA staff provided lead testimony during policy committee hearings.

Status: Approved by Legislature and on governor's desk; ACWA advocating for a veto

AB 2218

ACWA Position: Oppose-unless-amended

What it will do if signed into law: Require the California Natural Resources Agency, along with other state agencies, to implement a policy to address historical inequities affecting California Native American tribes when revising, adopting or establishing rights, policies, regulations, permits or grant criteria to address identified inequities.

ACWA staff advocated to ensure the bill includes appropriate legal guardrails to protect existing water rights and provided lead testimony throughout the legislative process, highlighting concerns regarding the bill's intent and potential implementation challenges.

Status: Approved by Legislature and on governor's desk; ACWA advocating for veto

State Budget (AB 113)

The Legislature passed an amended state budget on Sept. 1 through AB 113.

The state budget includes a one-time allocation of \$25 million from the General Fund for the ACWA-supported Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Program. This funding will support both flow commitments and the habitat and scientific investments associated with the HRL program.

It also includes funding related to Proposition 4 and Greenhouse Gas Reduction funds. Proposition 4 received some critical additional funding for categories including recycled water and conveyance.

Related to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, ACWA has been supporting full allocations for both the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) program and wildfire resilience, both of which were facing significant cuts due to funding shortfalls. The Legislature restored most of the funding on both of these programs.

Status: On governor's desk



1: ACWA President Ernie Avila briefs attendees during the Region 5 event.

2: Attendees pose for a group shot during a facility tour.

3: ACWA Executive Director Karla Nemeth chats with Region 5 Chair Sarah Palmer.

4: UWCD staff lead attendees on a facility tour.



Region 5 Explores Groundwater Resilience on the Oxnard Plain

By Region 5 Chair Sarah Palmer

The ACWA Sept. 3-4 Region 5 event, hosted in partnership with United Water Conservation District (UWCD), offered members a firsthand look at one of California's most sophisticated groundwater management systems. Against the backdrop of the Oxnard Plain, attendees gained deep insight into how local surface water and groundwater are managed conjunctively to protect the region's long-term supply.

The two-day program began with a networking reception at Tierra Sur at Herzog Wine Cellars in Oxnard, setting a collegial tone before a full-day tour. Following welcoming remarks from ACWA President Ernie Avila, ACWA Executive Director Karla Nemeth, UWCD Director Steve Huber, and UWCD General Manager Mauricio Guardado, participants boarded shuttles for a comprehensive tour of the district's key infrastructure.

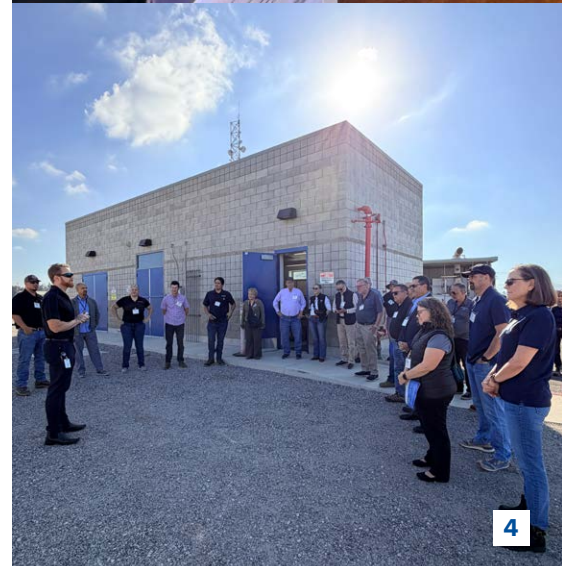
The first stop, the El Rio Groundwater Recharge and Water Treatment Facility, showcased a state-of-the-art operation that treats local groundwater while simultaneously replenishing the aquifer. Attendees learned how the facility's Iron and Manganese Treatment Plant, completed in 2024, ensures high-quality

water deliveries while recharge basins percolate surface flows into underground storage.

The tour continued to the Freeman Diversion, a critical structure on the Santa Clara River that captures stormflows for recharge. UWCD staff highlighted ongoing improvement projects, including an upgraded fish passage system designed to support Southern California steelhead migration. Following a networking lunch at Lake Piru Recreation Area, the group visited the Santa Felicia Dam. There, UWCD leaders outlined the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project, a major initiative to modernize the dam's outlet works and spillway to address seismic and storm-event risks.

