

# JULY 2005



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Nancy I. Day*

On July 1st Antonio Villaraigosa was sworn in as Mayor of Los Angeles. One of his first appointments was to name Mary Nichols to lead the Board of Water & Power Commissioners, a position she held previously.

Since January 1, 2004, Mary Nichols has worked at UCLA as Director of the Institute of the Environment. Prior to joining UCLA, Ms. Nichols was Secretary of Resources for the State of California. In that Cabinet-level position, she oversaw twenty-seven departments, commissions, boards and conservancies, charged with protecting forests, wildlife and fighting wildland fires. Ms. Nichols served as Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under President Clinton, and secretary for environmental affairs under former Gov. Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown.

In addition to her government experience, Mary Nichols has also worked in the non-profit arena, and served as Senior Staff Attorney and as West Coast Director of the Natural Resources Defense Council, as well as Director of the Santa Monica-based non-profit group Environment Now.

On June 14, 2005 I wrote to then Mayor-Elect Villaraigosa to let him know about the W&PA and our mission. A copy of that letter is reprinted below:

Antonio Villaraigosa  
City Hall Office  
200 N. Spring Street  
Room 425  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor-Elect Villaraigosa:

On behalf of the Water and Power Associates, Inc. (W&PA), I am writing to congratulate you on your election as Mayor of the City of Los Angeles. W&PA 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, Southern California, and the State of California. (*continued on page 2*)

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(continued from page 1)

Our organization is vitally interested in matters concerning the Department of Water and Power (DWP) and its contribution to the quality of life in Los Angeles. In 2002 the DWP celebrated its one-hundredth anniversary. Thanks in large part to the DWP's and City's visionary leadership, the DWP has provided the essential water and power resources needed to fuel the dynamic growth and vitality of our community.

As you know, DWP is an integrated power system, which controls its own generation, transmission and distribution assets. As the State of California continues to work to resolve the challenges associated with electric market restructuring, the DWP is well positioned to provide reliable and cost-effective power to its customers. This summer, when the reserve margins of Southern California Edison dip below desired levels, the DWP will be in a position to sell its surplus power to help keep the lights on. We believe those power sales should, at a minimum, cover the DWP's marginal cost of generating the power sold, plus recovery of the cost to maintain its generation and power delivery assets. The citizens of Los Angeles should not subsidize the customers of other utility companies.

Moreover, W&PA supports DWP's continued investment in energy efficiency, both on the customer and the DWP's side of the meter. We believe cost-effective investment in renewable resources will, in the long run, increase energy supply reliability, improve the environment, and contribute to lower customer rates.

W&PA is also deeply concerned about the apparent complacency with which many Los Angelenos regard our water supply. We cannot take for granted the wise investment in water resources that have enabled this City to grow and prosper. We believe it imperative that the city's elected and appointed officials be aware of pressures placed on the DWP that could impair our water rights. In particular, we are concerned that Los Angeles' water rights in the Owens Valley and Mono Basin may be needlessly jeopardized. The DWP has long provided responsible stewardship over city-owned lands in this area, working with Inyo County to maintain the best interests of all parties involved. The DWP operates and maintains mitigation projects in Owens Valley that address environmental problems. It would not be in Los Angeles' best interests to grant easements that would alienate its contractual water rights. Moreover, the City Charter requires the approval of two-thirds of the City's voters to grant such easements.

W&PA is dedicated to educating the public concerning the history of Los Angeles' water and power systems, which for more than a century fueled the economic engine of the City. This task faces numerous obstacles, including the relatively recent arrival of many city residents who know little of the city's history. And, prevailing myths (such as those created by the motion picture Chinatown) too often pass for history. We are working with the DWP to create a Learning Center that will help educate the public, and our school children, as to the people, events, and expertise that made the DWP the most efficient municipal utility in the nation.

Finally, as you consider appointments to the Water and Power Commission, we urge you to select individuals who will have the experience, dedication and foresight to insure the continued provision of reliable and cost-effective water and power resources to Los Angeles.

In closing, W&PA wish you success as you assume the duties of Mayor, and we look forward to working with you to sustain the growth and quality of life in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Nancy I. Day, President  
Water and Power Associates, Inc.



