



UNDERGROUND

Spring 2003

AGWA GROUNDWATER CONFERENCE TO BE HELD APRIL 8-9

The Association of Ground Water Agencies (AGWA) and the Water Education Foundation, in cooperation with the Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRAC), are sponsoring,

"Ground Water Quality + Ground Water Quantity = One Issue." The conference will be held April 8-9, 2003, at the Doubletree Hotel in Ontario, Calif.

All water managers, government officials, hydrogeologists, geologists, water quality experts, attorneys, engineers, public interest groups and others interested in key groundwater issues are invited to attend.

"Ground Water Quality + Ground Water Quantity = One Issue" will feature top policy-makers and water officials speaking on a variety of important topics, including:

- Determining Risk and Setting Public Health Goals and Drinking Water Standards
- Drinking Water and Perchlorate
- The Politics of the Colorado River
- What Does the Colorado River Cutback Mean for Southern California Groundwater?
- Banking on the Future
- The Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001
- Understanding the Press

Confirmed speakers include Assembly Member Carol Liu, author of the Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001; Celeste Cantú, Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control

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- OCWD ELECTS DENIS BILODEAU PRESIDENT

Comments, story suggestions and articles are encouraged. Please call: (714) 964-1668, fax (714) 964-4614

**or e-mail: greenliefcomm@socal.rr.com
Visit the AGWA website at: www.agwa.org**

Board and Joan Denton, Director of the State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

A hosted reception will be held April 8 in honor of Ron Palmer, longtime water industry leader and AGWA Vice Chair.

Below is the program for the three-day conference:

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

8:00 am Registration

8:30 Welcome

Bruce Mowry, Chair, Association of Ground Water Agencies

Rita Schmidt Sudman, Executive Director, Water Education Foundation

8:45 Keynote Speaker

Celeste Cantú, Executive Director, State Water Resources Control Board

9:30 Break

9:45 How Do We Determine Risk? Steps in Determining Public Health Goals and Drinking Water Standards

Patrick Scanlon, Vice President, Customer Services, Region II, Southern California Water Company

Joan Denton, Director, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

Steven Book, Chief, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Drinking Water Program, California Department of Health Services Mel Blevins, Watermaster, Upper Los Angeles River Area

Moderator: Bruce Mowry, Chair, Association of Ground Water Agencies

11:00 Break

11:15 The State Picture

*State Sen. Mike Machado, D-Linden, Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

12 noon Hosted Lunch

Drinking Water and Perchlorate

*State Sen. Byron Sher, D-Stanford

1:30 pm Perchlorate: From Missiles to Groundwater Pollutant - Establishing a Drinking Water Standard

Steven Book, Chief, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Drinking Water Program, California Department of Health Services Carol Williams, Executive Officer, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster

Kay Brothers, Deputy General Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority

Fred Fudacz, Partner, Nossaman, Guthner, Knox & Elliott

Bob Martin, General Manager, East Valley Water District

Moderator: Richard Atwater, General Manager, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

3:00 Break

3:15 Understanding the Press

Tony Perry, Bureau Chief, Los Angeles Times

Bob Muir, Media Program Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

*Anthony Fellow, President, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, Journalism Professor, California State University, Fullerton

Moderator: Rita Schmidt Sudman, Executive Director, Water Education Foundation

4:30 Adjourn to Hosted Reception in honor of Ron Palmer, longtime water industry leader and AGWA Vice Chair

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

8:30 am The Politics of the Colorado River

David Hayes, Partner, Latham & Watkins, Former Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior

9:15 Response Panel: What Does the Colorado River Cutback Mean for Southern California Groundwater?

*Debra Man, Vice President, Water Transfers and

(Continued on next page)

Exchanges, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Mary Ann Dickinson, Executive Director, California Urban Water Conservation Council

Virginia Grebbien, General Manager, Orange County Water District

Moderator: Kelly Rowe, Hydrogeologist, CDM, Irvine; President & Founder of

American Water Resources Association Southern California Section

10:30 Break

10:45 Banking on the Future

John Woodling, Chief, Conjunctive Water Management Branch, Division of Local Assistance, California Department of Water Resources

Ellen Hanak, Research Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California

