



Edward A. Schlotman

President's Notes

On February 29 of this year the House passed a bill that, according to the Los Angeles Times, "rewrites two decades of water law in California, wiping out environmental protections and dropping reforms of federal irrigation policy that had long irritated agribusiness in the Central Valley."

The bill called the Sacramento -- San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act also would kill a settlement to re-water a dried up portion of the San Joaquin River. According to the Times It also, "guts a 20-year-old federal Law that set aside a large portion of federal irrigation supplies in California for environmental purposes... and also rolls back fish protections in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta to those

stemming from a 1994 agreement between the state and federal government and it preempts California water law." According to the Times, the legislation's backers blame environmental protections in the Delta for what they call a "man-made drought". According to one commentator the legislation if adopted, which apparently is unlikely, would give the irrigators everything they ever wanted.

While this law may not ever pass it serves to illustrate the ever present tension over water use in California. Should we protect the environment? Should we grow food, feed people and make money? Can we do both? And if so, for how long? A hundred years ago we would not be having these discussions. *(Continued on page 2)*

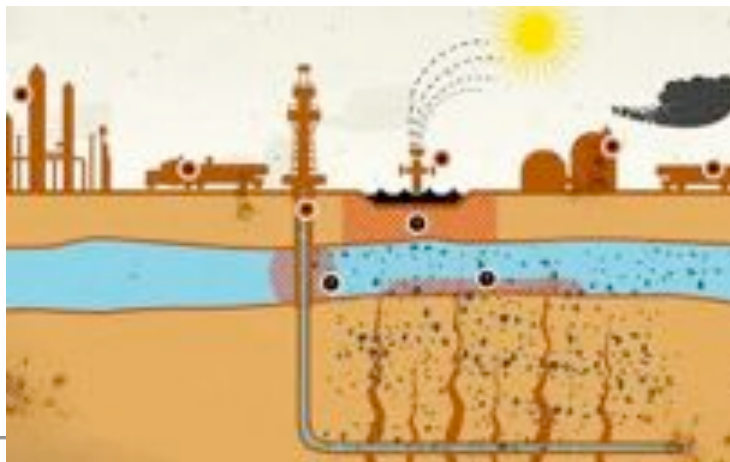
Poor Well Casings Linked to Water Contaminated by Fracking

EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, speaking at a Richard Stockton College energy conference, said she believed hydraulic fracturing in natural gas wells was "perfectly capable of being clean" given the appropriate regulations and industry practices, the Asbury Park Press reported. She stressed the need for "smart regulation, smart rules of the road." Jackson praised New York regulators for "very thoughtfully evaluating the impacts" of fracking, and acknowledged environmental and safety concerns. Jackson added that using greater volumes of gas for generation and cutting emissions could create "a huge return on the investment" in environmental improvements and "an

historic opportunity" for the economy.

Jim Walsh, a director of Food & Water Watch, said he disagreed with Jackson's evaluation of fracking, but noted, according to the Press: "Safety is a subjective term. We've seen tremendous damage from fracking in different places. I appreciate that the EPA has been playing a much larger oversight role in fracking, but it's far short of what's needed. She pointed out that New York is working in a responsible way, studying the issues, as opposed to fracking going on elsewhere without good regulation. She was on target there."

Asbury Park (N.J.) Press, Feb. 23. ❖



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EPA's Jackson Says Fracking Compatible With Clean Environment



Several state regulators, environmentalists and industry members were leaning toward blaming faulty cement casing for incidents in which hydraulically fractured wells have been linked to contaminated aquifers, the Wall Street Journal reported today. A. Scott Anderson, senior policy adviser at the Environmental Defense Fund, said that in a study of wells in Colorado and Pennsylvania, "the groundwater pollution incidents that have come to light to date have all been caused by well construction problems."

