



An informational tour Dec. 17-18 sponsored by ACWA and others highlighted south-of-the-Delta water infrastructure and the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The tour route included the California Aqueduct and Delta-Mendota Canal near Tracy, O'Neill Forebay and San Luis Reservoir west of Los Banos (above), Mendota Dam and Pool, New Columbia Ranch near Firebaugh, the San Joaquin River, and Friant Dam and Millerton Lake.

Legislative Staff Tour Helps Bring Focus to Water Infrastructure Issues South of the Delta

Three dozen legislative staff members took advantage of an informational tour opportunity Dec. 17-18 to learn in the field about south-of-the-Delta water infrastructure as well as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, Delta water conveyance and other issues facing state leaders.

The California Latino Water Coalition organized the tour, and ACWA was a sponsor.

"When it comes to water, there is nothing like getting a first-hand, on-the-ground look at the physical infrastructure and management strategies that are so critical to our economy, jobs and

the environment," said Timothy Quinn, executive director of ACWA and president of Clean Water and Jobs for California. "With so many water issues at the forefront in 2013, it will be more important than ever for lawmakers and their staffs to understand our water system."

Quinn accompanied the tour and assisted with presentations.

"This tour was vital for Legislative staff members seeking to improve their understanding and appreciation of the

LEGISLATIVE TOUR Continued on page 3

Fall Conference Offers Array of Insights into Water Agency Finances, Water-Energy Nexus and More

From the next generation of news media to water agency reserves to new faces in California agriculture, ACWA's 2012 Fall Conference & Exhibition drilled into a number of topics of interest to the water community.

Themed "California Water...The Next Generation," the event drew more than 1,720

to the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego Dec. 4-7.

Here is a round-up of issue forums and other programs at the conference. Keynote sessions were featured in the Dec. 21 issue of *ACWA News*.

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DWR Expects Water Delivery Estimate to Increase Significantly in Coming Months

The early, wet storms that have pounded California in recent weeks likely will result in increased water deliveries from the State Water Project (SWP) in 2013, officials from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced Dec. 21.

DWR has increased its delivery estimate — or allocation — from 30% to 40% of requested SWP water for calendar year 2013. DWR officials expect to further increase that estimate as more winter storms roll in, according to a DWR statement. California typically receives more than 90% of its snow and rain from December through April.

Storms in November and December have replenished reservoirs and deepened the mountain snowpack that on average provides a third of California's water when it melts in spring and early summer. The state's mountain snowpack is currently estimated to hold approximately 150% of average water content for this time of year.

State reservoirs also are faring well due to the wet weather. As of Dec. 27, Lake Oroville in Butte County — the SWP's principal storage reservoir — was at 70% capacity, which was 112% percent of normal to date. Shasta Lake, north of Redding — the federal Central Valley Project's principal storage facility — was at 72% of capacity and 114% of normal.

DWR officials estimate that a normal level of precipitation this season will "significantly increase" the estimated 40% allocation of SWP water requested by the 29 public agencies that supply SWP water to more than 25 million Californians and nearly a million acres of irrigated farmland.

The final SWP allocation in calendar year 2012 was 65% of requested deliveries. The final allocation was 80% in 2011, up considerably from the initial allocation estimate of 25%. The last 100% allocation occurred in 2006. ■■■

ACWA Washington, D.C. Conference Feb. 26-28 to Feature Updates on Federal Regulations

With a second term ahead for President Barack Obama and a new Congress ready to be seated, 2013 is shaping up as an eventful year in the federal government. Learn about the current political landscape and what it all means for California water next month at ACWA's annual Washington, D.C. conference.

Called "ACWA DC2013," the conference Feb. 26-28 at the Washington Court Hotel is a prime opportunity to hear from and meet with California's congressional delegation, as well as federal officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. Those who attend will get the newest information about possible regulatory actions and water-related programs that are on the horizon, as well as perspective on budget projections and the priorities favored by the Obama administration and California's delegations in the House and Senate.