Rick Iger, Engineering and Operations Manager, Kern County Water Agency

Tim Henley, General Manager, Arizona Water Bank

Tony Zampello, Executive Officer, Raymond Basin Management Board

Moderator: Sue McClurg, Program Director, Water Education Foundation

12 noon Hosted Lunch

The Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001

Assembly Member Carol Liu, D-La Cañada Flintridge

1:30 pm Guidelines to Implement the Groundwater Quality Monitoring

Act of 2001

Ken Belitz, Program Chief, National Assessment Water Quality Program, California District, U.S. Geological Survey

James Giannopoulos, Chief, Groundwater Quality Branch, Division of Water

Quality, State Water Resources Control Board

Roger Sherrill, General Manager, Rio Alto Water District *Steve Arita, Environmental Coordinator, Western States Petroleum Association

Moderator: John Rossi, Chief Executive Officer, Chino Basin Watermaster

2:30 Wrap Up and Adjourn

*Invited

Registration

General registration is \$300; registration for AGWA, Water Education Foundation and GRA members is \$250. On-site registration is \$350.

Fee includes background materials, lunch both days, exhibits and a hosted reception. To register, contact Rita Schmidt Sudman at the Water Education Foundation at (916) 444-6240 or via e-mail at rsudman@watereducation.org.

Exhibits

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In granting IID's injunction, the Honorable Thomas J. Whelan ruled that the Department of the Interior violated its own procedures when it cut Imperial's water order. The judge also ruled Interior breached the seven-party agreement, which spells out how water is to be apportioned among the California

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users of Colorado River water and is incorporated into IID's 1932 contract with Interior.

"In upholding Imperial Valley's water rights, Judge Whelan protected the lives and livelihoods of the people and the farmers of the Imperial Valley," said IID Board President Lloyd Allen. "This is a great victory for the Imperial Valley and all who rely on the law to protect water entitlements that have been in place for years."

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"DOI's actions violated IID's water rights by their attempt to unilaterally impose an unlawful reallocation of Colorado River water to more junior right holders," said John Penn Carter, IID General Counsel.

Despite this victory, IID is committed to the implementation of a Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Coachella Valley Water District. Under the guidance of the governor's office, a QSA signed by all the parties' negotiators was unveiled last week, but will require several months to complete certain state actions.

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The pipeline, running from Ellis Avenue and Ward Street in Fountain Valley to Adams Avenue near the Santa Ana River, is being built as part of the Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System, an innovative project designed to deliver a new supplemental source of high quality water. The system will take highly treated sewer water from the Orange County Sanitation District, which is currently sent to the ocean, and purify it to drinking water standards or better using reverse osmosis.

The additional water will be used to expand the seawater intrusion barrier as well as provide a new source of high-quality water to improve the overall quality of the water in the groundwater basin--the primary source of water for north and central Orange County residents. The 9,000 feet of new pipeline will deliver the additional water to the barrier once the project is completed in 2007.

"The groundwater basin is one of Orange County's most precious resources," said Denis Bilodeau, president of the Orange County Water District board of directors. "Expanding the seawater barrier is needed to help maintain this natural resource for future generations."

OCWD has protected the underground basin from ocean intrusion for the past 25 years by purifying sewer water to drinking water standards and injecting it into the groundwater basin to keep out seawater. The seawater barrier expansion is designed to meet future needs and will include eight new injection wells and increase the water that is injected underground each day from 15 million gallons to 40 million gallons.

Future work on the GWR System includes demolishing the existing, smaller Water Factory 21 water purification plant in Fountain Valley; constructing a new water purification plant; and constructing new injection wells, a pump station and a large diameter 13-mile pipeline from Fountain Valley to one of OCWD's groundwater basin recharge lakes in Anaheim. The project will produce 72,000 acre-feet (or 22.8 billion gallons) of purified water.

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highly treated sewer water through a redundant high-tech water treatment system that includes microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide. The water produced by the advanced purification system will be of near-distilled water quality.

Almost one-fourth of the cost of the \$450 million water purification project has been obtained through state and federal grants. The impact of this project on the average water bill will be less than the cost of two postage stamps per month.

More information on the Groundwater Replenishment System can be found by visiting www.gwrsystem.com.

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AGWA member agency Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) has announced that it will increase water rates for the majority of its domestic retail, agricultural, and wholesale customers.

The increase, averaging 3.1 percent for typical households, is needed to offset increasing operations and maintenance costs. It goes into effect May 1, 2003; customers will first see the rate increases in their June bills.

According to General Manager Anthony J. Pack, "Eastern has not had a rate increase since 1996, although the Consumer Price Index has increased by nearly 19 percent over the past seven years. Even throughout the energy crisis, when energy expenses doubled to \$10 million, the District absorbed increased costs through productivity and efficiency measures. However, it is no longer viable to do this."

