



UNDERGROUND

Summer 2004

JACK WOODBURY PASSES AWAY AT THE AGE OF 80

Retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Sterling "Jack" Woodbury, a former president of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District and longtime AGWA member, passed away on Tuesday, July 20, 2004.

Born on Feb. 3, 1924, Jack was 80 years old.

Jack served 14 years on the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District (SBVWCD) board of directors, 10 of them as president, and he loved every minute with the district. He was highly involved in many district activities, including participation on several committees. He also was quite active in several outside water organizations, including the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), where he was a member of numerous committees. Additionally, he represented the district in the Redlands and Highland chambers of commerce.

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Following his active duty in the Navy, he worked 17 years in the aerospace industry, including nine years with Hughes Tool Company in Culver City, three years with Acoustica in El Segundo, and ten years with TRW in San Bernardino, retiring in 1989. He also worked two years with the Bureau of Reclamation in Phoenix, Ariz.

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

In 1947, he married Dee Boston in Los Angeles, and in 1962 they moved to Redlands. They later lived in Palos Verdes for four years before moving back to Redlands in 1976 to live on a 10-acre citrus ranch in the Greenspot area of Mentone. He took complete care of his orange grove and took great pride in the value of an honest day's work, from irrigating to cleaning up after the horses he loved. He had a soft spot for animals that led to fostering, mostly dogs, and working with the Redlands Humane Society by taking animals to Market Night in hopes of finding loving homes for them. There have been well over 100 foster dogs he and Dee cared for that have been adopted due to his efforts.

Jack was a member of the Redlands Mounted Police for 14 years and captain one year, receiving a commendation from the Redlands Chief of Police for honorable service to the Redlands Police Department. He had been a member for 30 years of the Rim of the World Riders, serving twice as president. He was a 20-year member of the Southern California Peruvian Paso Horse Club and president in 1975. He was deacon of the First Congregational Church for 10 years and a member of Redlands Rotary for nine years until moving to Palos Verdes. He was a 14-gallon blood donor until his illness kept him from donating.

Jack will be sorely missed by all of the friends and colleagues who knew him. He is survived by his wife, Dee; his son, Greg Woodbury; his daughter Janice Orbaker; one granddaughter; and four great grandchildren.

[PRINT VERSION](#)

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPROVES BILL TO IMPROVE SANTA ANA RIVER WATER QUALITY

Amendment to Water Recycling and Desalination Act Will Help Ensure Reliable Water Supply for Orange County and Inland Empire

AGWA member agency the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and the Inland Empire Utilities

Agency (IEUA) are pleased to announce the U.S. House of Representatives has passed H.R. 142, which authorizes more than \$70 million in federal assistance for water quality improvements in Orange County and the Inland Empire.

The bill, authored by Congressman Gary Miller (R-CA), helps improve Santa Ana River water quality and expand the existing groundwater desalination facilities in Chino, which will help improve water reliability for Southern California.

Of the federal assistance funds, up to \$50 million will go toward expansion of Chino desalination facilities, which will provide more drinking water to the residents of Chino, Chino Hills, Ontario, Jurupa and Norco. Up to \$20 million will go toward OCWD's expansion of its natural wetlands treatment of the Santa Ana River. With passage of the bill, OCWD's goal is to send 100 percent of Santa Ana River flows through natural wetlands treatment to improve water quality. Currently, 50 percent of the river flows are treated by OCWD wetlands.

"The Inland Empire Utilities Agency is extremely thankful to Congressman Miller for his hard work on this important legislation," said John L. Anderson, IEUA board president. "We also thank Congressmen Baca, Calvert, Dreier and Congresswoman Napolitano for their support in moving this bill forward."

"Orange County Water District greatly appreciates the federal assistance from H.R. 142 and is pleased to see the bill moving forward," said Denis Bilodeau, OCWD board president. "These funds will help us expand our wetlands treatment process and further improve Orange County's water quality."

H.R. 142 will be referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water and Power, in fall of this year for approval before moving to President Bush for final sign-off.

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RIVERSIDE'S IMPORTED WATER SUPPLY RETURNS TO USUAL DISINFECTION METHOD

An imported water supply for western Riverside County water consumers will return to its usual water treatment process on Sept. 7, 2004.