ACWA President Randy Record and

Linda Ackerman, chair of the ACWA Federal Affairs Committee, are scheduled to attend, as are ACWA's leadership, including ACWA Executive Director Timothy Quinn and David Reynolds, ACWA director of federal affairs.

To register online for ACWA DC2013, please visit www.acwa.com/events/. ■■■





Left Photo: (L-R) ACWA Deputy Executive Director, Government Relations Cindy Tuck, California Latino Water Coalition Executive Director Mario Santoyo, California Department of Food and Agriculture Undersecretary Sandy Schubert, California Latino Capitol Association Board Member Jesse Cuevas and ACWA Executive Director Timothy Quinn gather after Undersecretary Schubert's presentation. Right photo: The tour group in front of Friant Dam.

LEGISLATIVE TOUR *Continued from page 1*

difficult and challenging water issues facing south-of-Delta water users," said Mario Santoyo, Latino Water Coalition director. "Many participants commented on the usefulness and value of the tour."

Attendees viewed the new intertie linking the California Aqueduct and Delta-Mendota Canal near Tracy, O'Neill Forebay and San Luis Reservoir west of Los Banos, Mendota Dam and Pool, New Columbia Ranch near Firebaugh, the San Joaquin River, Friant Dam and Millerton Lake. Technical and policy details were provided by expert speakers at each stop.

Keynoting the tour's presentations was California Undersecretary of Food and Agriculture Sandy Schubert, who spoke during a stop at Friant Dam. She stressed

the importance of irrigated agriculture to the state's economy.

Speakers from the Department of Water Resources included Carl Torgersen, deputy director; Joel Ledesma, chief of the Delta Field Division; and Michael Miller, Department of Water Resources tour director. From the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation were Liz Partridge, Ron Silva, Michael Jackson, Erika Kegal and Doug DeFlicht.

Also speaking were Dan Nelson, San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority executive director; Tom Martinez, Santa Clara Valley Water District government relations manager; Gayle Holman, Westlands Water District; Chris White, Central California Irrigation District General Manager;

Melissa Poole, Paramount Farming Company regulatory affairs manager; Ronald D. Jacobsma, Friant Water Authority general manager; Gerald Hatler, Department of Fish and Game manager for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program; Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League president; William Swanson, MWH Global vice president; and Jesse Cuevas, California Latino Capitol Association.

Organizers were pleased at the response and said the tour's success demonstrated the importance of outreach to those involved in framing policy. Additional tours are being planned after the first of the year. — *Randy McFarland, Friant Water Authority Public Information Consultant* ■■■

Dublin San Ramon Services District Board Forms for 2013

The 2013 Dublin San Ramon Services District Board of Directors has elected Dawn L. Benson as president and Georgan M. Vonheeder-Leopold as vice president. The Board followed its normal rotation policy in selecting its 2013 officers. Other board members include Richard M. Halket and D.L. (Pat) Howard, who were re-elected to third terms,

and newcomer Edward R. Duarte, who is the first San Ramon resident to serve on the board since 2002.

The district serves 157,000 people in Dublin and the Dougherty Valley area of San Ramon. Board directors are elected at-large. The DSRSD also provides wastewater treatment to Pleasanton under contract. ■■■





Left photo: (L-R) Natalie Walsh, senior news producer with KPBS in San Diego; Scott Lewis, CEO of the Voice of San Diego; and Janet Zimmerman, reporter with the Riverside Press-Enterprise, discuss changes in how consumers access the news at the “Working with the Next Generation of News Media” program. Center photo: (L-R) Joan Maher, president of the State Water Contractors; Carl Torgersen, deputy director of the State Water Project for the California Department of Water Resources; and Joseph P. Byrne, vice chair of the California Water Commission, discuss the “State Water Project: The Next 50 Years” at the Town Hall. Right photo: (L-R) Steve Macaulay asks a question of the Town Hall panelists. Photos by Dale Kolke

ACWA CONFERENCE Continued from page 1

Media 2.0: Engaging with News Rooms in a Digital Era

With social media and smartphones changing the way consumers get their news, journalists offered insight from the frontlines at a Dec. 5 program sponsored by the Communications Committee.

