

# Water and Power Associates, Inc. Newsletter

Year 44, Volume 4 — October 2015



## Guest: Zev Yaroslavsky and the Olympics

The featured speaker at the Associates September Board meeting, former County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, discussed among other topics the current Olympics proposal. Unlike the 1984 Olympics where the City insisted the International Olympics Committee (IOC) provide the City with a “hold harmless” agreement, the present proposal could leave Los Angeles responsible for costly overruns. There are two potential problems in the present proposal:

1. There is no inclusion in the budget for Olympics security costs, who pays them and how much. In 2012, that cost London an additional \$1.6 billion.

2. The IOC demands that there be one Olympics village for all of the athletes. The present proposal suggests a new site which would require a billion dollar relocation cost. In 1984, the Olympic athletes used the UCLA and USC dormitories. If they were to follow the way the Olympics were organized in 1984, the City could make a profit. We must get people to talk about the costs so the City does it right. We must consider the worst case scenarios because if we don't we may experience them. ☺

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## LADWP HISTORICAL EXHIBIT AT the EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES MONUMENT

By Gerald A. Gewe



The development of a Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Historical Exhibit in the Hammel Building on Olvera Street was approved on August 4th by the Commissioners of LADWP and the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Monument Department (El Pueblo).

This new Exhibit will include the relocation of the existing History of Water Exhibit (which has been closed because it was not accessible to people with disabilities), expanded exhibits highlighting the role of the Department in the founding and development of Los Angeles, and present information on the sustainability efforts being undertaken by LADWP.

The Hammel building which fronts on Olvera Street and also includes access to North Main Street is particularly suited for this exhibit because it contains an exposed portion of the Zanja Madre, (the original water distribution system of Los Angeles). It also has sufficient space to greatly expand the

current displays to cover the historical roles of water and power in the development of the City of Los Angeles, as well as allowing for rotating exhibits focusing on current issues.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the agencies stipulates LADWP will provide up to \$195,000 for capital improvements, design, installation, and on-going presentation of exhibits. El Pueblo will be responsible for coordinating the development of the exhibit; providing staffing consistent with all the other museums in El Pueblo; and performing the maintenance and operations of the site once the project is completed.

It is anticipated that the exhibit will open in about a year and that it will last about 10 years before major changes would need to be considered.

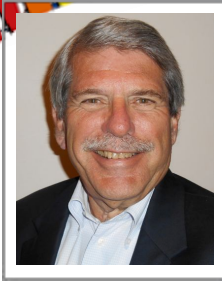
The Water and Power Associates will be looking at the possibility of augmenting the staff of Museum through providing docent services for the exhibit. ☺

### Water and Power Associates, Inc.

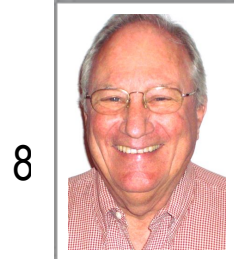
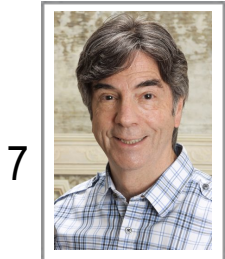
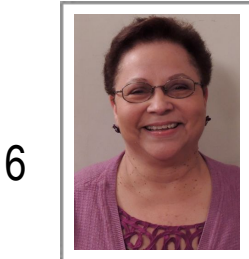
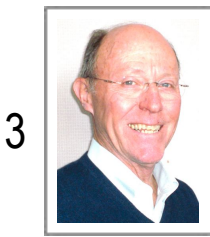
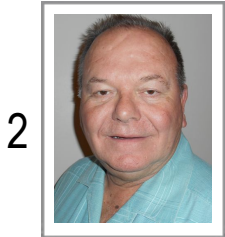
is a non profit, independent, private organization incorporated in 1971 to inform and educate its members, public officials and the general public on critical water and energy issues affecting the citizens of Los Angeles, of Southern California and of the State of California.



# Our Recent Guests



**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
 is a former member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors where he served for 20 years from District 3. He was first elected to the board in 1994. Yaroslavsky served on the Los Angeles City Council from 1975 to 1994. He has been active in the areas of transportation, the environment, health care and cultural affairs.