On August 2 the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, supplier of water to AGWA member agencies the Eastern and Western Municipal Water Districts, made a temporary switch in the disinfection process in order to perform routine system maintenance at its Henry J. Mills Filtration Plant in Riverside. All of the drinking water Western supplies, and much of Eastern's supplies are imported from Northern California via the California Aqueduct and disinfected at this plant.

Beginning September 7th, water will again be treated with chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, to ensure its purity. During this recent shutdown period, chlorine alone was used.

Customers affected include those in the communities of Woodcrest, Orangecrest, Lake Mathews, El Sobrante, Eagle Valley, Temescal Creek, March Air Reserve Base, Air Force Village West, Moreno Valley, Perris, Menifee, Homeland, Romoland, Quail Valley and Sun City.

Western Municipal Water District provides imported water supply, wastewater treatment, and water resource management to the communities within a 510-square mile area of western Riverside County.

Eastern Municipal Water District provides freshwater, wastewater service and recycled water to a 555-square mile area from Moreno Valley southward along the I-215 corridor to Temecula, and eastward to Hemet and San Jacinto.

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LOCAL AGENCIES REACH HISTORICAL WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Water purveyors in the San Bernardino Valley with existing historic rights to Santa Ana River water, including the Bear Valley Mutual Water Company, City of Redlands, East Valley Water District, Lugonia Water Company, North Fork Water Company and Redlands Water Company, have reached agreement with AGWA member agencies Western Municipal Water District (Western) and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) regarding water rights on the Santa Ana River.

As a result of a water appropriation application filed with the State Water Resources Control Board by Western and SBVMWD, the water rights holders filed protests claiming possible damage to their existing rights to the water. As a result of the agreement, called the Seven Oaks Accord, the city and other protesting parties listed above withdrew their protests and supported the application by the two districts. The Accord was signed in a formal ceremony on July 21 at Redlands City Hall.

"Western is very pleased that this Accord has been finalized," said Wayne Holcomb, president of Western's Board. "By working together with the various agencies, we were able to craft a win-win situation for all parties concerned without lengthy hearings."

In 1991, SBVMWD and Western filed an application with the State Water Resources Control Board to appropriate water from the Santa Ana River. Certain local San Bernardino Valley water purveyors filed protests against the application in an effort to protect their historic water rights. However, all parties expressed their desire to resolve these protests without resorting to a lengthy and expensive water rights hearing. The Seven Oaks Accord is the result of those resolution efforts. The Accord stipulates that the water purveyors will withdraw their protests to the water rights application and, instead, support it. SBVMWD and Western will, in return, acknowledge the prior rights of the water purveyors to divert a certain quantity of natural

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flow from the Santa Ana River and to only divert water in excess of those rights .

Finally, Western and SBVMWD, in cooperation with water agencies throughout the San Bernardino basin, will develop and implement a groundwater management plan to maintain groundwater levels in certain areas.

“Approval of the Seven Oaks Accord benefits all of our constituents,” said Redlands City Mayor Susan Pepler. “It protects our ability to divert the water we have a prior right to and gives us the added advantage of assistance with groundwater management.”

The comprehensive groundwater management plan to be developed by Western and SBVMWD will include plans for alleviating high groundwater in areas where this has historically been a concern.

“This Accord jumpstarts the process of managing surface water and groundwater in the San Bernardino Basin so as to provide increased water supply reliability and operational flexibility for water suppliers in the San Bernardino Valley,” said C. Patrick Milligan, president of SBVMWD.

Under the Accord, Redlands and the others may also engage in limited groundwater spreading under certain conditions.

“Entering into this Accord resolves our protests to the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and Western Municipal Water District water rights application while protecting our existing water rights,” said Michael Huffstutler, General Manager, Bear Valley Mutual Water Company. “By acknowledging our right to divert water from the Santa Ana River, which we have exercised since 1886, and coming to agreement, the applicants and ourselves have avoided an expensive and lengthy water rights hearing.”

“On behalf of the board of directors of the East Valley Water District, I am most pleased to join the several other water agencies in the water management accord with regard to Seven Oaks Dam. The prospect of the community of water interests

moving together towards a common goal to the benefit of all truly bodes well for the future of our valley,” said George Wilson, President, East Valley Water District.

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LOCAL SCIENCE TEACHER AND DIRECTOR OF WATER RESOURCES AWARDED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

The Water Replenishment District of Southern California’s (WRD), an AGWA member agency, has announced that Susan Garcia, a seventh grade science teacher at Colin Powell Academy, and Jim Glancy, Director of Water Resources for the City of Lakewood, have received WRD’s Distinguished Service Award .

