Santa Ana River Commemorates 50th Anniversary

Historic Agreement Ushered in Era of Collaboration

This month commemorates the 50th anniversary of a momentous water rights and management agreement between four water agencies in the Santa Ana River Watershed, which was made possible thanks to two 1969 court judgements for the water rights of the Santa Ana River.

“These two judgements have had a positive and lasting effect for all residents in the Santa Ana River Watershed,” said Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) General Manager Richard Haller. “Communities in the watershed enjoy a reliable water supply while ensuring both upstream and downstream water interests and rights are protected.”

Five decades ago, the Santa Ana River had been facing years of substantial legal disputes over surface and groundwater rights that included more than 4,000 litigants, which led to two major lawsuits filed by Western Municipal Water District and Orange County Water District.

In order to bring the lawsuits to an end on April 17, 1969, it was legally decided that rights to the Santa Ana River would be managed by four representative parties, which include Western Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency (formerly known as Chino Basin Municipal Water District), San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and Orange County Water District.

The Orange County Judgement provides water users in the lower basin rights to receive minimum and average water flows that are measured at several locations throughout the region. San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Western Municipal Water District and Inland Empire Utilities Agency are required to maintain minimum base flow requirements. Through this judgement the Santa Ana River Watermaster Committee was formed.

The Western-San Bernardino Judgement divided water resources in the San Bernardino Basin Area, Colton Basin and Riverside Basin in San Bernardino and Riverside counties and led to the formation of the Western-San Bernardino Watermaster Committee.

Both the Santa Ana River Water Master and Western-San Bernardino Watermaster committees are required to demonstrate compliance with the judgements through submitting an annual report to the court.

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Keeping Congress Focused on the Need to Invest in Water Infrastructure

By Dave Eggerton
Executive Director, Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)

Few things remain unchanged or unsaid in the water industry from a century ago, but there is at least one exception. “Water problems are perhaps the most vital internal questions of the United States,” said President Theodore Roosevelt, in his first address to Congress 118 years ago.

This statement makes as much sense in 2019 as it did 1901. I included the quote in written testimony that I recently delivered to the House Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife. Today, over 100 years later, the need to build on the legacy of President Roosevelt and invest in water resources remains paramount. And in many ways, we face a bigger challenge in upgrading our water infrastructure than we did in building its foundations.

According to combined estimates from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Agriculture, and Indian Health Service, the needed investments in water infrastructure nationwide in the coming decades for drinking water, wastewater, and irrigation systems total more than $780 billion dollars. Adding urgency to this need is the sobering fact of what happens without that investment – the loss of nearly 500,000 U.S. jobs by 2025 and $508 billion in gross domestic product, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers.

That is not a lot of time to find that amount of money. But during my visit to Washington D.C., I was again encouraged by how investment in water enjoys bipartisan support. Time will tell, but I believe the subcommittee was a receptive audience and our message is getting through. And some of the work we’re asking of our elected representatives comes with no price tag.

In my testimony, I pointed out that our members recognize that warranted regulations provide important protections. However, our current regulatory structure is exceptionally complex with numerous areas of overlap that are at best duplicative and in some cases contradictory. I encouraged subcommittee members to find opportunities to streamline regulations and reduce unnecessary duplication. Proof that we’re being listened to came last month when Congressmen John Garamendi (D-3) introduced a bill extending National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits that was co-sponsored by Congressmen Ken Calvert (R-42) and Rob Woodall (R-GA).

I spoke to the subcommittee on behalf of ACWA members and the National Water Resources Association (NWRA), where I serve on the State Executives Council. Our working relationship with the NWRA is among a number of collaborative efforts between ACWA and likeminded organizations. For ACWA members, national advocacy puts us in the room every day when funding and policy decisions are made. While I was only in Washington D.C. for one day, our ACWA East office collectively gives our members a permanent presence in the nation’s capital every day. My testimony, ACWA East staff and their interaction with members of ACWA’s Federal Affairs Committee supplement each other to produce positive results for the ACWA community.