Newsrooms and the news gathering process are changing, with attention now focused on the number of website views a story gets. Despite their importance, stories about water are not going to generate as much interest as a headline that mentions Brad Pitt or Angelina Jolie, said Janet Zimmerman, who covers water for the Riverside Press-Enterprise.

“Water just doesn’t get the same kind of clicks as crime and mayhem,” Zimmerman said.

Natalie Walsh, senior news producer with KPBS in San Diego, said today’s media has to serve multiple audiences and provide content across an array of platforms.

“It used to be that if you didn’t hear the story when it ran, you didn’t get it,” Walsh said. “But now it’s about letting you get it when you want it, how you want it.”

Scott Lewis, CEO of the Voice of San Diego, noted that Twitter and blogs allow elected officials and government

agencies to communicate directly with the public without going through the traditional press conference or interviews with reporters. By the same token, journalists are now expected to post updated content throughout the day in a variety of formats to reach audiences directly.

“The writer’s goal used to be getting published,” Lewis said. “Publishing means nothing now. What matters is being in people’s news feeds.”

Water Supply Reliability: Making the Case with Customers

Education and ongoing outreach are keys to getting public buy-in for investments in water supply reliability, panelists advised at a Dec. 5 water industry trends program.

Maureen Stapleton, general manager of the San Diego County Water Authority, said her agency emphasized the need to diversify water supply sources to support more people, more jobs and more economic activity in a region that receives just eight inches of rain a year.

“If you don’t paint a clear picture for your community, you won’t get beyond the numbers game,” Stapleton said. “People understood. We weren’t saying there was a silver bullet; it’s more like a shotgun approach.”

Mary Ann Dickinson, president / CEO of the Alliance for Water Efficiency, said successful conservation efforts have affected revenues for many water agencies. The return of normal precipitation after a dry year also creates the false impression that rates should drop.

“Don’t let conservation be the scapegoat. It should be your partner,” Dickinson said.

Cindy Paulson, executive director of California Urban Water Agencies, said water suppliers are making tremendous gains in diversifying supplies to improve long-term reliability. More than \$17 billion has been invested in local infrastructure and water system reliability improvements, while \$4 billion has been spent on water conservation and supply diversification.

Work remains to be done to address challenges associated with declining revenues, explore new conservation pricing options and develop messages to educate customers and policymakers, she said.

New Farmers Take Proactive Approach to Managing Water

Today’s young farmers are using technology, information and a new approach to public outreach to produce more with less water, according to speakers at a Dec. 6 statewide issue forum.



Left photo: Fran Spivy-Weber, vice chair, State Water Resources Control Board and Gary Bardini, deputy director, California Department of Water Resources, were part of a panel at the Water Industry Trends Program, "Climate Change: Responding to the Institutional Challenges." Center photo: Robert Shibatani, CEO & principal hydrologist at The Shibatani Group, Inc. speaks at the climate change program. Right photo: (L-R) Fran Spivy-Weber, Martha Davis, executive manager for policy development, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Laurie Park, water energy innovations, California Sustainability Alliance; Grant Davis, general manager, Sonoma County Water Agency; and Wilmar Boschman, general manager, Semitropic Water Storage District. "California's Water-Energy Nexus: The Next Steps" panel. Photos by Dale Kolke

"This generation engages much more proactively in policy and politics," said Aubrey Bettencourt of Bettencourt Farms near Hanford. "I think the general public still doesn't understand agriculture and what we do. We use every drop to the 'nth' degree as much as we can."

Zach Sheely, a fourth-generation grower in Kings County, said despite tremendous efficiencies on the farm and within groundwater basins, there remains a lot of misinformation about California growers.

"It takes water to grow food," Sheely said. "I feel like people think we're draining away all the state's water. I don't want to feel like the enemy anymore. I think if you came out and saw what we do, you'd be impressed."

Forum Explores BDCP Costs and Benefits, and Preliminary Findings

Two economists involved in assessing the costs and benefits associated with the Bay Delta Conservation Plan described their approaches and observations at a Dec. 6 statewide issue forum.