**1 David Abel**  
 The founder of ABL Inc. and the VerdeXchange conference. He created the VerdeXchange Institute—an environmental think tank

**2 Wally Baker,**  
 Former W&PA board member and former LAEDC vice president for policy consulting.

**3 Eldon Cotton**  
 Former assistant general manager for power at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Recently named interim general manager of the Northern California Power Agency, a Roseville-based organization that owns and operates geothermal, hydroelectric and combustion turbine plants throughout Northern California.

**4 Ronald F. Deaton**  
 Honored at L.A. City Hall for 42 years of service as one of the most powerful figures in Los Angeles history, former General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and former L.A. Chief Legislative Analyst.

**5 Sarah Dusseault**  
 Chief of Staff and Sr. Policy Advisor to City Councilperson David Ryu. Former L.A. City Deputy Mayor to Mayor Eric Garcetti.

**6 Vicky Herrera**  
 City of Huntington Park Community Development Department, Health And Education Commission

**7 Carl D. Jacobs**  
 Singer. Also President of the Carl D. Jacobs Group, management consulting.

**8 Michael J. Moore**  
 Former WAPA Board Member; Retired LADWP Manager of Public and Governmental Affairs; Former Retiree Representative on DWP Retirement Board.

**9 David Ryu**  
 The Los Angeles City Council's first Korean American member, Sworn in September 6, 2015. Succeeded Tom LaBonge in Council District 4.

**10 Julie Spacht**  
 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Water Executive Managing Engineer.

## APPA INDIVIDUAL LEADERSHIP AWARD ALEX RADIN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



**2015  
Award Winner:  
Phyllis E. Currie**



to our Board of Directors member,  
*Phyllis E. Currie*  
who received the prestigious  
American Public Power Association (APPA)  
Alex Radin Award.

Currie also retired this year as  
General Manager of Pasadena Water And Power,  
and formerly served as LADWP Chief Financial Officer.



**Alex Radin  
Distinguished  
Service Award**

This award, initiated in 1953, was the first major award given by APPA. It was renamed the Alex Radin Distinguished Service Award in 1986 to honor Alex Radin, who served as APPA's executive director from 1951 to 1986. It is the highest award granted by the Association and is bestowed in recognition of exceptional leadership in and dedication to public power.

**Eligibility:** Any official of an APPA member utility who has been active in the Association for at least 10 years is eligible. Current officers of APPA's Board of Directors are not eligible.

**Criteria:** Nominees should have demonstrated leadership and made contributions to public power locally and nationally; be recognized by their peers, exemplify the highest ideals and finest traditions in management, and have made contributions to the betterment of the community, the region, and the nation.

### Previous Radin Award Recipients from California:

- 1954 Samuel B. Morris  
Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
- 1960 William S. Peterson  
Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
- 1965 Ivan L. Bateman  
Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
- 1983 James L. Mulloy  
Los Angeles Department of Water & Power,
- 1988 Gordon W. Hoyt  
City of Anaheim
- 1998 Bill D. Carnahan  
Riverside Public Utilities
- 1999 David S. Freeman  
Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
- 2007 Jan Schori  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District, .

### Newsletter Contributors



**Jack  
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Mystery History



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Fuller**  
Editor



**Gerald A.  
Gewe**  
DWP Museum



**Abraham  
Hoffman, PhD**  
Book Review



**Thomas J.  
McCarthy**  
Power Clips



**David J.  
Oliphant**  
NL Copy Proof,  
Book Review



**Edward A.  
Schlotman**  
President



By Thomas J. McCarthy



### Sunny San Diego fights New Utility Charges on Rooftop Solar

The city of San Diego said changes to rooftop solar tariffs proposed by California utilities would hamper the renewable energy market and interfere with local plans to address climate change. "The city, in filings Tuesday with state utility regulators, took issue with a request from San Diego Gas & Electric to add a monthly 'grid connection' fee for solar customers as well as special charges based on peak periodic energy use, regardless of overall monthly electricity consumption," the San Diego Union-Tribune reports.

[\*San Diego Union-Tribune\*](#), Sept. 1



### Government Report Finds Economic Benefits of Oil Exports

A long-awaited study by the Obama administration concludes that lifting the nation's four-decade ban on oil exports would not increase U.S. gasoline prices and could even help lower them, raising the stakes in the debate about whether to lift or relax the ban. The U.S. Energy Information Administration issued the report Tuesday, and it is expected to provide momentum to efforts by the oil industry and its supporters in Congress eager to end the ban and tap higher-priced foreign buyers amid surging global supplies and market rout that has brought prices to six-year lows, the Wall Street Journal reports.