The new domestic retail rates in the EMWD service area will vary, based on costs of delivery associated with each community. For example, a typical customer in Moreno Valley who uses 18 billing units in a given month will be charged \$33.64, up from \$32.89 currently. For a typical

customer in Southwest Hemet using 18 billing units, the total monthly water bill would go from \$21.40 to \$22.48.

Agricultural customers will see a 5 percent increase in their rates; rates will also increase for EMWD wholesale customers, including the cities of Hemet, San Jacinto, and Perris; Lake Hemet Municipal Water District, Nuevo Water Company, and Western Municipal Water District. EMWD assists residents with conservation through home surveys, home conservation kits, appliance rebates, and landscaping/irrigation workshops; large commercial customers can get help with setting and managing their water budgets.

[PRINT VERSION](#)

WRD ELECTS NEW BOARD OFFICERS

Willard H. Murray, Jr., who was elected to a second term last November, has been named President of AGWA member agency the Water Replenishment District of Southern California's (WRD) board of directors. The WRD board appointed Murray to the position during its reorganization meeting on Jan. 13.

Murray, Norm Ryan and Pat Acosta all took the 'oath of office' as newly elected directors. Murray was administered the oath by his daughter, Melinda Murray, a Los Angeles County deputy district attorney. Ryan was administered the oath by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe and Acosta was sworn into office by her husband, Angel Colon.

The board also elected Acosta as vice president, Robert W. Goldsworthy as secretary and Ryan as treasurer. Murray, who served in the California Assembly for eight years, represents the cities of Hawthorne, Inglewood and portions of Los Angeles in Division 1. Acosta, who represents Division 4, was appointed last March to replace a vacancy on the board. Her division includes the cities of Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Downey, Huntington Park, Lynwood, Maywood, Montebello, Monterey Park, South Gate and Vernon. Ryan represents Division 3, which in-

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cludes the cities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Lakewood, Long Beach and Signal Hill.

The WRD, created by voters in 1959, is responsible for managing and safeguarding two of the most utilized groundwater basins in Southern California, the Central and West Coast basins. These basins provide nearly 40 percent of the total groundwater demand used by almost four million people living in the WRD's region, which covers 420-square miles and includes 43 cities in southern Los Angeles County.

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RONALD W. SULLIVAN JOINS EMWD BOARD

Ronald W. Sullivan joined AGWA member agency Eastern Municipal Water District's (EMWD) board of directors on Jan. 8 representing Division 4. That area includes Perris, Mead Valley, Good Hope, Sun City, Quail Valley, Menifee, Romoland, and the eastern portion of the City of Canyon Lake. This represents a population of approximately 100,000 people. He was appointed to the post to complete the term of Marion V. Ashley, who was elected to the District 5 seat of the County Board of Supervisors.

The appointment was made after the EMWD board interviewed qualified candidates who submitted letters expressing their interest in serving the remaining two years of Ashley's term, which will end in January 2005. The EMWD service area, with a population of 501,000, is divided into five divisions organized to represent comparably sized areas.

Sullivan, 64, a long-time resident of the area, has more than 30 years experience in all levels of real estate planning, design, development and construction. He is an owner of Sullivan & Sullivan, Development & Consulting. He also is a licensed general contractor.

Sullivan expressed his support for good economic growth, but he believes it is critical to set priorities

for the resources available. "We need to collect enough information to know we have the resources to handle all the approved developments and do it in a way that benefits everyone," he said. "In getting that information, I certainly encourage public participation from the communities I represent. Feedback is worth its weight in gold."

In addition to his business endeavors, the Menifee resident has served as state senate representative for former Senator Marian Bergeson and chaired many important committees: Riverside County Planning Commission, Murrieta/Temecula Group, Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission, City of Hemet Planning Commission, City of Hemet Design Review Board, and Hemet Valley Kiwanis Club. Currently, he chairs the Lincoln Club Southwest County, and serves on the board of the La Vista Women's Recovery Center. In 1992, he received the California Senate Community Service Award.

EMWD is the freshwater, wastewater service and recycled water provider to a 555-square mile area from Moreno Valley southward along the I-215 corridor to Temecula and eastward to Hemet and San Jacinto. Learn more about EMWD at the district's website, www.emwd.org.