David Sunding, a UC Berkeley professor working on a detailed statewide cost-benefit analysis for the BDCP, said regulatory certainty is a key benefit of the projects that is difficult to quantify. He outlined preliminary findings of a study identifying costs and benefits for state and federal contractors that will be asked to pay for physical

conveyance improvements as part of the BDCP.

Jeffrey Michael, director of the Eberhardt School of Business at the University of the Pacific, said the findings hinge on what assumptions are used, what time frame is analyzed and how other options are defined.

"There will be a lot of pressure to inflate the numbers," Michael said.

Delta Mitigation: At Whose Expense? Public or Private?

The state will make every effort to use public lands, rather than private property, when designating land for habitat mitigation under the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), Jerry Meral, deputy secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, said at a panel discussion Dec. 5 on the local impacts of state plans for improving the Delta.

"We want to concentrate the habitat development — as much as humanly possible — onto public land," Meral said. "But can we do it all on public land? Undoubtedly we can't... But we will look for willing sellers and try to avoid condemnation. We will pay all of the costs local landowners would pay, so local government won't lose any money."

Meral made the comments at a panel discussion with local stakeholders whose communities may be impacted as parts of the Delta are changed under the BDCP.

Meral told the other panelists, Mike Machado, executive director of the Delta Protection Commission, and Yolo County Supervisor Jim Provenza, that the state will work to develop a plan for the Delta that "will not be too disruptive" to agriculture.

Provenza said he supports the BDCP process, but Yolo County officials are negotiating with the state to develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding issues such as preservation of agriculture.

"It's essential that we not only leave the Delta whole, but improve it and enhance those agricultural features that are important to the state," Provenza said.

Meral added that the water bond proposed for 2014 will likely be downsized, but he believes it is unfair for the state water contractors to have to pay the bulk of costs for a water conveyance system, habitat conservation and other Delta fixes. The state will have to come up with additional funding sources, he said.

California's Water – Energy Nexus: Next Steps for Better Efficiency

Water agencies use 8% of the state's total electricity, according to research released by the Water-Energy Team of Gov. Jerry Brown's Climate Action Team, or WET-CAT. That figure rises to 19% when one calculates end-users into the

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1. ACWA Conference & Business Development Specialist Melanie Medina presents raffle prizes in the exhibit hall to two ACWA members Dec. 5.
2. ACWA members enjoy the live music during the "A Taste of Italy" dinner Dec. 6.
3. ACWA Executive Director Timothy Quinn; Mike Madigan, Madigan Consulting; ACWA President Randy Record; Sunne Wright McPeak, president of the Delta Vision Foundation; and ACWA Vice President John Coleman after the Dec. 5 lunch program.
4. ACWA JPIA staff talks with ACWA members during the Welcome Reception Dec. 4.
5. Staff from ACWA's State Relations Department and the Federal Relations Department was available for questions during the "Ask the ACWA Experts" time in the exhibit hall.
6. ACWA members chat during the Outreach Reception Dec. 6.
7. ACWA Past President Paul Kelley and ACWA Executive Director Timothy Quinn talk with Ben Wicke from Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District at the ACWA booth.
8. ACWA President Timothy Quinn moderates the "Deltanomics" Statewide Issue Forum Dec. 6.
9. ACWA staff at dinner Dec. 6 with ACWA Past President Paul Kelley and ACWA Vice President John Coleman.
10. The Dudek booth in the exhibit hall hosts a water taste test during the Welcome Reception.
11. Business gets done between sessions at the ACWA Conference.
12. Kathy Tiegs from Cucamonga Valley Water District waits with Vista Irrigation District's Richard Vasquez and Roy Coox for lunch to begin.



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equation. State and local leaders need to work to help water agencies reduce the energy they use to transport and treat water, panelists said Dec. 5 at an afternoon forum on the water-energy nexus.