From innovative recharge techniques to critical infrastructure upgrades, the event underscored how UWCD balances water supply reliability with environmental stewardship.

Region 5 extends its sincere thanks to event sponsors ACWA, JPIA, HDR, Stantec, Montecito Water District, and Valley Water, whose generous support made this valuable experience possible. We also thank UWCD for their exceptional hospitality in showcasing their vital work. 💧



ACWA region events are a great way to learn how member agencies are addressing various water industry challenges. Registration is now open for events in September and October. Visit acwa.com/events for dates and details.

Karla Nemeth

ACWA Executive Director

After years at the center of California water policy, she's bringing a new perspective to ACWA — and a clear vision for what comes next.



Getting to Know New Executive Director Karla Nemeth



Former California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Director Karla Nemeth started her new position as Executive Director of ACWA on Sept. 1, bringing more than two decades of water policy experience and high-profile statewide recognition to the association.

ACWA's Board of Directors selected Nemeth for the position in May following a nationwide recruitment process. Marwan Khalifa, who served as Interim Executive Director for the past 19 months, will remain at ACWA through the end of the year.

Nemeth recently sat down with *ACWA News* to provide some insight into her priorities and plans for the future.

Opportunities to Connect

There will be several opportunities to get to know ACWA's new Executive Director in the coming months. More details and registration at acwa.com/events.

- **Virtual Town Hall (members only):** Oct. 6
- **Regional office hours (members only):** Oct. 23, Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and Nov. 13
- **ACWA Fall Conference:** Dec. 1-3

Scan to Register



Q. What inspired you to apply for the position of ACWA's Executive Director?

A So many water solutions require a new recognition of our interdependencies and a willingness to evolve the relationship between our local agencies and the state and federal government. ACWA members are some of the biggest innovators in the business — using cutting-edge forecasting to adapt our reservoirs; operating the largest desalination plant in the western hemisphere; investing in working lands that reduce flood risk, refill groundwater supplies, and support salmon; protecting and restoring headwaters to make them more resilient to wildfire; and deploying state-of-the-art value engineering to deliver valuable safe water to our customers.

After many years in the California Governor's Office, Department of Water Resources and Natural Resources Agency, I understand the value of local water agencies uniting around actions that will make a real difference in the lives of Californians — the reliability and affordability of our water supplies. It simply won't happen without the robust leadership of local water districts.

Last, but certainly not least, I love the public sector and its mission-driven people. I'm very inspired by the opportunity to bring up the next generation of water leaders who will also face the challenges of fire, flood and drought. We share the responsibility for their readiness and cultivating their passion for public service.

Q. You bring an impressive background in water policy experience to the association. Do you have specific goals for ACWA's advocacy efforts?

A I'm excited to build upon ACWA's Vision for Our Water Future, a member-driven initiative for providing affordable water for California. It will be critical that our recommendations reflect the needs of our members — large and small, ag and urban; and on our coasts, in our valleys, deserts and mountains. Many of our advocacy efforts right now relate to that Vision, such as the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program, wildfire liability, clean energy fleet requirements and golden mussels to name a few. But there is more work to be done to position our eventual recommendations for implementation.

I started engaging with state leaders and water industry partners on behalf of ACWA from day one, and I plan to visit our nation's capital soon. I look forward to working with our members and staff to bring this Vision home in time for the new state administration and legislature.

Q. What are your top priorities for ACWA?

A My immediate priority is to get to know ACWA members and staff. So many industries are at a moment of transformation — both in terms of generational changes in the workforce and the scale of the challenges facing our own industry. I'm meeting with member agencies to better understand not only their common water challenges, but what they need and expect from ACWA. Our diversity of membership is our strength, but it's also a real challenge in setting our California water agenda for the state and federal governments. Understanding our myriad perspectives is essential.