[\*Wall Street Journal\*](#), Sept. 1



### Berkshire Hathaway Shareholders Sign Petition Supporting Rooftop Solar

More than 18,000 people have signed a petition asking Warren Buffett and NV Energy to ease what it calls their opposition to rooftop solar. "The petition, released by [\*ClimateTruth.org\*](#), includes more than 400 signatories who are investors in Buffett's holding company, Berkshire Hathaway, which includes NV Energy," the Las Vegas Sun reports.

[\*Las Vegas Sun\*](#), Sept. 2



### Retirees: A Utility's Secret Weapon in the Net Metering Battle (Opinion, John Egan)

Retirees can be engaged stakeholders that are willing and able to explain a utility's initiatives in the community. They can enhance and extend the impact of paid communications staff. "They can educate customers, which removes obstacles to your business plans. They can represent at community events, where they can serve as the face and voice of your utility in the community," writes John Egan in an opinion piece.

[\*Intelligent Utility\*](#), Sept. 2



### Battery Frenemies Tesla and Panasonic Poised for a Fight in Europe

Panasonic Corp., which makes the lithium-ion batteries for Tesla Motors Inc.'s cars, will begin selling batteries that power homes in Europe, starting in Germany, where people are given greater incentives to switch to solar-generated electricity. "The push into international markets with home batteries will put the Japanese company into direct competition with flagship customer Tesla, which in May unveiled a suite of batteries to store electricity for homes and businesses," Bloomberg reports

[\*Bloomberg\*](#), Sept. 2



### Spurred by Innovators Like Tesla, the Energy Storage Business Is Growing Fast

Back in May, Tesla turned heads when it announced its plans for a new battery product, which would allow homes and large-scale commercial operations to store energy from solar panels or serve as a backup power source during grid outages. "And now, a new report released Wednesday highlights the leaps and bounds this new industry — dubbed energy storage — is making, and predicts its continued growth in the coming year," the Washington Post reports.

[\*Washington Post\*](#), Sept. 2



### GE Signs Largest Battery Storage Deal to Date

General Electric (GE) signed its largest energy storage deal to date to provide Coachella Energy Storage Partners with a 30-megawatt battery system as part of a contract with Imperial Irrigation District (IID). "The storage facility will be located about 100 miles east of San Diego. IID is the third-largest public power utility in California and the nation's largest irrigation district," Greentech Media reports.



## Financial strain: CA climate law could squeeze public utility budgets

On Friday [September 11], the California State Assembly passed a landmark climate change bill calling for, among other things, a significant increase in the use of renewable energy.

The legislation, the Clean Energy and Reduction Act (SB 350), is now in the hands of California's Gov. Jerry Brown who is widely expected to sign the legislation later this month.

One of the issues Gov. Brown may consider before doing so is the impact the legislation could have on California's public power utilities.

The legislation could amplify several financial issues likely to affect public power utilities over the medium to long term, according to Fitch Ratings.

SB 350 includes several provisions that could increase costs for the state's public power utilities. In particular, public power utilities may need to stretch their resources in order to comply with the increase in California's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) to 50 percent by 2030 envisioned by the bill.

The higher RPS requirement will be phased in over the course of a decade during which utilities will be required to achieve a series of increasingly ambitious renewable energy targets. In particular, under the legislation, 40 percent of all power purchased by utilities must be generated by renewable energy resources by 2024, 45 percent by 2027 and 50 percent by the end of 2030. The accelerated increase in renewable energy targets will likely force public power utilities "to acquire resources that are generally more expensive and less flexible than thermal resources," according to Fitch's Ratings.

"Fitch expects compliance with the more stringent environmental regulation will require the state's public power utilities to transition an even greater portion of their power supply to less flexible and potentially more costly renewable energy," the credit ratings agency said in a press release on Tuesday. "Rate flexibility and the ability to preserve financial metrics in the face of these regulatory changes will be fundamental to maintaining long-term credit quality." SB 350 allows utilities that exceed their annual target to roll over credits toward future compliance years beginning in 2021.

*By William Pentland*

Managing Partner at Brookside Strategies, LLC  
Darien, Connecticut Renewables & Environment

## President Obama's Opinion Resisted As Developing Nations Reject CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Dictate



### India, China & Like-Minded Nations To Form Alliance

India and other developing countries today signaled that they would resist any "obligatory review mechanism" intended to increase their individual efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions warming the planet. Climate change negotiators from the so-called like-minded developing countries (LMDC), concluding a two-day meeting hosted by India, said any review of actions to curb greenhouse gas emissions should factor in the differential responsibilities of developed and developing countries. In a joint statement, the negotiators said the LMDCs have expressed "strong reservations" against any obligatory review mechanism to increase individual efforts of developing countries.

