



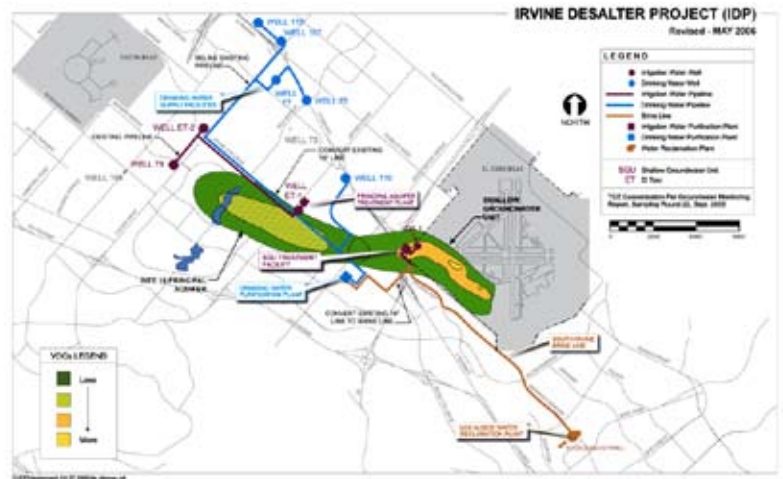
## IRWD Desalter Project Wins Regional Award

The American Public Works Association (APWA) has jointly awarded Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) and AGWA member agency the Orange County Water District (OCWD) a 2006 Project of the Year Award in the water/wastewater category for the Irvine Desalter Project (IDP).

The award was presented at APWA's annual awards luncheon Dec. 6 in Lakewood. The IDP is a joint groundwater quality restoration project by IRWD and OCWD, with financial participation by the U.S. Navy, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and the State of California.



IDP includes two separate projects. One project will clean, restore and make use of a portion of the Orange County Groundwater Basin that is currently not usable because of excess salts and nitrates



resulting from natural geology and decades of agricultural use in the area. This phase of the project will produce an estimated 1.6 billion gallons of water annually and create a new source of drinking water for approximately 50,000 people yearly.

The second project will remove a plume of contamination caused by the use of aircraft solvents on the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station. Following treatment, water from this portion of the project will be used only for non-drinking purposes in IRWD's extensive recycled water system and will provide 1.3 billion gallons of water annually, or enough to irrigate 1,300 acres of landscaping. Construction of the IDP began in 2003 with the drilling of the first of five potable water wells. This water will be purified at the Potable Treatment Facility near IRWD's headquarters on Sand Canyon Avenue and Waterworks Way in Irvine. The plant is scheduled to go online by the end of this year.

Two separate purification plants will treat the groundwater contaminated by the El Toro activity. Contaminated groundwater is purified using an air stripping process to remove pollutants from the water and captures them in a carbon adsorption system to protect the atmosphere.

"This project represents a win-win situation for the community that will help to ensure a reliable, local water supply," said IRWD Board President Peer Swan. "We are honored

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Comments, story suggestions and articles are encouraged.  
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 Visit the AGWA website at: [www.agwa.org](http://www.agwa.org)

## Orange County Water District Announces 2007 Board Members

Two new directors have joined AGWA member agency Orange County Water District (OCWD)'s board of directors. Claudia Alvarez of Santa Ana replaces former director Jose Solorio, who was recently elected to the California State Assembly, and Irv Pickler of Anaheim replaces former director and Anaheim city council member Richard Chavez.



Alvarez was appointed by the Santa Ana City Council to represent the City of Santa Ana. She is a member of the Santa Ana City Council as well as deputy

district attorney for the County of Orange. In addition to her civic leadership, Alvarez also manages a private law practice. She previously served as president of the Hispanic Bar Association and vice president of KinderCaminata, a program that introduces low income kindergarten students to higher education through local community colleges. She also was president of MANA, a national Latina organization. She completed undergraduate degrees in criminal justice and political science at

California State University, Fullerton, and received her law degree from Loyola Law School.


Irv Pickler was appointed by the Anaheim City Council to represent the City of Anaheim. An OCWD board veteran, Director Pickler was previously appointed



to sit on the OCWD board for three separate terms: 1992-1995, 1996-2000 and 2000-2002. He served as president of the Board from 1998-2000 and was chairman of the Joint Cooperative Committee for the Groundwater Replenishment System, a joint project between OCWD and the Orange County Sanitation District. A life-long civil servant, Pickler's community involvement includes previous positions on the Anaheim City Council, chairman of the Orange County Planning Commission, vice chairman of the Orange County Transportation Authority, past president of the Orange County Division of the League of California Cities, chairman of the Orange County Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Advisory Committee and member of the Water Advisory Committee.