Addressing our nation’s water infrastructure needs is a monumental challenge. But our nation has faced and overcome similar challenges in its past, and we are capable of doing so again.
The Eastern Municipal Water District recently initiated the development of a potable groundwater augmentation program using recycled water and advanced treated recycled water to replenish local groundwater aquifers in the form of a Groundwater Replenishment Reuse Project (GRRP), called the Purified Water Replenishment Project (PWR).

The proposed PWR Project is part of the District’s Groundwater Reliability Plus Program advanced by the District to improve the quality and yield of the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin.

From the start, Eastern Municipal Water District established goals that anticipate a two-phase implementation program with an ultimate capacity of 15,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) for the completed PWR project.

Recharged flow will consist of 50% RO permeate and 50% tertiary media filtered recycled water. To accomplish these recharge goals, EMWD plans to install an Advanced Water Purification Facility for treating tertiary effluent from the San Jacinto Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility through membrane filtration and RO treatment processes.

The RO permeate from the AWPF is proposed to be conveyed to the Alessandro Blending Station for blending with tertiary RW. The blended flow will be conveyed to the Mountain Avenue West Recharge Pond for percolation into the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin.

Implementation of the PWR Project is consistent with EMWD’s objectives to fully utilize recycled water within its service area, maximize potable water offset through use of recycled water, create new local potable water supplies, optimize cost efficiency, and manage salt balance in the local groundwater basins.

Plan now to join us May 15 for an informative Industry Insight that promises to explore in great detail Eastern Municipal Water District’s ambitious Groundwater Replenishment project. This promises to be a fascinating look at an ambitious program. Make your reservations today!

About Our Speaker
Mr. David Ahles is a Senior Civil Engineer with EMWD’s Engineering Department. He is the manager for the Recycled Water Enterprise Group. His current responsibilities include planning, design, and construction support for EMWD’s Capital Improvement Program. He is also the Project Manager for the District’s Indirect Potable Groundwater Recharge Project. Mr. Ahles started working for EMWD in April 2015. Prior to that he spent 13 years with the Carlsbad Municipal Water District and 10 years with the San Diego County Water Authority.

Mr. Ahles is a Registered Civil Engineer, with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, and a Master’s of Public Administration.

Wednesday, May 15, 2019
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……… $45
OCWA Members without Reservations… $45 Non-Members without Reservations…… $45

Reservations must be made by EOB, Tuesday, April 16, to qualify for the Reservation Rate. Cancellations received AFTER this date CANNOT be refunded.

To make reservations, please go to the OCWA website: www.ocwater.org

For more information, contact Leticia Villarreal at (714) 378-3201
Please identify yourself by name and membership number.

RSVP IS A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT. NO-SHOWS WILL BE BILLED
2019 Golf Tourney Set for Strawberry Farms CC
Monday, June 3, 2019
7:15 am Check-In/Breakfast • 9:00 am Shotgun Start

Our 2019 Tournament is full. We appreciate the enthusiasm shown by all who signed up and are disheartened we cannot accommodate more. We look forward to a great day of golf next month and, for those unable to join us this year, hope we have the opportunity to see you all at next year’s event.

There are, however, Sponsorship Opportunities still available. If you or your company are interested in sponsorship, the details are below.

Sponsorship Opportunities!

Sponsorship pricing has been REDUCED to $250, same price it was for several years prior to 2016. And as noted above, how many times do you see price reductions?

Your sponsorship helps buy the prizes for the event. It also pays for the planned breakfast and awards ceremony, where SFSGC’s famous barbeque and no-host bar will be provided. Your sponsorship also provides for a company tee sign and company name, contact and phone number on the reverse of the rules, which goes to every player the day of the event. Sponsors are also listed in the OCWA monthly newsletter to all association members starting in April, as well as on the OCWA website. What a great good marketing deal!

To become a priority sponsor, simply print the form, fill it out and send it in with a check for $250.

Lastly, please check your OCWA Membership status as we will be reviewing your status more closely this year as that is a requirement to be in the event. The benefits of membership far outweigh the modest $70 per year cost. You can sign up for Membership on-line at www.ocwater.org.

For additional information, please e-mail Mike Sinacori at msinacori@newportbeachca.gov or call him at (949) 644-3342.

