



Water Matters

News for the
Orange County
Water Community

AUGUST, 2016



Orange County Gets a C+ Overall Grade in Latest ASCE/UCI Infrastructure Assessment

The Orange County branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers has released its *2016 Orange County Infrastructure Report Card*, giving the county a C+ average in 12 categories. The report card was developed in collaboration with the UC Irvine Civil & Environmental Engineering Affiliates, an advisory group to the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering in UCI's Henry Samueli School of Engineering.

Plan to Attend the August Luncheon!
Paul Weghorst, IRWD, will discuss:

PROVIDING WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY THROUGH CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BANKING

August 17 ♦ Dave & Busters, Irvine

For Complete Information, see Page 4

The team assessed aviation (A-); electrical power (C-); flood control and levees (C-); ground transportation (C); natural gas (B-); oil (B-); parks, recreation and environment (C+); school facilities (C); solid waste (B); surface water quality (D+); wastewater (B); and water supply (B). This is

the fourth *Orange County Infrastructure Report Card*. The first, released in 2002, resulted in a GPA of C; in the 2005 and 2010 analyses, the GPA stayed constant at C+.

"In this first assessment of Orange County's infrastructure to be completed after the recession, we found that while some areas have improved incrementally, others have declined, leaving our overall GPA stalled for more than a decade," said professional engineer Yaz Emrani, co-chair of the O.C. Infrastructure Report Card Executive Committee. "Since our infrastructure works as a system, it's important that Orange County increase investment so that we can move from 'catching up' to 'ready for the future.'"

Of note in the 2016 report:

While commercial traffic at John Wayne Airport approaches the current negotiated limit of 10.8 million annual passengers until 2020, general aviation and military demand falls short of meeting

the facility's available capacity.

Funding shortfalls for upgrades required to bring regional flood control facilities up to standard continue to be in excess of \$2.7 billion.

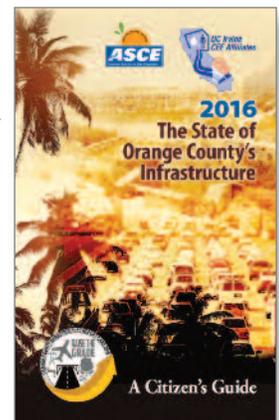
Deferred maintenance during the recent recession has exacerbated ground transportation needs. Existing funding sources are inadequate, and it's estimated that Orange County needs an additional \$133 million annually.

The condition of school facilities has declined in the past five years because of the lack of funding.

Due to the increased volume of runoff during rainstorms, surface water quality infrastructure in Orange County does not have nearly the capacity to meet wet weather demands.

Given these challenges, the Orange County branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers recommends the following:

- Performing continuous and timely maintenance to prolong use and minimize the need for costly repairs
 - Conducting comprehensive planning and long-term investment to ensure sound decisions about infrastructure
 - Preserving the environment while fostering economic growth and personal mobility
- "The adequacy and vitality of Orange County's infrastructure helps it stay competitive and is of paramount importance for supporting the county's growth in population, range and business diversity," said Farzad Naeim, co-chair of the O.C. Infrastructure



Save the Date! Annual Holiday Party December 2, 2016

WE'RE RETURNING TO THE
MARCONI AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM!
DETAILS TO FOLLOW SOON!

Continued on Page 2

Plan to Attend!
**EXHIBITION &
OPERATOR COMPETITION**
September 14, 2016

For Complete Information, see Page 5 & 6

Researchers to Study Health Impacts of Drought

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Awards UCR Team \$284,680 to Investigate the Impact of Water-Delivery Policies on Health of California's Poorest Regions

By BETTYE MILLER, *UC Riverside Today*

Drought and extreme temperatures continue to challenge policymakers in California and globally who grapple with managing limited water resources. Missing from these discussions, however, is the potential impact of drought on public health and how water policy might assuage or exacerbate such impacts, should they exist.

Researchers at the University of California, Riverside School of Public Policy have been awarded \$284,680 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Evidence for Action Program to determine whether drought and adverse weather conditions cause health problems, and whether water policy affects the link between extreme temperatures and health. The research will focus on California, but is relevant to many regions of the United States and the world that also suffer from drought, aridity, and water scarcity.

"When drought strikes, water policy often dictates where and to what degree water supply deliveries are curtailed. Water policymakers seek and regularly receive evidence that is relevant to diverse sectors including agriculture, the environment and municipal needs, but rarely health," explained Kurt Schwabe, professor of environmental economics and policy and principal investigator on the project. "One reason for this neglect is that policymakers have not had evidence for action about the connections among drought and extreme temperature, water policy and health."

