



(Left) ACWA President Randy Record welcomes attendees at the opening breakfast of ACWA's 2013 Fall Conference & Exhibition in Los Angeles. (Right) Three cabinet secretaries with key roles in planning the state's water future headlined the luncheon program on Dec. 4. Pictured from left to right are ACWA Executive Director Timothy Quinn, Cal/EPA Secretary Matt Rodriquez, Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross, Natural Resources Secretary John Laird, ACWA President Randy Record and ACWA Vice President John Coleman. Conference attendance topped 1,755 at the first-time venue of JW Marriott L.A. Live.

Conference Attendees Go “#ALLIN for California Water”

From groundwater to drought planning to the water-energy nexus, local water managers from throughout the state got an in-depth look at emerging challenges and some potential solutions at ACWA's 2013 Fall Conference & Exhibition Dec. 3-6.

More than 1,755 people attended the four-day event at JW Marriott L.A. Live in downtown Los Angeles.

The conference — themed “#ALLIN for California Water” — featured more than 90 programs, keynote addresses, forums and educational seminars examining California's

critical water issues. Topics included building resiliency in a changing climate, the state of ocean desalination, Colorado River issues, hydraulic fracturing and the potential for a critically dry 2014.

Natural Resources Secretary John Laird, Cal/EPA Secretary Matt Rodriquez and Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross addressed attendees at a luncheon program Dec. 4, providing their thoughts on the draft California Water Action Plan released by the Brown Administration in October.

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State Releases Updated BDCP for Formal Review

An updated Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) was released Dec. 9 by the California Natural Resources Agency, launching a formal public review period on the state's plan to shore up the water delivery system and natural habitat in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The release of the BDCP also triggered a series of public meetings throughout the state that will begin in February where members of the public may comment on the plan that has been seven years in the making.

“This is a rational, balanced plan to help

meet the needs of all Californians for generations to come,” said California Natural Resources Secretary John Laird. “By meeting the state's dual goals for BDCP of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability, we will stabilize and secure against catastrophe the water deliveries that sustain our homes, jobs, and farms, and do so in a way that not only protects but enhances the environment.”

ACWA Executive Director Timothy Quinn called release of the documents an important step in a process closely watched by water

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ACWA Encourages Congress to Include Pilot Financing Program in Water Resources Bill

ACWA and the Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA) are urging Congress to include an innovative financing pilot program for infrastructure projects within a major water resources bill.

On Dec. 10 ACWA and its counterpart in Texas sent a letter to House and Senate members who are discussing how to reconcile S. 601, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA). Negotiations began last month on the two versions of the legislation, which reauthorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' key projects and missions, such as waterway maintenance and flood protection.

The House and Senate versions of the bill both passed with strong bipartisan support earlier this year, but they contain key differences. One is that S. 601 includes provisions from the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), which would create a pilot program designed to fund water projects that are too large to receive EPA State Revolving Fund loans. The pilot is modeled after a similar program in the transportation sector.

The WIFIA program could be used to finance a variety of water projects whose cost is greater than \$20 million. The Senate version of the bill authorizes \$50 million per year for each of the next five years for the pilot. Projects types that could potentially benefit involve desalination, water recycling, indirect potable reuse, water supply development and others.

WIFIA "will add a much needed financing alternative for Western water managers and provide funding at the appropriate level for these much needed projects," ACWA and TWCA wrote in the comment letter.

"In the arid West, there are a number of major water projects currently planned and ready for financing that would benefit from



the WIFIA financing options," according to the letter. "Many of these projects are complex, large-scale projects that use advanced treatment technologies and are, therefore, capital intensive to build."

The letter also asserts that WIFIA should not be established at the expense of the current EPA State Revolving Fund program.

The associations commented on several other aspects of the water resources bill, such as streamlining environmental permitting, project authorization and deauthorization, dam operation, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensing.

U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) is among the five members of the state's congressional delegation who are working to iron out the House and Senate versions of the bill. WIFIA is only one difference. The House bill would give Congress the power to approve or disapprove of Army Corps-recommend projects while the Senate bill would leave such decisions up to the Executive Branch. The House version would authorize \$3.1 billion for 23 projects over five years, while the Senate's would authorize \$5.7 billion during the same span of time.

Historically Congress has passed a water resources development bill every two years, but the last one was signed into law in 2007. ■■■

Feinstein, Costa Urge Gov. Brown to Declare Drought Emergency

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Jim Costa (D-16) on Dec. 9 sent a joint letter to Gov. Jerry Brown asking him to declare a statewide drought emergency that would activate the state's emergency plan and permit some relaxation of state regulations concerning water.

The letter cited the recent announcement by officials with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) that they expect in 2014 to deliver the historically lowest initial allocation of water from the State Water Project – 5%. The letter references the initial allocation estimate as evidence that the state needs to take emergency action regarding water.

“While it is early in the 2014 water year and therefore projections on allocations are conservative,” the letter reads, “what is clear is that we have had two years of dry conditions that have depleted our reservoirs and depleted carryover storage to historically low levels not seen since 1977.

“Without this carryover storage, the flexibility built into the system to respond to hydrologic conditions and regulatory constraints is critically diminished, with severe impacts to many

Californians. This is going to be a very challenging water year for California and a potentially catastrophic year for the Central Valley in particular,” the letter continues.

The letter cites the emergency drought declaration made former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2009, which allowed state and federal officials to exercise additional authorities to address the ongoing drought conditions. Those authorities included activating the State Emergency Plan and “permitting relaxation and suspensions of some state statutes and regulations.”

Other activities implemented in 2009 as a result of the proclamation included promoting water conservation, implementing expedited water transfer procedures and providing status reports on the state's water conditions.

“This declaration would send a strong signal that state and federal agencies must provide maximum discretion in decisions that could have an impact on water supplies,” the letter states.

Feinstein and Costa also stated in the letter that Brown and members of his



administration have “shown great leadership in bringing parties together to solve the complex water challenges that have plagued California for decades.”

“From the efforts with the Bay Delta Conservation Plan to the Statewide Water Action Plan, it is clear that you and your agencies understand the critical nature that secure and reliable water supplies bring to California,” the letter reads.