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#### **Water and Power Associates, Inc. Board of Directors**

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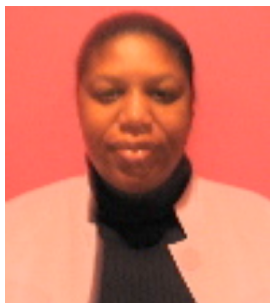
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Daniel W. Waters	James F. Wickser	

## WE WELCOME OUR FIRST TIME GUESTS



Betty A. Johnson  
*LADWP Retiree,  
General Manager's  
Office*



Angela S. Tatum  
*LADWP  
Records  
Management*

Not Pictured:

Patricia Watts, *President/CEO  
FCI Management Consultants*

## AND, AS ALWAYS, WE THANK OUR RETURN GUESTS

Anh thu-Pham,  
Hans Sonderling *W&PA Member*  
Walter Zeisel,

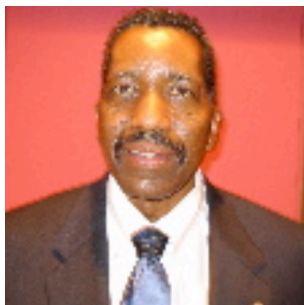
We also thank our wonderful guides at  
*The Nelhercutt Collection* in Sylmar  
for their knowledgeable, and  
informative tour of the automotive and  
locomotive exhibits and  
their comprehensive overview  
of the archiving computer systems.



Lori Thornhill,  
*Archivist / Tours*



Skip Marketti,  
*Curator / Archivist*



## GUEST SPEAKER

### GILBERT F. IVEY

Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Metropolitan Water District  
of Southern California

Mr. Ivey, Interim CEO, Metropolitan Water District, was a guest speaker at the Water and Power Associates meeting of April 13, 2005. He began his career at the MWD in 1970 as an intern and worked his way up the ladder through various positions of authority and responsibility, including management positions in the Executive Office, Administrative Services, Personnel, and Operations and Engineering.

His career included working on a number of challenging projects, including development of the MWD's Strategic Plan, the construction of the Metropolitan's headquarters building (a 12-story, 535,000 square foot facility), and negotiations relating to the Colorado River which, ultimately, led to the adoption of the Quantification Settlement Agreement.

Metropolitan and member agencies serve approximately 18 million people in Southern California, and together have contributed to Southern California having one of the strongest economies in the world.

Mr. Ivey pointed out that one aspect the water industry may not have planned as well for is the human resources aspect, and that this would be the focus of his presentation to us. He stated that one of the key challenges facing the drinking water profession is an aging work force (The average age of MWD personnel is 47; there is a need to prepare for "brain drain", to network and to mentor people). It is conservatively estimated that within the next five years, more than a third of the water professionals will retire, and that securing a trained, professional work force for the future is imperative. We need to prepare the younger workers to lead the industry. He believes that the work force should include diversity at all levels of the organization.

Legislative term limits are a detriment to the water industry. Some water contracts extend to 75 years and we need to begin thinking long-term. There is no 50-year plan or vision in desalinization, or solar. Staying the best in the industry and implementing a good business plan properly are necessary to remain good stewards for the public.

Mr. Ivey stated that this can be our legacy. 🍷



by Carlos Solorza

## Utilities Forum ~ May, 2005

CMUA – Helping utilities meet the needs of their users since 1933.  
California Municipal Utilities Association – Jerry Jordan, Executive Director

CalFed Funding      An editorial by Ray Corley,  
CMUA Government Affairs Representative.

Ray Corley



Water politics reminds me of the movie *Groundhog Day* where everything repeats itself over and over. In the late 70's I represented the City of Los Angeles and was part of the stakeholder group that got the legislation for the peripheral canal approved in SB 200 by Senator Ayala. In the final days of negotiating this bill the stakeholders had reached an impasse. Governor Jerry Brown called all of us into his conference room several times. He pounded on the table and told us he wanted SB 200 on his desk. He then would turn the meetings over to Ron Robie, the Director of Water Resources. Agreement was reached by the stakeholders that were involved and SB 200 was approved and signed.

But some people were not happy. Major central valley cotton growers thought too much had been given away to the environment. Major environmentalists felt they did not get enough. The grower's money and the environmental army joined forces and got the signatures necessary for a referendum and defeated the peripheral canal on a state wide vote.

Right after this, in 1982, I became Metropolitan Water District's lobbyist. My message to MWD then was all the different stakeholders in California water have the ability to do each other in. The only way to solve California's water problem is to bring everybody together. No one part of this state is strong enough to run over the other part.

The groundhog jumped up and CalFed was born as a coming together on California Water Problems. The goal was "Getting Better Together." A huge amount of public input came together to become the Federal Record of Decision (ROD). In August 2000 Governor Gray Davis and hundreds of water and environmental leaders stood on the steps of the Capitol to announce this great in the ROD for California water and the environment. For a brief moment everybody was holding hands.

*(Reprinted, by permission, of May 2005 article in CMUA Utilities Forum Newsletter)*

915 L Street Suite 1460 – Sacramento CA 95814  
916-441-1733 – fax 916-441-4053 [www.cmua.org](http://www.cmua.org)

Now, four and a half years later, we are still attempting to come up with a permanent finance plan. This huge time period has allowed some stakeholders to the ROD to form smaller groups to go after their own interests. You do not hear "Getting Better Together" anymore. The California Bay Delta Authority, formed in 2003 by the legislature, has worked hard to carry the plan forward again with some huge public involvement. In December 2004 the CalFed Funding Authority approved and released a finance plan. Overnight word spread throughout California this finance plan included a mysterious water fee everybody would pay. Lots of water interests, some who were CalFed stakeholders and many who were not involved in CalFed, started asking how they benefit from this fee. The expression "beneficiary pays" was madly seeking to be defined.