Anderson and Southwestern Energy executive VP and general counsel Mark Boling said stricter standards for casing and testing to prevent leaks from fracked wells were needed to prevent contamination. In an August report, a DOE committee had advised similar practices, including inspections to confirm repairs to "defective cementing jobs." Mark Zoback, a geophysicist at Stanford University who served on the committee, said "well construction" was the one key to preventing contamination. However, Wilma Subra, chairwoman of Stronger, a group mainly comprised of state regulators, warned that the fracking process itself can "allow natural gas and frack fluids to migrate out" of wells and potentially infiltrate aquifers. [Wall Street Journal](#), March 13. ❖

Presidents' Notes

(Continued from page 1)

There were not so many people here. According to the 1911 Classic Encyclopedia, based upon Encyclopedia Britannica, the 1910 population of California was a whopping 2,377,549 persons, not even close to our present 37,691,112 bodies. No wonder Central Valley farmers want/need to grow more food. There are a lot more of us to feed and no doubt lots of other people elsewhere as well. No wonder agribusiness wants more water. They need to raise lots more crops than they did 100 years ago and not just for us. (Continued on page 2)

So, on the one hand, we can have lots of food as can other people. The farmers will make some money, maybe a lot. And yet what happens to the environment of the State? None of us want to live in someplace that's barebones. So what to do? Do we say water is nice, the environment is green and provides a happy place for us to live and visit? Or, do we take it away and feed ourselves and the

world? Is there a middle ground? Should there be? Will we have a gradual decline in our environment due, inter alia, to increasing population pressures? In the last newsletter I asked the question somewhat differently.

"... but again I must ask how are we planning for our future needs. Our population will increase. I think that is a given we can count on. Ten percent more from 2010 to 2020? Another 10 percent from 2020 to 2030? History suggests those numbers are at least in the ballpark. Does our water availability also go up another 10 percent each decade to match the population increase?" 2,377,549 people in 1910. 37,691,112 in 2010.

What do you think the answers are, or should be? I welcome your thoughts at comments@waterandpower.org



Please review the 'Museum' section of our website (see below link). It has been updated to include a variety of historical photos recently obtained from the digital

archives of LADWP, LA Public Library, and CSUN. Your feedback will assist Dave Oliphant and me to expand the Virtual Museum to fit the needs of most of our Board Members and ultimately, our members, readers, and the general public.

<http://waterandpower.org/museum/museum.html>

Send your comments to comments@waterandpower.org

Jack Feldman, Webmaster



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Water Laboratory Tour Demonstrations by

Ronald Dergrigorian, LADWP Microbiologist Supervisor, Water Quality Laboratory.

Asseged Teshome, Chemist,

Ku C. Chung, Chemist,

Asseged Teshome, Chemist,

Ku Chung, Chemist,

Ken Lossett, Chemist,

Regan Lau, Microbiologist,

Vivian Yang, Microbiologist

Water and Power Associates, Inc.

is a non profit, independent, private organization incorporated in 1971 to inform and educate its members, public officials and the general public on critical water and energy issues affecting the citizens of Los Angeles, of Southern California and of the State of California.

New Board of Directors Members



Chin Chang

started his career with City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works as an Electrical Engineering Assistant in 1980, and transferred to the Department of Water and Power, in the Power Distribution Division in 1981. After 30 years service, Mr. Chang retired from the Department of Water and Power, Information Technology Service Department on 3/1/2011 as an Electrical Engineer.

Throughout Chin Chang's career, he has worked in various fields; his career started with City of Los Angeles as Street Lighting engineer, and then was recruited to Department of Water and Power the following year. At Water and Power, Mr. Chang was involved in numerous underground transmission projects including the design and construction of the 230KV high pressure pipe type

cable between River Switching Station and Receiving Station P. and the design and construction of the first "Joint Restraining" project for Department's 230KV high pressure pipe type cable between Receiving Station E and Receiving Station S. During the Department's Harbor Repowering Project, he was involved with the 138KV Low Pressure Pipe Type cable joint reconstruction project.

Starting 1995, Mr. Chang has changed his focus from underground transmission engineering to Automation. He led a group of 12 employees who designed and implemented Power Distribution's LAN/WAN (local area network/wide area network) infrastructure and established a Power System's Client Server environment which lead to supporting many of the Power System's mission critical applications. In 2002, Mr. Chang moved to Information Technology Service Business Unit leading the

Cable Transport Engineering and drafting group and initiated a program to replace the Department's 700 plus miles of copper communication cable with Fiber Optic cable.

Although Mr. Chang has had a broad spectrum of experience, he is best known for the improvements he made in the work processes everywhere he worked. It seems that in every job he held, he found a way to streamline or automate the processes to allow work to be done more efficiently.