OCWD's board is composed of 10 directors—seven elected from divisions throughout north and central Orange County, and three city council-appointed directors representing the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton and Santa Ana. Each of the seven elected board members serve a four-year term, and the three appointed members serve a length of time to be determined by the city council they represent.

Board officers for 2007 are: Philip Anthony, president, from division four and a resident of Westminster; Jan Debay, first vice president, division seven and a resident of Costa Mesa; Kathryn Barr, second vice president, division one and a resident of Garden Grove. Also on the board are: Denis Bilodeau, division two and a resident of Orange; Roger Yoh, division three and a resident of Buena Park; Stephen Sheldon, division five and a resident of Newport Beach; Wes Bannister, division six and a resident of Huntington Beach; Claudia Alvarez, division eight and a resident of Santa Ana; Irv Pickler, division nine and a resident of Anaheim; and Shawn Nelson, division 10 and a resident of Fullerton.

For more information about OCWD's directors and programs, visit [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com). 


### IRWD award



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that the APWA recognizes that and has distinguished it as a Project of the Year."

"The Irvine Desalter Project will clean up historic contamination leaving more reliable, high quality and low cost groundwater for future generations," said OCWD director Steve Sheldon, who represents Division 5, which includes Irvine.

IRWD serves a population of 324,000 in the city of Irvine and portions of Lake Forest, Newport Beach, Tustin, Costa Mesa, Orange, and unincorporated Orange County. OCWD manages the large groundwater basin that underlies north-central Orange County and provides water for 2.3 million residents. 

## Birding Season Begins at Eastern Municipal Water District's Wetlands

Early risers will find some good opportunities to catch a glimpse of ibises, egrets, blackbirds and perhaps up to 120 other species at AGWA member agency Eastern Municipal Water District's (EMWD) Hemet/San Jacinto Multipurpose Constructed Wetlands in San Jacinto.

In partnership with the Audubon Society, EMWD is offering free tours of its wetlands on the first Saturday of the month from December through May. Remaining tour dates are April 7 and May 5, both beginning at 8 a.m. No reservations are needed.

Tour guides will be Sherri Stange and Steve Adkison of the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society. The Audubon Society's mission is to "conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the


earth's biological diversity." The Audubon Society helps people of all backgrounds and ages to learn about sustaining important bird populations through community education programs.

According to Malea Ortloff, EMWD education specialist, "We're excited about this continuing partnership with the Audubon Society because they share our goal of fostering a sense of stewardship for water and habitat. With Sherri's and Steve's vast knowledge of birds, we're able to offer extraordinary guided tours of this unique wildlife area."

Individuals and families can take advantage of this opportunity to visit the EMWD multi-purpose, constructed wetlands at the San Jacinto Valley



Regional Water Reclamation Facility, 770 N. Sanderson Ave. For directions, visit [www.emwd.org](http://www.emwd.org) and click on "Map to our location" then find "EMWD Wetlands Research Facility." Or call (951) 928-3777, ext. 4226.

The EMWD wetlands are generally not open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Tours will be canceled on rainy days. 

## Kern County Water Agency Offers Scholarship

AGWA member agency Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) is offering area high school students the opportunity to earn up to a \$5,000 scholarship to the college of their choice.

The Jim Costa-Kern County Water Agency Water Resources Fellowship was developed to honor the many years of leadership by Jim


Costa, who served as both a California State Assembly Member and Senator during the 1980s and 1990s.

Costa was deeply involved in California's water issues and consistently worked to the benefit of constituents in the San Joaquin Valley, where water is paramount to the survival of people and businesses. After Costa



left office in 2002, KCWA honored him by instituting a scholarship program for students in a course of study related to water resources. Costa has been serving as a congressman of the 20th District in California since his election in November 2004.

One scholarship will be awarded annually in an amount up to \$5,000. The funds will be transferred to the recipient's chosen college and will be administered by the college on a quarterly basis. In order to continue to receive the scholarship, the recipient must be in good standing and maintain a course of study in a water resources-related field.

Scholarship recipients also may have an opportunity for a paid internship with the Kern County Water Agency. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is April 6, 2007. For more information, contact Jeanne Varga at (661) 634-1423 or [jvarga@kcwa.com](mailto:jvarga@kcwa.com) 

## New Board Members

### Join Western Municipal Water District; Governing Board Elects Officers

At its January meeting, the board of directors of AGWA member Agency Western Municipal Water District elected new officers. They are: Donald D. Galleano, president; S. R. "Al" Lopez, vice-president; and, Thomas P. Evans, secretary-treasurer. Three new directors were elected to Western's board of directors last November and began their four-year terms of office Jan. 8. Two directors are returning to continuing terms of office. Newly elected directors include:



**Charles Field, representing Division 1.** Division 1 includes a portion of the city of Riverside south of the Santa Ana River and north of Magnolia to the San Bernardino County line and Lake Hills. Field is a retired Riverside County Superior Court judge.



