

Water and Power Associates, Inc.

Newsletter

Year 43, Volume 1

January 2014



President' Notes

Readers of this column may have noticed a more or less recurring theme, namely the supply of water in and to California, and more particularly to Southern California. This has been done in the context of the ever-growing population of California in general, and that of the city of Los Angeles in particular. In the last hundred or so years California has gone from 2,377,549 to something on the order of 37 million people, and the pueblo of Los Angeles has gone from something around a hundred thousand to 4 million. Not surprisingly those 4 million people expect, demand, and want to have an adequate supply of water when they turn on the tap, take a shower or go swimming in their backyard pool. Where does this water come from? That is a real issue and concern.

We do not have an unlimited supply. And yet ever more people move here expecting exactly the same as those who have come before. Can we fulfill those expectations? Who is doing what to increase our water supply? There is a fair amount of noise being generated, quiet noise at that. But who is paying attention, or taking steps to address the issue. Frankly, we haven't seen much information that anyone is doing anything about this. Is it important to do so now? In a word, yes.

Tim Rutten, a columnist for the Los Angeles News Group, wrote an article that was published in the

October 27 issue of the LA Daily News. Here's how he set out the problem. "Last week, the National Weather Service's Oxnard facility issued its formal prediction on the coming winter's precipitation and the forecast is for 'below normal rainfall in Southern California and along the Central Coast.' If the prediction is accurate," he continues, "we're looking at the third consecutive rainy season in which the moisture level fails to meet recent historical expectations." He goes on to state that "last January and February...were the driest on record in Los Angeles. After some discussion concerning El Niño, and La Niña he concludes by pointing to the fact that the water demands of 21.5 million people who live in Southern California outstripped local supply long ago. That number he said, is expected "to grow to 26 million in seven years." That's on the order of a 30% increase if I did the math right. He concludes his article by observing that Colorado river flows into Lake Mead and has been "below historic averages for 10 of the past 13 years.," That is a fact that this newsletter has also discussed in previous issues. His "solution"-- to implement, what he characterizes as "Gov. Jerry Brown's most ambitious and controversial proposals to overhaul the California water system." Anybody know what they are or why they are controversial, well, please let us know.

As always, I welcome your thoughts. ■ *Edward Schlotman*



Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2014

10:00 A.M. ~ Noon

L.A. DWP John Ferraro Building
111 North Hope Street ~ A Level
Los Angeles, CA 90012



All members are invited to attend and bring a friend.

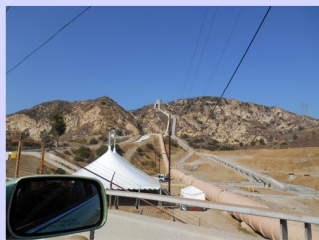
Parking: Enter Gate 6 on Hope Street. Bring DWP or photo I. D. for access to both the parking lot and the building.

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Centennial Celebrations

November 5, 1913 ~ Opening of the LA City DWP Aqueduct ~ November 5, 2013



View of Cascades and tent to house celebrants



Entrance to Cascades, With Both First and Second Cascade Water Chutes in background

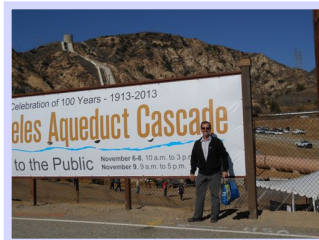
In 1913 nearly 40,000 people gathered at this site to witness the first arrival of water from 233 miles away in the Eastern Sierra via the Los Angeles-Owens Valley Aqueduct. People lined the sides of the concrete Aqueduct Cascades cheering waving banners as pure snowmelt gushed forth.



Mayor Eric Garcetti addressing the Celebrants at the 100th Anniversary Celebration at the Cascades



Celebrants Attending the 100th Anniversary Celebration at the Cascades



W&P Associates Director, Jack Feldman at the 100th Anniversary Sign

After a good space of time to allow the crowd to settle down, Aqueduct Engineer William Mulholland turned to Los Angeles Mayor Henry Rose and proclaimed:

"THERE IT IS. TAKE IT."