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD SPONSORSHIP AND REGISTRATION FORM

Sponsorship Opportunities for Monthly OCWA Presentation

Would your company like to sponsor one of our monthly Industry Insight Presentations? Sponsorships are available for $250, and 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 two free luncheons.

Sponsors will be provided announcement space in the newsletter and will be verbally recognized before and after the luncheon.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Ryan Gallagher, (805) 298-3380, or you may email him at rgallagher@gfnet.com.

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40th Annual Golf Tournament
June 3, 2019

Corporate Sponsors

The following companies joined with OCWA to sponsor this year’s Golf Tournament.

AES Water Inc. ............................................ Dark Walton
American Flow Control ................................. Blair Schueler
Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo .......... Jeff Hoskinson
Bingham and Taylor ...................................... Mark Delancellotti
Bush and Associates .................................... David Bush
Civiltec Engineering, Inc. ............................ Shem Hawes
Cla-Val Company ....................................... Monte Roberts
Clow Valve Company .................................... Nolan Foran
DUDEK .................................................. Mike Metts
Ford Meter Box Co. ..................................... Blake Kidd
GCI Construction ....................................... Terry Gillespie
General Pump ............................................ Michael Bodart
Guida Surveying, Inc. ................................. Ralph Guida
Hazen and Sawyer ...................................... Dave Jones
HDR ..................................................... Steve Friedman
JCM Industries/Tripac ................................... Bill Foster Sr
Kato Landscaping ....................................... Randy Kato
Leighton .................................................. Jeff Hull
M & H Valve ............................................. Matt Armstrong
Michael Baker International ......................... John Nagle
MISCO Water .......................................... Tom Roberson
Mulier Systems ........................................ Kevin Cornejo
MWH Constructors .................................... Paul Allison
National Meter And Automation ....................... C. Robert Sears
NV5 ..................................................... Jeff Cooper
Pace Advanced Water Engineering .................. Andy Komor
Paulus Engineering, Inc. .............................. Jason Paulus
Project Partners ........................................ Kimo Look
Psomas .................................................. Mike Swan
Richard Slade & Associates ............................ Richard Slade
Stantec .................................................. Jim Cathcart
TE Roberts Inc. ......................................... Tim Roberts
TE Roberts Inc. ......................................... Justin Roberts
Tetra Tech ............................................... Mark Bush
TRIPAC ............................................... Bill Foster Sr
TRIPAC ............................................... Bill Foster Sr
Trench Shoring ........................................ Al Scappaticci
Trench Shoring ........................................ Al Scappaticci

Opportunities remain for those who wish to participate as a Sponsor. To learn more, visit the OCWA Golf Tournament webpage, or email Michael Sinacori, Tournament Chairman, at msinacori@newportbeachca.gov
2019 Safety Fest

Join us for the eleventh annual county-wide safety event created specifically for operations staff in the water industry. There will be Contact Hours available to those who attend any – or all – of the state-approved training sessions offered at SafetyFest.

Topics confirmed for the event so far include:

- Accident Prevention
- Dig Alert
- Active Shooter Response in the Field & Yard
- Heat Illness Prevention
- Coordinating with Fire Agencies Everyday

Thursday, May 23, 2019

7:30 am to 4:00 pm
Registration begins at 7 am
Full country-style breakfast and a BBQ lunch included.

City of Santa Ana Public Works Yard
215 S. Center Street • Santa Ana, California 92703

Tickets: $45.00 PER PERSON (Member & Non-Member)

To make reservations, contact:
Bobby Young at (949) 837-7050, ext. 247
or via email: BYoung@etwd.com

You can also register online at: www.ocwater.org

You may also pay by check. Mail payment to:
Orange County Water Association
Attn: SafetyFest
P.O. Box 51404 • Irvine, California 92619-1404

RSVP IS A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT. NO-SHOWS WILL BE BILLED
ARE YOU INVOLVED IN THE WATER INDUSTRY IN ORANGE COUNTY?
If yes, then consider becoming a member of the Orange County Water Association (OCWA).
OCWA mission is to foster advancement in the Water Works Industry, set high standards for potable water, exchange ideas and work for standard policies and procedures of mutual help during water emergencies, disseminate information for the education of the general public in the use of water and its value to civilization and aid in water research.