[PRINT VERSION](#)

OCWD ELECTS DENIS BILODEAU PRESIDENT

Orange County Water District (OCWD) recently announced its 2003 board appointments. Denis Bilodeau, OCWD Division 2 representative, was elected OCWD board president for 2003. Philip Anthony, Division 4 representative, was elected first vice president. Brett Franklin, Division 8 representative and a Santa Ana city councilmember, was elected second vice president.

Bilodeau, who has served on the OCWD board since 2000, is a project manager for an environmental engineering firm. He previously worked as policy advisor for former Orange County Supervisor Todd Spitzer and for the County of Orange Environmental Management Agency as traffic engineer.

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Bilodeau is currently an alternate board member for the Orange County Transportation Authority and member of the Orange County Water Task Force.

New and returning directors took their oath, delivered by Assemblyman Tom Harman from the 67th Assembly District. Kathryn L. Barr, Richard Chavez, Paul Cook, Jan Debay and Shawn Nelson took their oath of office at the OCWD Fountain Valley headquarters and will serve on the board through 2006.

"Living in a coastal community, I know firsthand the importance of water," said Assemblyman Harman. "California will face difficult challenges over the next few years, but I believe with the visionary leadership of the OCWD board, we are in good hands."

The five inducted board members share a wide range of career expertise and civic service.

Kathryn L. Barr, former mayor of Garden Grove, has served on the OCWD board since 1979, representing Division 1, which includes parts of Garden Grove, Stanton and Westminster. Barr recently was reelected by constituents in division one to continue to serve on the OCWD board.

Jan Debay was elected to the OCWD board after filling a vacant seat on the board in 2001. Debay, a former Newport Beach mayor, represents Division 7, which covers Costa Mesa and parts of Newport Beach, Irvine, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Tustin and Westminster.

Paul Cook, newly elected to the OCWD board, represents Division 5, which includes areas within Irvine, Newport Beach and Tustin. Cook is a registered professional civil engineer and licensed general contractor. He is the manager of engineering for the Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts in Los Angeles County.

Shawn Nelson was recently elected to the Fullerton city council and has been appointed by the council to serve OCWD's Division 10, which covers Fullerton. Nelson is an attorney by profession and managing partner in the Santa Ana law firm Rizio and Nelson. He is a civil litigator and represents small business owners and individuals

in a variety of legal matters.

Richard Chavez also is a newly elected councilmember in Anaheim and was appointed by the council to serve on the OCWD board representing Division 9, which covers Anaheim. Chavez, a retired firefighter with 29 years of service in both Santa Ana and Anaheim, is now director of the Cariño Program—an outreach child-abuse prevention program for at-risk Spanish-speaking parents. Chavez has extensive involvement in the community with groups including Big Brothers of Orange County, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Los Amigos of Orange County and the Eli Home for Abused Children.

To learn more about OCWD's board of directors, log on to www.ocwd.com.

WATER DROPS...

- US EPA Administrator Christie Whitman recently praised the nation's water utilities for meeting the challenges of securing America's water supply. Whitman, calling the quality of America's water supply the safest in the world, also said that the water utilities' security efforts are "...a model for the nation's infrastructure." Whitman appeared on March 25 before hundreds of water officials from throughout the nation at the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Water Security Congress being held in Los Angeles.
- The House and Senate completed work on a belated fiscal year 2003 omnibus appropriations measure in February that contains language authorizing feasibility studies for storage projects at Sites Reservoir, Upper San Joaquin River, Shasta and Los Vaqueros enlargement. The inclusion of the language was due to the bipartisan efforts of Senator Dianne Feinstein (D), Reps. Richard Pombo (R-11), Ken Calvert (R-43) and John Doolittle (R-4). The text of the language in the Senate report provides \$2 million to study the enlargement of Los Vaqueros reservoir; \$1.75 million to investigate storage on the Upper San Joaquin Watershed; \$1.5 million to continue planning activities related to Sites Reservoir; \$2.5 million to study the raising of Shasta Dam; \$250,000 "to continue

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evaluations of the Delta Wetlands project and other in-delta storage proposals"; and \$3.5 million to construct the Tracy Fish Test Facility.

- State water-watchers put their third straight below-average winter in the books on March 27, but said they are not worried about drought this summer. Officials conducted their final snow survey in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges, determining water stored in the snow pack is about 76% of normal this winter statewide, down from 87% last year, but up from a dismal 58% in 2001.
- The Glendale Chromium Task Force will meet again on April 30, 2003. Richard Nagel and AGWA director Mel Blevins will be co-chairing the task force to address how the chromium issue is being handled and what is being accomplished. Representatives from US/EPA, the LA Regional Water Control Board, Senator Boxer's office and many other water and regulatory agencies are being invited to participate. For more information, please contact Mel Blevins.