The letter also requests that the California Drought Contingency Plan be updated to include new options and technologies to address the drought and also that the State Water Action Plan have a “greater emphasis on this year's needs.”

■ ■ ■

Obama and Brown Pressed to Take Action on California's Water Supply

Almost 50 state legislators and members of Congress from California recently signed a letter calling on President Obama and Gov. Jerry Brown to use their powers to improve next year's water supply.

Citing dry conditions in California made worse by regulatory restrictions on Delta water, the letter urges the two leaders to take “immediate” action that increases water supplies in California so that the state's trillion-dollar economy and agricultural industry aren't jeopardized.

The letter also asks them to work with lawmakers to develop and implement comprehensive plans that address water supply, reliability and affordability.

“A successful water plan must include additional storage and assured protection of water rights priorities and area of origin protections,” the letter says.

The letter also mentions that the legislators expect the Central Valley Project's initial water allocation will be similar to last month's announcement from the

California Department of Water Resources that set an initial 5% allocation of requested deliveries from the State Water Project in 2014.

“Such an allocation will result in the continued depletion of local groundwater resources, fallowing of thousands of acres of productive farmland, rising food costs, skyrocketing agriculture and urban water rates, and the elimination of countless jobs in our state,” the letter says. ■ ■ ■

Three Cabinet Secretaries See Critical Need for Water Solutions

Three cabinet secretaries with key roles in planning for the state's water future shared their vision for securing long-term solutions during a luncheon program Dec. 4 at the ACWA Fall Conference & Exhibition in Los Angeles.

Natural Resources Secretary John Laird, Cal/EPA Secretary Matt Rodriguez and Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross discussed the Brown Administration's draft California Water Action Plan and critical needs as the state seeks to address Delta issues, groundwater overdraft and other challenges affecting the state's long-term water supply reliability.

Laird said the administration's plan, released Oct. 31, reflects a concerted effort to bring state agencies together to forge a cohesive path forward.

"Balancing all the interests is the hardest thing," Laird told attendees at the sold-out luncheon. "How do we balance all these interests to take advantage of this time to make decisions?"

Rodriguez said the state is at a critical juncture to address long-standing problems and new issues such as climate change. Building a more resilient water system is paramount, he said.

He credited ACWA for taking the initiative to develop its Statewide Water Action Plan, which he noted is "not too unlike our plan."

He singled out groundwater as a particularly urgent issue.

"All of us see a need to collaborate," Rodriguez said. "We have to do a better



California Natural Resources Secretary John Laird (left) shares a light moment with Cal/EPA Secretary Matt Rodriguez and Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross as they discuss long-term solutions for the state. The three cabinet secretaries are tasked with key roles in advancing the Brown Administration's draft California Water Action Plan.

job. We know that water is critical to the state and all of us are dedicated to working together."

Ross said local and regional management of water resources remains the best way to go, but she noted that the shift to permanent crops for some 5,000 acres of farmland is resulting in additional pressure on groundwater when surface water supplies are reduced.

"This administration wants to make sure tools are available to manage" at the local and regional level," she said.

Ross and Laird said ACWA would be an important partner moving forward.

"ACWA's Statewide Water Action Plan is an excellent first step," Ross said. "But there are many other stakeholders" the administration will be working with as well.

Laird said the administration had received more than 100 comments on its draft plan to date and will be reviewing them all for potential additions and revisions to the plan.

The luncheon program marked the first time three cabinet secretaries had addressed an ACWA audience. ■■■

ACWA CONFERENCE Continued from page 1

Assembly Member Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood), chair of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee and point person on discussions on the 2014 water bond, headlined the breakfast program on Friday, Dec. 6.

Michael J. McGuire, author of a new book on the public water system's

conquest over waterborne diseases in the United States, delivered the keynote address at the luncheon program on Thursday, Dec. 5.

ACWA also honored longtime water leaders with special awards and recognized several member agencies for outstanding efforts on communications

and outreach. See individual stories inside this issue on keynote presentations and the outcome of elections for ACWA president and vice president for the 2014-'15 term.

Watch for additional coverage and stories on awards presentations in the Jan. 10 digital issue of *ACWA News*. ■■■

Opening Breakfast Panel Looks at Ocean Desalination Challenges

Ocean desalination has a role to play in meeting local water needs, but proponents must be prepared to navigate an array of technical and emotional issues to get projects across the finish line, an expert panel said Dec. 4 at the opening breakfast of ACWA's 2013 Fall Conference & Exhibition in Los Angeles.

Local water managers with front-line experience offered insights from their efforts to thread local politics and regulatory hurdles to advance ocean desalination projects in their areas. Though the science of membrane technology continues to advance, it is emotional – and sometime ideological – issues that can trigger the greatest debate and controversy, they said.

Moderator Richard Nagel, general manager of West Basin Municipal Water District, said impacts on the marine environment have emerged as one of the biggest controversies associated with proposed projects.

“Bringing the water in safely and discharging the brine are two of the biggest issues,” Nagel said. He noted that a recent hearing on a project before the California Coastal Commission in Newport Beach drew more than 400 people and 10 hours of testimony.

Ken Weinberg, director of water resources for the San Diego County Water Authority, described the decade-long process of securing permits for a 50 million-gallon-per-day ocean desalination plant at Carlsbad. The project, co-located at an existing power plant that has used an open-ocean intake for its cooling facilities for 50 years, will be the nation's largest ocean desalination facility, providing about 10% of the authority's “wet” water and about 7% of the region's needs for water.

The project's impacts on marine life were a major topic during the approval process, he said.



Navigating the maze of environmental policies and regulatory approvals is no easy task for proponents of ocean desalination projects, according to panelists at the opening breakfast at the 2013 Fall Conference & Exhibition. The panel included (from left) Shawn Dewane, chair of CalDesal and president of the Orange County Water District; Bill Kocher, recently retired water director for the City of Santa Cruz; Ken Weinberg, director of water resources for the San Diego County Water Authority; and moderator Rich Nagel, general manager, West Basin Municipal Water District.