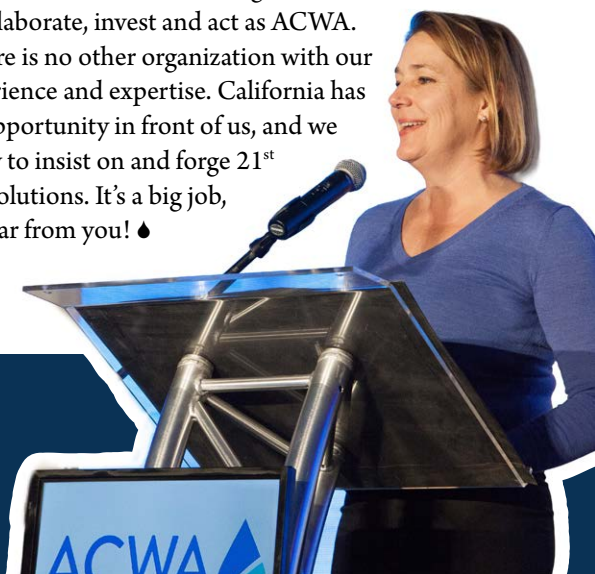
Over time, we need to drive water policy research based on our experience as water managers in California and eventually become nimble enough organizationally to put these policies into action. ACWA is also a great convener. But gathering is not enough. A big part of ACWA's job is to support the momentum that being together generates so that we can turn it into action throughout the state, in Sacramento and in Washington DC.

Q. How can ACWA bolster its audience with the next governor and his administration?

A Another year of challenging hydrology may help, but we'll be ready. As we swing between very wet and very dry conditions — sometimes within a single water year — it can really grab Sacramento's attention. And that's where our Vision comes in. Our recommendations need to be sewn into a strategy that connects the need for safe, reliable and affordable water with the state's most pressing challenges, such as extreme weather, the economy and housing. ACWA is also focused on influencing the quality of administration appointees. We will be looking for people with strong backgrounds in government operations and a track record not just for collaboration, but delivering outcomes as well.

We know the challenges ahead are significant. Our hydrology is changing, our infrastructure is aging, and the demands on our water system continue to grow. We also know that no single agency or region can solve these challenges alone. We need to be willing to collaborate, invest and act as ACWA. Fortunately, there is no other organization with our breadth of experience and expertise. California has a tremendous opportunity in front of us, and we need to be ready to insist on and forge 21st Century water solutions. It's a big job, and I want to hear from you! ♦

Nemeth has been a familiar voice at ACWA conferences for years, including the 2018 Fall Conference. Now she returns to the association in a very different role — at the helm as Executive Director.



EXPLORING THE WATER WORLD ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA

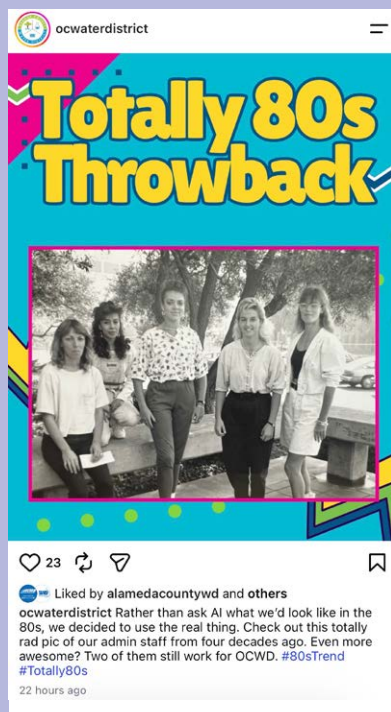
Social media is constantly evolving, with new trends, formats and creative approaches emerging every day. For water agencies, these trends can provide an opportunity to break through the noise, capture attention and connect with audiences in a way that feels timely and relatable.

The key is finding a way to put your own spin on a trend while still reinforcing your agency's message. Several ACWA members are doing just that, using everything from nostalgic photos and text-message-style graphics to popular social media video trends to create engaging content.

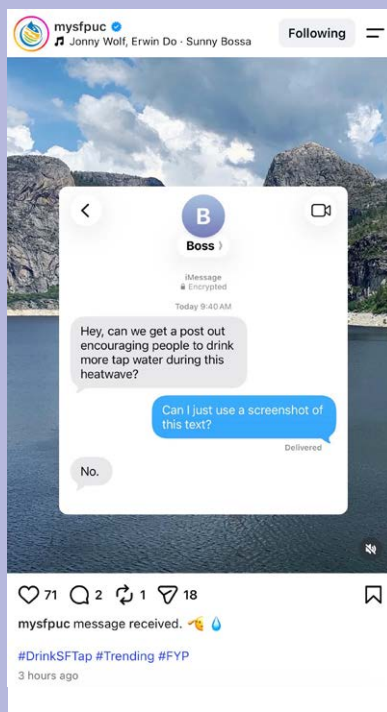
Here are a few recent examples worth checking out:

**LIKE, SHARE
& FOLLOW**

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



OCWD put a real twist on the viral "AI 80s" trend by sharing an authentic photo of its 1980s admin staff! (ACWA hopped on the trend too and shared its own 80s throwback picture!)



