

Water and Power Associates, Inc.

Year 42, Volume 3

Newsletter

July 2013



A Message from our President

For more than 100 years Los Angeles acting by and large through its Department of Water and Power has supplied the people of the City with water and energy. In the performance of that duty the Department has managed to acquire all sorts of artifacts, documents, photographs, equipment of course and other items that may fall in the category of just plain "stuff" that, we the Associates, believe have historic interest and value, not only for the present generation, but for future residents of Los Angeles and California as well. These historic items will help provide a better understanding and context for what it took, and takes, to keep the lights on and the water faucets running.

When the Department began its work more or less around the turn-of-the-century (actually, of course, somewhat before considering the age of the city) the population of around 102,000 people was good-sized for California. Visionaries recognized that if Los Angeles was to continue to grow, it would need additional supplies for a growing population. And so this year the City celebrates the Centennial of the Los Angeles Aqueduct which brought needed water supplies to the City.

Today, our population is a little larger than the hundred thousand just 110 years ago. It's something on the order of 38 times as large, which works out to be 3,800,000 residents, all needing water and energy. The ongoing work continues to use equipment and devices which no doubt in good time will themselves become the "stuff" of historic value and interest.

And what is of historic value? Such items can range from documents and photographs showing the construction of water and power facilities to more exotic things like thyristor valves.

Informal conversations with Department management have confirmed our previous belief that they too have an abiding interest in the conservation of historic items and materials. Accordingly we have prepared, in draft form, a resolution for the Board's consideration. If adopted it will formalize necessary and continuing preservation efforts. It is set forth below for your consideration.

"WHEREAS, the Department of Water and Power has faithfully supplied water to the citizens of Los Angeles for over one hundred years and,

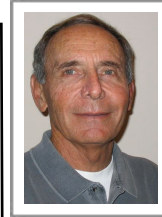
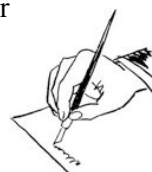
WHEREAS, for almost all of the one hundred years the Department has acquired artifacts, documents, photographs and other items of great historical value that are in dire need of preservation so they will not be lost and for current and future generations of Los Angelenos to know and understand how, why, and the extraordinary efforts required to make that water always available;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that The General Manager and Assistant General Managers of the Department are directed to preserve, protect and display at appropriate Department facilities open to the public and also at other qualified institutions and universities the documents, papers photographs, film and other artifacts that constitute the history of the Department of Water and Power for its first one hundred years and to take appropriate steps to preserve such items for its second hundred years."

☞

As always, I appreciate your views.

Edward A. Schlotman



Rate Payer Advocate Questions LAWP's Feed in Tariff Program

At the LADWP Board Commission meeting on June 19, 2013, the Rate Payer Advocate (RPA) requested that the Commission delay the implementation of the Feed in Tariff (FiT) program and review the pricing guidelines that will be used for the contracts under the program.

The RPA stated that the proposed pricing guidelines are too high when compared to other California electric utility FiT programs. The Commission decided to move forward with the program and the resulting contracts despite the concerns of the RPA.

As a matter of good public policy, the Water and Power Associates believes that the Commission should reconsider their position and hold an open discussion on the matter. To support the Associates' public policy position, a letter (see page 2) was sent to the Commission the first week in July. ☞

John W. Schumann

~ Features ~

- 1 From Our President
- 1, 2 Position Paper
Re: Ratepayer Advocate
- 3-5 Shocking Electric Issues
- 6 Mystery History
- 7 Valley Alliance
Neighborhood Council
- 8, 9 Infrastructure Project
Approval
- 9 Our Recent Guests
- 10 Book Review
Windfall, Wind Energy in
America Today
author, Robert W. Righter
- 11 Abe Hoffman - Presentation
of 100th Anniversary of
L.A. Aqueduct

(Continued from page 1)



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.