Studies investigating the impacts of adverse weather events are sparse and have focused primarily on populations in developing countries, he added. Should those impacts exist in California, that information should be made available to California policymakers.

The two-year project, "Overlooked Health Implications of Water Policy during Drought and Extreme Temperature Events," will focus on the possible impact of drought-influenced water-delivery on the health of residents in California's poorest regions.

Schwabe said the team will use 20 years of health data gathered by the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development and California Health Interview Surveys, as well as county-level water-policy measures and drought indices, to develop a unique data set that will allow a rigorous assessment of health impacts of restricted water deliveries. Among the health measures to be studied are: self-rated health, emotional distress, binge drinking, infant birth weight and mortality, and the possible disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities.

The health consequences of natural and manmade disasters have been extensively studied for decades, Schwabe said.

"Evidence documents that when these calamities strike, population health suffers. We will study drought as a 'slow' disaster that, while less dramatic in its onset, might have equally potent effects on population health. It represents a critically important but understudied form of disaster."



Kurt Schwabe

Knowing the social patterning of health consequences is key not only for directing water policy so as to minimize the harm adverse weather events create, but also for social policies that influence housing, jobs, schools, and the availability of nutritious food to those most deeply affected, Schwabe added.

"Our objective is to open the possibility for a new era of water policy that considers the health consequences of drought and extreme temperatures alongside other impacts in their development of wise and equitable plans for the distribution of scarce water resources and associated investments," he said.

2016 CFCC Funding Fair

August 23 • 8:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

L..A. County Department of Public Works

900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra

CFCC Funding Fairs provide opportunities to obtain information about currently available infrastructure grant, loan and bond financing programs and options.

For additional information about CFCC, please log on to the CFCC website at www.cfcc.ca.gov.

You may also download a flyer with complete information on the Funding Fair and registration for this no-cost event.

Orange County Infrastructure Grade

Continued from Page 1

Report Card Executive Committee and a UCI adjunct professor of civil & environmental engineering. "The ASCE Orange County branch and the UCI CEE Affiliates have done a heroic job in documenting the status and needs of the county's infrastructure over the years."

The Orange County Infrastructure Report Card was created as a public service to inform citizens and policymakers of the needs in their communities. To make their findings more understandable, the civil engineers convert complicated data into letter grades.

The analyses are modeled after the national Report Card for America's Infrastructure, which gave the country a D+ in 2013. The complete report may be downloaded from the ASCE website.

Court Rejects Referendum Seeking to Overturn Yorba Linda Water District's Rate Increases

By LISA LIEN-MAGER, *Association of California Water Agencies*

An Orange County judge has ruled that a local water district may increase monthly water rates as an urgency measure to offset a decline in revenues during the drought, and such action is not subject to repeal through the referendum process.



Judge Robert J. Moss on Monday ruled in favor of the Yorba Linda Water District in a suit filed in January by the Yorba Linda Taxpayers Association. The suit asked that the water rate increase be repealed or placed on a ballot for voters to decide.

Yorba Linda Water District Board of Directors voted in September 2015 to increase monthly water rates by \$25 to address an \$8 million revenue shortfall experienced as a result of the state's mandatory conservation regulation. The State Water Resources Control Board's emergency regulation required Yorba Linda to reduce water use by 36% compared to 2013 levels.

In response to the district's actions, the Yorba Linda Taxpayer Association (YLTA) circulated a referendum petition demanding that the increase be reconsidered by the district and repealed or placed on the ballot for the next regular election for the voters to decide. The district declined to either repeal the resolution or place the issue before the voters. YLTA challenged the district's actions.

The judge noted in his ruling that while the district's revenues declined significantly due to the drought, its operating expenses were largely fixed. Without the rate increases, the district would not be able to cover its expenses and would default on its debt obligations. As a result, the judge noted, granting YLTA's petition would have serious consequences for the district.

The judge further noted that while voters have the right to challenge legislative enactments through the referendum process, the

right is not unlimited. California Constitution article II, section 9 specifically precludes certain types of legislative enactments from the referendum process, in particular urgency statutes. The district argued, and the court agreed, that the resolution adopting the rate increases was an urgency measure enacted in response to drought conditions and therefore was not subject to the referendum process.

The court also found "that the essential governmental function of providing safe, clean, potable water might be impaired" if



the referendum were allowed to proceed.