San Francisco Public Utilities Commission used a fun text message screenshot to grab attention and promote its tap water.



SCV Water Agency used the "trust fall" trend to reiterate that while "you can't trust everyone..." its customers can trust SCV Water to provide high-quality water.

From page 3

The ACWA Foundation established the annual award in memory of Bette Boatmun, who devoted more than four decades to California's water industry. This included serving on the Contra Costa Water District Board of Directors from 1974 to 2020 and serving as President of ACWA for the 2002-'03 term.

WEF Releases Water Guide in Spanish

The Water Education Foundation (WEF) has released a Spanish-language edition of its widely used "Layperson's Guide to California Water," making one of the state's most trusted educational resources available to Spanish-speaking Californians for the first time.

The guide covers several topics, ranging from the state's water supply and infrastructure to groundwater management and efforts to expand access to clean and affordable drinking water for all California communities.

Visit online to learn more at watereducation.org/laypersons-guides.

THIS MONTH IN ACWA HISTORY

10 years ago

The ACWA Board of Directors unanimously approved a two-year budget with five-year projections for the first time, part of a number of new steps to ensure the association's long-term financial stability.

20 years ago

ACWA urged passage of propositions 84 and 1E in light of the recent low grades for California's infrastructure in a report card issued by the American Society of Civil Engineers. California received a failing grade in the area of levees/flood control, and a C+ in both its water and wastewater infrastructure grades. The two water bond measures, which successfully passed the following November, funded improvements for levees and flood control.

30 years ago

Marking a milestone in the ongoing effort to resolve Bay-Delta problems, the CALFED Bay-Delta program announced three alternative plans for protecting and managing the estuary and launched the program's second phase. CALFED officials

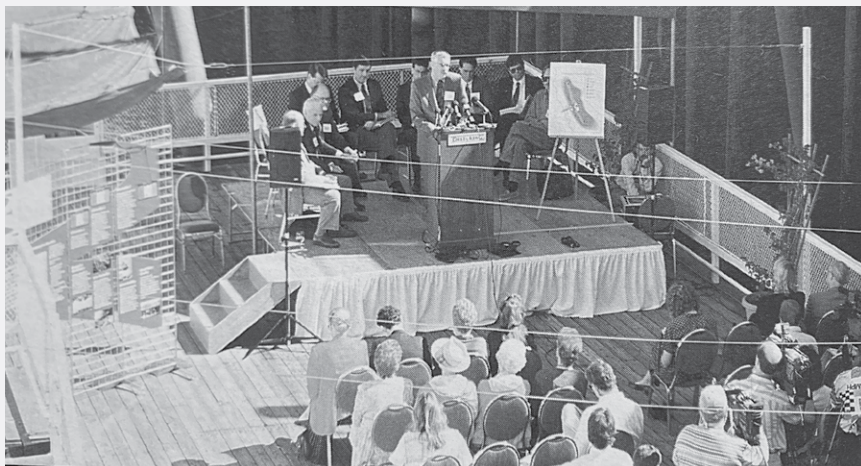
hosted a news conference alongside the Sacramento River, discussing how three alternatives will undergo detailed environmental review over the next year, with a single preferred alternative expected to emerge by fall 1997.

40 years ago

Due in large part to ACWA advocacy, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) reduced electric rates for large water pumpers served by PG&E. Large water pumpers received a decrease in excess of 25% for the year while other pumpers received reductions totaling more than 10%, despite CPUC staff recommending a rate increase.

50 years ago

Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation authorizing drought emergency loans as dry conditions worsened during 1976. The loans, capped at \$100,000, were available to public agencies serving areas with fewer than 100,000 people and drawn from a \$2 million fund. The funding was intended for emergency facilities needed to maintain water supply. 💧



CALFED officials host a news conference alongside the Sacramento River in this September 1996 photo.



WATER DOESN'T COME WITH A DEED

So who has the right to use it?