Bill Kocher, recently retired water director for the City of Santa Cruz, recounted how the city decided to pursue an ocean desalination project in cooperation with Soquel Creek Water District to secure additional supplies during drought years. Soquel would use the desalinated water to replenish its coastal aquifer, which is showing signs of seawater intrusion.

Issues associated with the plant's intake, brine discharge and potential to induce growth emerged during the public comment period on the project. The city has decided not to pursue a 2014 public vote on the project for now.

Shawn Dewane, chair of CalDesal and president of the Orange County Water District Board of Directors, described how a proposed project at Huntington Beach is being compelled to look at a

subsurface intake, which is touted by some as being environmentally superior. It is not necessarily proven, however, that subsurface intakes are better for the marine environment. It is clear that they are very costly. A subsurface intake for the Huntington Beach project, for example, would require excavation of 65 acres of ocean floor that would have to be raked annually, carrying its own impacts on the benthic environment.

Dewane said he hoped science — and not emotion — would carry the day as studies continue.

“It's science and technology that can solve these issues,” Dewane said. Bold, visionary leadership also must play a role. “What's needed today is to stand up for common sense solutions that will bring reliability to our water systems.” ■■■



At left, attendees hear about efforts to address groundwater overdraft and subsidence at a statewide issue forum Dec. 5. Chris White, general manager of Central California Irrigation District, said some areas in the San Joaquin Valley are subsiding as much as six inches a year. Dave Orth, general manager of Kings River Conservation District, said landowners and stakeholders are coming to the table to find solutions in the Kings Basin. Felicia Marcus, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, said she would prefer to see local agencies tackle the issue without heavy state oversight. Tim O'Halloran, general manager of Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, says taking the initiative locally is the key.

Forum Examines Efforts to Curb Subsidence, Reduce Pumping

From subsidence monitoring programs to the development of recharge basins, local and regional water agencies throughout California are implementing an array of initiatives to tackle the growing problem of groundwater overdraft and subsidence.

That was the thrust of a statewide issue forum held Dec. 5 at ACWA's Fall Conference & Exhibition in Los Angeles. Called "Local Groundwater Management and the State: At a Crossroads?" the program discussed local efforts to address groundwater overdraft and a state official said she would like to see the state empower local and regional agencies to tackle the issue without heavy state oversight.

"I see my role as learning how to help (local agencies) and stay out of their way," said Felicia Marcus, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board. "We're in a good place to try to figure out what is the appropriate state role."

Kirby Brill, general manager of the Mojave Water Agency, moderated the panel and stressed that the issue of groundwater overdraft and subsidence is "in the headlines and it is safe to say groundwater is now mainstream."

"We are looking at changing the way groundwater is managed," said Brill. "We are at a crossroads."

Chris White, general manager of the Central California Irrigation District, talked about subsidence that is occurring on the east and west side of the San Joaquin River in the San Joaquin Valley. He said areas near the Sack Dam are subsiding as much as six inches a year.

Concerned landowners and stakeholders formed a group called Western Madera County Subsidence Solution Project to address the issue. The group is working to develop recharge ponds and promote shallow well pumping instead of the deep well pumping that causes greater subsidence.

Tim O'Halloran, general manager of the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, talked about his county's efforts to deal locally with the issue of groundwater overdraft.

"We want to maintain local control," said O'Halloran. "Locally we have taken the initiative so we can stay out of the crossroads."

Yolo County maintains unlined water canals, so about 25% of the water that

flows through the canals goes back into the aquifer. The county also operates its own countywide monitoring of groundwater, subsidence and surface water. Yolo County publicizes its groundwater monitoring results on a website.

"We work in a very transparent manner," said O'Halloran. "It's my belief it builds relationships. It builds trust."

David Orth, general manager of the Kings River Conservation District, said it is important that local water agencies "change the dialog" about groundwater pumping.

"We have to be better about explaining what we do locally and regionally," he said.

Landowners and stakeholders in Orth's area formed the Kings Basin Water Authority, which represents 50 entities. The group has raised \$80 million in private and state funding to work on projects such as water recharge banking, agricultural water use efficiency, water basin monitoring and public outreach and education.

"It starts with people coming to the table," said Orth. ■■■

“Two Guys and a Bucket of Bleach” Transform Nation’s Water System



Two men with an idea joined forces in 1908 to design and build the nation’s first chlorinated public water system, leading to the eventual saving of millions of people from waterborne diseases.

That collaboration was the subject of author Michael J. McGuire’s keynote address at the Dec. 5 luncheon program during ACWA’s Fall Conference & Exhibition in Los Angeles. Titled “Two Guys and a Bucket of Bleach,” McGuire’s talk told the story of Dr. John Leal and engineer George Warren Fuller’s effort to launch the nation’s first chlorinated public water system in Jersey City, New

Jersey. McGuire authored a book on the subject titled “The Chlorine Revolution: Water Disinfection and the Fight to Save Lives.”

McGuire explained that in the latter part of the 19th century, population and infrastructure in the United States was growing exponentially, which spawned an increase in water-borne illnesses such as typhoid fever in heavily populated areas. In some cities, 20% to 30% of children died before the age of one due to water-borne diseases.

Cities’ growing infrastructure became “an efficient disease distribution system,” said McGuire.

“This was an accepted fact – you got sick and you died,” McGuire said of the prevailing sentiment of the era in which the average life span was 47 years.

Two small cities in England had ex-

plored the use of chloride in public water systems. American physician John Leal was intrigued by the idea and left his job as a doctor to work for the Jersey Water Supply Company around the time the company was sued by the city for contaminated water. Leal met with the engineer Fuller to talk about his ideas and the two developed a system to chlorinate the water in Jersey City.

The idea wasn’t an easy sell to the public because “chemical phobia was even stronger then than it is now,” McGuire said. Eventually, the idea caught on and more and more cities adopted the technique.

“Four years later, 33 million people were being served chlorinated filtered water...,” McGuire said. “So if you live past the age of 47, don’t thank a doctor, thank an engineer.” ■■■

Water Bond Must be Addressed in 2014, Assembly Member Rendon Says



Saying no problem is more important to the state’s future than water, Assembly Member Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) told ACWA members that action on the 2014 water bond will be a top priority early next year.