Legislative water leaders were concerned the Governor would define the finance plan in his May revise budget. Under the rules this would give the legislature only a few weeks to address the issue when they deal with the budget. Hearings have been held, finger pointing and executions are under way.

Senator Machado has worked hard on SB 113 which is attempting to define "beneficiary pays". He is talking to all parties. The legislative budget committees will discuss this soon. The Governor's office is also talking to all sides. It appears that because of the legislative deadlines they would adopt a bare bones CalFed budget for one year to give everybody time to work out the long term solution. Several stakeholders now say California cannot afford CalFed and let's cut it way back. Who gets their project cut? Our partners on the Federal side in Washington D.C. are asking what is going on.

It would be tragic to walk away from CalFed. This was the coming together of a wide range of competing interests to solve each others problems. Twenty five years ago the peripheral canal fight set water development back twenty years. Here comes the groundhog again but we are all too busy forming a circular firing squad. California cannot afford to let CalFed slip away. 🐿



# WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

### SACRAMENTO, MARCH 24-25, 2005

#### *Meeting Notes*



*By Abe Hoffman*

#### March 24:

**Rita Sudman**, Executive Director of the Water Education Foundation (WEF), welcomed everyone to the meeting and to review “a year of many points and decisions.”

**Michael V. Shulters**, director of the U.S. Geological Survey’s California Water Science Center, delivered the keynote address (in the absence of Governor Schwarzenegger who had been invited but declined). Shulters spoke on the topic “Urban Earth.” This decade celebrates the 126 anniversary of the Geological Survey (2002), the birth of the Reclamation Service (now Bureau of Reclamation) in 2005, the Bureau of Mines (2010), and other federal agencies in their centennial decade. The Geological Survey has been active in California since the late 1800s and continues to work with state agencies relating to earth science and in such areas as natural disasters. The year 2004 had 27 major disasters from earthquakes to fires to hurricanes in the nation. Mt. St. Helens is erupting again. Southern California has had some serious landslides. In 40 states more than 8 million acres have been burned, all this topped by the tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean. Natural disasters cannot be predicted, and they will continue to happen, with loss of life, destruction of water systems, and damage to property. The Geological Survey deals with scientific issues surrounding such disasters. The agency does more than monitor and notify—it gathers information that helps in warning of problems.

California is highly exposed to disasters that could cause \$3 billion in damages to cash crops and industries. The Geological Survey explores “Urban Earth,” the connection of people to nature, meaning what man does to the environment and the costs that result. The Urban Earth Pilot Project works to mitigate the effects of disasters. For example, the Geological Survey is working to develop a better tsunami warning system. There are 169 active volcanoes in the United States. The Geological Survey monitors rainfall to alert people to floods and potential landslides as well as information on wildfires. Floods are the most frequent cause of natural disasters. The Geological Survey issues forecasts and warnings on floods based on monitoring hydrological conditions. The Geological Survey web site updates flood gauges every 15 minutes.

Water availability is a major concern today. The Geological Survey provides information on water availability to California and the western states as to how much water we have now and how much will be available in the future.

In Question and Answers that followed, yours truly asked if it is frustrating for the Geological Survey to present scientific information to developers who ignore it, resulting in red-tagged \$4 million homes falling down in landslides as happened in southern California in late 2004 and early 2005. Shulters said his agency doesn’t deal with policy, only science, to it isn’t frustrating, at least not to him. The person sitting next to me, a biologist, asked me if I thought the question had been answered, as there seemed a clear distinction here between liberal arts/biological sciences and earth science/engineers.

#### March 24 Morning Sessions:

#### *Project Linkages—Update on State Water Project/Central Valley Project Operations*

**Lester Snow**, director of the California Department of Water Resources, said the Central Valley Project (CVP) is the biggest Bureau of Reclamation project, and the State Water Project (SWP) is the biggest state project. But local supplies provide 75% of the water in the regions they serve. Recent storms increased the snowpack to 130% as of March 23, 2005, and up to 150% in parts of the Sierra Nevada Range. Snow provided an engineering report on the capabilities of pumping and transferring water in such areas as the South Delta. His update on the State Water Plan, 2005: increase water efficiency, reliability, quality, utility, and environmental issues, all these to be integrated into water resource planning. On global climate change: reality is that Sacramento River’s snowmelt runoff is in a fairly steady *decline* over time due to more rain and less snow. Not something to be *argued*, but to be *observed*. So storage must be increased and hydrographic changes monitored in rise in the ocean and in the need for underground storage.

## WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

Kirk Rodgers, regional director of the Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, said that Central Valley Project conditions improved this past year because of the recent storms. The SWP and CVP operate less efficiently than planned or had they been built as a single entity, but all things considered, they are doing as well as they can, linked by a 1986 law. The Water Operations Management Team consists of different agencies meeting weekly and working for common goals. An example is the restoration of the Trinity River, as new works are being built to accommodate increased stream flow up to 11,000 cfs (some homeowners at riverside aren't happy about this). On the American River, agencies agree on standards to improve fish habitat; the Stanislaus River to clarify litigious disputes there; and the San Joaquin River is being studied for restoration, a plan in the formative stages.

The Question and Answer period touched on the Hetch Hetchy/O'Shaughnessy Dam issue and studies are under way as to the economic and environmental costs of dismantling the dam. This issue received further discussion at the following day's session.

### The Future of CalFED— The Plan, the Politics, the Finances.

This was a panel discussion moderated by **Steve Macaulay**, executive director, California Urban Water Agencies. He said that in the early 1990s the state had problems of severe drought, low water supplies, environmental problems, and poor water quality. In 1994 the Bay-Delta Accord was reached, launching CalFed, followed by five years of planning and coordination of agencies, not conflict. Some solid accomplishments were made following the 2000 Record of Decision—increased water quality, regional approaches to problems, reduction of conflict, and storage/conveyance plans moving forward. The Bay-Delta Authority was formed.

**Patrick Wright**, executive director, California Bay-Delta Authority: CalFed is in good shape, but long-term finances are needed to continue programs.

**Tom Birmingham**, general manager, Westlands Water District: The CalFed Plan, adopted in December 2004, is a framework that has yet to be made into a final package. CalFed agencies are still working on a program to meet the needs of all groups involved.

**Robert Meacher**, Plumas County Supervisor: The sticker shock of the plan's cost upset everyone.

**Tom Zuckerman**, attorney, Central Delta Water Agency: Agencies have to think beyond their own interests and follow the lead of regional planning.

**Tim Quinn**, vice president, State Water Project Issues, MWD: People didn't want to pay the price of the plan. Water users are willing to pay, but public money wasn't there.

**Frances Spivy-Weber**, executive director, policy, Mono Lake Committee: Resistance to the plan may be due to the Record of Decision not including new projects and approaches.

Conclusions: CalFed member agencies are not as close to cooperation as first thought, and expenses are far greater than willingness of rate payers to pay for them. Goals and promises of 2000 overreached the ability to pay the costs. The panel members reflected the CalFed plan in their failure to find a consensus. Who pays for the cost of solving a problem such as an invasive fish like the northern pike impacting a lake that feeds into the Delta? People should think regionally, not locally.

Suggestions to solve the dilemma include financing regional packages; agricultural and urban groups must "think outside the box" and come up with new approaches to using water that helps all groups; negotiate to find what can be achieved with limited resources; recognize circumstances have changed since 2000, and inform the public; remember that the framework was an accomplishment, and that implementation is a challenge.

**Agricultural and urban groups must recognize circumstances have changed since 2000, and inform the public; remember that the framework was an accomplishment, and that implementation is a challenge.**

## WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

### Afternoon Sessions:

#### *The Colorado River Drought: Sharing the Pain?*

This was a panel discussion moderated by **Gary Weatherford**, attorney, Weatherford & Taaffe. He said the next year notwithstanding, the drought in the Colorado River continues. The river in 2003 was at 57% capacity, 2004 54%, and now at 51%. Lake Powell is at 34% capacity, Mead at 62%. Should releases from the Upper Basin be lowered? The Lower Basin says no. So how much drought pain is felt by your particular interest?

**Tom Carr**, assistant director, Arizona Department of Water Resources: Arizona has been in a drought for nine years, the river for five years. There has been a severe impact on grazing land, small and mid-sized communities, and large declines in groundwater supply. The Salt River water system has had a 33% cutback. We have significant water supply shortages, and Colorado River water is being used to help ease the drought's impact.

**Michael Cohen**, senior associate, Pacific Institute for SIDES: Power revenues from Lake Powell have dropped, and the Colorado River Delta has problems. Reoperating of the Yuma desalting plant would hurt area wetlands (think desert pupfish), as the brine stream would kill plants and animals.

**Jim Davenport**, chief, water division, Colorado River Commission of Nevada: Water consumption dropped in the past two years. Developing groundwater rights in areas north of Las Vegas are under way.

**Lester Snow**: Recent rains helped ease the drought, especially in southern California.

**Don Ostler**, executive director, Upper Colorado River Commission: We have had below average inflow to Lake Powell and shortages in the Upper Basin states. This has impacted agriculture, with hay production down 40%. Diversions on the Green River have been cut back 30-50%. Recreational facilities on Lake Powell are high and dry. There are no more storage reserves.