WATER RIGHTS 101

**A two-part introduction to
California water rights**



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Fundamentals of California
Surface Water Rights



Groundwater

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Tuolumne River Partners Launch Habitat Restoration Project

As part of a continued commitment to restoring and enhancing habitat for native fish, Tuolumne River Partners and ACWA member agencies Modesto Irrigation District, Turlock Irrigation District and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have begun construction on the Powerhouse Riffles Restoration Project.

The Tuolumne River restoration effort is designed to improve spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and other native aquatic species. Costing approximately \$4.7 million, the self-funded project will restore spawning habitat impacted during high river flow events in 1997, 2011 and 2017 by reconstructing riffles and gravel bars and enhancing in-channel habitat complexity and diversity.

Shallow, fast-moving riffles are key habitats for salmon because the churning water traps air and raises oxygen levels in the river. Rocks and gravel attract aquatic insects, and juvenile fish gather in riffles to

eat the abundant insects and lay their eggs in the clean gravel.

The Powerhouse Riffles Restoration Project will add approximately 25,000 cubic yards of spawning gravel, creating 4.8 acres of new gravel features and restoring approximately 2,400

The project is one of many restoration efforts planned as part of the Tuolumne partners' historic, self-funded \$80 million commitment to design and implement a collaborative, holistic habitat restoration program along the Lower Tuolumne River through the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Program and a collaborative memorandum of understanding with USFWS.

As part of the ACWA-supported HRL Program, the three member agencies have joined dozens of other California water agencies committed to collaborating with the state of California to advance agreements that will provide water supply



Photo courtesy of Modesto Irrigation District

reliability to communities while enhancing river ecosystems.

By 2030, with the help of experts River Partners and Applied River Sciences, the Tuolumne River Partners aim to develop 77 acres of suitable salmon floodplain rearing habitat and add approximately 100,000 tons of gravel in specific reaches of the river for optimal salmon spawning and rearing.

To learn more about the Tuolumne River Partners' stewardship efforts, visit tuolumneriverpartners.com. ♡

WVWD Marks Completion of Water Facility Project

West Valley Water District (WVWD) celebrated the completion of the Oliver P. Roemer Water Filtration Facility Upgrade and Expansion Project with a ribbon cutting ceremony in August, recognizing an important milestone for the district in its commitment to strengthening long-term reliability of its water supply for its approximately 100,000 customers.

The project expands the district's ability to treat and deliver State Water Project water, increasing its total treatment capacity from 14.4 million gallons per day (mgd) to 21.6 mgd. This will allow the district to balance the use of groundwater, local surface water and imported state water supplies based on availability, water quality, treatment costs and water demands.

"This celebration is the culmination of dedicated teamwork, strong partnerships,

thoughtful planning and responsible investment," WVWD Board President Kelvin Moore stated in a news release. "By expanding Roemer's treatment capacity, we are strengthening the reliability and resilience of our water system while creating greater flexibility to make the best use of our available water supplies."

The ribbon cutting hosted federal, state and local government legislators and community leaders, including Representative Pete Aguilar, State Water Resource Control Board Water Board Member Nichole Morgan, San Bernardino County Supervisors Joe Baca Jr. and Jesse Armerndarez, ACWA President Ernie Avila and local city council officials from Rialto and Fontana.

One of the project's biggest successes was securing a 1.1% State Revolving Fund



ACWA President Ernie Avila interacts with attendees at the ribbon cutting celebration. Photo courtesy of WVWD

(SRF) loan. Funding was provided by the Drinking Water SRF administered through an agreement with the State Water Board. By securing this loan at a highly favorable rate, WVWD was able to significantly reduce the cost of financing the project and lessen the burden on ratepayers while making a critical investment in water reliability. ♡



Lynn Maulhardt

OBITUARY

United Water Mourns Maulhardt

United Water Conservation District on Sept. 10 announced the passing of Board President **Lynn E. Maulhardt**, a fourth-generation Ventura County farmer who had served on the Board since 1985.

He served multiple terms as Board President during his more than 40-year tenure and was recently awarded Ventura County Association of Water Agencies' Lifetime Achievement Award. Maulhardt also chaired the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency from

1987 to 2017, leading one of the region's most consequential groundwater sustainability efforts.

"Lynn understood that protecting this valley's water meant protecting the relationships behind it," United Water General Manager **Mauricio Guardado** stated in a news release. "He built trust with farmers, cities, regulators and neighbors alike, because he knew that's how you actually secure a resource for the long term."