Addressing conference attendees at the Dec. 6 Hans Doe Past Presidents’ Breakfast in Partnership with ACWA/JPIA, the first-term legislator and chair of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee said he will work to bring a water bond bill to a vote on the Assembly floor when the Legislature reconvenes.

“What’s important is to get it on the floor of the Assembly as early as possible. As it gets later, things get more complicated,” Rendon said. “I will look to you

for help on that. Then in November I will ask for your help in getting voters to vote for it.”

He noted that Assembly Democrats crafted a \$6.5 billion water bond proposal this year after a deliberative working group process. In addition, Sen. Lois Wolk (D-Davis) has introduced a \$6.47 billion bond bill, while ACWA has advanced an \$8.2 billion bond proposal. A poll earlier this year by the Public Policy Institute of California suggested that a bond in the \$5 billion-\$7 billion range would be most likely to pass, he said.

“We’re all pretty close,” Rendon said, adding that he continues to seek input from ACWA and other stakeholders. He identified storage as one critical issue.

“The work on this bond is not yet done,” Rendon said. “Everyone in this room needs to contact us with their input. We want to continue the dialog, and make sure in January or February we have a draft that can move to the floor.

Whether it’s our bill, or working with the Senate to have just one bill, that’s fine.”

Calling himself a relative newcomer to water, Rendon recounted that one of his first exposures to the issue came in 2001 when a nonprofit organization he directed in East Los Angeles was asked to host a field hearing of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee.

Since then, he said, he has come to view water as “an incredibly complicated public policy area.” Water issues continue to resonate in his district, he said, along with the need for transparency and good governance.

Rendon noted he is part of a freshman class of legislators that has gained a reputation for being engaged, patient and methodical. “This class is hungry for solutions,” he said. “And no problem is more important to California’s future than the problem’s related to water.” ■■■



(Left to right) Thad Bettner, general manager of Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District; Mark Cowin, director of the Department of Water Resources; Felicia Marcus, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board; Chuck Bonham, director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife; and Jeff Kightlinger, general manager of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, participate in a town hall examining ACWA's Statewide Water Action Plan and the Brown Administration's draft California Water Action Plan.

Water Leaders Stress Importance of Statewide Water Action Plans

From increasing the state's water storage capacity to strengthening integrated regional water management plans, California needs to move forward with a short-term suite of actions to secure its water future and its water present.

That was the consensus Dec. 4 at a town hall meeting on ACWA's Statewide Water Action Plan and Gov. Jerry Brown's draft California Water Action Plan. The meeting, held at ACWA's 2013 Fall Conference & Exhibition, brought together state and local water leaders who stressed the importance of both plans that seek to build a framework for the state's water needs over the next one to five years.

"Both of these plans are a way of putting a framework around ... a lot of these issues," said Felicia Marcus, chair of the

State Water Resources Control Board.

"It is imperative that we take an all-of-the-above approach," Marcus added. "With climate change and loss of snowpack, we all have to talk about storage, groundwater, recycling desalination ... all of it."

Chuck Bonham, director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, said he could sum up his beliefs about the water action plans in four words: "Now-Is-The-Time."

"We've got to deal with the here and now that is in front of us today," he said.

Thad Bettner, general manager of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, also stressed the importance of the plans and of taking action now.

"Don't wait for a crisis," Bettner said.

"The two plans on the table now implement what we want to do moving forward."

Cindy Tuck, ACWA's deputy executive director for government relations, said ACWA looks forward to working with the administration and

state agencies on key areas, including water transfers.

Mark Cowin, director of the Department of Water Resources, said "water transfer is an issue that transcends the water action plan."

"It's here and now and ... it is front and center with the Department of Water Resources," Cowin said. "We are endeavoring to come up with more general rules that can be applied more quickly."

Cowin also said climate change is profoundly impacting the management of water.

"I believe that climate change is the biggest game changer in California water management in the history of my career," he said.

But Cowin also warned that the state doesn't have the "infrastructure in place to move swiftly on all of these actions" in the statewide plans.

Jeff Kightlinger, general manager of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, said his district also is working to increase local water storage capacity. Today, the district can store 5 million acre-feet of water.

"We're going to have to capture water really fast," he said. "That's the world we need to be planning for." ■■■



A town hall discussion gets under way moderated by Cindy Tuck, ACWA's deputy executive director for government relations.

Statewide Issue Forum Highlights Water-Energy Connection

Educating the public about the nexus between water use and energy use took center stage on Dec. 5 at a statewide issue forum titled “Water and Energy: Making the Connection with Consumers.”

Jennifer Persike, ACWA deputy executive director for external affairs and operations, outlined the importance of educating the public about the connection between energy and water use. She said roughly 20% of the state’s energy use comes from pumping, purifying and transporting water.

“How do we better engage the public and help them to better understand the

linkage?” Persike asked the audience. “On the water side there have been increasing efforts to demonstrate the need on that side of the equation.”

Debbie Davis, of the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, described how her office partnered with ACWA in the summer to develop public education materials on the topic.

“Resources are strained ... the next wave is how we figure out how to do the most we can across sectors,” said Davis.

Heather Sanders, director of regulatory affairs-distributed resources for California Independent System Operator, talked

about how the net load energy curve is shifting during certain times due to more green energy, such as solar power coming online during the day. She said messaging may need to be adjusted so consumers know that green power is shifting daytime availability.

Grant Davis, general manager of the Sonoma County Water Agency, described his agency’s goal to have carbon-free water by 2015, which means all its energy would come from renewable sources.

“Being more efficient and conserving water is the first step,” Davis of reducing

Growing Support for ACWA’s Statewide Water Action Plan

Support for ACWA’s Statewide Water Action Plan continues to mount, with more than 64 ACWA member agencies and other organizations adopting resolutions or sending letters in support of the document.

The plan, adopted unanimously by the ACWA Board of Directors on Sept. 27, has garnered support in every region and among both urban and agricultural agencies. Resolutions continue to arrive at the ACWA office on a daily basis.