Mr. Chang married his wife Marlee in 1979 at Pittsburgh. Marlee has retired from City of Culver City as Assistant City Manager and they have one beautiful daughter Joyce who currently is working for Apple at Cupertino. Mr. Chang loves to travel. He and Marlee have visited East Africa, Europe, Antarctica, Galapagos, and Angeles Falls in Venezuela. ❖



Thomas (Tom) Gackstetter

is well acquainted with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the City, having retired as Director of Sustainability Programs at LADWP in January 2012 following 36 years of City service.

Tom began his City career with the LADWP in 1975, working as an Electrical Craft Helper on a Power System "line" crew. In 1977, Tom accepted a position in the City's Department of Building and Safety, and later moved over to the City's Department of Transportation. It was during this time that he also attended night classes and graduated from CSU Fullerton with a BA in Finance,

providing a path to return to the LADWP in 1989 to help design and implement energy efficiency programs. Over the next 22 years, Tom's responsibilities grew to include managing LADWP's water conservation programs and later expanded to include and focus on LADWP's energy efficiency programs.

During his tenure in LADWP's Water Conservation Unit, Tom managed toilet replacement programs that reached a major milestone – 1 million water-saving toilets installed throughout Los Angeles. Tom also actively participated in the development and implementation of regional water conservation programs with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. He also

represented LADWP as a director on the board of the California Urban Water Conservation Council, a nonprofit organization whose purpose is the development and promotion of water conservation practices throughout the State. Later, the LADWP energy efficiency programs he managed set the record for annual energy savings by the residents and businesses in the City. He also oversaw a significant expansion in the technical and financial assistance provided to other City departments, resulting in considerable water and energy savings that continue today.

Tom is married to Camille and they have two grown children and a granddaughter. Having retired recently, Tom and Camille are now enjoying time with family and traveling the U.S. and beyond. ❖

BOOK REVIEW



ENGINEERING NATURE: *Water, Development, & the Global Spread of American Environmental Expertise*, by **Jessica B. Teisch**. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011. 260 pp. Illustrations, Notes, Bibliography, Index. Cloth, \$65; paper, \$27.50. Order from University of North Carolina Press, 116 S. Broadway Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514;
HYPERLINK "<http://uncpress.unc.edu>" <http://uncpress.unc.edu>.

Jessica Teisch's highly original study examines the influence of engineers, primarily from California, on technological and social changes in India, Australia, South Africa, and Palestine from the 1870s to the 1920s. During this period, engineers were admired as a class of professionals trained to build irrigation systems, waterworks, railroads, and modern infrastructure. Teisch focuses on their successes and (mostly) failures as they sought to “engineer nature” through their technological expertise. It is striking how many of them came from California or earned their reputations there: William Hammond Hall, California’s first state engineer; his cousin, John Hays Hammond; George Chaffey and his brother Ben; Joseph B. Lippincott; and, most famously, Elwood Mead. These and other engineers believed that technology and capitalism could transform less developed lands—and their peoples—into a more prosperous world.

The experiences of Hammond and Hall in California should have served as a warning that technology alone could not reshape societies that had their own traditions and political institutions. Hammond and Hall hoped to build a California with prosperous farmers utilizing irrigated agriculture, but they proved no match for the state’s contradictory water laws, land monopolists, and

cut-throat capitalists, exemplified by hydraulic mining and its damage to the state’s rivers and arable lands. Nevertheless, California engineers were invited to consult on irrigation projects in other countries. There was much to admire in the dams and irrigation canals they built in India, but the British had their own ideas about capital investment. The Chaffey brothers took their expertise and success in creating the Ontario, California irrigated colony over to Australia where, ultimately, the Victoria government failed to support an agricultural colony so remote from transportation networks. In South Africa, Hammond and Hall found themselves entangled in the political warfare (and later quite literally) between pastoral Boer settlers and British mining entrepreneurs. Elwood Mead encountered similar problems in Hawaii and Palestine.

Idealism was welcomed but ended up unworkable when stacked against realities. Somehow the engineers overlooked the fact that entrepreneurs Cecil Rhodes in South Africa and Claus Spreckels in Hawaii based their economic efforts on cheap labor—plenty of it in India and South Africa, not enough in Hawaii and Australia. In Palestine Mead ran up against differing interpretations of Zionism as socialists rejected private endeavors.