Christine Mulholland, great granddaughter of William Mulholland, addressing the Aqueduct 100th Anniversary Celebrants

↪ Dignitaries included: LA Mayor Honorable Eric Garcetti, LA City Councilmen: Honorable Tom Labonge, 4th District; Honorable Felipe Fuentes, 7th District. LADWP: Mr. Ronald O. Nichols, General Manager; Mr. James B. McDaniel, Sr. Assistant GM. Mr. Harry Brant Chandler; Mr. John Eaton, great grandsons of their namesakes. Ms. Christine Mulholland; Mr. Thomas Mulholland, great grandchildren of William.



Dignitaries & Speakers on the Tent Platform Involved in the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Opening of the Aqueduct

The Cascades are the terminal structures of two aqueducts built and operated by LADWP. The First, 233 miles from the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Second, 134 miles long, completed in 1970, runs parallel to the First from the Haiwee Reservoir in the southern Owens Valley. ■



Celebrants Watching the Release of Water Through the Cascades Channel



E Clampus Vitus ("Clampers") Organization Presenting Plaque Honoring the Occasion. Councilman Tom LaBonge Unveiling the Plaque



"Clampers", Gary Turner (standing) and Abraham Hoffman (seated)



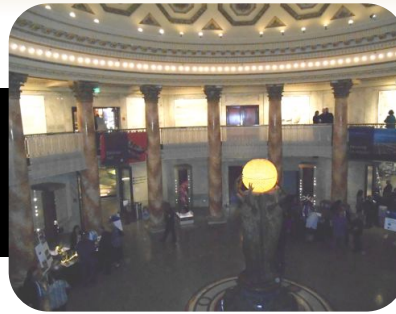
Fred Barker, LADWP Waterworks Engineer and Thomas Mulholland, great grandson of William Mulholland



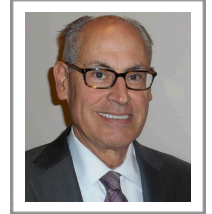
Associates Newsletter Editor Dorothy Fuller by the 100th Anniversary Sign

Centennial Celebrations

~ Opening of the LA County Museum of Natural History ~
November 6, 1913 ~ November 6, 2013



We Welcome Our Board Meeting Guests



William Burke,
Executive Director of
the Haynes Foundation



Duane Georgeson,
retired Engineer of the
Water System;
W&P Associate



Joseph Ramallo,
Director, LADWP
Public Affairs

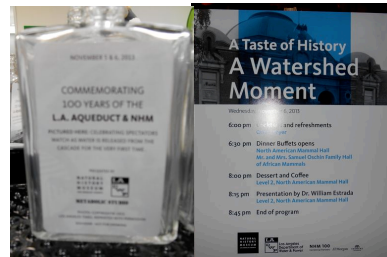
A Taste of History A WATERSHED MOMENT

One hundred years ago Los Angeles hosted a grand celebration in Exposition Park, marking the arrival of water via the new opening of the L. A. Aqueduct on Nov. 5, 1913, and the opening of the L.A. County Museum of History, Science, and Art on Nov. 6.

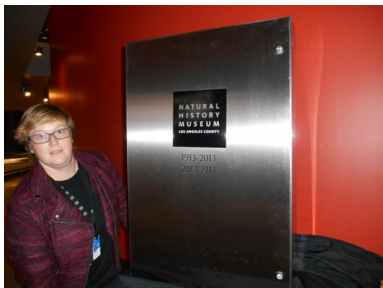
On Nov. 6, 2013 The Associates celebrated in a Civic Ceremony in The Haaga Family Rotunda of the Natural History Museum of L.A. County. There was a ceremonial lighting of the Exposition Park Fountain and the creation of a time capsule to be placed for the opening at the bicentennial in the year 2113. Guests ventured into the *Just Add Water* and the new *Becoming Los Angeles* exhibitions. Following a 1913-era dinner served in the North American Mammal Hall and Grand Foyer, We were treated to a slide show/video presentation by Dr. William Estrada, NHM Curator of History, on why this was a watershed moment for our city and county. ■



W&P Associates Chjn Chang and Dorothy Fuller joined other volunteers at the LA County Museum of Natural History to fill 2,000 souvenir bottles with LA water for celebrants



Souvenir LA water & "A Watershed Moment" poster



Heather Gales, of LA County Natural History Museum with Time Capsule: 1913-2013 ~ 2013-2113