“The message about the need for a comprehensive plan is resonating,” ACWA Executive Director Timothy Quinn said. Quinn and several other association staff members have been crisscrossing the state to brief members and other interested groups on the plan. As of Dec. 16, agencies and organizations supporting the SWAP include:

- Alta Irrigation District
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- Browns Valley Irrigation District
- Calaveras County Water District
- Calleguas Municipal Water District
- Carmichael Water District
- Casitas Municipal Water District
- Chino Basin Water Conservation District
- Citrus Heights Water District
- City of Corona
- City of Lincoln
- City of Roseville
- City of Sacramento
- City of San Diego
- Clear Creek Community Services District
- Coachella Valley Water District
- Contra Costa Water District
- Cucamonga Valley Water District
- Desert Water Agency
- East Bay Municipal Utility District
- Eastern Municipal Water District
- El Dorado County Water Agency
- El Dorado Irrigation District
- Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
- Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
- Friant Water Authority
- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
- Helix Water District
- Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District
- Irvine Ranch Water District
- James Irrigation District
- Kern County Water Agency
- Kings River Conservation District
- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- Missions Springs Water District
- Mesa Water District
- Metropolitan Water District So. Cal
- Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
- Monte Vista Water District
- Mountain Counties Water Resources Association
- Oroshi Public Utilities District
- Padre Dam Municipal Water District
- Placer County Water Agency
- Porterville Irrigation District
- Rio Alto Water District
- Regional Water Authority
- Sacramento Suburban Water District
- San Benito County Water District
- San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
- San Geronio Pass Water Agency
- San Juan Water District
- Saucelito Irrigation District
- Scotts Valley Water District
- Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District
- Sunnyslope County Water District
- Terra Bella Irrigation District
- Three Valleys Municipal Water District
- Tulare Irrigation District
- Valley Center Water District
- Vista Irrigation District
- Walnut Valley Water District
- Western Canal Water District
- Wheeler Ridge Maricopa Water Storage District
- Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ■■■

Coleman Elected to Serve as ACWA President, Tiegs Picked for VP



ACWA members have elected **John Coleman**, a longtime director of East Bay Municipal Utility District, to a two-year term as president of the statewide association.



Kathleen J. Tiegs, a member of the Cucamonga Valley Water District Board of Directors, was elected vice president. The two will take office in January.

The election, which took place at ACWA's 2013 Fall Conference & Exhibition in Los Angeles, capped a year in which the association pursued several new policy initiatives and worked to

advance a comprehensive approach to the state's water supply challenges.

"The direction our state takes on water policy in the next two years will have a profound impact on the next generation of Californians and beyond," Coleman said. "The issues challenging us are great: securing a dependable water supply, restoring the Bay-Delta, protecting watersheds, managing groundwater and others. But the opportunities are equally great as innovation continues leading us towards improvements in water quality, water recycling and energy management."

Coleman has served as vice president of the association since January 2012. He has been a member of the East Bay MUD board since 1990 and served as president from 1996 to 2000.

He is a past president of the board of the California Association of Sanitation

Agencies and currently chairs the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority and the Freeport Regional Water Authority. He was appointed chair of ACWA's Federal Affairs Committee in December 2009.

Tiegs has served on the Cucamonga Valley Water District Board of Directors since 2005. She is a member of ACWA's Region 9 Board of Directors and serves on the board of the ACWA / Joint Powers Insurance Authority.

She is actively involved in special district advocacy and serves on the Board of Directors for the California Special Districts Association as well as the local chapter of the Association of San Bernardino County Special Districts, where she serves as president. ■■■

Report: EPA Backs Away from Including Hydrants in Lead-Free Rule

The federal Environmental Protection Agency is backing away from a rule that would have required all newly installed fire hydrants to be lead free, and could have resulted in extra costs for California water agencies.

Fire hydrants would have been subject to the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water law beginning on Jan. 4, 2014, but EPA reportedly has backed away from the proposal. Fire departments and water districts across the nation, including ACWA, opposed the proposed regulation in part because fire hydrants are not used as a primary drinking water source except in emergencies.

Bipartisan legislation passed the House on Dec. 2 that would add fire hydrants to the list of products that are exempt from the lead-free rule, and the Senate passed the bill on Dec. 17. Fire hydrants don't have to be lead free under

California regulations.

"In response to the feedback received through that process, EPA concluded that fire hydrants are not widely used as a potable source of water and that the guidance should be revised to exclude fire hydrants if Congress doesn't take action to do so before the January deadline," an EPA spokesperson said in a statement.

Even though fire hydrants contain few metal parts with only small amounts of lead, the EPA ruling might have rendered millions of dollars' worth of them unusable.

In November ACWA sent a letter requesting that EPA reconsider the status of fire hydrants, saying it would represent "a substantial expansion of the scope of lead-free laws."

"Health concerns associated with lead are generally a matter of long-term



exposure, and hydrants theoretically used as potable water sources during emergencies would only serve this purpose for only a limited period of time," the letter said.

Several ACWA member agencies also sent letters to their local Congress members urging them to support the legislation that would exempt fire hydrants. ■■■

Conference Offers Wide Array of Water Industry Trends Programs

ACWA's Fall Conference & Exhibition offered a wide array of water industry programs. Here are some highlights from the programs:

A Dec. 4 program, “**#Fracking Regs411: Groundwater**,” explored the frontier of hydraulic fracturing in California and how the state is moving forward with new regulations to address the practice. Mark Nechodom, director of the California Department of Conservation, joined a panel including Briana Mordick, staff scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council; and Rock Zierman, CEO, California Independent Petroleum Association.

An afternoon panel that day, “**Water Agency Transparency in the Digital Age: #WhatAreYouDoing**,” examined what agencies can do to reinforce transparency and counter the perception of “flying under the radar.” Rob Roscoe, general manager of Sacramento Suburban Water District, recounted how his agency ushered in more transparent practices in the aftermath of wrongdoing that resulted in criminal charges for some former leaders. Dorothy Holzem, legislative representative for the California Special Districts Association, outlined programs available for water agencies and other special districts to boost transparency efforts.