**Tom Evans, representing Division 2.** Division 2 includes a portion of the city of Riverside south of Magnolia and north of Victoria Avenue and Alessandro Boulevard and March Air Reserve Base. Evans is a former public utilities director for the city of Riverside and former interim city manager.



**Brenda Dennstedt, representing Division 3.** She is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Murrieta County Water District. Division 3 includes a portion of the city of Riverside south of Victoria Avenue and Alessandro Boulevard; Woodcrest; Lake Mathews, Lake Elsinore; the former March Air

The terms of office for directors Field, Evans and Dennstedt expire in January 2011.

The five members of the board of directors comprise the governing body of the Western Municipal Water District and are responsible for setting public policy. The directors are elected to four-year terms by the registered voters in the five geographical divisions of the 520-square mile district. These divisions are apportioned by population. Terms are staggered to ensure continuity, with public elections held in at least two divisions every two years. The director must reside in the division from which he or she is elected.

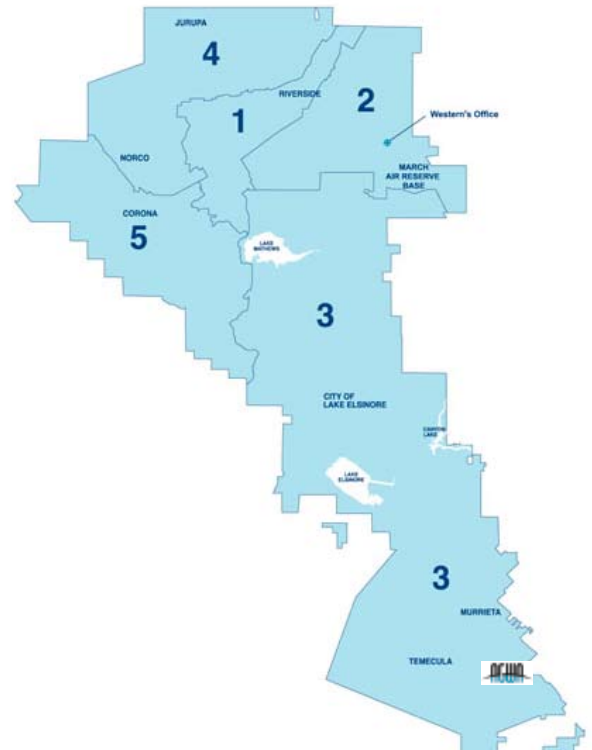


Newly elected President  
Donald D. Galleano



Newly elected  
Vice President Al Lopez

Western Municipal Water District



## Water Replenishment District of Southern California Develops Water Independence Network (WIN)

**B**efore hurricane Katrina devastated the levees that kept New Orleans dry, experts were warning about the poor state of the northern California levees, the failure of which could cut the community off from critical water supplies. During a six-month strategic planning process, AGWA member agency the Water Replenishment District of Southern California's (WRD) board of directors made it clear that water agencies must do everything possible to make the most of local resources as a contingency against disaster and drought.

The result of the strategic planning efforts is called the Water Independence Network (WIN). WIN is a network of local facilities and education efforts that could help the quality of life and economy of southern Los Angeles County if water becomes unavailable.



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) has created a series of programs that local agencies such as WRD can leverage to offset costs and pro-

vide true independence from imported water during disruptions or droughts. MWD has created incentive and credit programs for groundwater storage, water conservation and water recycling that are available through its member agencies such as the cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Compton, and the Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts, all of which are within the WRD service area.

According to WRD, there are several opportunities to maximize the storage of water underground to provide multiple benefits to the area. For example, levels in groundwater basins across Los Angeles County are not the same. Some areas of the 105 Freeway have water so close to the surface that it

must be pumped away to avoid damage to foundations of buildings and roads. In other areas closer to the coastline, water levels are lower, threatening ocean water contamination of underground fresh water supplies.

Currently, WRD prevents saltwater intrusion by buying water that is piped from northern California and allowed to seep underground in strategic locations near the Los



Angeles County coastline. WRD is finalizing plans to build a \$75 million pipeline to move water from zones in Los Angeles County with too much water to areas with dwindling groundwater. In the event of a catastrophe in northern California, the value of protecting groundwater from ocean salt contamination will dwarf the expense taken today.