One way to reduce energy used in providing consumers water is to increase local water sources so less energy will be expended transporting water, panelists said. Wilmar Boschman, general manager of the Semitropic Water Storage District near Bakersfield, said his water agency also is working to use more renewable energy sources. Currently, the district uses a renewable energy mix of hydroelectric power, photovoltaic and landfill gas in addition to non-renewable energy sources. Boschman and other panelists advised water agency officials to try to use more renewable power.

“This is a something that if you’re not doing it, your policy planners should be looking at doing,” Boschman said.

Grant Davis, general manager of the Sonoma County Water Agency, said that in early December his agency and Sonoma County formed a joint powers authority — the Sonoma Clean Power Authority — to purchase power. The partnership is an example of a Community Choice Aggregation, or CCA, a tool that allows cities, counties and other agencies to pool electricity demand to purchase or develop power. The partnership was helped in its development by the Local Energy Aggregation Network, also known as LEAN Energy USA, which supports networks of community leaders in establishing CCAs.

Panelists said water agencies can expect workshops to be offered in 2013 by the California Public Utilities Commission on the water-energy nexus.

Special District Reserves: Why Are They an Attractive Target to the State Legislature?

Despite the passage of Proposition 30 — Gov. Jerry Brown’s tax increase — the

state may still seek to raid the special reserve funds of local districts, so those districts should strengthen their policies regarding reserves, cautioned ACWA’s Director of State Relations Wendy Ridderbusch at a panel discussion Dec. 6.

“The state is still running a deficit and it probably is going to continue to run a deficit for quite some time,” warned Ridderbusch. “The hunt for funding is going to continue, irrespective of passage of Prop. 30.”

One of the key ways to keep local reserve funds from looking like surplus cash to be raided is to explicitly state in written policies what the reserves are used for. Spencer Bader, division manager for administrative services at the Sonoma County Water Agency, said his agency maintains 72 different funds and holds reserve monies in about half of them. The funds are very specific in what they can and cannot be used for, he said. He added that the reserves are a key reason his agency’s bond rating was upgraded recently.

“Having the cash on hand really does pay off,” Bader said.

Gary Arant, general manager of the Valley Center Municipal Water District, said the state may eye local reserve funds more keenly since the much-anticipated Cap and Trade carbon auction did not bring in as much revenue as had been expected.

“The state is not out of the woods yet,” Arant said.

Charles Turner, financial manager for Eastern Municipal Water District, said districts should look closely at their reserve policies to see if their governing bodies have authority “to react...to countermeasures taken by the state.”

Ridderbusch advised water agency officials to get to know their legislative representatives and educate them on local reserves and what they are used for.

“We are really doing grassroots-level education,” Ridderbusch said. “Don’t wait until there is a crisis to go talk to your legislator.”

“We need to communicate how the reserves and revenues translate into reliable water service,” Arant added.

No “Black and White” Answers to Colorado River Water Demand

There are no “black and white” answers to the challenges that lie ahead in the next 50 years related to potential water shortages among users of the Colorado River, Terry Fulp, regional director for the Bureau of Reclamation’s Lower Colorado Region said during a panel discussion on federal water issues Dec. 6.

A study of the Colorado River Basin released in December by the Department of the Interior predicted an imbalance between water supply and demand from users of Colorado River water of 3.2 million acre-feet by 2060. The study examined numerous water management tools to address the potential imbalance, but did not recommend a specific alternative.

“In the end, the study doesn’t make any decision,” Fulp said during the panel. “The sound bite of what we are going to do about it isn’t going to be there.”

Fulp called Minute 319, an agreement reached late last year with Mexico on Colorado River storage and use, a “monumental step” in the “evolution of the basin.”

Under the agreement, Mexico would share in any needed water supply cutbacks and in possible surpluses.

Fulp was joined on the panel by David Murillo, Reclamation’s new regional director for the Mid-Pacific Region based in Sacramento, and Don Glaser, former regional director for Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region who will now work on special projects for Reclamation in Denver. ■■■

ACWA expresses its sincere appreciation to the following 2012 sponsors:

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Western MWD Ready for Solar Panel Savings at Operations Center

A new solar power project at Western Municipal Water District's operations facility in Riverside will reduce Western's energy costs beginning in 2013.