W&P Associates Abe Hoffman, Jack Feldman and Thomas McCarthy



Savanna Elephant diorama in the NHM famous Hall of African Mammals



Art Mochizuki
LADWP
Photographer

⚡ Shocking ⚡ Electric Issues



By *Thomas J. McCarthy*

In Sunny Arizona, A Battle Over Solar Power

In November, the Arizona Corporation Commission will consider the Arizona Public Service Co.'s request to change rates the company says are above market value for power that it can't always use. The debate, which has attracted nationwide attention, is related to the use of net metering. The utility industry wants permission to pay rates below market value, as well as to charge customers who feed electricity back into the grid a monthly fee for maintenance costs. Both sides say the national ramifications could be significant. Sales could plummet for solar panels, if the rates that consumers can charge drop to a point at which the solar panels aren't economically viable in Arizona. For the utility companies, a victory in Arizona would set things in motion in other states where net metering rules will soon expire. "This is about fairness. It's about addressing the cost shift that clearly exists," said Jim McDonald, a spokesman for APS. "The current net metering structure creates a cost shift that unfairly burdens non-solar customers. We should fix that problem now before it gets worse." Richard McMahon, vice president of energy supply and finance at the Edison Electric Institute, said the cost to maintaining the grid isn't being recovered. "We'd like to see the rates around the wholesale rates, because that's the rate the market will pay" for power, McMahon said.

[Washington Post \(Blog\)](#), Oct. 16

Tags: [Arizona Public Service Co.](#), [EEI](#) ■

California passes first energy storage mandate in U.S.

October 17, 2013 ~ [By Dorothy Davis](#), Content Director

In a unanimous vote, the [California Public Utilities Commission](#) (PUC) has enacted the first energy storage mandate in the United States. Under the new mandate investor-owned utilities will be required to purchase at least 200 megawatts (MW) of energy storage by 2014 and 1,325 MW by 2020.

— Within a traditional system, utilities simply shed excess energy during off-peak production times, and must utilize back-up power stations during peak demand. Energy storage has long been held as an industry ideal, but the development of cost-effective technologies has not progressed very quickly overall.

— According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), costs can be significant when it comes to energy storage, particularly with emerging technologies. On the other hand, electricity storage technologies offer price arbitrage opportunities and fast-response services that conventional technologies cannot match.

— The EIA further asserts the future utilization of energy storage will depend on how rapidly the technologies improve and costs drop, the implementation of new pricing and valuation schemes for the services storage can provide, and the cost and efficiency of alternatives.

— California's decision on energy storage therefore sets a precedent for the U.S. energy industry. The mandate is meant to spur advancement in the development and use of energy storage technologies, and if successful could serve to significantly address issues such as grid stability during extreme weather and managing intermittency due to renewables.

— Once again California has set itself ahead of the curve on energy policy and will continue to be watched closely as its innovative and aggressive renewable power and energy storage mandates take shape in the market.

— **Access the proposed decision document at: [Proposed decision of Commissioner Peterman](#)** ■

SCE Asks for Arbitration Against Mitsubishi Heavy Industries over Defective San Onofre Steam Generators

Rosemead, CA, October 16, 2013 - Southern California Edison (SCE) submitted to the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) a Request for Arbitration which states claims against Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Mitsubishi Nuclear Energy Systems for the defective steam generators Mitsubishi designed and built for the [San Onofre nuclear plant](#).

~ The request for binding arbitration seeks to hold Mitsubishi accountable for the defective replacement steam generators, a failure which led to the permanent shutdown of the plant and caused billions of dollars in harm.

~ "We are taking this step today (Oct. 16) to ensure that Mitsubishi takes responsibility for providing defective steam generators and to recover, on behalf of our customers, all damages from Mitsubishi for its failures," said Ron Litzinger, SCE president.

~ SCE requested arbitration after the Notice of Dispute it filed against Mitsubishi in July did not produce a resolution. The Request for Arbitration says that Mitsubishi totally and fundamentally breached its contract by failing to deliver what it promised. Among other things, SCE also alleges that Mitsubishi failed to submit to a contractually mandated audit requiring it to disclose documents relevant to the design and other aspects of the replacement steam generator project and its implementation.