In addition to strategies designed to reduce reliance on imported water, WRD also has uncovered the potential to use its groundwater basins to store massive quantities of water for dry years – almost equivalent to what is stored in Lake Havasu. With dubious conditions in northern California and the Colorado River, however, combined with the uncertainty of rain, some may question where the agency could store its water.

The answer is as near as Orange County. Essentially, the Groundwater Replenishment System, a joint project between AGWA member agency Orange County Water District and the

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## News Drops

- At the Golden Gate, the sea is rising. In the Sierra Nevada, the snowpack is shrinking. These developments, attributable to a warming climate, threaten one of California's most indispensable resources: water, according to a recent article in the Contra Costa Times. "What we're beginning to see clearly in California—and these are not projections—is we've clearly seen sea-level rise of about a half a foot at the Golden Gate. That's real data," said John Andrew, chief of special planning for the state Department of Water Resources, in the article. "The snow coming down from the Sierra—earlier snow melt—that's real data." Many scientists say those trends will hasten in the coming decades and reach troublesome levels as the climate continues to absorb increased greenhouse gases from motor vehicles, power plants and other sources. Statewide, the loss could amount to 3 million to 4 million acre-feet per year within 50 years. That is more water than is delivered each year by the California Aqueduct.
- A group of property and business owners that includes a former city council member has agreed to settle a lawsuit with the North County Transit District over contaminated groundwater at a future train station. A group of 14 defendants will pay \$443,000 to help clean the groundwater near Oceanside Boulevard and Crouch Street, according to a settlement motion filed last week in federal court in San Diego. Owners and suppliers of two corner gas stations have agreed to pay 90 percent of the cost, according to the document.
- Simi Valley is another step closer to \$1.5 million in state-issued Proposition 50 grant money necessary to help offset the cost of building the \$4 million Tapo Canyon Water Treatment Plant. The yet-to-be-constructed plant is part of the city's Capital Improvement Program, approved after the 1994 Northridge earthquake and is expected to yield 1,350 acre-feet, or around 450 million gallons, of drinking water per year. That amounts to about 2 percent of total water sales in the city. According to Joe Deakin, assistant director of public works, the treatment plant will be used to demineralize and soften groundwater from the Tapo Canyon Basin, providing a local source of drinking water and saving the city money it would otherwise have to pay to the Calleguas Municipal Water District, where Simi gets 100 percent of its drinking water.


## Water Independence Network

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Orange County Sanitation District, takes water released from sewage treatment plants and purifies it through use of advanced-technology for storage underground. Given the advanced state of purification technology available, WRD says there are no excuses for letting water in Los Angeles County flow out to sea when it should be stored for use in dry years and during disasters.

WRD also points to the importance of controlling the pollution that runs from area homes and streets into storm drains leading to the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers. These rivers are the means of getting water to spreading basins where sediments allow the water to seep underground. In short, the cleaner the water is when it flows during a storm, the more of that water they can store.

WRD is dedicated to providing tools that best fit individual circumstances. For businesses that must hose-down food areas and parking lots, the agency is providing rebates for high pressure brooms that do a better job than water hose sprayers, thus, eliminating polluted runoff. For residents, it is providing tools to find landscape options that require less water and promote conservation. For professional and maintenance gardeners, WRD is facilitating classes that will help them help their customers conserve water, have healthier plants and prevent pollution from flowing into our rivers and beaches.

Everyone has a part to play in the quest to prevent drought or catastrophe from devastating Los Angeles County. Making the most of water conservation, preventing pollution and appreciating the long-term benefits of stored supplies are key to WRD's strategic plan of water independence during dry times. 

## New Chairs Appointed at MET

Four new vice chairs for the Metropolitan Water District board of directors, along with directors appointed to committee leadership posts, presided over their first sessions as the board held its January meetings.

Board chairman Timothy F. Brick announced his appointments of the vice chairs at the board's December meeting. The new posts became effective Jan. 1, which also marked the beginning of a two-year term for board secretary Judy Abdo, who was elected to her post by the board in December 2006. Abdo, a former Santa Monica mayor and city council member, is a school administrator involved in various community groups.

The four vice chairs are:

- **Anthony Fellow**, a representative of the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District and chair of the Department of Communications at the California State University, Fullerton;
- **Marcie Edwards**, representing the city of Anaheim, where she serves as general manager of the city Public Utilities Department;
- **Carol Kwan** of West Basin Municipal Water District, who serves as president of a Los Angeles-based, non-profit environmental organization and active in local Chinese chamber groups; and
- **Joseph Parker**, a 12-year member of the San Diego County Water Authority active in national scientific organizations and regional science fairs.