In an unusual move, the court allowed the submission of amicus letters to address the impact of the statewide drought on local water agencies. An amicus letter was submitted by ACWA and 11 local water agencies in support of the district.

OCWD/OCSD Open House: August 13



The **Orange County Sanitation District & Orange County Water District** will host a **Community Open House** on **Saturday, August 13, 2016** from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** The free event will feature games, activities, music, giveaways, prizes, food, and more!

Don't miss your chance to tour OC's largest wastewater treatment facility and the world's largest advanced water purification facility of its kind, the Groundwater Replenishment System. Tours last approximately one hour and include walking and riding aboard a shuttle bus. Space is limited, so it is very important to RSVP in advance. Children are welcome (recommended for ages 10+).

Make reservations at www.ocwd.com or at www.ocsd.com.

ONE WATER WEBINAR: *Advancing Partnerships for Healthy Watersheds*

August 18 • 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time

Watersheds don't fall into clear-cut city or county boundaries. To manage these systems, it can take more than one municipality or organization to design a holistic approach.



Tackling multi-jurisdictional challenges requires defined goals, responsibilities and funding sources which can be difficult to handle without strong partnerships. What's the ideal recipe for a successful watershed partnership? Ingredients include pinpointing specific geographic areas, targeting stressors and including grassroots organizations, all while steadily evaluating and communicating achievements. Hear from experts who have successfully advanced watershed partnerships through strategic collaboration and goal-setting.

Speakers: Carol Collier, Senior Advisor for Watershed Management and Policy, Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel; Jason Pierce, Manager of Watershed and Contract Services, Upper Trinity Regional Water District

Visit the OneWater website for webinar details.

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OCWA's Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month, unless notified otherwise. The next meeting is scheduled for:

August 17, 2016 ♦ 10:30 am to Noon

Dave & Buster's Restaurant ♦ Irvine Spectrum Entertainment Center

Monthly Luncheon Sponsorship Opportunities

OCWA is soliciting for sponsorship of OCWA Luncheons. Sponsorship is available for \$250. Sponsors must be a current OCWA member. A table is made available at the meeting for the sponsor to display their company or agency information, and the sponsor receives one free lunch. Sponsors will be provided announcement space in the newsletter and will be verbally recognized before and after the luncheon. During lunch, sponsors can play a PowerPoint slide presentation, and will be given a few minutes to address the group about their company before the Speaker's presentation.

If you are interested in participating, please contact John Robinson, (626) 375-9389, or you may email him at johnrobinson@johnrobinsonconsulting.com

August Luncheon Topic

Providing Water Supply Reliability Through Central Valley Water Banking



Presenter:

Paul Weghorst

*Executive Director of Water Policy
Irvine Ranch Water District*

The presentation will highlight how Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) has implemented Water Banking projects in Kern County to provide water supply reliability to its customers. These successful and innovative projects depend on cost effective water banking infrastructure as well as access to regional and state water conveyance facilities.

During the presentation, Mr. Weghorst will provide an overview of IRWD's Water Banking infrastructure and its partnerships that provide access to water supplies and coordinated recharge and recovery operations.

Other partnerships will also be highlighted that facilitate access to conveyance facilities through the exchange and wheeling of water recovered from the Water Banking projects to IRWD's service area.

Paul Weghorst currently serves as the Executive Director of Water Policy at Irvine Ranch Water District. His responsibilities include overseeing the District's water use efficiency programs, water banking and transfer projects, recycled water customer development programs, the District's public affairs and all District regulatory and environmental compliance activities. He is also responsible for the District's water supply reliability programs, energy master planning and numerous policy initiatives.

Mr. Weghorst has worked at Irvine Ranch Water District for 9 years. Prior to coming to the District, Mr. Weghorst worked for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Denver, Colorado where he was active for 23 years planning and implementing water supply reliability projects of significance to the 17 western states.

Paul graduated in 1982 from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a BS in Civil Engineering and is a registered professional engineer in the state of Colorado.

Wednesday, August 17, 2016

Dave & Buster's Restaurant ♦ Irvine Spectrum Entertainment Center

11:30 am: Registration ♦ 12:00 – 1:30: Lunch & Presentation

OCWA Members with Reservations..... \$30 Non-Members with Reservations..... \$40
OCWA Members without Reservations .. \$40 Non-Members without Reservations..... \$40

*Reservations must be made by Noon, Tuesday, July 19, to qualify for the Reservation Rate.
Cancellations received AFTER this date CANNOT be refunded.*

To make reservations, please go to the OCWA website: www.oc-water.org

For more information, contact Leticia Villarreal at (714) 378-3203

Please identify yourself by name and membership number (number is printed on the newsletter mailing label.)