~ A panel of three ICC arbitrators will oversee the proceedings in San Francisco. The contract is governed by California law.

~ The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced in September that it had identified flaws in the computer codes that Mitsubishi used to design the failed steam generators, and the agency issued a "Notice of Non-Conformance" against Mitsubishi for the failed design that resulted from the implementation of the codes. The NRC also cited SCE for the failed design created by Mitsubishi.

~ SCE announced June 7 that it would permanently shut down San Onofre Units 2 and 3, and begin the process to decommission the nuclear plant.

~ SCE has made public key documents regarding the failure of the San Onofre replacement steam generators in a [Digital Document Library](#). The library, however, remains incomplete because Mitsubishi has refused to make public other key documents.

~ An Edison International (NYSE:EIX) company, Southern California Edison is one of the nation's largest electric utilities, serving a population of nearly 14 million via 4.9 million customer accounts in a 50,000-square-mile service area within Central, Coastal and Southern California. ■

7 lessons from San Diego Gas and Electric's smart meter rollout

By Barbara Vergetis Lundin

October 16, 2013

SDG&E is a good example of how systems thinking and an open attitude can help utilities innovate, learn, and view smart meter rollouts as opportunities to proactively reach out to their entire customer base. The Association for Demand Response & Smart Grid (ADS) has released a case study demonstrating how San Diego Gas & Electric's (SDG&E) smart meter deployment and community outreach has affected its traditional business processes and how it involved customers and stakeholders to co-design new products, programs, and systems.

—"This case study highlights the way that a traditional, investor-owned utility, can still find ways to be a creative learning organization by working with its customers and community stakeholders in designing its programs and products," said Dan Delurey, ADS Executive Director.

— Other utilities, regardless of size or governance structure, can take note of the lessons learned by SDG&E and apply them to their own operations:

1. Cultural shifts take time and commitment from leadership and managers throughout the organization.
2. Transparency and accountability are critical to effective collaboration.
3. If customers, stakeholders, and interveners are partners in the creation process, they have a vested interest in the successful outcome of new programs and practices.
4. Prototyping and rapid development models work successfully with a structured collaborative framework, even in regulated environments.
5. Working with trusted community-based partners allows utilities to proactively anticipate the changing requirements and concerns of evolving communities while communicating more effectively.
6. Deployment of smart meters can provide a focal point to connect with every customer in a positive and proactive way.
7. A learning mindset is effective when applied to technical, IT, and operational projects as well as customer outreach. ■



AQUEDUCT TOUR OF OWENS VALLEY

By Abe Hoffman

On Friday, October 25, 2013, about thirty people met at the L.A. Aqueduct Filtration Plant in Sylmar to take a tour of the Los Angeles Aqueduct to Owens Valley. This was a “staff itinerary” trip, most of the travelers being LADWP employees, along with several City Council field deputies, some representatives from businesses and organizations, and yours truly. Christine Mulholland, *great-granddaughter* of William Mulholland, and Hal Eaton, *great-grandson* of Fred Eaton, were also on the trip, providing interesting details on the history of their families. DWP engineer Fred Barker served as tour guide, with Chris Plakos taking over the duties in Owens Valley. Gale Harris of DWP Community Relations organized the tour.

After a very brief tour of the Filtration Plant, everyone boarded the bus, and off we went on SR14 to US 395. Our northernmost destination would be Bishop. We stopped at Owens Lake to hear about the DWP’s mitigation work, had lunch at the Boulder Creek RV Park in Lone Pine, saw several storage reservoirs, and visited the Interagency Visitor Center.

On Saturday morning we headed south, stopping at the Artesian Well east of Bishop to sample the water, then on to view the Lower Owens River Project Pump Station, followed by a look at the Fish Springs Hatchery and the

Owens Lake Dust Mitigation gravel area. The mitigation project involves more than putting water back into Owens Lake as several other projects are also under way there to cut down the dust problem. As part of the mitigation agreement the DWP has provided recreational facilities and other amenities to Owens Valley towns. We also made stops at the Manzanar Visitor Center and the Eastern California Museum. Lots of getting off and on the bus!