--[The Calcutta Telegraph](#), 15 September 2015



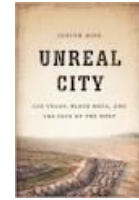
### Pasadena pays \$550,000 to settle power plant lawsuit.

The city of Pasadena agreed to pay \$550,000 in a settlement reached with the California Clean Energy Committee (CCEC) in response to claims that plans to add a natural gas turbine to the Glenarm Power Plant violated environmental laws. The CCEC plans to use the settlement to fund a study on how the city could avoid releasing excess heat from such a turbine into the air.

*August 13, San Gabriel Valley Tribune (California)*



UNREAL CITY: *Las Vegas, Black Mesa, and the Fate of the West*, by Judith Nies.  
New York: Nation Books, 2014. 294 pp. Notes, Selected Bibliography, Index. Hardbound, \$25.99.



Voltaire got it right when he wrote that “History is little else than a picture of human crimes and misfortunes,” but he didn’t give a complete definition of the burden that historians must carry. There are really three sides to a story: the winner, the loser, and the evaluation historians make as to how guilty are the winners, how innocent the losers, in their involvement with human crimes and misfortunes.

Judith Nies comes clearly down on the side of the losers, but her book provides plenty of evidence of the complicity of the winners in securing their victory. The winners in this incisive study are the powerful corporations, especially Bechtel and Peabody, along with the politicians who enacted federal laws that took the land out from under the Navajo tribe. It’s ironic that the Navajo people, historically shepherders in an arid land, sat on rich mineral wealth, especially coal. As cities such as Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and Phoenix mushroomed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, so did their demands for water and electricity. Electrical power required generating plants, and the most available commodity in the West to provide the fuel for those plants was coal. The power companies exercised influence on the Bureau of Indian Affairs to approve one-sided leases that brought little benefit to the Native people but made enormous profits for the corporations.

The most notorious example of environmental abuses, the Mohave Generating Station at Black Mesa, created toxic contamination that caused cancer and other diseases, and the Navajo got the brunt of it. After decades of polluting Southwest air, the Mohave Station was finally shut down and demolished. Nies notes that Youtube has videos of the chimney and other structures getting blown up. I checked this on You Tube, and the demolition is a sight to see. But closing down one contaminating plant didn’t end the problems the Navajo people have endured.

With the backing of Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater, who proclaimed publicly that he understood the American Indian better than did the Indian himself, a federal law was passed under the false pretenses that the Navajo had “invaded” Hopi territory and that the “trespassing” Navajo had to be evicted. Nies

convincingly demonstrates that this claim was a corruption of history (Voltaire, take note) which the national media accepted at face value. The Navajo never had much choice in telling their side of the story.

Nies casts a wide net in her book, taking in generous portions of how the Mormons came west, the land grabs of the Gilded Age, how gambling entrepreneur Don Laughlin created and promoted the town named for him, the rise of Warren Bechtel and his construction company, the building of Hoover Dam, the lopsided treaties and laws that deprived the Navajo of traditional land, the crises of water shortage in the Southwest, climate change, and other topics. Somehow Nies manages to assemble this jumble of controversial issues and weaves them together into a powerful tapestry of corporate arrogance and environmental abuse. She reports, but does not suggest, what is to be done about all this, though she champions the efforts of Roberta Blackgoat, Senator Dennis DeConcini, and a few others to right historic wrongs.

There are a few slips in her narrative—the Atomic Energy Commission, which morphed into the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, did not become the Department of Energy; the NRC is an independent agency. She confuses the causes of World War I with World War II (p. 192), and her version of Los Angeles taking Owens River water depends almost entirely on the biased and vitriolic account in Marc Reisner’s *Cadillac Desert* (pp. 164-166). However, on the whole she is generally on target, and if nothing else, this book should impel some Western historians to reconsider their triumphalist versions of the history of the West, embarrass the corporate executives and politicians who have justified their support of “development” by trampling on the rights of politically powerless people, and, at the very least, educate the populations of Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Phoenix, and other thirsty Southwest cities as to just where their electricity and water come from and how close they (and we) are to running dry in the era of climate change.