“**Chromium-6: What It Is, Where It Is and What You Need to Know about It**” offered an in-depth look at California’s

road to adopting the nation’s first drinking water standard for chromium-6. Steve Bigley, director of environmental services for Coachella Valley Water District, and Chad Seidel, manager of water technology for Jacobs Engineering Group, discussed potential impacts of the draft standard proposed by the Department of Public Health and strategies local agencies can pursue to deal with them.

The potential for a third dry year was the topic of a Dec. 5 program titled “**Are We Destined for #Drought in 2014?**” Laura King Moon, chief deputy director of the Department of Water Resources, said the department is “very concerned” about the prospects for water supply challenges next year. “Our system is pushed to the brink,” she said. The state’s water delivery system had lost the flexibility it once had to buffer dry periods, and operations are increasingly constrained by measures to protect species, she said.

DWR is focusing on speeding up the process for water transfers, and is working with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and fisheries agencies to “look at options for maximizing flexibility” in 2014. “We are acutely aware of how much pain is out there,” King Moon said.

Paul Wenger, president of the California Farm Bureau Federation, discussed potential impacts on agriculture, while James McDaniel, senior assistant general manager for the Los Angeles Department



At top, panelists discuss hydraulic fracturing and the state’s proposed regulations. Above, a panel moderated by ACWA Vice President John Coleman delves into planning for a potential third dry year. The two programs were among several sessions illuminating key water issues facing the water industry.

of Water and Power, described what the city is doing to diversify supplies and maximize efficiencies. Jennifer Persike, ACWA’s deputy executive director for external affairs and operations, covered potential messaging and communications efforts in a third dry year. ACWA is gearing up to serve as a clearinghouse for information on drought impacts and local drought response efforts, she said, while the Save Our Water program is developing new, umbrella materials and messaging that can be scaled to convey urgency in the event of serious drought. ■■■

Don Pedro Relicensing Moves Forward With Sights on 2016

Modesto and Turlock irrigation districts recently submitted draft paperwork for a new license that would allow them to continue jointly managing the Don Pedro reservoir and dam. The current license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ends in 2016.

Don Pedro can store more than 2 million acre-feet at full capacity, and is a prized source of irrigation water for the region’s agricultural land and municipal

water for Modesto and other cities. The facility also provides recreation and flood protection, and the two irrigation districts utilize hydroelectric power generated there.

The irrigation districts began the relicensing process in 2011. They expect to file the final application with FERC in April 2014. A public meeting is scheduled for Jan. 16 to discuss 38 new studies and management plans contained in the

draft application that are related to the reservoir and Tuolumne River. ■■■



BDCP Continued from page 1

managers throughout the state.

“Delta conveyance and ecosystem problems simply cannot be ignored,” Quinn said. “We continue to believe the BDCP is a critical opportunity to put California on a path to retool our water system for the 21st century. It is one element of a broader set of actions needed to address overall water supply reliability and ecosystem health in California. Ultimately, Delta solutions are more likely to succeed as part of a statewide comprehensive policy that works for the state as a whole.”

The formal release of the document follows several months in which officials circulated an administrative draft of the BDCP for informal review. The formal release of the BDCP and its corresponding Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) triggers a public comment period that will run from Dec. 13, 2013, through April 14, 2014. Dozens of public meetings also will be held throughout the state from mid-January through mid-February where experts will help facilitate review of the plan and listen to public comment.

The plan proposes to change the way the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) divert water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta by constructing new intakes in the north Delta along the Sacramento River about 35 miles north of the existing pumping plants. Twin tunnels would then carry the water underground to the existing pumping plants, which feed canals that stretch hundreds of miles to the south and west.

The goal of a northern diversion on the Sacramento River is to minimize environmentally harmful reverse flows in the south Delta that are caused when the existing pumping plants draw water from nearby channels. The plan’s overarching goal is to protect delivery of the mountain snowmelt that supplies water to two-thirds of the state’s population from

San Jose to San Diego and thousands of Central Valley farms. The BDCP focuses on shoring up the estuary where the snowmelt flows — the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta — and aims to both reverse the ecological decline of the region and modernize a water system that now depends on hundreds of miles of earthen levees vulnerable to earthquake, flood, and rising sea levels.

Terry Erlewine, general manager of the State Water Contractors, called the release of the public draft an “important step” in the process to update the state’s water infrastructure.

“Currently, we are crippled by outdated infrastructure and a regulatory environment that is hindering our ability to capture fresh water when it is abundant, lessening the amount of water available to use in dry periods — a problem that is exacerbated as we conclude one of the driest years on record,” Erlewine said in a written statement. “Putting in place a modern system to create a more reliable water supply is crucial to ensuring clean and adequate water for 25 million Californians and millions of acres of farmland, while also restoring the fragile ecosystem in the Delta.”

Jeff Kightlinger, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, wrote in a written statement that the release of the documents launches “an important conversation about California water management and the real-life choices we face...”

“The basics of the Delta solution are now on the table, with a full vetting of numerous alternatives,” Kightlinger wrote. “This is both a milestone and a reminder that the status quo in the Delta is unacceptable for both the environment and the California economy.”

Kern County Water Agency Board of Directors President Ted Page wrote in another press release:

“The BDCP is our best chance to improve California’s water supply reliability and the health of the Delta

but comes with a large price tag. The agency and its member units will need to confirm affordability, water yield and related assurances.”

The BDCP seeks to both stabilize water deliveries from the Delta and contribute to the recovery of 56 species of plants, fish and wildlife over the 50-year life of the plan. The Legislature delineated those co-equal goals in the 2009 Delta Reform Act.

The 9,000-page Bay Delta Conservation Plan and its corresponding 25,000-page EIR/EIS reflect significant revisions since the informal release of administrative review drafts last spring and summer. The public review draft documents reflect:

- Changes to the alignment of the proposed water conveyance tunnels that would significantly reduce disruption to north Delta communities and reduce by half the project’s permanent footprint.
- More detail about the plan’s critical adaptive management process, which would use research, monitoring, and adjustment of actions to ensure that environmental measures truly contribute to the recovery of covered species.
- Refinement and revision of how the plan would be governed.
- A description of the tools and sources of funding potentially available to support the adaptive management process if additional Delta flows and water supply are needed.
- Additional design criteria and operational constraints for the proposed north Delta intakes, including fish studies that would influence facility design.
- Addition of further measures to protect the greater sandhill crane, giant garter snake, and saltmarsh harvest mouse.