Our final stop on the trip was at Jawbone Canyon, which to me was the highlight of the trip: the Pine Tree Wind Farm and Solar Project. We went several miles along the partially paved road into the canyon and visited the Wind Farm facility. Seeing the wind turbines up close and personal proved quite a sight. They are 250 feet high and have an entrance, not unlike boarding a very cramped rocket ship. Inside the turbine, a ladder goes all the way to the top where a worker opens two hatches to gain access to the propellers. The farm also has solar panels. The DWP should advertise these projects! However, the facility isn’t open to the public, just to DWP tours.

Kudos to Fred, Chris, and Gale for a job well done. ■



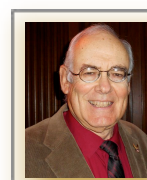
Abe climbing into a wind turbine



Christine Mulholland, Abe Hoffman, & Hal Eaton



Windmill propeller down

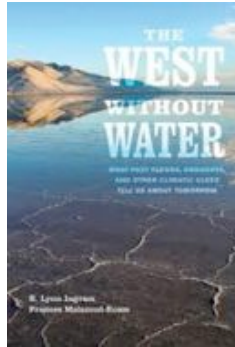


Abe Hoffman



Fred Barker

Book Review



THE WEST WITHOUT WATER: *What Past Floods, Droughts, and Other Climatic Clues Tell Us About Tomorrow*, by B. Lynn Ingram and Frances Malamud-Roam. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013. 257 pp. Maps, Illustrations, Bibliography, Index. Hardbound, \$29.95. www.ucpress.edu.

In recent years any numerous books have been published warning of water shortages in the U.S. Southwest, other areas of the United States, and elsewhere in the world. *The West Without Water* by B. Lynn Ingram and Frances Malamud-Roam stands out for its taking a very, very long look at the history of water presence—and absence—in the American Southwest. Both authors are paleoclimatologists. Their methodology involves the analysis of fossils, dendrochronology (tree ring cores), sediments, and mineral deposits. They examine the beds of rivers, lakes, wetlands, and arid regions where water once flowed. The result is an interdisciplinary, deeply researched, and well-written book tracing a long history of climate change as the result of natural conditions as well as human impact.

Reading this book may create the impression that we don't live on this planet so much as clinging to it for dear life. The authors take the reader from the Holocene Era across thousands of years to the present day. They begin with some short-term catastrophes—the floods of 1861-1862 in California that were followed by cycles of droughts and more floods, bringing us to a present-day time of drought that may well last far longer than anyone can estimate. Then, turning to the distant past, the authors explore cycles of drought and flood over centuries and eons, using “the Earth's history books”—not the records of the National Weather Bureau that chart just blips in recent geologic time, but the stories told in strata, sedimentary cores, and tree rings. These stories recall ice ages, lengthy periods of drought, and megafloods and their impact on human habitation.

Moving closer to the present—that is, within the last couple of thousand years—the authors examine the regions where Native peoples cultivated the soil, practiced irrigation, and developed high levels of civilization, only to have everything crumble when the rains stopped and the rivers dried up. Mesa Verde, Canyon de Chele, and other archaeological sites offer evidence that the Southwest environment is at best fragile and temporary for human development.

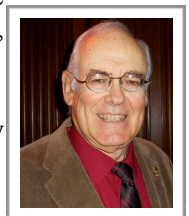
All of this evidence about climate change (which isn't quite the same as global warming) leads us to what is pretentiously called “history” in the West.

This so-called “history” really goes back only some 165 years, to the time of the Gold Rush that brought tens of thousands of people out West. Technological developments—hydraulic mining, railroads, dam construction, irrigation and electrical power, shorten the historical timeline to only a century. It's a century in which population growth in the West far exceeds the capacity of the natural environment to accommodate such numbers. Water has to be impounded, electricity needed to air condition buildings and homes.

Oh yes, the homes where people live to work in the West's urban oases. What are we to make of housing developments built in flood plains where the protection against floods is provided by aging, deteriorating levees? The authors point out that prolonged droughts can deceive. El Nino and La Nina are frivolous children of Nature. Flood can follow drought and, when it does, get ready for widespread destruction of property and loss of life. There's nothing new about this; but anyone in Los Angeles born after 1969 will have no memory of the damage done by megastorms that year.