Construction is expected to be completed early this year on 4,000 solar panels at the facility, which houses the district's operations center, warehouse, dispatch center, vehicle fleet and approximately 70 employees. The

922-kilowatt system will supply nearly 80% of the facility's energy during peak usage periods.

The solar array potentially could save Western more than \$4 million during the next 20 years, Western announced. Officials expect the solar power to be cheaper than Western's current power provider, Southern California Edison. According to Western, Edison charges more during the hottest part of the day — when solar panels are most productive.

"Western's goal is to secure an alternative energy supply that, in the long run, amounts to lower energy costs to our ratepayers," said Jeff Sims, Western's deputy general manager.

Western said the project is beneficial in other ways: It eases the burden on

California's electricity grid during periods of peak demand and reduces the district's carbon footprint.

The water district is contracting with SunPower, a design and manufacturing company, to install the solar panels. The company says its solar panels are operating at 26 water agencies in California.

The installation at the operations center on El Sobrante Boulevard mirrors a 1 megawatt solar project constructed in 2009 at a Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Authority plant that Western MWD manages.

The El Sobrante array will utilize technology that rotates the solar panels to follow the sun's path across the sky, yielding 25% more energy capture than fixed-tilt systems, according to SunPower. ■■■





(left) ACWA President Randy Record acknowledged Timothy Quinn for his five-plus years of service as the association's executive director during a holiday luncheon for ACWA staff on Dec. 14. (middle) Outreach Specialist Ellen Martin also reached the five-year mark. (right) Margie Knight, now a full-time event specialist for ACWA, has worked for the association for more than 15 years.

ACWA Employees Recognized for Service Milestones

ACWA acknowledged staff who reached years-of-service milestones during 2012 at a Dec. 14 holiday luncheon. ACWA President Randy Record, Immediate Past President Paul Kelley, and retired ACWA employees Dan Smith, Debi Fletcher, John P. Fraser and Linda Anderson also attended the event.

15 Years

Margie Knight reached 15-plus years with ACWA in 2012. She began her career at ACWA in 1997 on a part-time basis as the association's Meetings and Membership Assistant, during which she was responsible for coordination of supplies, attendee badges and materials, signage and other related items for ACWA's conferences and events. In 2012 Knight was promoted to Event Specialist I, becoming a full-time employee. Knight is now using her uncanny ability to organize in taking on additional duties related to processing event registrations and

coordination of the registration desk at ACWA's conferences.

Five Years

ACWA Executive Director Timothy Quinn and Outreach Specialist Ellen Martin celebrated five-plus years with ACWA.

Quinn joined ACWA in July 2007, becoming the association's fifth executive director. He arrived with more than 25 years of experience in California water issues and a reputation for being a skilled negotiator. He shaped deals on key policies such as the 2000 CALFED Record of Decision, the 1995 Monterey Agreement, the 1994 Bay-Delta Accord, and a number of water transfer agreements. In his tenure with ACWA, Quinn has led the organization on several major policy initiatives — from the 2009 Comprehensive Water Package to numerous ACWA Board policies ranging from sustainability to water-use efficiency to climate change. He is a sought-after speaker around the

state on all things California water and is a favorite of the news media for his quotable comments.

Martin joined ACWA in 2007 as a Communications Assistant, arriving in time to help implement the multimillion-dollar public education program called "California's Water: A Crisis We Can't Ignore." A year later she moved into the Region/Outreach Coordinator position in 2008, assisting with an array of region events and activities and coordinating grassroots outreach efforts through ACWA's online Outreach Action Center. In 2009, Martin was promoted to the newly created position of Outreach Specialist, focused on expanding ACWA's outreach with external audiences. Since then, Ellen has played a key role in education and outreach programs such as Save Our Water, the California's Water public television series, Clean Water and Jobs for California, Water for Tomorrow and the Value of Water. She has become ACWA's in-house expert on social media. ■■■

Former Roseville Environment Utilities Director Recognized for Service



Derrick Whitehead, the former director of Environmental Utilities for the city of Roseville, was given the Regional Water Authority's Distinguished Service Award at a ceremony Dec. 13, 2012.