In the end the engineers left a legacy of technological improvements but failed in creating colonies of independent yeoman farmers. Jeffersonian agrarianism did not translate well with exploitation of blacks or Indians as menial laborers. Efforts to assimilate native Hawaiians into American society—after all, once Hawaii was annexed they became American citizens—failed to make up for the diseases and racism that decimated the native population. The engineers learned some hard lessons about the challenges involved in social engineering.

Readers will find Teisch’s global approach unusual and refreshing as California engineers pop up in unexpected places. Sadly, these engineers were trapped in the prejudices of their time (Mead was an avowed anti-Asian racist), making their accomplishments vulnerable to political and social conditions they did not understand. The lessons carry an implicit relevance to modern times as political leaders assume they can bring American-style democracy and private enterprise to societies that see things differently.



By Abraham Hoffman.
Hoffman teaches History
at Los Angeles Valley College

Shocking Electric Issues

Wall Street Journal Columnist Examines Energy in North Dakota, California

Wall Street Journal editorial writer Stephen Moore, in a commentary, wrote about the different energy policies set in place by California and North Dakota, saying one is playing host to a modern-day Gold Rush, while the other shuns "evil fossil fuels and wallows in debt." To bolster his point, he says establishments like McDonald's are paying an \$18 an hour wage plus a signing bonus to get workers to flip burgers because of the booming economy that has pushed up the number of residents from 12,000 to perhaps as great as 30,000 due to the Bakken Shale formation drilling that is going on nearby.

Wrote Moore: "Now contrast this bonanza with what's going on in another energy-rich state: California. While North Dakota's oil production has tripled since 2007 (to more than 150 million barrels in 2011), **the Golden State's oil production has fallen by a third in the past 20 years, to 201 million barrels last year from 320 million in 1990.** The problem isn't that California is running out of oil: In 2008, when the USGS estimated four billion barrels of recoverable oil from the Bakken, it estimated closer to 15 billion

barrels in California's vast Monterey Shale."

The two states stand in contrast with North Dakota leading the nation in job and income growth in 2011. Wrote Moore: "It has the nation's lowest unemployment rate, at 3.3% (California's is 11.1%), and it saw a huge 38.5% increase in its number of millionaires between 2009 and 2010, according to state tax return data. California, by contrast, lost nearly 50,000 -- or almost one-third -- of its high-income residents (\$500,000 and above) between 2007 and 2009, according to the Sacramento Bee."

Moore whimsically suggested that North Dakota could send "foreign aid to Sacramento. California's budget analysts just announced their fifth straight year of fiscal plague, with up to \$6 billion of red ink for 2012-13. Budgets for schools, transportation, health care, libraries and museums are being cut, even though the state already has one of the nation's highest income and sales taxes. Gov. Jerry Brown is sponsoring a ballot initiative this year to raise those taxes yet again."

[*Wall Street Journal*, March 10.](#)



California's HOV Access for Volt Called Game Changer By GM

GM Chairman and CEO Dan Akerson said that California's decision to allow single drivers of the Chevrolet Volt to use the [High Occupancy vehicle] HOV lanes on highways in the state, combined with a \$1,500 California tax credit, would boost the electric vehicle's appeal, Greenwire reported. Akerson was quoted as saying: "This will be the first extended electric range vehicle with that designation, and that's going to be a game changer, I think, for how it's perceived in the market."



Akerson said the company was starting a new ad campaign for the Volt and had a target of 60,000 sales for 2012. He deemphasized the company's decision, announced March 2, to suspend production of the Volt for five weeks. Design News quoted GM spokesman Randy Fox as saying: "We made the move to keep the proper inventory levels and to match production to demand. But we have no intention - none whatsoever - to pull the plug" on the car. Workers were scheduled to return to the shuttered Volt production plant April 23.