The authors conclude with chapters devoted to the decline of salmon due to dam constructions that ignored the life cycle of this valuable food source. They also say not to count on rain coming any time soon to end the current drought cycle; just know that when it does, it could come down in buckets. Is there any hope of the West and its huge population surviving the uncertainties of the region's climate? The authors end with some suggestions: We need to live in balance with our environment. “Today, we can choose to reimagine our place in the delicate web of life in the West—by using sophisticated engineering and technology to devise ingenious solutions and by seeing beyond our desire to consume to a future where the needs of a healthy environment are also met,” they say. “We may find that we have all we need to preserve our quality of life as well as to protect and preserve the natural environment around us for generations to come” (p. 222). Good advice. In the meantime, hug the earth and hang on tight, because we may be in for a helluva ride. ■

Abraham Hoffman teaches history at Los Angeles Valley College.





Update on LADWP's New Customer Billing and Information System

By Joseph Ramallo,
LADWP Public Affairs

November 25, 2013

On September 2, 2013, the LADWP completed the replacement of its 39-year old Customer Information System (CIS) after over three years of planning and development.

This CIS platform touches nearly every aspect of utility operations, including customer service, meter reading and billing. It is the heart of our customer service system and used during each customer interaction by phone or online. Over time, this system will help us significantly improve the customer experience.

Any time an information system of this size and scope is replaced, issues will arise and need to be addressed within the first 1 to 3 billing cycles. LADWP is currently near the beginning of the 2nd billing cycle.

To date, approximately 3% to 5% of our customers have experienced delayed bills and late notices, and incorrectly estimated bills, which has led to periods of excessively long and unacceptable hold times when customers have called to report a problem or ask routine questions about their account. In addition, some commercial and residential solar customers and large multi-facility customers have experienced problems with their bills. While these problems have affected a relatively small percentage of our customers, they

have resulted in higher than normal call volumes and these calls have taken longer to resolve than is typically the case, resulting in longer than acceptable hold times for other customers who are trying to get through to an operator.

LADWP is fully committed to resolving these issues as quickly as possible. As part of those efforts, next week we expect to begin offering customers a Virtual Hold feature, which will provide customers the option of receiving a call-back, rather than waiting on hold. We are also accelerating efforts to reduce the number of customers receiving inaccurate, late, or delinquent notices.

As the system stabilizes over time, we expect the number of issues and customers affected by them to be reduced significantly and ultimately eliminated. For those customers who have experienced exceptionally long hold times, or who have received an incorrect bill, we offer our sincere apologies.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to resolve issues that have resulted in our not meeting the highest service standards for every customer. We will continue to provide updates to our customers and stakeholders over the coming weeks as the system continues to stabilize.

Various Ways to Contact LADWP to Get Your Questions Answered

- *Use Phone Self-Serve Options:* Our 1-800 DIAL DWP phone system provides callers with a variety of self-serve options, including the ability to report outages, make payments, obtain bill-pay extensions, and other services, all without the need to speak to a customer service representative.
- *Use Virtual Hold*—If you need to speak to a Customer Service Representative, don't wait on hold. LADWP is currently testing virtual hold technology and plans to implement it next week to reduce hold times. Virtual hold allows customers to receive a callback at a set time instead of waiting on the line for a representative.
- *Email Us*—Email account inquiries to ccenter@ladwp.com. Your concern will be responded to by a representative as quickly as possible and in most cases, within one business day.
- *Call During Off Peak Hours*—If possible, call on Saturdays and Sundays between 7am and 10 pm, especially Sundays, as call volumes are typically much lower on the weekends.
- *Go Online*—Use the www.LADWP.com website to: report outages, view the status of existing outages, view account balances and make payments, among other services, without speaking to a representative. ■

For More Information Contact

Joseph Ramallo
www.ladwp.com

joseph.ramallo@ladwp.com





Mystery History

By Jack Feldman



Where's Waldo?

Can you locate William Mulholland in the following 1912 photo?

Clue: He's wearing a hat.

For answer and more information on photo go to the following section on our website:

http://waterandpower.org/museum/Mystery_History.html



2014 Membership Renewal

Attached in this newsletter are an annual Membership Renewal/Application form and a return addressed envelope. To renew your membership (if you have not already done so), complete the form and send it with your renewal check so we may continue to receive your support and to keep you on our quarterly newsletter delivery list. The form can also be used by potential members to join the Associates.