Roseville Mayor Pauline Roccucci lauded Whitehead's leadership in the region on issues such as state-level policy

changes related to aquifer storage and recovery, the development of the Water Forum Agreement — signed by 40 Sacramento-area organizations in 2000 to ensure long-term water supplies — and the surfacing of regional water issues in Washington, D.C.

Whitehead's leadership also has contributed to development of water conservation and recycling efforts in Roseville, development of the Placer

County Groundwater Management Plan, and the introduction of aquifer storage and recovery into Roseville's water supply portfolio.

Whitehead retired in November after 25 years with the city.

The Regional Water Authority is a joint powers authority representing 25 water suppliers and affiliates in the greater Sacramento area. ■■■

Mesa Water Names Leadership, Swears in Board Members

James R. Fisler has been named president of the Mesa Water District Board of Directors, and **Shawn Dewane** will serve as first vice president.

Fisler has represented Division 2 on the Mesa Water Board of Directors since 2009 and was re-elected to the position in 2012. The Costa Mesa resident, since 2010, also has served as president of the Mesa Consolidated Water District Improvement Corp. Fisler is a member of the City of Costa Mesa's Investment Oversight Committee and he works as a real estate agent.

Fisler said he will lead with a focus on achieving the water district's strategic plan. "Furthermore, as Mesa Water looks

forward to becoming 100 percent locally reliable in providing safe, high-quality water to our customers, I am proud to serve our community at the helm of a local water agency that is committed to transparency, efficiency, and reliability," he said in a statement.

Dewane represents Division 5 the southeastern portion of Mesa Water's service area. Dewane, who has served on the board since 2005, is chairman of CalDesal — a private nonprofit that advocates for drinking water generated by water desalination. Dewane owns a Newport Beach-based financial planning firm.

During a Dec. 11 meeting, Mesa Water's other three board members



(left) James R. Fisler, president of the Mesa Water Board of Directors.; (right) Shawn Dewane is the first vice president.

also were sworn in: Fred R. Bockmiller, Jr. (Division 1); newly elected Ethan Temianka (Division 3); and James F. Atkinson (Division 4). ■■■

New Mid-Pacific Region Director David Murillo Sets Course



David Murillo, former deputy commissioner of operations for the Bureau of Reclamation, assumed Dec. 18 the responsibilities of director of the Mid-Pacific Region.

Murillo was named deputy commissioner for operations in September 2010. Murillo previously was the power manager for the Grand Coulee Power Office, the largest hydroelectric facility in the nation. He managed the Grand Coulee and Hungry

Horse dams and power plants. Murillo joined Reclamation in 2000. Before joining Reclamation, Murillo worked for the Defense Department and Department of Energy.

"Mr. Murillo brings into this new position a long history of working collaboratively with Reclamation's customers and stakeholders," Reclamation Commissioner Michael Connor stated two months ago. According to a press release from Reclamation, Murillo has "extensive knowledge of water and related resources policy, water and power

system operation and maintenance, and ecosystem recovery."

Murillo said he developed an appreciation for the complexities of the Mid-Pacific Region during his time as deputy commissioner of operations. "I am committed to the challenge of maintaining the balance of competing needs for water in the Mid-Pacific Region, of fostering the relationships and partnerships essential to cooperation and accomplishments, and of carefully managing the natural resources entrusted to us," Murillo said in a statement. ■■■

CALENDAR

ACWA EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS

JANUARY

- 11** **Delta Stewardship Council Special Public Hearing** is scheduled for **Jan. 11**. Hearing to receive public comment on Final Draft Delta Plan, Re-circulated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report, Vol. 3 and Proposed Delta Plan Rulemaking Package. (Written public comment on the documents will be open through Jan. 14.) 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., 980 Ninth St., second floor conference room A. More information is available online at <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/>.