[*Design News via EE Times*, *Greenwire*, March 8.](#) ❖

Burning Water Issues

Associates Tour of Los Angeles DWP Water Quality Laboratory

The Board of Directors held its March monthly meeting at the LADWP's water quality laboratory in Pasadena, California. **Laboratory Manager Ron Dergrigorian** and staff then provided an informative tour of the new facility which annually processes more than 30,000 water samples collected from various points in the water system. The new laboratory was needed because seismic damage caused by the Northridge earthquake forced them from their previous facilities at the Anthony Office Building in Sylmar. The new lab is located in a former water analysis laboratory operated by James Montgomery Inc., an environmental consulting firm. The building required massive upgrading to accommodate the safety, health, and physical requirements of the work performed there. Consequently, the lab has been only recently completed even though DWP has occupied the lab for more than five years.



The laboratory performs two general types of analyses, chemical contaminants (minerals and organic compounds), and microbiological contaminants such as bacteria, viruses, and other potentially harmful organisms that can cause disease. The majority of the chemical tests are performed by complicated automated instruments such as gas chromatographs, mass spectrometers, ion spectrophotometers, and ion chromatographs that are loaded with samples and allowed to run overnight. The need for such instruments is a function of both the large number of

samples mandated by regulations, and the need to test for minute levels of contaminants as low as a few *parts per trillion*. Traditional wet chemical techniques (using test tubes, flasks, and titration) are capable of finding, at best, contaminant levels in the *parts per million* range.

In the microbiology lab, Ron Dergrigorian (who is also the supervising microbiologist), demonstrated an innovative procedure for testing water to determine bacterial density and the presence of coliform bacteria. The first step uses a thin plastic film etched with a grid, through which each water sample is filtered to catch any organisms present in the water. Bacteria are then allowed to grow on the film, and the cultures counted to determine the concentration of bacteria in the original volume of water that was filtered through the film. The next process uses chemicals that cause color changes and fluorescence to easily distinguish between total coliform, fecal coliform, and *escherichia coliform (e.coli)* bacteria. Electronic instruments are also used in the microbiology lab to test for toxic substances.

The DWP laboratory is accredited by the California Department of Public Health, and is perennially rated among the best environmental laboratories in California. We are thankful to Ron and his staff including *Asseged Teshome*, Chemist, *Ku Chung*, Chemist, *Ken Lossett*, Chemist, *Regan Lau*, Microbiologist, and *Vivian Yang*, Microbiologist, all of whom participated in the demonstrations. ❖

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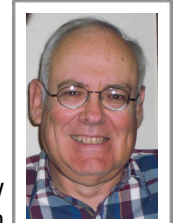
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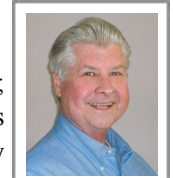
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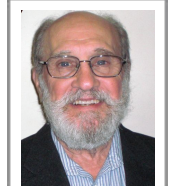
Book Review
Abraham Hoffman



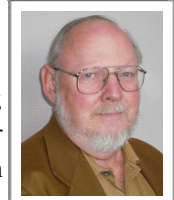
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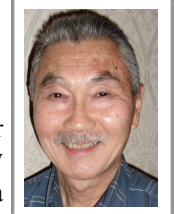
Outsourcing;
DWP Storage
Facility
David J. Oliphant



President's Notes;
Australia's Water
Edward Schlotman



Water Lab Tour
Review
Robert Yoshimura



A Watchful Eye Over Australia's Water

Throttled by a water crisis that threatens Australia's future, the Australian government in 2008 launched a \$10 billion campaign that is radically transforming the way water is handled at every level, from allocations for agriculture to the faucet flow rate in Sydney high-rises. The effort could serve as a model for other water-starved regions in the United States and around the globe.



The Water Resource Observation Network (WRON), located on the leafy campus of *Canberra's Black Mountain Laboratories*, is both the test bed and the nerve center for the campaign. *Stuart Minchin*, an environmental chemist and IT whiz who heads the WRON team, shows me around a climate-controlled room where hard drives the size of meat lockers and corral information from the nation's diverse water management agencies and track virtually every drop of water in lakes, reservoirs, aquifers, and river systems. "If we can't measure it, we can't manage it," says the 41-year-old Minchin. He sports an earring in his left lobe and wraparound sunglasses atop his thinning corona of dark hair, but his casual demeanor belies his relentless drive to create the world's most ambitious water information and accounting system.