- Board of Directors**
- President
Edward A. Schlotman
- Vice Presidents
John W. Schumann
Thomas J. McCarthy
- Secretary & Historical Preservation Chair
David J. Oliphant
- Treasurer
Carlos V. Solorza
- Web Master
Jack Feldman
- Newsletter Editor
Dorothy M. Fuller
- Members**
- Robert Agopian
Timothy Brick
Chin Chang
Phyllis E. Currie
Robert DiPrimio
Steven P. Erie
Thomas Gackstetter
Gerald Gewe
Lawrence A. Kerrigan
Alice Lipscomb
Scott Munson
Kent W. Noyes
Pankaj Parekh
Philip Shiner
Roger D. Weisman
Robert Yoshimura

July 1, 2013
The Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners
111 North Hope Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
Re: Board of Water and Power Commissioners Action regarding Solar Feed in Tariffs (FIT)

Commissioners,

It is the understanding of the Water and Power Associates that the duty of the Rate Payer Advocate is to provide independent analysis to the Board on its actions that will, among other things, affect rates.

It is the Associates further understanding that Mr. Fred Pickel, the Rate Payer Advocate, has recommended to the Board of Commissioners that it delay the pricing guidelines for LADWP's Solar Feed in Tariff (FiT) program until there is a more adequate understanding of its impacts on the citizens of the City and the Department of Water and Power.

However, the Board, at its June 20, 2013 meeting, elected to set aside the Rate Payer Advocate's recommendation on the FiT program, despite what appears to be strong evidence that the costs are not consistent with (i.e. significantly higher than) other FiT programs in California.

The Associates are not privy to all the facts or discussions that led to the Board's decision but believe that decision may well have long-term consequences on the increasing cost of electricity for the City's ratepayers, its residents and businesses.

In light of other significant costs that will compel the Department's Power System to seek increases to the electric rates over the next few years, we believe that before the ratepayers are asked to pay the bill they deserve to have full disclosure of the benefits and costs of the FiT program.

Accordingly, we recommend that your Board, as public policy and prior to the award of any contracts under the FiT program, be thoroughly briefed by Department management on the issues raised by the Rate Payer Advocate.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Schlotman, President
Water and Power Associates, Inc.

Cc: Fred Pickel
DWP GM
Sr. Assist GM, Power
Mayor
City Council

⚡ Shocking ⚡ Electric Issues

Submitted by Thomas J. McCarthy

California looks for new generation, transmission in wake of San Onofre shut down

By Christopher Kolomitz, EUCI

The same week that Southern California Edison said it will permanently close the San Onofre Nuclear Generating station more than 2,000 megawatts of solar power was being fed into the California grid.

The amount of energy coming from the sun nearly equaled the amount SCE is losing from San Onofre, officials said but the state will need more transmission and other sources of generation from renewables and traditional sources to meet demand.



San Onofre has been closed since January 2012 when inspectors found irregularities in wear on tubes that carry heat to generators. There was also a minor radioactive leak. The plant sits near the Pacific Ocean about halfway between Los Angeles and San Diego (See the Nuclear News section for more details on the San Onofre shutdown).

Natural Gas Boom Leads to Substantially Lower Electricity Prices

Surging natural gas production in the U.S. is expected to "substantially reduce retail electricity prices over the next 20 years," according to a study by Resources for the Future, CNBC reported. The study predicted that natural gas generation could lead to electricity-price reductions of up to 5.7 percent that would save commercial customers up to \$70 billion and residential customers about \$25.8 billion through 2020. Data from EEI [Edison Electric Institute] shows utilities now generate almost 25 percent of their power from natural gas, wrote CNBC.

Donald Henschel, a senior market analyst at IHS*, said utilities were moving away from using natural gas mostly for peaking plants and using it more for baseload generation. He was quoted as saying: "For base generation [times of the day when power is at an ebb], coal was historically a more affordable solution. Now with natgas so affordable, you can run combined cycle base load generation plants burning natural gas."

Henschel warned that natural gas prices could spike, which would reverse the trend toward lower electricity prices.

[CNBC](#), April 27.

*IHS is a global information company with world-class experts in the pivotal areas shaping today's business landscape: energy, economics, geopolitical risk, sustainability and supply chain management. It employs more than 6,000 people in more than 31 countries around the world.