Brick also announced the new chairs and vice chairs of Metropolitan's board committees as part of a reorganization plan unveiled at the December board meeting.

Encinitas Mayor James H. "Jim" Bond, who also serves on the Encinitas City Council and represents the San Diego County Water Authority on the Metropolitan board, chairs the business and finance committee. Los Angeles representative Aaron A. Grunfeld, an attorney specializing in securities and corporate matters for the firm of Resch, Polster, Alpert & Berger, is the committee vice chair.

The new chair of the Engineering and Capital Programs Committee is Gene Koopman, an Ontario dairyman long active in dairy producer organizations



From left: Anthony Fellow, Marcie Edwards, Carol Kwan, and Joseph Parker


and a representative for the Inland Empire Utilities Agency. John T. Morris, a city of San Marino representative who has served as a water resources consultant for more than 40 years, is vice chair.

The Water Quality and Operations Committee chair is Glenn A. Brown of Burbank, a registered geologist who serves on a court appointed watermaster team for the San Gabriel River. The vice chair is David D. De Jesus of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District, who is also president/general manager of the private non-profit Covina Irrigating Company and adjunct professor at Citrus College.

Chairing the meetings of the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee is Los Angeles Deputy Mayor for Energy and the Environment Nancy Sutley. James M. Barrett, a San Diego County Water Authority representative and retired Navy officer who directs the San Diego city water department, is the committee vice chair.

Attorney Jesús E. Quiñonez, a Los Angeles board member who counsels labor organizations on labor relations and government advocacy for the Burbank-based law firm of Geffner & Bush, chairs the Legal and Human Resources Committee. Steven Veres, a San Fernando city council member and district director for state Assembly member Cindy Montañez (D-Mission Hills), is vice chair.

Compton Mayor Pro Tem Isadore Hall III chairs the Communications and Legislation Committee. The vice chair's position is held by Larry D. Dick of the Municipal Water District of Orange County, who serves as a board member of the Serrano Water District.

For more biographical information about the board leadership, visit [www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com). 

## Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District to Receive \$4.7 Million Grant from MWD for Water Supply Reliability Project

Thanks to a \$4.7 million grant from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, customers of the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District will benefit from enhanced water supply reliability during dry years.

The Elsinore Basin Conjunctive Use Program will build local facilities to store underground and pump 12,000 acre feet of water. Up to 4,000 acre feet of water could be pumped from the basin each year to meet Elsinore Valley's dry-year demands.

"The funding from Metropolitan gives us the benefit of new capital infrastructure without having to pay the entire cost of the \$9.72 mil-



lion project ourselves," says Greg Morrison, spokesman for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District. "In addition, Metropolitan is sharing the operation and maintenance costs with us so that the cost for pumping will be reduced when we do need to take the water."

EVMWD initially submitted a proposal to Metropolitan in 2001 for funding assistance to construct the project. At that time, Metropolitan did not approve the project for

funding. In 2003, EVMWD received funding under a state grant program to perform testing to demonstrate the project's feasibility. With that testing successfully completed, EVMWD intended to move forward with the project on its own. Earlier this year, staff from AGWA member

a reality," says John Rossi, general manager, Western Municipal Water District. "This project not only assists the local community with dry-year reliability, but will help all of Southern California by freeing up hundreds of acre feet of imported water during a drought."

Included in the project are facilities for two deep aquifer storage and recovery wells, conveyance facilities and expansion of treatment facilities, if needed. All new facilities will be owned and operated by EVMWD.

Metropolitan General Manager Jeff Kightlinger says groundwater storage allows water agencies to hedge their bets against the state's

**"The funding from Metropolitan gives us the benefit of new capital infrastructure without having to pay the entire cost of the \$9.72 million project ourselves."**

agency the Western Municipal Water District, which is the Metropolitan member agency that serves EVMWD's imported water supplies needs, requested that Metropolitan re-consider funding of the project and, on December 12, Metropolitan's board of directors approved funding for the Elsinore project.

"We are very pleased to work with both Elsinore Valley and Metropolitan to help make the project

unpredictable climate, as well as against any uncertainties regarding imported water sources.

"This partnership demonstrates a fundamental enhancement in Metropolitan's resource management strategy by focusing on projects that store water when supplies are plentiful for times when they are not," Kightlinger says. "Every drop of water stored by this project frees up additional water for the rest of the region during dry times."

AGWA