**Bob Johnson**, regional director, Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region: It could be worse if we didn't have the reservoir system. For example, loss of power generation at Lake Mead, losing 300 megawatts. There has been negative impact on recreation such as marinas and boat ramps.

Panelists then offered views on how to deal with the problems. Suggestions included having multiple supply sources; prepare in good times for bad years; develop dry-year transfers with farmers on long-term contracts. Arizona banks water in Nevada, sharing the risk. Put water restrictions on Upper Basin states. Colorado residents complained that southern California is watering its lawns while they suffer the restrictions.

This panel provided an exercise in frustration, as the bottom line was the shortage of water continues and each state takes measures necessary to protect its interest, some doing better than others. Storage, definitions of shortage criteria is needed. So are Environmental Impact Statements, and implementation of shortage criteria by 2007. A definition of "shortage" is needed for the states in the United States and for Mexico. A tiered conservation strategy was suggested. The Bureau of Reclamation wants forbearance proposals in which the bureau pays for water not being used. Stiffer laws are needed to curb illegal diversions.

#### *Rethinking the Flood Control System— What are the Keys?*

This panel discussion was moderated by **Stuart Leavenworth**, associate editor of the *Sacramento Bee*. He presented a video on flood control, focusing on the collapse of the Jones Tract Levee in the Bay Delta, with a cost of \$100 million for repairs. The cost was \$5 K per linear foot of the levee. The state has the liability for flood damages caused by levees collapsing (a court decision). Levees are aging, and costs to repair and maintain them are increasing. What are the issues that need to be covered on flood control system?

**Joe Countryman**, consulting civil engineer and president, MBK Engineers: Design deficiencies in levees need to be corrected, and agencies can't cope with problems.

CalFed member agencies are not as close to cooperation as first thought, and expenses are far greater than willingness of rate payers to pay

March 25 Morning Sessions

## California Water Quality Issues

**Betsy Marchand**, president, the Reclamation Board: Stakeholders need to work out a consensus on how to resolve problems.

**Dennis O'Connor**, consultant, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee: Flood issues aren't just in Central Valley but are also in other parts of the state. Southern California has alluvial flood plains, not levees.

**Ron Stark**, senior policy advocate, Friends of the River: Flood plain management is critical in dealing with flood control problems.

One solution to flood control issues is the Central Valley Assessment Flood Control District, but the proposal may not have public support. The challenge is to repair/build/upgrade a levee system in the Central Valley that is 100 years old. Half a million people are at risk. There is already \$1 billion in deferred maintenance, and a total cost of \$5 billion for the task, \$2 billion from the state and \$3 billion from the federal government if they would pay for it.

Meanwhile, people keep coming to the area and have to live somewhere. Developers build homes on the flood plain. 600,000 people are affected. Where is the land use management in this discussion? O'Connor raised this question. Countryman says to define areas at risk, make accurate maps, and enforce state law that says developers cannot build on the flood plain, though they do so anyway. A "100-year event" is only a statistic as ten 100-year events can occur in ten years! Nothing is getting fixed because the agencies have no budget to fix them.

## DWP Legislative Representatives

*by LeVal Lund*

Tanja DeRivi and John Kerrigan have been assigned to the Mayor's Office as the DWP Legislative Representatives in Washington D.C. and Sacramento.



Tanja DeRivi

**Celeste Cantu**, executive director, California State Water Resources Control Board, discussed the "top ten" water quality challenges (not in order of importance). She referred people to the web site [waterboard.ca.gov](http://waterboard.ca.gov).

1. Bay-Delta. A major part of the plumbing in the California water system, it supplies 2/3 of California with water, checks salt levels, works to repel salt intrusion. It integrates water rights and water quality activities.
2. Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). There were 34 ASBS designated by the state in 1974. ASBS includes ocean areas adjacent to land—estuaries, nurseries, that need protection from waste discharge into oceans. "Waste" is generally defined. Pipes and runoffs cause lots of violations of ASBS.
3. Non-point source pollution. Growth threatens water quality. Her agency regulates all non-point sources of pollution such as canine excrement (pick up after your dog), cigarette butts, marina and boat sewage disposal, irrigated lands conditional waivers (permits are difficult to apply for in meeting requirements).
4. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program. This determines how much pollutant a water body can carry before being impaired. California implements TMDL to clean up pollution from the Gold Rush era—mercury to industrial waste; a huge challenge.
5. Planning Standards Implementation Program—This implements the California Toxics Rule, deals with permit renewals with higher standards.
6. Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). Monitors 110 watersheds in 1,200 locations. Data identifies uses and trends.
7. California Integrated Water Program (*alas, Cantu speaks very fast*).
8. Storm Water -- What is Compliance? Cities bear burden of handling storm water.
9. Groundwater Ambient ---- (GAMMA). 116 priority groundwater basins that must be monitored for contaminants. Deals with drinking water quality.