Sacramento Bee Endorses 'Time of Use' Pricing Plan by SMUD



The Sacramento Municipal Utility District is planning on scrapping the traditional residential pricing scheme for power and replace it with time-of-use pricing, the Sacramento Bee wrote in an editorial endorsing the "farsighted change." The newspaper's editorial board stated: "The current system results in heavy users unfairly subsidizing low-use customers who use a disproportionate amount of electricity during times of peak demand. It sends the wrong price message to customers."

The new plan, which was developed by staffers, would still require SMUD board approval and could not be implemented until 2018 at the earliest. Wrote the Bee: "Under the SMUD staff proposal, the change to time-of-use pricing would begin with a gradual four-year phaseout of the two-tier pricing system. If the board approves the changes proposed, by 2017 all residential customers will pay the same price per unit of electricity no matter how much they use. And beginning in 2018, customers would pay higher prices during peak summer hours."

[Sacramento \(Calif.\) Bee](#), May 8.



June 11, 2013
Source: The Brattle Group

Natural Gas and Renewable Energy: Friends or Foes?

The path to resource adequacy and low-carbon generation in the Texas electric power market will likely require the co-development and integration of both natural gas and [renewable energy](#) resources for years to come, economists at The Brattle Group find in a new report prepared for the Texas Clean Energy Coalition (TCEC).

The report analyzes the short- and long-term relationship between natural gas and renewable resources in the [Electric Reliability Council of Texas \(ERCOT\)](#) electricity market, which covers 85 percent of the state's electric load.

“Low-priced natural gas and clean renewable resources are complementary, not competing, resources to displace other fuels over the long term. Coordinated development of both will lead to a win-win for Texas and the environment,” former state Sen. Kip Averitt and TCEC chairman said of the report sponsored by the [Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation](#). Mitchell, a pioneer in the Texas oil and gas industry, laid the groundwork for the [shale gas](#) revolution that is taking place across the U.S.

The first of a two-part study, “Partnering Natural Gas and Renewables in ERCOT” explains how gas and renewables can be complements, depending on the time frame of analysis as well as a number of additional factors. These factors include items such as the long-run trajectory of gas prices, renewable technology costs, electricity market rules and complementary policies affecting all power generation technologies.

The paper explains that wind and solar power are inexpensive to dispatch because they have no fuel cost, ie. there is no charge for the sun to shine or the wind to blow. In comparison, natural gas-fired generation is more expensive to dispatch even at very low \$4/MMBTU gas prices.

“As a consequence, once wind and solar power is built, renewable resources are always cheaper to dispatch, and will be chosen to sell all their power whenever the wind blows or the sun shines regardless of the current price of gas,” Averitt said.

However, when utility planners must build new electric plants, renewables are not necessarily the lowest cost resource because of their higher up-front capital costs.

Brattle principal Dr. Peter Fox-Penner, a co-author of the study, noted that cheap natural gas might also help renewable energy in a forward-looking sense because blending lower-cost gas generation with the higher costs of new renewables lowers the total rate impact on consumers.

The report also cites a number of technical reasons why gas and renewables complement each other; primarily the ability of natural gas to smooth the intermittent output of wind resources. An overwhelming 96 percent of Texas’ renewable capacity comes from wind resources whose output is uncontrollable and not well-matched with the time pattern of ERCOT’s load.

Natural gas resources are more flexible than [nuclear](#) and [coal power](#) plants and can ramp up and down to complement wind output without incurring high costs, resulting in fewer spikes and dips caused by the mismatch between wind generation and demand.

Averitt has said that increasing demand for additional electric generation capacity makes Texas an ideal test bed for the development of natural gas and renewable energy technologies. Having ramped up wind generation faster than any other state, Texas’ ability to integrate this renewable resource into its existing power system has the potential to be a model for others as they see the share of wind in their electricity supply increase.

Texas leads the nation in installed wind generation capacity and has the potential to further develop wind resources equal to twice the state’s total annual peak electric demand. Texas is also the leading U.S. producer of natural gas, providing 28 percent of all U.S. marketed natural gas production in 2011.

Another study co-author, Dr. Jurgen Weiss, noted that the challenges facing the Texas market and an emerging set of policy options merit further discussion and analysis.