Garcia, a hydrogeologist before becoming an educator, brought alive the science of groundwater for her students at Powell Academy, a K-8 school in North Long Beach, and was instrumental in establishing an educational partnership program with the WRD. .

She has worked with the WRD for the past two years, getting her students to participate in poster and essay contests. Garcia has allowed WRD staff to visit her classroom and make water education presentations to students. Recently, a group of her students attended a field trip to a WRD water treatment facility.

The educator believes that teaching middle school students gives her maximum opportunity to affect their lives for the better.

“A lot of students don’t see the opportunities out there, except what’s right around them in their neighborhood,” she said. “I like to expose them to things and ideas they may not have even considered, plant some seeds, something that can move them in the right direction.”

Garcia remains active in water issues. She is a

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state registered geologist and certified hydrogeologist and presently serves as a board member of the Groundwater Resources Association of California.

Glancy has worked in the field of public water supply for the past 28 years. He chairs WRD's Technical Advisory Committee, an independent group composed of water purveyors in the Central and West Coast Basins, which offers insight, technical expertise and opinions on a full range of capital projects.

Before being employed in Lakewood, Glancy served as the water and electrical superintendent in South Gate and was Manager of Operation for the South Montebello Irrigation District.

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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT'S NEW PHASE ONE FACILITY SENDING 5 MGD TO SEAWATER INTRUSION BARRIER

AGWA member Orange County Water District's (OCWD's) new Phase One Water Purification Facility is now sending five million gallons a day of purified water to the county's seawater intrusion barrier, which keeps the ocean out of our drinking water supplies. The facility uses the same technologies as OCWD's planned Groundwater Replenishment System (GWR) an advanced water purification system expected to come on line in 2007 and to produce 70 million gallons of water each day.

The Phase One facility is a smaller scale version of the future GWR System facility currently under construction. Both facilities take highly treated sewer water that is currently released into the ocean and purify it to better than bottled water quality. The facilities use the same membrane technologies that purify baby food, fruit juices, beer, wine, medicines and bottled water. The GWR System will create a new supply of extremely high-quality water for use in a larger seawater

intrusion barrier and to augment groundwater supplies for North and Central Orange County residents.

OCWD has been protecting Orange County's groundwater 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 seawater from intruding into the groundwater basin. Until this year, water for the seawater barrier was made by Water Factory 21, one of the nation's pioneer water purification facilities. Water Factory 21 is currently being demolished to make room for the new GWR System.

Water produced by the Phase One Water Purification Facility is near-distilled water quality. It is purified using a redundant high-tech water purification system that includes microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide. Microfiltration technology is a new purification technology for OCWD.

"This is an important day in Orange County's water history," said Denis Bilodeau, president of the Orange County Water District Board of Directors. "Water produced by the Phase One Water Purification Facility will mimic water produced in 2007 when the permanent advanced water purification facility is complete. Water produced by this project will surpass all state and federal drinking water standards."

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, recently approved OCWD's permit for water from the Phase One Water Purification Facility to be used for the seawater intrusion barrier. The California Department of Health Services also recently certified the ultraviolet light system as an appropriate technology for disinfection and to provide an additional barrier to unwanted contaminants.

More information on the Groundwater Replenishment System is available at www.gwrsystem.com

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News Drops...

- With state lawmakers again concerned about keeping the lights on three years after California's energy crisis, two new studies warned that the real battle of the future may be over another increasingly scarce resource: water. The studies by an Oakland-based independent research institute focus separately on problems facing California and on growing worldwide challenges for businesses. California's electricity and water shortages are related, says the first report by the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security, in cooperation with the Natural Resources Defense Council.
- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) have issued the draft guidelines for the Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program. The IRWM Grant Program provides funding for projects to protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and reduce dependence on imported water. The draft guidelines establish the process that the DWR and the SWRCB will use to jointly administer the IRWM Grant Program and can be found on the following Web sites:
<http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/integregio.cfm>
<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/funding/irwmgp/>
- Across the West, from Alaska to San Diego, researchers are documenting the effects of a warming climate. Researchers cannot say for sure that the buildup of greenhouse gases, caused by the burning of fossil fuels, is driving this change. What is known is that California faces serious consequences if this trend continues, including an increasing chance of spring-time floods and loss of snow pack-fed water supplies in the summer.

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