Somewhere in her rapid-fire presentation the tenth challenge got by me.



### *Perchlorate— What Should be the Drinking Water Standard?*

This panel discussion was moderated by **Bill Mills**, groundwater consulting engineer.

**Robert Howd**, from the California Environmental Protection Agency: Perchlorate a main concern, but 90 other chemicals are also being monitored. California EPA says perchlorate not as toxic as others think, and holds to 6 ppb from USEPA.

**Bruce MacIer**, USEPA: Risk assessors must find a place between data and reality of the situation. What is safe? USEPA hasn't got a number for perchlorate.

**James Strock**, Council on Water Quality: California water quality and perchlorate—cleanup is going on even though a number hasn't been established.

**Renee Sharp**, senior analyst, Environmental Working Group: Perchlorate's effect on hyperthyroid, pregnant women, and other problems in people remains of concern, not healthy people, so her group wants a lower number. Perchlorate is found in milk, lettuce, and wheat.

**Carol Williams**, executive officer, Main San Gabriel Valley Watermaster: She described dealing with perchlorate in the San Gabriel Basin, primary source of drinking water for 1.5 million people. A Superfund site, with a concentration of nitrates. Perchlorate found there at 18 ppb. In eight wells. EPA plans are delayed due to lack of planning and money. One of four treatment facilities have been built, an ion exchange facility. As of January 2005, 21 wells are out of service, 11 more in treatment. San Gabriel Valley imported water needs have increased.

**Ed Winkler**, executive director, Sacramento Groundwater Authority (established 1998): His agency includes 200 square miles north of Sacramento, where \_ million people get 40-50% of their water from groundwater supplies. Aerojet operation in area put contaminants in the groundwater, including perchlorate. In 2001, nine wells were shut down, 12 others threatened, and 12 more may be threatened as perchlorate is spreading. He called for effect on regional water supplies; containing all plumes; expediting remediation efforts; and planning for replacement water supplies.

### *The Future of Hetch Hetchy— A Restored Valley or Reservoir?*

This panel discussion was moderated by **Phil Yost**, Editorial page editor, San Jose *Mercury News*.

**Spreck Rosekrans**, economic analyst, Environmental Defense, and author of *Paradise Regained*. He strongly called for restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley. To do so, the needs of communities relying on water from Hetch Hetchy must be address. He presented composite photos showing how restoration in the valley would look. Hetch Hetchy Dam is only one of nine reservoirs. He called for building connections to those reservoirs to continue use of Tuolumne River water and San Francisco and other communities. Don Pedro Reservoir a water bank for San Francisco. Estimated costs run \$500 million to \$1.6 billion. Details on his proposal are in his book.

**(first name unavailable) Tuttle**, from California Resources Agency: What is the state's role in an issue involving municipal water system and a national park? His agency supports public dialogue about it and provides additional public policy information. Many state agencies put out studies. So have private organizations. He says California's state administration is neutral with no preconceived notions about Hetch Hetchy. He notes the web site [hetchhetchy.water.ca.gov](http://hetchhetchy.water.ca.gov).

**Susan Leal**, general manager, PUC, City and County of San Francisco: She defended the San Francisco water system utilizing Hetch Hetchy Valley, calling the system "elegant." The pipe runs 160 miles, gravity flow. No filtration needed as it comes pristine from the Hetch Hetchy Valley. She says the proposal to dismantle dam is defiling, destroying, the elegance, and replacing it with pumps, filtration, and a water works far more complex than just "pulling the plug." No more gravity flow, and losing 2/3 clean hydropower. San Francisco Bay area has 2.5 million people to serve, and models do not replace one a one for one basis, so other sources needed such as the State Water Project to make up the difference, an idea to which many other users would object. 🍷

# Historical Preservation Committee

## The Mulholland•Scattergood Learning Center and Museum



by Dave Oliphant

The Mulholland Scattergood Learning Center and Museum (MSLC) is the brainchild of a committee - the Historical Preservation Committee (HPC) - composed of Water and Power Associates board members and DWP representatives. **The committee is co-chaired by Dave Oliphant from the Associates and Thu Pham from the Department.**

As an outgrowth of working with the Department on the 2002 celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP), the Associates board became concerned about loss of DWP institutional history and the need to increase public awareness of the past and current contributions of DWP to the growth of Southern California. Commencing in 2003, the Associates began meeting with enthusiastic Department representatives to work together on the Committee to do more to preserve Department institutional history. The Committee has been working for the past two years to develop the MSLC and related projects. You may have read the article about the Historical Preservation Committee in the Department's May 30th Contact.