Inside WRON's enormous data facility, computer programs predict how the water supply will fare under different climate scenarios. On the basis of that information, Minchin and his colleagues are developing suggestions about where water should be allocated and how it should be used as the country's water austerity plans become more stringent. Next the WRON team intends to deploy low-cost wireless sensors that can be imbedded in waterways to feed data back continuously to the hub, allowing water resources to be managed in real time.

During the last century, the Australian government encouraged farming on difficult land, handing out water licenses to just about anyone willing to put in the backbreaking toil of making the country's vast tracts of scrub desert bloom with citrus orchards and vineyards. The resulting irrigation demands eventually overburdened a poorly managed river system, which collapsed in 1998 when the drought hit. "We had successful farmers in desperate straits, forced out of business because they couldn't get enough water to keep their trees alive," Minchin says. "That was our Katrina moment. We had to develop a scientific system for determining if these rights and entitlements are compatible with one another."

WRON is just one strand of Australia's response. "You need a portfolio of approaches in managing water security," says *James Cameron*, acting CEO of the *National Water Commission*, the Canberra-based government agency in charge of the country's water reform agenda. "The right mix will depend on what's available in different parts of the country."

The government imposed severe limits on water consumption, enforced by stiff penalties. Almost all households are now metered, and prices were nearly doubled on average to better reflect water's true cost. Extensive public campaigns educated residents about how to conserve water: taking four-minute showers, installing water-efficient taps and toilets, recycling rain. Rainwater tanks and water-efficient showerheads became mandatory. Major cities cut their water consumption by up to 40 percent in the past decade, despite population growth. The government also earmarked more than \$10 billion for water improvement measures, including more efficient farm irrigation methods and new pipelines that significantly reduce losses due to leaks.

Along with curtailing demand, Australia is increasing supply by drawing potable water from the ocean that surrounds the country on all sides. In 2006 its first reverse osmosis desalination plant opened in Perth. It now supplies 17 percent of that city's drinking water, and similar plants are operational or under construction in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, and Adelaide. Since reverse osmosis is energy-intensive, researchers are looking at cheaper ways to extract water from the sea as well.

The recent rains have at least given Australians some breathing space on water supply problems, Cameron says. "They provide us with a real opportunity to plan for the next inevitable drought." ❖



Edison International Plans to Close Four Coal-Based Plants



Edison International plans to shutter a coal-based plant in Pennsylvania and three coal-based plants in the Midwest operated by its Edison Mission and Midwest Generation units, the Associated Press reported today. The cost of installing emissions controls and lax demand led to the four planned shutdowns, which resulted in a \$1.08 billion impairment charge. The company said it "wrote down the value of its Homer City plant in Pennsylvania because it couldn't find financing for pollution controls."

Edison International also saw a fall in wind farm development. Prices for power from its generating units fell, and it said it has faced higher interest expenses. Its Southern California Edison utility was awaiting a California PUC ruling on its general rate case for 2012.

[Associated Press via the Los Angeles Times, March 1; Bloomberg, RTT News via NASDAQ.com, Feb. 29.](#) ❖

Study: Closing Arizona coal plant could cost \$18B



February 29, 2012 A new study from the Arizona State University L. William Seidman Research Institute projects that the closure of the Navajo Generating Station could have a dramatic economic impact on Arizona, according to the Phoenix Business Journal.

The massive 2.25-gigawatt [coal-fired power](#) plant is the second-largest power plant in Arizona, behind only the [Palo Verde nuclear plant](#), according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

But the current lease with the Navajo Nation expires in 2019. Given the coal plant's importance to Arizona's energy market, along with the thousands of jobs it provides, ASU estimates that the Navajo plant alone will contribute more than \$12 billion to the gross state product between 2011 and 2044. The Kayenta Mine that supplies the plant similarly could contribute roughly \$8 billion.

All told, the closure of the coal-fired generation plant would cost Arizona around 3,400 jobs and more than \$600 million in tax revenue between 2017, when the plant would be forced to begin shutting down, and the end of the study in 2044. The total costs of the closure were estimated at \$18 billion.