“Over the longer term, the majority of the factors driving the expansion of all forms of generation – such as carbon policies and market-based fuel prices – are beyond the exclusive control of Texas policymakers,” he said.

Fox-Penner said the transition can be helped with a mix of complementary state policy measures, from potential emission regulation to expanding the Renewable Portfolio Standard to changing market rules for ancillary services. These policies and others warrant further study to determine if they can help create the investment incentives to develop an electricity market capable of dealing with what will almost certainly be an increasing amount of intermittent generation from renewable resources over time.

The second half of this two-part study, to be finalized later this year, will utilize Brattle’s integrated modeling system to examine the impacts of renewable policies under a variety of future scenarios.

Access the complete report here: [Partnering Natural Gas and Renewables in ERCOT](#)



Power Articles
submitted by
*Thomas J.
McCarthy*

SCE to permanently shut down San Onofre nuclear power plant

By Michael Drost

Boulder Residents Aim to Revisit City Plan for Municipalization

DAILY CAMERA

A public interest group, Voter Approval of Debt Limits, wants to put a charter amendment on the November general election ballot in Boulder, Colo., to revisit the city's proposal to create a municipal utility, the Boulder Daily Camera reported. "Our ballot question is in advance of the city's decision on municipalization, ensuring that voters remain in control over the amount of debt the city can take on," Phil Fox, a spokesman for the group, said, according to the newspaper.

Wrote the newspaper: "The amendment would require that before a city-run electric utility could issue any debt, voters would have to approve the amount of the debt limit and the total cost of debt repayment. It also would require that the utility's service area remain within Boulder's city limits unless registered electors from the unincorporated portion of the service area also are permitted to vote in the debt limit and repayment cost election."

Boulder (Colo.) Daily Camera via the Denver (Colo.) Post, May 10.

After months of contemplation, officials at Southern California Edison (SCE) announced last week that they will retire the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, which has been shut down since January 2012 after small radiation leaks were detected at one of the facility's Unit 3 reactors.

The move culminates a 16-month debate within SCE and the state of California over whether the facility should be returned to service. Ultimately, the company said that the uncertainty over whether the plant would be restarted at all was "not good for customers" and that retiring the plant was the better longterm option. The plant had supplied power to 1.4 million homes in the greater San Diego area before being shut down.

"We think that our decision to retire the units will eliminate uncertainty and facilitate orderly planning for California's energy future," said Ron Litzinger, President of SCE.

The plant was shut down in January 2012 after a small radiation leak revealed extensive damage to steam generator tubes in the facility's Unit 2 and Unit 3 reactors. The generators were manufactured by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) and installed in 2009 and 2010 in a \$771 million overhaul. Though wear to generator tubes is typical at a nuclear power plant, the extent and speed in which the wear occurred at San Onofre was unusual.

As a result, a long regulatory battle ensued over who was responsible for the leak, and whether the plant could be restarted safely. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) ultimately found that MHI had flaws in its design and testing process for the generators, while SCE devised a scheme to restart the least-damaged reactor at a limited (70%) capacity.

The NRC's Atomic Safety Licensing Board ruled last month that in order to engage the limited restart, SCE would

need to amend its operating license with the NRC first, a process that would take several months, require trial-like public hearings, and has no guarantee of approval. The reasoning the Board gave was that the restart scheme constituted an "experiment" which necessitated a license amendment. SCE officials said that this decision, along with the costs associated with keeping the plant in a restart ready position as well as replacing the power San Onofre previously generated, is what convinced the company to permanently shut down the facility.

"SONGS has served this region for over 40 years," said Ted Craver, Chairman and CEO of Edison International, parent company of SCE, "but we have concluded that the continuing uncertainty about when or if SONGS might return to service was not good for our customers, our investors, or the need to plan for our region's long-term electricity needs."

The decommissioning process is estimated to take several years, the staff at San Onofre being reduced from 1500 employees to roughly 400 employees by the end of 2013. SCE also mentioned that it plans to recuperate damages from MHI. Mr. Litzinger said that SCE was working with the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), the California Energy Commission, and the California Public Utilities Commission to plan for Southern California's energy needs in the wake of San Onofre's retirement.