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Agricultural customers will see a 5 percent increase in their rates; rates will also increase for EMWD wholesale customers, including the cities of Hemet, San Jacinto, and Perris; Lake Hemet Municipal Water District, Nuevo Water Company, and Western Municipal Water District. EMWD assists residents with conservation through home surveys, home conservation kits, appliance rebates, and landscaping/irrigation workshops; large commercial customers can get help with setting and managing their water budgets.

WRD ELECTS NEW BOARD OFFICERS

Willard H. Murray, Jr., who was elected to a second term last November, has been named President of AGWA member agency the Water Replenishment District of Southern California's (WRD) board of directors. The WRD board appointed Murray to the position during its reorganization meeting on Jan. 13.

Murray, Norm Ryan and Pat Acosta all took the 'oath of office' as newly elected directors. Murray was administered the oath by his daughter, Melinda Murray, a Los Angeles County deputy district attorney. Ryan was administered the oath by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe and Acosta was sworn into office by her husband, Angel Colon.

The board also elected Acosta as vice president, Robert W. Goldsworthy as secretary and Ryan as treasurer. Murray, who served in the California Assembly for eight years, represents the cities of Hawthorne, Inglewood and portions of Los Angeles in Division 1. Acosta, who represents Division 4, was appointed last March to replace a vacancy on the board. Her division includes the cities of Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Downey, Huntington Park, Lynwood, Maywood, Montebello, Monterey Park, South Gate and Vernon. Ryan represents Division 3, which includes the cities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Lakewood, Long Beach and Signal Hill.

The WRD, created by voters in 1959, is responsible for managing and safeguarding two of the most utilized groundwater basins in Southern California, the Central and West Coast basins. These basins provide nearly 40 percent of the total groundwater demand used by almost four million people living in the WRD's region, which covers 420-square miles and includes 43 cities in southern Los Angeles County.

RONALD W. SULLIVAN JOINS EMWD BOARD

Ronald W. Sullivan joined AGWA member agency Eastern Municipal Water District's (EMWD) board of directors on Jan. 8 representing Division 4. That area includes Perris, Mead Valley, Good Hope, Sun City, Quail Valley, Menifee, Romoland, and the eastern portion of the City of Canyon Lake. This represents a population of approximately 100,000 people. He was appointed to the post to complete the term of Marion V. Ashley, who was elected to the District 5 seat of the County Board of Supervisors.

The appointment was made after the EMWD board interviewed qualified candidates who submitted letters expressing their interest in serving the remaining two years of Ashley's term, which will end in January 2005. The EMWD service area, with a population of 501,000, is divided into five divisions organized to represent comparably sized areas.

Sullivan, 64, a long-time resident of the area, has more than 30 years experience in all levels of real estate planning, design, development and construction. He is an owner of Sullivan & Sullivan, Development & Consulting. He also is a licensed general contractor.

Sullivan expressed his support for good economic growth, but he believes it is critical to set priorities for the resources available. "We need to collect enough information to know we have the resources to handle all the approved developments and do it in a way that benefits everyone," he said. "In getting that information, I certainly encourage public participation from the communities I represent. Feedback is worth its weight in gold."

In addition to his business endeavors, the Menifee resident has served as state senate representative for former Senator Marian Bergeson and chaired many important committees: Riverside County Planning Commission, Murrieta/Temecula Group, Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission, City of Hemet Planning Commission, City of Hemet Design Review Board, and Hemet Valley Kiwanis Club. Currently, he chairs the Lincoln Club Southwest County, and serves on the board of the La Vista Women's Recovery Center. In 1992, he received the California Senate Community Service Award.

EMWD is the freshwater, wastewater service and recycled water provider to a 555-square mile area from Moreno Valley southward along the I-215 corridor to Temecula and eastward to Hemet and San Jacinto. Learn more about EMWD at the district's website, www.emwd.org.

OCWD ELECTS DENIS BILODEAU PRESIDENT

Orange County Water District (OCWD) recently announced its 2003 board appointments. Denis Bilodeau, OCWD Division 2 representative, was elected OCWD board president for 2003. Philip Anthony, Division 4 representative, was elected first vice president. Brett Franklin, Division 8 representative and a Santa Ana city councilmember, was elected second vice president.