When completed as proposed, the MSLC will have three major functions:

- 1) to preserve the history of DWP and educate the public on its many contributions to the growth of Southern California;
- 2) to provide an interactive learning center to educate the public on significant water and power issues, current activities of the DWP, and ways in which the DWP contributes to the environment and encourages energy and water conservation; and,
- 3) to provide a learning center to encourage people to consider careers in the public utility field.

For the past two years with Thu Pham serving as the custodian, the HPC has been collecting artifacts and historical materials for the museum. Last year, the Department provided us with three rooms for storage at the Crenshaw/Baldwin Hills Commercial Office. Associates' board luncheons have included addresses by museum/learning center representatives from the **California Science Center** (David Combs), the **Huntington Museum** (Mario Enaudi), former **City Archivist** (Hynda Rudd) and **California Archives consultant** (Dr. Portia Lee).

In addition, we have received helpful advice from other experts, including Janet Fireman of the **Natural History Museum** and Lori Thornhill of the **Nethercut Museum**. We have been meeting regularly, researching extensively, so that the MSLC, when completed, will be carefully -planned and organized and an asset to the City and the Department. Board members have visited the **Airport Flight Path Learning Center**, the **Western Museum of Flight**, the **Fire Department Museum**, the **Patton Museum**, the **Nethercut Museum**, and will be visiting the **Maritime Museum** and the **Cabrillo Aquarium** at the Harbor, the **Police Department Museum**, and the **Griffith Observatory** to observe their structures and operations, to gain ideas, gather materials and information on the most successful learning centers.

One subcommittee, chaired by Victor Murillo, is presently researching the best method for archiving DWP artifacts. Angela Tatum, of **Department Records Management** and involved in **archiving DWP records**, is a member of the Committee, and is assisting us in developing an archival method for Department artifacts. It is important to recognize the difference between preservation of archives for records management (which may be for limited periods of time) and preservation of items for historical significance (which is timeless). Jim Wickser, Fred Barker, Ed Lewis, Dan Kott and Tom McCarthy are working on developing criteria for deciding what items should be retained as historic artifacts.

**One exhibit that we are lacking is any voice recording of William Mulholland.**

# The Mulholland•Scattergood Learning Center and Museum

Another subcommittee, chaired by Dick Dickinson (retired member of the CAO's office who previously worked on DWP matters), is developing plans for the interactive learning center. Dorothy Fuller, who for many years has been an active member of the **Muses of the California Science Center Foundation**, and Walter Zeisl, who has worked extensively on **Department educational and science fair projects**, are part of this subcommittee.

Other members of the HPC, in addition to those listed above, include: Mike Moore, Carlos Solorza, Lucia Alvelais, Vicki Cross, Ed Lewis and Dan Kott.

Thu Pham, who was responsible for developing the DWP's outstanding 100th Anniversary displays in 2002 that were at the Autry Museum, the Pico House, the Harbor and the Sherman Oaks Galleria, has been collecting the artifacts for MSLC displays and exhibits from around the City.

Currently, Thu Pham has taken on the added responsibility of preparing the September 8, 2005 Sesquicentennial DWP commemoration of the birth of William Mulholland. Assisted by Fred Barker (unofficial historian of the Water System in addition to his regular job), LeVal Lund, Dave Oliphant and Peter Garra, Thu spent time interviewing Catherine Mulholland, and others, collecting exhibits, and organizing them for this September celebration. As always, Catherine Mulholland has been gracious in giving her time and lending materials for the exhibits.

Recently, Thu Pham and Peter Garra directed the videotaping, using various Owens Valley historic locations as backdrops, of discussions among Catherine Mulholland, former DWP General Manager Robert Phillips, and Wells Abbot, Jr., talking of both personal and Department experiences in the development of the Los Angeles Owens Aqueduct. After the September 8th exhibit, this video of institutional history will be available for the MSLC. **One exhibit that we are lacking is any voice recording of William Mulholland. We are researching but have not yet been able to find any sound recordings. But, the search continues.**

A number of other activities of the HPC have also taken place. This month, Thu Pham met with descendants of W. B. Bledsoe, the photographer who made the 1907 - 1913 historic photographic record of the building of the Los Angeles Owens Aqueduct, including the oft-used panoramic picture of the Aqueduct's opening which shows the Cascades and Power Plant 1.

You may have read of the Metropolitan Transit Authority's (MTA) destruction of a portion of the brick-covered Zanja Madre dug up as part of construction of the Metrolink Gold Line. LeVal Lund and Fred Barker attended a meeting with others in an attempt to save a portion of the uncovered structure from further destruction. While the matter is not settled yet, we received indications that the MTA is considering building a retaining wall and viewing area around the portion so that the public will be able to see this remnant of Los Angeles' first water system. Another activity of the Committee has been to encourage the Department to develop a better system for preserving and archiving artifacts.