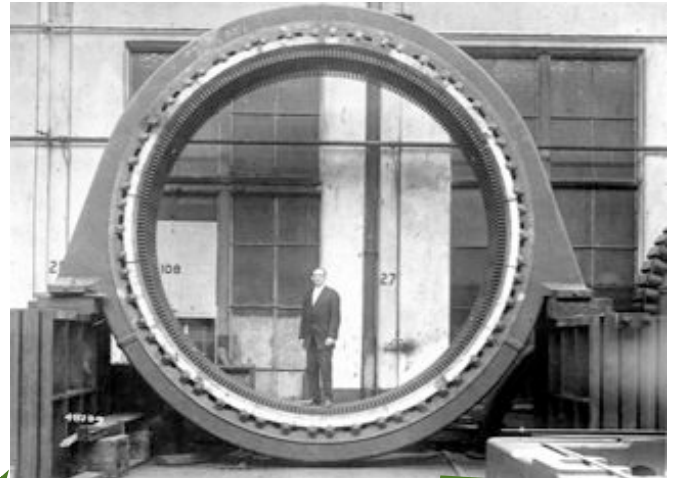
Mystery History



Above is a photo showing a parking lot full of older model cars and horse-drawn carriages. This event occurred in the early 1900s and was one of the most significant milestones in the history of Los Angeles.

a) Name the event:

b) What was the date of the event?



This photo is not that of a time machine. It is the stator of a generator used in one of the first hydro power plants constructed by the Los Angeles Bureau of Power and Light (DWP).

a) What is the name of the power plant?

b) Where is it located?

Answers can be found at: http://waterandpower.org/museum/Mystery_History_July_2013.html



Jack Feldman,
Webmaster,
Mystery History
Creator.



Chin Chang,
Newsletter
E.mail Editor



Carlos Solorza,
Treasurer,
Membership Chair

Have you visited our website recently?

It is informative, historically accurate, factual, current, and regularly updated.

You will find it easy to navigate and locate what you are looking for or to just explore.

CHECK IT OUT!

More members are requesting their Newsletter copies by e.mail instead of or in addition to the hard-copy. This courtesy is extended to members only.

To receive your Newsletter by e.mail, simply send your request to:
dormfull@att.net

Our quarterly Newsletter is published in January, April, July, and October.

Current and former members who have yet to pay 2013 dues are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

New members are invited to join The Associates throughout the year.

Just send your request, name & contact numbers to:
dormfull@att.net

Donation\$ are always welcome from members *and* supporters.



Scott Munson

"On December 12, 2012, the Water And Power Associates (W&PA) viewed a presentation from the Los Angeles Department of Water And Power (LADWP) staff regarding the LADWP's Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Project.

After much discussion and understanding that the LADWP had already spent \$1.2 billion on the project, W&PA adopted a resolution dated February 9, 2013. A key issue of the resolution is that LADWP should be responsible to mitigate only the dust caused by its diversion of the Owens River.

On May 9, 2013 W&PA Board Member, Scott Munson, presented the W&PA resolution to the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC). After a presentation by LADWP staff, followed by Q & A, the VANC adopted a resolution basically the same as the WPA resolution. It was sent to the LA City Council, LA Mayor, the LADWP Board of Commissioners and top management. ☺

(Scott Munson is an elected member of the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council and represents them on the VANC.)"



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>(Resolution reprinted from April 2013 W&PA Newsletter Issue, page 2) February 19, 2013 Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District 157 Short Street Bishop, CA 93514 Attention: Theodore D. Schade, Air Pollution Control Officer</p> <p>Honorable District Board, Los Angeles Water and Power Associates, Inc. is a non profit, independent, private organization</p> | <p>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, Southern California and the State of California. From time to time it takes positions on critical issues within its areas of concern.</p> <p>At its annual meeting on February 9, 2013, the membership of the Los Angeles Water and Power Associates, Inc., adopted the enclosed position paper regarding</p> | <p>the present lawsuit between the City of Los Angeles and the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District over mitigation of dust from the Owens Lake.</p> <p>We respectfully request that the enclosed position paper be read into the public record at the public comment period of the hearing to be conducted by the Great Basin District at its meeting on Thursday, March 17 2013.</p> <p>Respectfully David J. Oliphant, Secretary</p> |
|---|---|---|