ORANGE COUNTY WATER ASSOCIATION
BY THE NUMBERS

OVER 230 MEMBERS

120+ Companies Represented

SAVE $100+/yr with membership event discounts

45+ AGENCIES REPRESENTED

50+ YEARS OF SERVICE TO ORANGE COUNTY

AS A MEMBER OF OCWA YOU WILL RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS

Build Your Network
- **Monthly Meetings**: Reduced fees for our monthly meetings which provide an opportunity to hear from local leaders on new and innovative projects, and meet other local water industry professionals.
- **Annual Holiday Party**: The annual holiday party brings together over 200+ members and guests.
- **Annual Golf Tournament**: This member only event draws 100+ water professionals. The event features prizes and a non-scramble format.
- **Expand Your Contacts**: Members gain access to OCWA’s vast member directory.

Advance Your Career
- **Board Positions**: Earn a position on the Board to gain leadership.
- **Gain Visibility**: Gain opportunities to present your agency/company’s projects or programs to our local network.
- **Committee Positions**: As a member, consider joining one of various committees.

Education and Training Opportunities
- **Monthly Newsletter**: Jobs, projects, local water news, regulatory and legislative updates each month.
- **Safetyfest**: Earn CEUs from State approved training sessions.
- **Annual BBQ**: This Operator Training Event, offers CEUs, over 20 vendor exhibitions, and a Pipe Tapping Contest.

To join OCWA visit our website at: ocwater.org/join-us

...to foster advancement in the Water Works Industry...
SMWD Named 2019 Clair A. Hill Honoree

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) presented the prestigious 2019 Clair A. Hill Water Agency Award for Excellence to the Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) for its Lake Mission Viejo Advanced Treated Water Facility project. The award, sponsored by Jacobs, was presented during ACWA’s 2019 Spring Conference & Exhibition in Monterey where more than 1,500 local water officials are gathered through Friday for programs and panel discussions on a variety of key water issues.

SMWD formed a unique public-private partnership to fast-track, finance and build an Advanced Treated Water Facility in just eight months. The result is that Lake Mission Viejo is now the first swimming and recreational lake in California to use recycled water instead of drinking water for lake refill. The facility takes traditional tertiary treated recycled water and produces purified effluent for direct discharge and use in Lake Mission Viejo. Switching to Advanced Treated Water for lake refill ended a nearly 40-year practice of using up to 350 Acre-Feet of potable water annually to maintain water levels in the 125-acre Orange County lake, saving 114 million gallons of water per year.

“The Lake Mission Viejo Advanced Treated Water Facility is a wonderful example of a local water agency collaborating with private and public partners to build an innovative water treatment and supply project that provides multiple regional benefits,” said ACWA President Brent Hasty.

The other finalist for this year’s award was the Crescenta Valley Water District, which undertook a project to reactivate one of its wells at the Ordunio Reservoir and install an ARoNite biological nitrate removal treatment facility. The project will increase CVWD’s ability to pump its adjudicated rights within the Verdugo Basin, utilize a local water source, and reduce CVWD’s dependence on imported water. The project was a joint venture with APTwater and resulted in one of the first bio-remediation systems with the ability to remove nitrates to be built in California.

ACWA’s Clair A. Hill Water Agency Award for Excellence is an annual award program that recognizes outstanding achievements by public water agencies. The winning agency has the honor of awarding a $5,000 scholarship to a deserving student in the name of Clair A. Hill, founder of the consulting engineering firm CH2M Hill, now Jacobs.

### 2019 OCWA Calendar of Events

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<td>11th Annual SafetyFest</td>
<td>Santa Ana Public Works Yard</td>
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<td>June 3</td>
<td>O.C.W.A. 40th Annual Golf Tournament</td>
<td>Strawberry Farms Golf Club (Irvine)</td>
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<td>July 17</td>
<td>Devin Upadhyay Assistant GM, MWBSC</td>
<td>Dave &amp; Busters</td>
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<td>August 21</td>
<td>Luncheon/Speaker TBA</td>
<td>Dave &amp; Busters</td>
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