In Memoriam

Leon Furgatch, retired Manager of Community Relations and Educational Services for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, passed away on Friday, December 6, 2013.

Born in 1925 in Cleveland, Ohio, Leon moved to New York before coming to Los Angeles in 1932. He served in the Pacific in the Marines in World War II, and attended many reunions of his squadron. An alumnus of the University of Southern California on the GI Bill, Leon graduated with a B.A. degree in Journalism in 1951. An early participant in Democratic politics, he was active in the campaigns of Jesse Unruh and Governor Pat Brown. After his graduation, he was employed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in the Public Affairs division where he developed an educational program bringing history and information of the Department to children in the Los Angeles City School District. This included preparing educational materials for the students and lesson plans for the teachers.

Leon was an excellent writer and occasionally wrote OpEd pieces for the DWP management on water issues. Retiring in

1987, Leon continued his interest in water and power and from time to time his independent opinions were published in the Los Angeles Times and the Daily News. In 2012, a significant movie project on which he had spent some 12 years came to fruition. He was the executive producer of a World War II documentary *The Flintlock Disaster*. It is a true story involving members of his Marine squadron where 22 Corsairs and the lives of six pilots were lost in an attempt to deliver the fighter planes from the Island of Tarawa to another Pacific Island in preparation for a major U.S. offensive. The well received documentary was narrated by Tom Brokaw. Leon had an avid interest in politics and world affairs.

As a long time member of The Associates, Leon sometimes attended board meetings and wrote several articles for the newsletter.

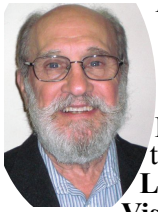
He leaves his wife Sally, his son Daniel and many nieces and nephews. ■ *By Dave Oliphant*



[Leon Furgatch](#)

Vista del Lago – VISITORS CENTER AT PYRAMID LAKE

By David J. Oliphant



Perched on a hill high above the eastern side of **Pyramid Lake** is the **Vista Del Lago Visitors Center**. Driving north on the I-5 from the San Fernando Valley, isolated in the brown hills that border the freeway on either side, it is the only reason to turn off at the Vista Del Lago off-ramp. But, it is a good reason. On December 12, 2013 **W&PA Board** members visited the center to view the displays of the **California Water System**, managed by the **Department of Water Resources** of the State (DWR). The goal of the facility is to educate the public on environmental requirements of the State water system with emphasis on water safety and water quality.

✿ Gary Moore, Educator and manager of the DWR, talked knowledgeably about the State Water Project, water issues, and showed us the displays in this water museum. He has been with the Center for 12 years. The building was erected in response to requirements of the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** which was concerned about environmental impacts of the power plants on the water system. The land is owned by the **California Forest Service** and leased by the DWR. The building was constructed with major funds contributed by the **Metropolitan Water District (MWD)**. The State Water Project Analyst's office in Sacramento dictated how this facility was to be designed and built.

✿ The **Department of Public Affairs** office of the DWR is responsible for the displays. There are three such DWR centers. There are seven display rooms – five for the DWR, one for MWD, and one for the U.S. Forest Service. The Forest Service has not been updated in some time, MWD has done some updating, DWR also has some updating. But, some of the interactive displays have been removed when their functioning broke down, and not replaced due to cutbacks in availability of State funds. While the Center is billed as part of the State Water facilities allocation and technically is not a line item in the State general budget, cuts

in the State budget still end up affecting their budget, too. So, funding limits have resulted in loss of some displays.

✿ Despite the cutbacks this facility is well worth visiting. It provides a very detailed explanation of the State's water systems and their funding, some excellent interactive displays, including one that has a large three dimensional display of California with moving picture overlays on the surface of California that highlight different aspects of California geography, areas served by the water projects, water movements, power generation facilities and population centers. The Center has a movie of the California Aqueduct, where the viewer flies over the entire California Water Project, soaring along the water canals and swooping down over the various pumping stations in a way that reminds one of Disneyland's Soaring over California adventure. The facility has a marvelous panoramic view of Pyramid Lake, among other things rewarding for photographers. School visits are largely from third and fourth grade classes because California water sources and the environment are part of those grades' curricula, but teenage and adult groups also visit.