More information on [Arizona's power plants](#) can be found at PennEnergy's [Research area.](#) ❖

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An Affordable Accessible Storage Facility for DWP History

The Associates previously expressed concern over the loss of historical artifacts and memorabilia by the DWP. *If you want to do original research on Los Angeles water or power history where do you go?* If you want to view pictures, artifacts, books of account and other materials, involved in the development of the DWP, are they still in existence and, if so, could you find them? There are partial resources: DWP itself, City Hall archives, the Los Angeles Public Library, the Eastern Sierra Museum, MWD, the Water Resources Center Archives at Berkeley (transferred to UC Riverside in cooperation with CSU San Bernardino), and others.

But, finding what is available at those resources is not always easy. *At DWP, artifacts are stored anywhere there is space that is available.* As space becomes a premium, unless stored in the Records Center as public records items are discarded, destroyed or occasionally removed by interested employees as souvenirs when they are about to be tossed out. **For these materials there is no DWP general retrieval system.**

We have previously encouraged the Department to establish a brick and mortar museum for preservation but there

has never been the necessary funding. We encouraged the Department to hire a full-time archivist to categorize, sort and organize artifacts and historical items so they could be easily located and safely stored but other issues have proven more important. Items have deteriorated for lack of organized preservation. Items deemed no longer needed in the DWP Records Center have been approved for destruction to make more space.

We propose a viable affordable alternative for archiving DWP historical materials in a way that would preserve them and make them easily accessible for both academic and public research.

California State University at Northridge (CSUN) maintains an excellent state-of-the-art archival program which Associates Board members viewed last November. With ample space for professionally protected storage, a modern computer search and retrieval system, trained archivists on staff with an archivist degree training program to both educate and assist in categorizing, organizing and storing items, it is a remarkable local

resource. As an added bonus, community foundations that provide funding for historical preservation have shown readiness to assist in funding CSUN collections.

Most recently, the Haynes Foundation funded the archiving of Catherine Mulholland's extensive collection of William Mulholland memorabilia. The CSUN University Library which runs the archive program has expressed an interest in providing an archival resource for DWP memorabilia.

As professors, students, and members of the public seek to know DWP history for themselves, it would be worthwhile to take advantage of this local resource where original artifacts and documents dealing with facts can be easily retrieved and viewed for correct information. Accuracy of secondary sources of information can be checked. In addition it can provide links to the other sources listed above. We believe the DWP and the City of Los Angeles would be well-served to establish a historical archival collection at CSUN. It would be a valuable resource for today's and future generations while preserving materials presently at risk of permanent loss. ❖



Can you identify the location and approximate year of this picture?

For information about this photo check out the Museum Section in our Water and Power Associates Website:
<http://waterandpower.org/museum/museum.html>





**Can you identify the location
and approximate year
of this picture?**

Clues:

- ✎ Victorian houses converted into businesses are sandwiched between the Hotel Leroy on the right and the Hotel Sherman.
- ✎ The Los Angeles Water Department is to the left of Hotel Leroy. A bicycle is unattended at the curb.
- ✎ In the background is the Grant Building. This later became the site of Hotel Clark.

To get more information about this photo check out the Museum Section in our Water and Power Associates Website:

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Outsourcing; Quit Complaining About Your Sewer Bill!

As I took my morning constitutional the other day, I came across the manhole cover pictured below. **MADE IN INDIA** it says in letters the same size as the **CITY OF LOS ANGELES** name. I checked the City Charter – rewritten in 1999. Yes, it still requires that we purchase from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder (Charter Sec. 371). Some quick research on the internet and I learned that Indian foundries made these covers for several large cities in the U.S. at a half to one third the cost. A 2003 article stated foundry laborers in India made a dollar a day where American foundry workers made \$24 an hour.

The **MADE IN INDIA** writing was required to be the same size as the city name on the cover by U.S.

customs law supported by associations representing American foundries. Apparently, Indian manufacturers would much prefer



not to have **MADE IN INDIA** on there at all. It reminded me of the “Made in America” case that former Associates President Ken Downey won as a Deputy City Attorney

upholding the right of the City (and other local governments in California with similar bidding requirements) to purchase from the lowest responsible bidder contrary to a state law which attempted to make the entities give preference to American firms though their bids were higher. The right to regulate foreign commerce belongs solely to the federal government. So, American jobs may disappear but our sewer rates remain a tad lower. Just a microcosm of the outsourcing issue.

Oh, and another place where the City saves on administration costs is by **including the sewer service charge on the DWP bill.**

By Dave Oliphant