As you can see, the HPC has been a busy committee. **If you have any artifacts, photographs, materials and documents etc. which you feel would be useful additions to the 150th celebration and/or the MSLC, please contact Thu Pham at 213 367-1340 or Dave Oliphant at 818 363-9601. If you would be interested in volunteering to assist the MSLC, as it develops (we will be forming a volunteer core) please contact Dave Oliphant.** Among other activities for which we will need volunteers as we develop the artifact archive database, will be for people to input data. These are exciting projects with a chance to see and learn some of the unusual history of the DWP and the city of Los Angeles. 🌸

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## Request for Volunteers ~ (reprint from May 30, 2005 LADWP CONTACT)

On September 8, 2005, LADWP will celebrate William Mulholland's 150th birthday. The event will debut a special exhibit that recognizes the activities and achievements of William Mulholland. In preparation of the event, the LADWP Historical Preservation Committee is asking for volunteers to help research topics and catalog donations to be used in the related exhibit. To volunteer your time, please call Thu Pham at (213) 367-1340.

## BOOK REVIEW

**THE POLITICS OF WESTERN WATER:** The Congressional Career of Wayne Aspinall, by **Stephen C. Sturgeon**. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2002. 245 pp. Maps, Photographs, Notes, Bibliography, Index. Cloth, \$45. Order from University of Arizona Press, 355 S. Euclid, Suite 103, Tucson, AZ 85719. (800) 426-3797. [www.uapress.arizona.edu](http://www.uapress.arizona.edu).



*by Abraham Hoffman*

**Wayne Aspinall** (1896-1983) represented Colorado's Fourth Congressional District in the House of Representatives from 1950 to 1972. During that time he championed the economic development of the Western Slope region of his state against two rivals: the much more populated Front Range of Colorado east of the Rocky Mountains, and Southern California. The link between these two areas was the Colorado River, and Aspinall was determined to preserve Colorado's water rights against California's dominant role in use of the river and the urban growth in the eastern part of his state. Not always consistent in opposing his enemies, Aspinall gained national attention in his long service as chairman of the House Interior Committee in considering federal legislation for water resource development.

**Stephen Sturgeon** astutely analyzes Aspinall's influence and shortcomings in representing the Fourth District. Aspinall could never have served as an ambassador to any country. Blunt, short-tempered, and often rude to his opponents, he came to power by being at the right place at the right time, moving in seniority from freshman congressman to committee chairman in just ten years. He ruled the Interior Committee with the proverbial iron hand, holding back approval of bills he didn't like and pressing for those he favored. Unfortunately for Aspinall, the right place and time didn't remain historically static. Times changed, but he didn't. Aspinall recognized that Colorado's Western slope needed water to develop its economy. It became his primary goal to hold that water from moving down the river's course to be consumed by thirsty Californians. He strongly supported federal financing of dams and other projects to be built by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Sturgeon puts an important Colorado state perspective on issues involving California and the Colorado River. With the annual river flow overestimated in the Colorado River Compact of 1922, the Upper Basin states realized that unused allocations could ultimately be lost to California with its consistently exceeding its allotment. To subvert California's influence, Aspinall fought hard for dams on the Colorado River and in his district, winning some and losing some. He won on Glen Canyon Dam, lost on Echo Park Dam, and fought a last-ditch stand against the environmental movement. After the Supreme Court decided in favor of Arizona in *Arizona v. California* (1963, 1964), Aspinall wheeled and dealt with Carl Hayden and other Arizona representatives, delaying federal approval of the Central Project while holding out for five projects of dubious economic value for his home district.

Aspinall fought his battles for fourteen years, 1959-1972, during which time he labeled environmental organizations such as the Sierra Club "elite extremists" who had no understanding of the economic needs of his district. In the end even Colorado had enough of his obstinacy. Congressional redistricting in 1972 took away the southern half of the Western Slope and put Denver in his district. Aspinall lost the Democratic primary to a challenger who lost the general election to a Republican candidate. At age 76, having failed to connect with the changing times and a constituency that had become younger and more urban, Aspinall spent the last decade of his life lobbying for oil shale interests. Ironically, the oil shale effort collapsed in 1982, severely hurting the economy of his old district.

Lest anyone underestimate or dismiss Aspinall's role in Colorado River issues, Sturgeon offers some interesting perspectives and a few ironic twists. The disputes of the 1950s and 1960s are echoed in such current controversies as oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Dams that environmentalists opposed but were built anyway have turned out to be helpful in protecting endangered species of fish. **"If Aspinall's actions end up helping to preserve the environment of the West," note Sturgeon, "that would be an ironic outcome indeed"** (p. 162). His book is strongly based on archival research and places Colorado River and other water issues in a wider context than just focusing on Southern California. 🐼