Abraham Hoffman, PhD  
teaches history at  
Los Angeles Valley College.

## TERMINAL ISLAND – *Lost Communities of Los Angeles Harbor*

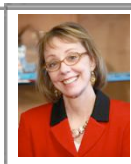
by Naomi Hirahara and Geraldine Knatz.

Illustrations assembled by Eric Lynxwiler.

Los Angeles: Angel City Press 2015, \$35.00.

**Book Review**

by David J. Oliphant



*Terminal Island; Lost Communities of Los Angeles Harbor* is the story of the growth of the world-class Port of Los Angeles from two small islands off the coast of San Pedro. One island, Rattlesnake Island, was a sandbar built from sediment washed into the coast from the San Gabriel River, no more than a quarter mile wide; the other was a 50-foot hill called Deadman's Island, joined to the first by a rock jetty.

Terminal Island grew from two factors: the activities of the human settlers who initially built squatters' homes on the island from pilings and other lumber debris, and the deepening and widening of the channel by the Army Corps of Engineers, aided by wind and tide. The book relates how the resourcefulness of those that came and settled in successive unique communities contributed to Terminal Island evolving into a world class harbor. Authored by Geraldine Knatz, the first female Director of the Port (2006-2014), and Naomi Hirahara, reporter and editor of *The Rafu Shimpō* (Los Angeles Japanese daily newspaper) during the reparations movement for World War II Japanese Americans, the story is enhanced by the illustrations assembled by Eric Lynxwiler that accompany the story. *Terminal Island* is like a time lapse exposition of the growth of the Island, told chronologically through the story of each successive contributing community. A rewarding feature is the manner in which the authors weave the personal experiences of the people involved, the freedom with which their activities were allowed to evolve without government interference, the politics, and the relationship of the changes they wrought to the physical growth of the Island.

The book begins with the early residents of Rattlesnake Island, aptly described by historian William Deverell's foreword as harbor denizens who wander the book's pages "as if sent from a central casting call for salty characters," including people like hermit Old Bob Brown who would begin his day by killing rattlesnakes and Tommy Leggett, pictured smoking a corn cob pipe as he mends his nets. The book describes chronologically how each of the groups that came settled as squatters and built their communities around different activities, to begin with just fishing, exploration and study of marine life. The Island had a bohemian phase with the arrival of artists and writers. Then it grew into a place for

recreation with beach front resorts. Photographs portray Victorian ladies at the beach paddling in the ocean, long dresses held up round their waists, and similarly dressed day-trippers arriving by railroad. Larger homes were built by the wealthy, mostly still squatters. Meanwhile, marine activities gave birth to marine studies programs such as that which ultimately engendered the Scripps Institute. Then came the growth of the fishing industry and the development of a separate Fish Harbor, where newly arrived Japanese immigrants fished for tuna while their wives worked long hours in the canneries.

The writers describe extensively the development of the Japanese Issei (immigrants) and Nisei (second generation) community, and its evolution into an American Japanese community, a unique blend of Asian and American cultures into a Japanese Village culture. They discuss the difficulties faced by the new immigrants, the animosity from the greater American community, and the Japanese community's gradual acceptance by the local community; their formation of community organizations to protect their interests both as workers and as a community. With the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, the Japanese Village at Fish Harbor was tragically doomed. With World War II fears, the Issei were rounded up and imprisoned in the Terminal Island federal prison, and the Nisei were sent inland to internment camps like Manzanar in the Owens Valley. The postwar payment of reparations during the Reagan era concludes the book.

The authors discuss the parts of community leaders in each phase of the Island's growth, and the politics involved both in governance and socially. The dispute over governance of the Island between the cities of Los Angeles, Long beach and San Pedro, is particularly intriguing. There are sufficient index and bibliographical references for those who desire further study.

Entertainingly written, beautifully illustrated with photographs organized to track well with the engrossing accounts, *Terminal Island* leaves the reader admiring the resourcefulness of lost communities that grew a man-made harbor for a world-class city out of two small islands. 🐉



**Energy Department gives \$12M for offshore carbon storage research**

The Energy Department announced grants Wednesday to fund four research projects studying the storage of carbon dioxide offshore.

The projects are being funded partially through the National Energy Technology Laboratory's program on carbon storage, which is aiming for commercial deployment of carbon capture and storage by 2035.