✿ The displays are well organized and clearly explained, so that children can know where their water comes from, beside the nearby faucet, and gain an understanding of how, and why, some 29 water systems contract to obtain water from the State Water Project. The students learn the importance of keeping the water clean and uncontaminated.

✿ The building itself is a fine model of a government education center at its best, with clean tile, a colorful Spanish-style fountain in the large foyer filled with blue mosaic tile where the water might be, clean restrooms and a look of newness about the facility that belies its ten years of usage. The one drawback to the building is its lack of wheelchair access, as it was completed in 1992 before that building requirement applied. *(Continued on page 11)*



Vista del Lago Visitors Center



Our tour guide
Gary Moore
Educator,

Department of
Water
Resources,
State Water
Project (SWP)



Gary Moore and
W&P Associate, Robert Yoshimura



Visitors Center lobby mosaic fountain
of California liquid gold



Panoramic View of Pyramid Lake
from Visitor Center balcony

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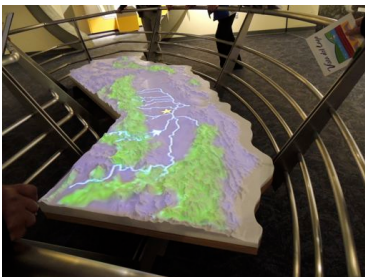
Roger D. Weisman

Robert Yoshimura

Vista del Lago

(Continued from page 10)

✿ Gary Moore proved well-versed in California's water issues, open to and equal to all the questions that came from this experienced group of water buffaloes. He heads a staff which could be helped by assistance of volunteers but due to the Center's remote location few are forthcoming. It is, nonetheless, well worth the drive for a half-day visit. ■



Bouquet Creek is Drying Up



On December 14th, SCTVNews.com, Santa Clarita, California TV news service, published an article about Bouquet Canyon property owners' water source drying up because of government inaction.

Bouquet Canyon is in the Santa Clarita Valley north of Los Angeles city in the northern part of Los Angeles County. Until ten years ago, the Bouquet Canyon Creek water source would be cleared annually by the County of silt and brush debris. The creek is on U.S. Forest Service property and kept clear by the County under federal permit. However, in 2005 floods washed out a lot of the road. In 2007, as a consequence of fire and floods, the federal government declared it a disaster area, requiring environmental clearances. The County could not get clearance to clear the creek.

Meanwhile, the creek was providing less and less water because of the silt, and residents were complaining. In response to residents' concerns, the County sent a letter on July 2 to the U.S. Forest Service asking creek clearance permission and advising on their clearance plan; they then sent a second letter on October 1, that they had not received a reply to the first letter. The second letter also mentioned a conversation between the County and the Forest Service regarding \$50 million in roadway improvements to avoid future flooding, noting however that the Forest

Who's To Blame?

Service did not rank the project high as compared to other Statewide projects.

County Supervisor Michael Antonovich and area Congressman Buck McKeon contacted the Forest Service which conceded the creek was silted up but said they needed to conduct an environmental analysis and that they were waiting for a formal application from the County to consider the road improvements.

The Forest Service representatives then blamed the LADWP for not putting more water into the creek in accordance with an agreement the LADWP has to allow water to flow into the creek from Bouquet Canyon Reservoir which is part of the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

The LADWP pointed out that because of the silt, if they allow more than a minimal amount of water into the creek it spills out onto the roadway creating a hazard for cars, motor cycles, and bicycles and that they have been trying to work out the problem with the Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service attempting to resolve it in an environmentally safe manner.

In the meantime, apparently without even a whisper from environmental activists, the Bouquet Canyon residents can be without water in order to protect the environment. Is this what is meant by sustainability? ■

By David J. Oliphant



Educational exhibits and interactive displays include ◆ an aerial presentation of California's major problem: population & water distribution (pictured left) ◆ a timeline display of world water distribution systems, including ancient Rome, India and Pakistan, Egypt, and China (pictured above); ◆ a simulated 3D model section of SWP pipeline ◆ find out on scales how much of your weight is water ◆ exhibits of current water issues, and many other interesting displays.

Located at Vista del Lago Rd., Los Angeles, CA 93243. Off I-5 at Pyramid Lake.