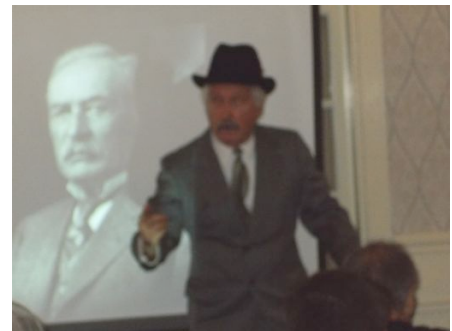


John Schumann & Ed Schlotman beneath the Spaceship Endeavour.

In February, a dozen Associates and family members were guests of THE MUSES of the California Science Center Foundation for a luncheon, a viewing of the IMAX film "The Blue Planet", a presentation by Dr. Kenneth Phillips, Curator of the Aerospace Museum, about the acquisition of the spaceship, and a tour of the Ochin Hanger.



David & Rita Oliphant & granddaughter were among 105 attendees for lunch at the California Science Center before the Endeavour tour.



In May, Board member, Tiim Brick, performed an outstanding presentation as William Mullholland.

Is There **Hope** for *Faster Approval of Needed Infrastructure Projects?*



By Robert Yoshimua

Those of us in the Water and Energy Industries are well aware of the one big fault of the key environmental laws with which we are obligated to comply whenever we propose a capital project needed to maintain our level of service to our customers. **NEPA (the National Environmental Policy Act) and in California, CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) were enacted in the early '70s to require full disclosure and mitigation of the environmental impacts of infrastructure projects proposed by or regulated by government agencies.** While those laws have immeasurably benefitted society through their environmental protections, restorations, and enhancements, their misuse has also caused adverse alterations, delays, and even elimination of many needed infrastructure projects resulting in job losses, inconvenience, and unnecessary costs to developers and agencies that proposed those projects.



The structure of those laws enables opponents of any project to easily block them or delay them for years by simply forcing agencies through the many complex steps built into the environmental review process. Those laws also allow for citizen lawsuits with few safeguards against misuse. In many cases, the mere threat of such lawsuits has been sufficient to cause the project's owner to make significant, costly, and time consuming changes in order to avoid the likely drawn out litigation. Written accounts of CEQA misuse are abundant in the media and on the internet. An organization known as the CEQA Working Group, a broad-based coalition of business and civic groups, has compiled an impressive (and alarming) list of cases (including costs and consequences) where CEQA was misused to challenge projects for

reasons that have nothing to do with the environment. Two examples are provided below.

It should be noted that in each example, the proposers of the project met every requirement of CEQA, but were forced to delay, alter at additional cost, and in one case terminate the projects because of opposition by a small group of people who have a special interest in mind:

- **CARMAGGEDON.** A group of local homeowners challenged the proposed design of the Mulholland replacement bridge proposed as part of a \$1 billion



project to improve traffic flow on the I-405 freeway and on Mullholland Blvd. The challenge was made because the homeowners did not like the appearance of the proposed bridge and demanded a more elaborate design by a world-class architect befitting the upscale neighborhood in which it is located. In order to avoid a lengthy trial, the project's proposers (an agency known as LA Metro) reverted to an alternative design that was more suitable to the homeowners. That decision required two weekend closures of I-405 instead of one, delayed the project by at least six months, and added between \$4 and \$10 million to the cost of the project.

- **LucasFilm Studio Expansion.** Another group of local homeowners in Marin County were able to kill a proposed project in a rural area of Marin County on land owned by LucasFilm and appropriately zoned for the proposed use.

- **The homeowners challenged the project on numerous occasions over a 27-year (!) period based on the allegation that the project was inappropriately located and would ruin the bucolic setting.**

During that time, LucasFilm significantly downsized the project, added \$50 to \$70 million worth of environmental protections and enhancements, and arranged to permanently preserve 78% of the property as natural open space.