"The funded research projects will assess the prospective geologic storage potential of offshore subsurface depleted oil and natural gas reservoirs and saline formations on the East Coast and the Gulf of Mexico," the agency said in a statement. "These projects will use existing geologic and geophysical data to conduct a prospective storage resource assessment that will approximate the amount of carbon dioxide that can be safely stored."

Although it could have other applications, carbon storage is most frequently researched as a way to sequester carbon that is captured from a coal-fired power plant to reduce the global warming impact from burning coal.

Carbon capture is still being developed, although proposed regulations from the Obama administration would require new coal-fired power plants to reduce their carbon emissions to the level achievable with a capture system.

The projects funded Wednesday will look into possible storage under the sea bed off the middle and southern Atlantic coast and in various places in the Gulf of Mexico

By [Timothy Cama](#) - 07/15/15 11:57 AM EDT



**Japan's 17,000 Tons of Nuclear Waste in Search of a Home**

Japan is searching for a permanent repository for some 17,000 tons of high-level waste from its nuclear plants. The country has had a difficult time finding a politically and financially-viable site for the disposal of the radioactive material, most of which currently resides in temporary storage, typically at reactor sites. The problem has become more acute in the years since the 2011 Fukushima disaster, as several plants are in the process of being decommissioned in response to a dramatic shift in the publications mood regarding nuclear power.

*Bloomberg*, July 10



**Local Officials Push DOE to Find Storage for San Onofre Waste**

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors moved unanimously Tuesday to pressure the Energy Department to remove and relocate the spent fuel stored at the closed San Onofre nuclear plant in California. "We believe it's time to make our position crystal clear to the federal government that spent nuclear fuel has no place in San Diego County," said Supervisor Dianne Jacob (R), who introduced the measure. "The Department of Energy needs to step up and find a permanent place for this nuclear waste."

*Environment & Energy Publishing*, Sept. 15



**Gas Overtakes Coal at U.S. Power Stations**



The United States generated more of its electricity from gas than from coal for the first time ever in April. Plunging prices for natural gas led to it being used to generate 31 percent of America's electricity in April, while coal contributed 30 percent. This was the first month in U.S. history that gas-fired electricity generation surpassed coal-fired generation, according to SNL Energy, and as reported by the *Financial Times (UK)*. July 12



## Key players open to discussing net metering bill changes to grandfather in solar owners



LANSING, MI -- Utilities and members of the Senate Energy and Technology Committee are open to discussions around grandfathering existing solar net metering customers into a law that changes how net metering works.

Currently, customers who participate in net metering sell excess energy back into the grid and are credited for retail rates -- the same as what they pay to get energy off of the grid. Under Senate Bill 438, solar owners would purchase their electricity at full retail price but sell excess back at essentially a wholesale rate.



As the bill is now written, it would rope the state's 1,860 existing net metering customers into the new pricing structure. But bill sponsor Sen. John Proos, R-St. Joseph, said he's open to discussing a change that would grandfather those people in.

"I think we're in a good position to discuss the possibility of grandfathering those who are currently in there," Proos said. He referenced testimony from a meeting last week where people had talked about the cost of installing solar.

"I think the advocates for those that have already invested under a particular set of rules set forth in the 2008 act have a legitimate conversation to have about whether or not we should grandfather those individuals who in some cases spent, according to testimony today, tens of thousands of their own dollars to put a solar array on their rooftop," Proos

said. "I can understand where they would be concerned that they would not be able to get what they thought would be a rate of pay at a retail rate."

The utilities are supportive of the net metering changes, but DTE Energy Director of Renewable Energy David Harwood said he'd be open to talking about grandfathering folks in.

"I think we'd be really interested in having that conversation... in a lot of ways, that make sense," Harwood said.

Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood of Taylor is Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Energy and Technology Committee. He'd like to see the overall policy proposal adjusted, allowing for growth in net metering

"I think that that's worth spending some time on, and I hope that's where we go," Hopgood said.

But he said that grandfathering could make sense as well.

"You can make an argument that grandfathering might make sense in any version of this policy going forward, because people signed into something that they thought they were going to get. And it made sense to them at that point and whatever we do may not make sense to them going forward," Hopgood said.