Maulhardt served in the Vietnam War and was a retired commercial airline pilot. He held a bachelor's degree in physics from Loyola University and a master's degree in management and human relations from Webster University. ♦



Brad Sherwood

Sonoma Water Names Sherwood Interim GM

The Sonoma Water Board of Directors has named Assistant General Manager **Brad Sherwood** Interim General Manager. He succeeds General Manager **Grant Davis**, who recently retired after 16 years leading the agency.

Sherwood originally joined Sonoma Water in 2006 and currently oversees business services and external affairs, including administration,

finance, government relations, community affairs, human resources and project management. He holds a master's degree in political management from George Washington University and bachelor's degrees in government and journalism from California State University, Sacramento.

The Sonoma Water Board of Directors is launching a nationwide search to fill a permanent general manager position. ♦



Shaun Horne

Marin Water Appoints Horne as GM

The Marin Water Board of Directors in August appointed **Shaun Horne** as its General Manager, following a comprehensive nationwide recruitment process.

Horne brings more than 18 years of progressive water resource and natural resource management experience to the role, including seven years of leadership at Marin Water, where he most recently served as Director of Watershed Resources.

Horne will officially begin serving as General Manager in October while current General Manager **Ben Horenstein** transitions to an advisory role. Horenstein previously announced his plans to retire following nearly eight years as General Manager.

Before joining Marin Water, Horne worked for Sonoma Water and the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. ♦



Naomi Goudeaux

Sacramento Suburban WD Welcomes New Board Member

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors in August appointed **Naomi Goudeaux** to the Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) Board of Directors.

Goudeaux holds a business administration degree from Heald College and brings 15 years

of experience in accounting and property management. She will be up for election in November along with three other SSWD Board members.

"I am honored to have been selected to represent Division 1," Goudeaux stated in a news release. "I look forward to joining the Board of Directors and working tirelessly to provide a voice and representation for my community." ♦



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WEF Releases Spanish Edition of California Water Guide – Aug. 31

Sacramento Suburban Water District Welcomes New Board Member – Aug. 18

Planning for California's Water Future Starts Now – Aug. 21

Coalition Urges California Court to Consider Wildfire Implications on Water Systems – Aug. 24

FIRO Assists in Record Capture of More Than 18 Billion Gallons of Water at Prado Dam – Aug. 31

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit acwa.com/events
for complete listing and registration

OCTOBER 2026

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ACWA EVENT

ACWA Virtual Town Hall: Connect With ACWA's New Executive Director (ACWA Members only)

ACWA | Virtual

Join ACWA Executive Director Karla Nemeth as she shares her priorities for ACWA and discusses the association's role in California's evolving water landscape.

OCTOBER 2026

9

ACWA EVENT

ACWA Regions 6 & 7 Event ACWA | Five Points

Join ACWA Regions 6 & 7 and Westlands Water District for a full-day tour exploring innovative irrigation and water management, desalination, aquifer storage and large-scale solar energy projects.

OCTOBER 2026

14

ACWA EVENT

ACWA Region 10 Event ACWA | Carlsbad

Join ACWA Region 10 for a timely discussion on Colorado River negotiations, water exchanges, reuse, and regional strategies strengthening Southern California water supply reliability amid uncertainty.

OCTOBER 2026

23

ACWA EVENT

ACWA Regions 1 & 5 Virtual Office Hours ACWA | Virtual

Join ACWA Executive Director Karla Nemeth for Region 1 & 5 Office Hours. Welcome Karla, learn about her priorities for ACWA, ask questions, and share your perspectives on regional and agency priorities. Visit acwa.com/events for office hours in your region.

OCTOBER 2026

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ACWA EVENT

ACWA Region 1 Event ACWA | Russian River Watershed

Join ACWA Region 1 and Sonoma Water for a behind-the-scenes tour of Russian River water management, featuring collector wells, the Water Education Center and a special FIRO presentation at Lake Sonoma.

NOVEMBER 2026

2-5

NWRA 2026 Annual Conference and Federal Advocacy Forum NWRA | Coronado

The NWRA 2026 Annual Conference at Loews Coronado Bay Resort features vital federal advocacy, caucus meetings and water governance sessions. Network with industry leaders—ACWA members receive discounted registration.