The BDCP is a habitat conservation plan under the federal Endangered

BDCP Continued on page 13

California Water Agencies to Help Fix Earthquake Damage in Mexico

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Imperial Irrigation District have each committed \$2.5 million for projects that improve water infrastructure in Mexico.

The two districts will get 23,750 acre-foot shares of water conserved through the upgrades, which will fix damage caused by a major earthquake in Mexico's Mexicali Valley in 2010. The districts will be able to use that water for municipal and industrial purposes or to pay back water overruns on the Colorado River.

Southern Nevada Water Authority and Central Arizona Project also are involved in this pilot project, which was agreed to at the Colorado River Water Users Association's annual conference in December.

This conservation effort is related to Minute 319, a five-year agreement finalized in 2012 that spells out how the two nations will share water from the Colorado River during drought conditions and allows Mexico to store water in Lake Mead.

"Our agencies are investing in Mexico's infrastructure to help the country rebuild its system, and we will get a share of the conserved water as our benefit. This is a win-win-win for Mexico, IID and Metropolitan," said Jeffrey Kightlinger, Metropolitan Water District's general manager.

Edward Drusina, U.S. commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission, noted that the two nations have worked for years to promote cooperation on the Colorado River.



An international treaty is allowing Mexico to store water in Lake Mead.

"This new partnership between Imperial and Metropolitan will enhance those efforts," Drusina said. ■■■

State Releases Updated Climate Change Preparedness Plan

The governor's administration released its 2013 update to California's climate change preparedness plan on Dec. 10.

Titled the "Safeguarding California Plan," the revised document builds on 2009's California Climate Adaptation Strategy. The new 288-page public draft is intended to provide policy guidance for state decision-makers, according to a news release from the California Natural Resources Agency. The plan discusses climate risks to water and eight other sectors, makes recommendations and highlights progress to date.

"Thoughtful, early actions will clearly make a major difference in California's ability to maintain livable and productive communities," said California Natural Resources Secretary John Laird. "By planning and building a more flexible power grid, modernizing our water delivery system, and finding ways to make each region more self-reliant, we can save lives and money in the future."

Among several recommendations, the plan calls for improved water storage capacity, support for regional management of groundwater resources to improve drought resiliency, diversification of local

water supplies, and better preparation for flood incidents. More research on climate change's impact on California's snowpack, rainfall and groundwater also is needed, the report says.

"Since the release of the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy, significant progress has been made on improving water use efficiency, flood protection, developing scientific knowledge about climate risks to California's water supplies; however, more opportunities exist to enhance the resilience of the state's water supplies," the plan says. ■■■

BDCP Continued from page 12

Species Act and a natural community conservation plan under California law. It describes 22 separate conservation measures that would be undertaken by the California Department of Water Resources, operator of the SWP, in coordination with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, operator of the CVP. The

plan seeks to provide a stable regulatory environment for operation of the SWP, while working toward the recovery of imperiled fish species.

Water users served by the SWP and CVP — primarily in Southern California, the Santa Clara Valley, and the San Joaquin Valley — would pay most costs

under the plan, including the entire \$16 billion cost associated with new intakes and tunnels.

To read the public review draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan, learn how to comment on the plan, and see the schedule of public meetings, please visit <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com>. ■■■

Study: San Luis Reservoir Expansion Would Cost \$360 Million

A U.S. Bureau of Reclamation report released earlier this month looks at how San Luis Reservoir could be enlarged while also improving the earthquake resiliency of B.F. Sisk Dam.

Reclamation's Draft Appraisal Report considers a scenario where a multi-faceted \$360 million project would raise the dam by 20 feet in order to add 130,000 acre-feet to the reservoir's current capacity of 2.04 million acre-feet. The construction would modify and retrofit the dam embankment and dikes, spillway, intake towers and access bridge.

For more than a decade officials have been exploring more capacity at the jointly-operated reservoir near Los Banos in order to help eliminate harmful algal blooms that sometimes occur when water levels are low. The project also could improve water reliability for farms, cities and other south-of-Delta contractors that

receive water from the Central Valley Project (CVP) via the reservoir.

"An expansion of the dam and reservoir would address at least four factors affecting the reliability of CVP deliveries associated with San Luis Reservoir. These factors include water quality in the reservoir, seismic risk to the dam, Delta conditions and regulations affecting the timing and volume of water available to store in the reservoir, and timing and volume of demand for water stored in the reservoir," Reclamation Mid-Pacific Regional Director David Murillo wrote in a letter about the San Luis expansion study.

Pumping restrictions in the Delta — put in place to protect smelt and other threatened fish — continue to limit how much water is pumped into San Luis and when those deliveries occur. Due to record-dry conditions during 2013 and the pumping restrictions, San Luis has

been unusually low this year, just 26% full on Dec. 11, which is only 41% of average for the date.

A 2006 report from the Bureau concluded that B.F. Sisk Dam, completed in 1967, potentially could fail if seismic activity occurs due to its proximity to several faults. A follow-up study identified raising the dam as one potential fix.

Reclamation would like to work with its partners — the California Department of Water Resources, the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority — to further investigate how San Luis can be enlarged.

The Bureau is taking public comment on the Draft Appraisal Report until Jan. 17, 2014. Send your responses to William Aley, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825, or email waley@usbr.gov, or fax (916) 978-5094. ■■■

Registration Now Open for Groundwater Monitoring Workshops

ACWA and the California Department of Water Resources are hosting a series of workshops to discuss prioritizing basins under the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program.

CASGEM was launched three years ago to comply with legislation signed in 2009 requiring California to develop a permanent groundwater monitoring program. The program's primary goal is to collect groundwater elevations for all of California's 515 basins and compile

that data in an online system.