- An environmental impact report (EIR) was originally approved by the planning commission in 1996 and a revised draft EIR was approved in 2012. Despite the numerous mitigations built into the latest plan, the homeowners appealed to the County Board of Supervisors who voted to delay the project until "more environmental studies could be performed". That action proved to be the last straw for LucasFilm, which withdrew its application and terminated the project. Loss of the project will result in the loss of 800 high-tech and construction jobs, tens of millions in tax revenue, and at least \$50 million worth of environmental restoration.

A number of egregious misuses of CEQA were reported recently by Evan Halper in an article he wrote for the Los Angeles Times. According to Halper, a group known as "California Unions for Reliable Energy" has filed **dozens** of lawsuits under CEQA against the proposers of power plant projects. *The group withdraws its objections as soon as favorable labor agreements are secured with the projects' owners.* Halper cites other cases in his article where unions, businesses, or NIMBYs (**not-in-my-back-yard**) have similarly misused CEQA to support a special interest **unrelated** to protection of the environment. (Continued on page 9)





(Continued from page 8)

Until now, our elected representatives have been reluctant to take a stand against this type of misuse for fear of being labeled “anti-environment”. For that reason, most politicians, especially in California have avoided criticism of any environmental regulation or law. However, in just the last two months, two of our most visible elected representatives have vowed to take action, giving us new hope that reforms are on the way.

Following his trip to China, during which he marveled at the rapid approval process for public works construction in that country, Governor Jerry Brown acknowledged the difficulties of misuse of CEQA and expressed his desire to fix the problem by the time he leaves office. U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer recently took a bold step forward by *advocating for the Water Resources Development Act of 2013, which includes a provision that would set a time limit on environmental reviews of water projects.* Earlier in the year, a third elected representative, State Senator Darrell Steinberg introduced

S.B. 731, which will streamline the CEQA process and shorten delays due to lawsuits applying primarily to infill projects. S.B. 731 passed the senate late in May and is currently under review in the Assembly. S.B. 731 has gained the endorsement of Mayors Villaraigosa (Los Angeles), Reed (San Jose), Lee (San Francisco), and Johnson (Sacramento).

The legislative actions described above are expected to meet resistance, primarily from Democratic representatives in the U.S. Senate and California Assembly who have long supported environmental protection and have expressed concern about these proposed laws.

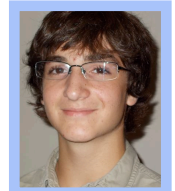
The progress of these bills will be worth watching, and I plan to follow them and report on them as they evolve. However, the more important point here is that our lawmakers have finally acknowledged the flaws in both CEQA and NEPA and have indicated a willingness to take them on in the face of continuing opposition from environmentalists and unions. ♡

TO OUR RECENT GUESTS

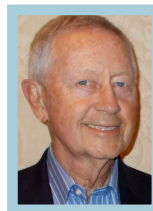
Welcome



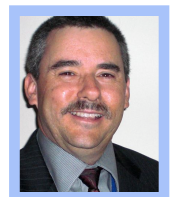
David Abel,
Chairman,
Managing Director
VERDEXCHANGE
(Guest of Steve Erie)



Leonardo Diamant,
of St. Louis, Missouri. Leo plays
classical piano in High School.,
works part-time as a caddy at a
St. Louis golf club.
(grandson of David Oliphant)



Duane Georgeson,
retired LADWP Water System
Assistant General Manager



William Glauz,
Power Engineer Manager,
LADWP
(Guest luncheon speaker)



Abe Hoffman,
former Board member and
author of *Vision or Villainy:*
Origins of the Owens Valley
Controversy



Frederick H. Pickel, Ph.D.
Executive Director/Ratepayer
(Guest luncheon speaker)

Thank You

National Environmental Policy Act

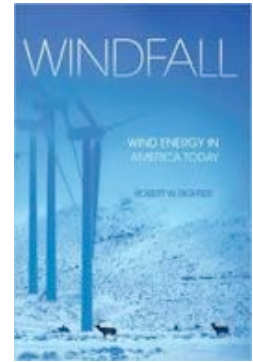
Signed into law by President Richard Nixon on January 1, 1970, NEPA set forth a bold new vision for America. Acknowledging the decades of environmental neglect that had significantly degraded the nation's landscape and damaged the human environment, the law was established to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans. ♡

BOOK



REVIEW

WINDFALL: Wind Energy in America Today, by Robert W. Righter. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2011. 218 pp. Illustrations, Notes, Suggested Readings, Index. Paper, \$19.95.