The Senate Energy and Technology is scheduled to meet again at 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

*Emily Lawler is a [Capitol/Business reporter for MLive](#).*



### PG&E Proposes Changes for Solar Electric

PG&E on Monday filed a proposal that urges state regulators to undertake wide-ranging changes in the solar electricity system in central and Northern California, the San Jose Mercury News reports. The proposed changes include reductions in credits available to residential solar customers, and an additional charge

based on when such consumers use electricity. "Solar is an essential part of our clean energy future," said PG&E CEO Anthony Earley. "We need smart energy reform to sustain its long-term growth in California." PG&E has over 180,000 rooftop solar customers, and added about 4,000 per month in 2014

*San Jose Mercury News, Aug. 3* 

The following two photos show early man-made LA water reservoirs used in the late 1800s. **By Jack Feldman**



(1880s) - View looking northwest showing a large body of water with boat house and sailboat. The Hollywood Hills can be seen in the distance. This mad-made lake was used as a water reservoir until the turn of the century when it was converted into a public park.



(1895) - View looking northeast showing a large body of water with the snow-capped San Gabriel Mountains in the distance. Originally used as a reservoir for the City of Los Angeles, it was later converted into a park.

**No longer used as reservoirs, the above two bodies of water are now well known city parks. What are their names?**

**Park No. 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Park No. 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers at:**

[http://waterandpower.org/museum/Mystery\\_History.html](http://waterandpower.org/museum/Mystery_History.html)



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- Scott Munson
- Melinda Rho
- Philip Shiner
- Richard West
- Robert Yoshimura
- Roberta Scharlin Zinman

**Annual Membership Meeting**  
**Saturday, February 13, 2016**

## Request for Information regarding Cafeteria in JFB (formerly GOB)

An article in an old LADWP "Intake" magazine, issued prior to the Department moving into what was then the General Office Building, described the future cafeteria as having "Varied motifs that will range from soft beige colors to bright red hues, enhanced with indirect glareless lighting. A decorative highlight will be a mural along one wall."

**Does anyone recall** such a mural at the time the cafeteria opened? If so, would you please send a description of what you remember to Jerry Gewe, Chair of the Associates Historical Record Committee at "[jgewe@hotmail.com](mailto:jgewe@hotmail.com)".



## Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Rate Proposal 2015

*Submitted by Julie Spacht,*  
LADWP Water Executive Managing Engineer..  
Edited by WAPA Board Directors

### DWP Rate Changes

*DWP forwarded to the Associates an announcement of its proposed water and power rate changes, partially summarized here:*

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is requesting a five-year rate change that seeks small rate increases each year based on the following investment priorities:

- Replacing and upgrading aging water and power infrastructure to ensure reliability.
- Transitioning water and power supplies to meet regulatory mandates and sustainability goals by expanding renewable energy, local water supplies, energy efficiency and water conservation.
- Improving customer service while keeping rates low.

Typical residential customers will see an average increase of about 3.4% for water and power on their bill each year for five years—about the same as the rate of inflation. This reflects an increase of about \$4.75 more per month, each year from 2016 through 2020 for the typical LADWP customer. A typical



residential customer averages 12 hundred-cubic-foot (HCF) of water and 500 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of power.

To help keep rates low, LADWP has saved \$467 million over three years by reducing labor costs, refinancing, and other spending cuts. This exceeded the reduction goal of \$459 million that was established during the prior power rate action in 2012. In addition, a new labor agreement with the largest LADWP employee bargaining unit will provide \$456 million in savings over three years (fiscal years 2013-14 through 2015- 2016), and an estimated \$5 billion in savings over 30 years.

More detail and explanation can be found on the DWP website under the caption [www.myladwp.com](http://www.myladwp.com).

The proposal provided four months for public review and comment, and study by the ratepayer advocate, and will go to the Council in December.

The Los Angeles Times quoted ratepayer advocate Fred Pickel as saying it was important to have regular rate reviews and commending the DWP for beginning that process. “I think it is a pragmatic proposal,” Pickle said. “It’s in the range of something that is likely to be reasonable. There are a lot of details to go through; our role is not to react off the cuff, but to dig in deep.” The earliest date it could go into effect is January 2016. ☺



### MWD proposes to recycle sewage into drinking water

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is investigating developing one of the worlds largest recycling plants to take sewage from the LA County Sanitation District and turn it into drinking water. This would help solve Southern California’s long term water supply shortage and

address waste water issues at the same time. The proposed plant could supply enough water to meet the needs of over 300,000 households. The process of designing, obtaining all of the necessary permits and environmental approvals, and constructing the plant is likely to take a decade or more and cost a billion dollars. [L.A. Times September 23, 2015](#) ☺