Bilodeau, who has served on the OCWD board since 2000, is a project manager for an environmental engineering firm. He previously worked as policy advisor for former Orange County Supervisor Todd Spitzer and for the County of Orange Environmental Management Agency as traffic engineer. Bilodeau is currently an alternate board member for the Orange County Transportation Authority and member of the Orange County Water Task Force.

New and returning directors took their oath, delivered by Assemblyman Tom Harman from the 67th Assembly District. Kathryn L. Barr, Richard Chavez, Paul Cook, Jan Debay and Shawn Nelson took their oath of office at the OCWD Fountain Valley headquarters and will serve on the board through 2006.

"Living in a coastal community, I know firsthand the importance of water," said Assemblyman Harman. "California will face difficult challenges over the next few years, but I believe with the visionary leadership of the OCWD board, we are in good hands."

The five inducted board members share a wide range of career expertise and civic service.

Kathryn L. Barr, former mayor of Garden Grove, has served on the OCWD board since 1979, representing Division 1, which includes parts of Garden Grove, Stanton and Westminster. Barr recently was reelected by constituents in division one to continue to serve on the OCWD board.

Jan Debay was elected to the OCWD board after filling a vacant seat on the board in 2001. Debay, a former Newport Beach mayor, represents Division 7, which covers Costa Mesa and parts of Newport Beach, Irvine, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Tustin and Westminster.

Paul Cook, newly elected to the OCWD board, represents Division 5, which includes areas within Irvine, Newport Beach and Tustin. Cook is a registered professional civil engineer and licensed general contractor. He is the manager of engineering for the Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts in Los Angeles County.

Shawn Nelson was recently elected to the Fullerton city council and has been appointed by the council to serve OCWD's Division 10, which covers Fullerton. Nelson is an attorney by profession and managing partner in the Santa Ana law firm Rizio and Nelson. He is a civil litigator and represents small business owners and individuals in a variety of legal matters.

Richard Chavez also is a newly elected councilmember in Anaheim and was appointed by the council to serve on the OCWD board representing Division 9, which covers Anaheim. Chavez, a retired firefighter with 29 years of service in both Santa Ana and Anaheim, is now director of the CariÒo Program-an outreach child-abuse prevention program for at-risk Spanish-speaking parents. Chavez has extensive involvement in the community with groups including Big Brothers of Orange County, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Los Amigos of Orange County and the Eli Home for Abused Children.

To learn more about OCWD's board of directors, log on to www.ocwd.com.

WATER DROPS...

- US EPA Administrator Christie Whitman recently praised the nation's water utilities for meeting the

challenges of securing America's water supply. Whitman, calling the quality of America's water supply the safest in the world, also said that the water utilities' security efforts are "...a model for the nation's infrastructure." Whitman appeared on March 25 before hundreds of water officials from throughout the nation at the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Water Security Congress being held in Los Angeles.

- The House and Senate completed work on a belated fiscal year 2003 omnibus appropriations measure in February that contains language authorizing feasibility studies for storage projects at Sites Reservoir, Upper San Joaquin River, Shasta and Los Vaqueros enlargement. The inclusion of the language was due to the bipartisan efforts of Senator Dianne Feinstein (D), Reps. Richard Pombo (R-11), Ken Calvert (R-43) and John Doolittle (R-4). The text of the language in the Senate report provides \$2 million to study the enlargement of Los Vaqueros reservoir; \$1.75 million to investigate storage on the Upper San Joaquin Watershed; \$1.5 million to continue planning activities related to Sites Reservoir; \$2.5 million to study the raising of Shasta Dam; \$250,000 "to continue evaluations of the Delta Wetlands project and other in-delta storage proposals"; and \$3.5 million to construct the Tracy Fish Test Facility.
- State water-watchers put their third straight below-average winter in the books on March 27, but said they are not worried about drought this summer. Officials conducted their final snow survey in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges, determining water stored in the snow pack is about 76% of normal this winter statewide, down from 87% last year, but up from a dismal 58% in 2001.
- The Glendale Chromium Task Force will meet again on April 30, 2003. Richard Nagel and AGWA director Mel Blevins will be co-chairing the task force to address how the chromium issue is being handled and what is being accomplished. Representatives from US/EPA, the LA Regional Water Control Board, Senator Boxer's office and many other water and regulatory agencies are being invited to participate. For more information, please contact Mel Blevins.