In 1996 Robert Righter, Research Professor of History at Southern Methodist University, published *Wind: Energy in America: A History*. In his introduction to his new book, Righter notes that “the wind energy business had made astounding progress, advances that few anticipated” (p. xiv). So much has happened since the publication of his earlier book that Righter decided to write a new work rather than attempt a revised edition of his 1996 study. The result is an informative and engaging status report on wind as a source of renewable energy for America.

Righter concedes at the outset that wind energy cannot provide more than 25% of the nation’s power needs, yet that figure would go far in reducing the use of non-renewable resources. The author reviews the early history of windmills and turbines in the United States and then proceeds to deal with such topics as turbine reliability, connecting turbines to a grid,

government subsidies, the NIMBY opposition, and the many developments and improvements in turbine technology.

Southern California residents have encountered hundreds of turbines, their propellers slowly revolving in San Gorgonio Pass on I-10 near Palm Springs, or in Tehachapi Pass west of the town of Mojave. From the privacy of an automobile with windows up and air conditioner on, these turbines seem like silent sentinels gently helping the environment as they generate power from wind. However, Righter does not hesitate in reporting complaints about wind turbines. For one thing, they aren’t silent. Residents who find that power companies have installed wind turbines in close proximity to their homes complain of headaches, insomnia, and frazzled nerves from the steady thrumming of the turbines. There also are complaints that the turbines blight the environment,

though in fairness turbines also have their champions who compare them to the windmills on Old West farms.

Government subsidies are another touchy subject. Righter argues that in comparison with coal and oil subsidies, federal money for wind energy, although dramatically increased in the past thirty years or so, is still a small fraction of federal largesse doled out for power development. U.S. power companies, rushing to obtain those federal funds, often as not have built unreliable turbines that have a short functioning life. Denmark, a small country with a long history of utilizing wind energy, is the world’s foremost manufacturer of reliable, efficient turbines. The United States has some catching up to do in this regard.

It should be noted that this book, while intended for the general reader, is well documented with notes and bibliography. It is a tribute to Righter’s writing skills that his facts and figures are presented in a very readable style, and for that reason the book merits a wide audience, especially since the topic is such an important one. ☺

Abraham Hoffman
teaches history at Los
Angeles Valley College



Celebrating 100 Years Anniversary of the Completion of the Los Angeles Aqueduct at The Cascades



On Saturday, June 22, WAPA member **Abe Hoffman** gave a presentation on the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Los Angeles Aqueduct. He described the celebration that took place at the Cascades at Sylmar where up to 40,000 people showed up on November 5, 1913, for the ceremony. He also discussed the controversy surrounding the way in which the city obtained the water rights to the Owens River and the roles played by Fred Eaton, William Mulholland, and Joseph B. Lippincott in securing those water rights.

As an added feature, Hoffman discussed the issue of Mary Austin denigrating her ex-husband, Stafford

Austin as to which of the two deserved credit for alerting the Department of the Interior officials as to the conflict of interest regarding Lippincott as a Reclamation Service engineer while working on behalf of the City of Los Angeles. Hoffman noted the tendency of literary biographers to accept Mary's version of events, whereas historians examining primary source material have found that Stafford was the whistle blower. Hoffman has written about this in "Mary Austin, Stafford Austin, and the Owens Valley," *Journal of the Southwest*, 53 (Autumn/Winter 2011).

The Eastern California Museum and Metabolic Studio sponsored the

event. The Museum, which opened an exhibit May 11th on the construction site of the aqueduct, is located across the street from the house where Mary Austin lived in 1905. The proximity of the house to the Museum brought past to present together in an unusual way.

The Museum also ordered copies of and sponsored a book-signing of Hoffman's book *Vision or Villainy: Origins of the Owens Valley-Los Angeles Water Controversy*. The audience was enthusiastic and very interested in the aqueduct's history, as evidenced by a lively question and answer period following his presentation. ♪