FEBRUARY

- 4-5** The **2013 California Irrigation Institute Conference, "Embracing Innovation: The Next Generation,"** is scheduled for **Feb. 4-5** in Sacramento. Registration is open. For more information contact California Irrigation Institute at 916.391.5035.
- 20-22** The **Urban Water Institute** will hold its **Spring Water Conference Feb. 20-22** at the Hilton Palm Springs Hotel in Palm Springs. For more information, contact Julie Ackman at 949.679.9676 or julie@urbanwater.com.
- 26-28** **ACWA DC2013**, annual Washington D.C. conference, is **Feb. 26-28** at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, D.C. **ACWA DC2013** provides a unique opportunity to meet with members of Congress and the Obama administration. Highlights will include learning about key Congressional committee agendas, understanding the direction of federal agencies, and developing insight into where the new Congress will be headed. The conference also is a premier venue for updating California's congressional delegation and administration officials on key water issues, including the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, the 2009 comprehensive state water legislation, the Endangered Species Act and energy and drinking water issues. Register at <http://www.acwa.com/content/event-registration>. For more information, contact ACWA's Member Services and Events Department at events@acwa.com or 916.441.4545.

MARCH

- 5** **ACWA 2013 Legislative Symposium**, an annual event on water related issues facing California and the State Legislature, is **March 5** at the Sacramento Convention Center. For more information, contact ACWA's Member Services and Events Department at events@acwa.com or 916.441.4545.
- 14-15** **Water Education Foundation's 30th Annual Executive Briefing** will be **March 14-15** at the

Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento. Contact the foundation at www.watereducation.org or 916.444.6240.

- 15** **ACWA Region 3 / Mountain Counties Water Resources Association** will hold a joint program Friday, **March 15** at the Ridge Golf Course Event Center in Auburn. For more information, contact John Kingsbury at 530.957.7879.
- 25-28** **The California-Nevada Section of American Water Works Association Spring Conference** is **March 25-28** at the Tropicana Hotel and Resort, Las Vegas.

APRIL

- 11** **Santa Ana River Watershed Conference** convened is scheduled for **April 11** at Westin South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa. For more information please contact Water Education Foundation 916.444.6240.

MAY 7-10

ACWA's 2013 Spring Conference & Exhibition is **May 7-10** at the Sacramento Convention Center and surrounding hotels. For more information, contact ACWA's Member Services and Events Department at events@acwa.com or 916.441.4545.



ACWA DC2013
Annual Washington D.C. Conference

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Submit cover letter, resume, current salary, and five work-related references to: Bronda Silva at bsilva@municipalresourcegroup.com or 7095 Murdock Way, Carmichael, CA 95608 / (916) 752-7088 by February 11, 2013. The job brochure is available on-line at <http://sewd.net/employment-opportunities.htm>.

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ACWA Presents Annual Employee of the Year Award

By a vote of her colleagues, **Paula Quinn** was acknowledged as the association's 2012 Employee of the Year.

The Employee of the Year award recognizes exemplary performance, outstanding service and individual contributions throughout the year. Quinn was recognized for consistently delivering excellent member service support by demonstrating her willingness, creativity and flexibility in taking on new roles and responsibilities as part of ACWA's reorganization initiative.

Quinn joined ACWA in 2011 as the Senior Administrative Assistant and she is now the Senior Business Services Specialist.

In 2012 ACWA received many positive comments from members who have interacted with Quinn, expressing how professional and responsive she is toward meeting member needs and requests. Quinn was complimented for staying on top of the committee process for handling questions/inquiries and how well she kept it moving. Quinn recently took on the liaison duties for the Personnel and Benefits Committee, where she works with the chair to develop programs and plan meetings.

The process for nominating and naming the Employee of the Year was changed in 2012 to provide for anonymous online voting by ACWA employees. The eight nominees were Quinn; Martin Davis – Business & Technology Systems Manager; Katie Dahl – Region and Member Service Specialist II; Abby Schneider – Federal Relations Representative; Tiffany Giammona – Member Services Group Manager; Margie Knight – Member Services Event Specialist; David Reynolds – Director of Federal Relations; and Antonio Alfaro – State Relations Analyst II. ■■■



ACWA Executive Director Timothy Quinn recognizes Employee of the Year Paula Quinn (no relation).

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