RSVP IS A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT. NO-SHOWS WILL BE BILLED



Luncheon Sponsor

Founded 100 years ago, **HDR** is a multidisciplinary firm that excels at completing complex projects and supporting clients with major capital infrastructure projects.

We are a national leader in the planning, design, and construction of large water and wastewater projects. We believe that the way we work can add meaning and value to the communities we live in, that ideas inspire positive change, and small details yield important realizations. Above all, we believe that collaboration is the best way forward.

With over 10,000 employees working in 225 locations around the world, we push open the doors to what's possible each and every day.

Orange County Water Association

EXHIBITION AND OPERATOR COMPETITION

(formerly The Annual BBQ Picnic)

This annual event provides excellent networking opportunities, as well as opportunities for continuing education and information on new products for the water industry.

Remember:
SIGN UP NOW!

The Vendor Exhibition, along with the Tapping Competition and Horseshoe Tournament, rank among OCWA's Premier Events.

Space Goes Quickly, so Sign Up ASAP so you won't miss it!

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Rattlesnake Reservoir

4769 Portola Parkway, Irvine



- ★ Vendor Exhibits All Day
- ★ Vendor Set-Up 7:00 am
- ★ Operator Training 'Check In' 7:30 am to 8 am
- ★ Operator Training 8 am to 10 am
- ★ Pipe Tapping Contest 10 am to Noon
- ★ Horseshoe Tournament 10 am to Noon
- ★ CATERED BBQ LUNCH Noon to 1 pm
- ★ Opportunity Drawing 1 pm

Catered Lunch: **Tickets: \$25⁰⁰ each**

Door Prizes needed; please bring to event.

Sponsorship Opportunities Still Available:

Sponsor: \$200.00 ★ Exhibitor: \$300.00

Sponsors receive recognition at the event, have their name on a banner, and are recognized in the OCWA newsletter.

Reservations can be made on the OCWA website:

www.ocwater.org

or you may email

John Robinson at **treasurer@ocwater.org**



FREE OPERATOR TRAINING (2 Contact Hours)

Operator training courses will be offered for hands on training in select industry skills. We haven't finalized the arrangements yet, but expect to have detailed information available soon. This is a great opportunity to gain 2 contact hours for certifications. Certificates will be provided for attendees.

Attendees may sign up for the free training on the OCWA website, www.ocwater.org, or contact John Robinson, (626) 375-9389.

VENDOR EXHIBITION

Last year, we had over 20 vendors from the water industry display their latest products and services. There were pipe suppliers, tank suppliers, valve suppliers, meter suppliers and more on hand to demonstrate their products and answer questions. This is a great opportunity to meet multiple suppliers in one place and get information that will benefit your agency or project. Since the venue is outside, some vendors have live demonstrations of their products. Come see the best and latest products in the water industry!

OPERATOR COMPETITION (Pipe Tapping Contest)

This is the 9th year of the pipe tapping contest. The pipe tapping contest will follow the same rules as the AWWA competition. This is a great opportunity to build teamwork among staff. Each team will be given two chances at the pipe tap. All material is provided by OCWA except the tapping machine. Trophies are awarded to the first and second place teams. Agencies may have multiple teams. Contact Randy Lovan at (949) 439-0423 if your agency is interested in competing. Attendees and observers have enjoyed the benefit of networking with operators from other agencies, which helps improve the overall industry.



Exhibition and Operator Competition

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

8:00 am to 1:30 pm (Set Up Begins at 7 am)

Rattlesnake Reservoir, Irvine, CA

I, _____ of _____
would like to participate in the OCWA Annual Exhibition and Operator Competition being held on September 14, 2016.

I wish to participate as:

Exhibitor (\$300)

Company Name: _____

Product Displayed: _____

Sponsor (\$200)

Company Name: _____

Contact Info

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip code: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Enclosed, please find a check written to **Orange County Water Association** in the amount of \$ _____

Make check payable to:

Orange County Water Association

Mail this form with a check to:

John Robinson Consulting, Inc.
1055 E. Colorado Blvd. STE 500
Pasadena, CA 91106

Please respond by Monday, August 29, 2016 to assure adequate space is available.

**See email for more detailed information regarding Exhibitor and Sponsorship Opportunities.*

ORANGE COUNTY WATER ASSOCIATION