The first CASGEM Groundwater Basin Prioritization Workshop will be Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014, in Redding. Other sessions will follow in Fresno (Jan. 9), Sacramento (Jan. 16), Riverside (Jan. 22) and Los Angeles (Jan. 23). The Jan. 16 workshop in Sacramento will also be web-broadcast on www.water.ca.gov and archived for later viewing.

Space is limited. To register for one of the free workshops. ■■■



Public Agency Member

South Coast Water District



Retired Navy Capt. **Andrew Brunhart** started as the general manager of South Coast Water District in December. Brunhart

has more than 30 years of experience managing and operating public utilities and infrastructure.

He most recently was the associate director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and formerly served as general manager of Washington Suburban Sanitary District in Laurel, Md., a combined water and wastewater district serving 1.8 million people.

Brunhart has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Marquette University, a master's degree from the

University of Illinois, and a doctorate in public policy and administration from Walden University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and a Registered Financial Consultant.

South Coast Water District serves customers in Dana Point, South Laguna and areas of San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano. ■■■

CALENDAR

ACWA EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS

2014

JANUARY

23 – 24 The California Irrigation Institute will hold its 2014 annual conference, "Building a Water and Energy Efficient California," Jan. 23-24 at the Sacramento Arden West Hilton in Sacramento. Visit www.caii.org for more information.

FEBRUARY

25 – 27 ACWA DC2014, the annual Washington D.C. conference, is Feb. 25-27 at the Liaison Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. ACWA DC2014 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 Congress will be headed. 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 2014 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 ACWA Region 3 / Mountain Counties Water Resources Association will hold a joint meeting Friday, March 14, at the El Dorado Irrigation District, Placerville. For more information visit <http://mountaincountieswater.com/meeting-schedule/upcoming-meetings/>.

26 – 27 Children's Water Education Festival presented by the Orange County Water District, Disneyland Resort, National Water Research Institute and the OCWD Groundwater Guardian Team on March 26 – 27. The festival presents a unique opportunity to educate Orange County's third, fourth and fifth grade students about water and the environment. More than 7,000 students are expected to attend. Volunteers, presenters and sponsors are needed to support this educational event. Learn more at www.childrenwaterfestival.com.

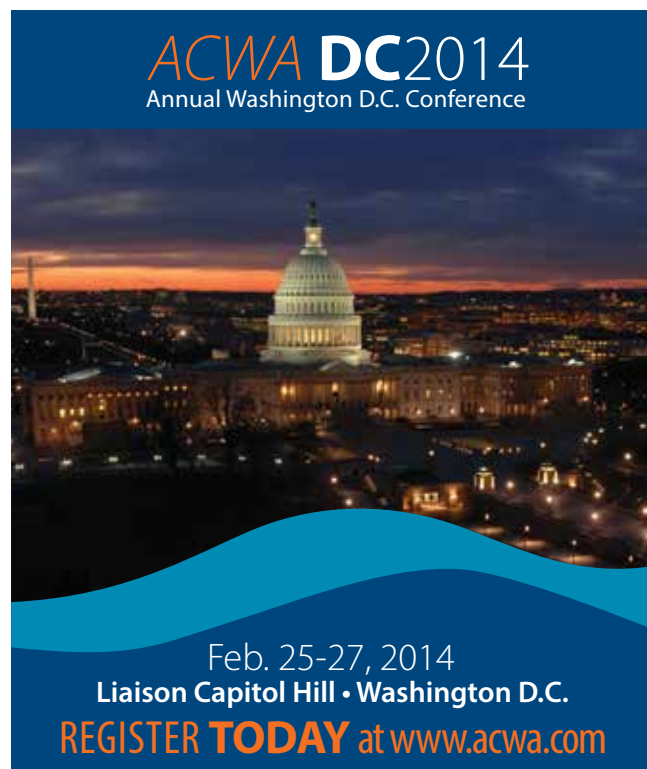
MAY

6 – 9 ACWA's 2014 Spring Conference & Exhibition is May 6-9 at the Portola and Marriott Hotels, Monterey. For more information contact ACWA's Member Services and Events Department at events@acwa.com or 916.441.4545.

16 O.C. Water Summit on May 16 will bring together more than 500 Southern California business professionals with international, national and state water industry stakeholders, elected officials, environmentalists, scientists and community leaders to discuss ongoing global water issues and how water supply challenges impact our economy and public safety. Prominent authors, world-renowned experts and distinguished speakers will also be a part of this critical dialog. Visit www.ocwatersummit.com for more information.

DECEMBER

2 – 5 ACWA's 2014 Fall Conference & Exhibition is Dec. 2 – 5 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego. For more information contact ACWA's Member Services and Events Department at events@acwa.com or 916.441.4545.



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a large to medium sized public or private entity, preferably in water resource management with strong experience in intergovernmental relations. To apply, please visit www.koffassociates.com to obtain a detailed brochure, Application, and Supplemental Questionnaire. Inquiries may be made by contacting Kathy Crotty at 510-658-5633, kcrotty@koffassociates.com. Closing Date December 20, 2013. Established Salary Range – \$155,295 - \$188,763

General Manager

Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District

The Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District is seeking applications for a General Manager. This position is responsible for the effective operation of all district functions and advising and making recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The district serves irrigation water to approximately 38,000 acres of prime agricultural lands. The district's water supply originates from the Friant Unit of the Central Valley Project. The cities of Wasco and Shafter are partially located within the district boundaries. The district is located in the City of Wasco approximately 25 miles north west of Bakersfield. This position reports to a five member Board of Directors and has nine additional full time employees.

The ideal candidate has strong management skills, knowledge of business principles, budget preparation and management, staff development, customer service, and leadership principles.

Desirable candidates must have a Bachelor's degree in business, finance,

engineering or closely related field. The successful candidate should have at least five years of increasing managerial responsibilities.

The district offers a competitive salary depending on experience. The district has an excellent benefit package including CalPers retirement plan, full medical insurance and social security. Interested candidates should submit a resume, letter of interest, and salary history to swidc@lightspeed.net. Interested candidates need to apply by January 3, 2014.

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