

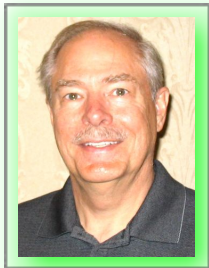
# Water and Power Associates, Inc.

## Newsletter

Year 39, Volume 2

April 2010

### President's Notes



*Kent W. Noyes*  
President, Effective March 17, 2010

### POWER

The Associates have been focusing on two very important Power issues from the beginning of the year. First, the PG&E sponsored Proposition 16 that will change the law to require a 2/3 majority vote for a community to exercise the option of providing municipal power. Second, the States' implementation of AB 32 relative to Green House Gas Legislation.

### Proposition 16

*Taken in part from Davis Vanguard News Site:*

PG&E is backing Proposition 16, which was misleadingly referred to as the "Taxpayers Right to Vote" which of course is inaccurate because taxpayers have the right to vote now. The difference is that a majority of the voters get to decide now. So the new title is "New Two-Thirds Vote Requirements for Public Electricity Providers." That ought to make it a bit more difficult. The official ballot summary reads: "Requires local governments to obtain the approval of two-thirds of the voters before providing electricity to new customers or expanding such service to new territories if any public funds or bonds are involved. Requires same two-thirds vote to provide electricity through a community choice program if any public funds or bonds are involved. Requires the vote to be in the jurisdiction of the local government and any new territory to be served. Provides exceptions to the jurisdiction of the voting requirements for a limited number of identified projects." *(Continued on page 3)*

### Pacific DC Intertie Interruption:

On March 9, 2010 the Pacific DC Intertie *plus or minus* 500kV line failed from Towers 141-3 through 144-1 (eleven towers) due to observed 120 MPH wind gusts in the Owens Valley. The line fell onto the adjacent Inyo-Barren Ridge line causing the collapse of one tower (108-1) and damage to several others. Field and engineering crews were immediately dispatched to the site.

### Damage Summary:

#### Pacific DC Intertie:

- ♦ Destroyed towers: 11  
ISH Type: 1      IGS Type: 10
- ♦ Additional towers damaged: 144-3 (IGS)
- ♦ Destroyed conductor and groundwire (16,313 feet total span length):  
2312 ACSR: 65,252 feet  
7/16" Steel GW: 32,626 feet

#### Inyo-Barren Ridge 230kV Line 1:

- Destroyed towers: Tower 108-1 (GMS)  
(three footings severely damaged)
- ♦ Additional towers damaged:  
106-4 (GMS) and 107-3 (GMS)
- ♦ Destroyed conductor and groundwire  
954 ACSR: 9,800 feet  
1/2" Steel GW: 6,220 feet

*(continued on page 2)*

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## Pacific DC Intertie

(continued from page 1)

### Restoration:

Several options were under consideration:

**Option A:** Restore line (towers, conductor and groundwire) to condition prior to failure (immediate)

**Option B:** Restore line to strengthened condition. Involves replacing one or more towers with stronger towers (would require additional outage time of at least one month).

**Option C:** Immediately restore line to condition prior to failure. Follow up with further analysis, design, and construction to strengthen line. Analysis would include meteorological and structural studies

### Inyo-Barren Ridge Line 1

#### Temporary:

- ♦ Install temporary structure at Tower 108-1
- ♦ Repair damaged towers
- ♦ Install conductor

#### Permanent:

- ♦ Repair Tower 108-1 footings
- ♦ Install replacement Tower 108-1
  - ♦ Remove temporary structure
  - ♦ Install groundwire

## Restoration Methodology

### Restoration plans for the Inyo-Barren Ridge were finalized:

- All materials necessary to temporarily restore the line are available.
- The bent arm on Tower 106-4 is being replaced by an arm scavanged from destroyed Tower 108-1.
- Tower 108-1 will be temporarily replaced by a 4-pole wood structure with v-string hardware.
- All conductors from Tower 107-4 to mid-span between 108-1 and 108-2 (1 & 1/2 spans) will be replaced with new 954 ACSR conductor.
- The West phase conductor from Tower 107-1 to mid-span between 106-4 and 106-3 (2 & 1/2 spans) will be replaced with new 954 ACSR conductor.
- The line is likely to be restored to service in its temporary configuration sometime next week, barring any unforeseen circumstances such as foul weather or equipment problems.
- The footings for Tower 108-1 will be repaired immediately.
- At the earliest convenience, Tower 108-1 will be restored and the temporary structure removed.
- Following restoration of Tower 108-1, new 1/2" ground wire will be installed between Towers 107-4 and 108-3.

### Restoration plans for the Pacific DC Intertie:

- Damaged tower guy anchors will be straightened by ISS
- Sufficient tower sections to permanently restore the line are available.
- Straightened anchors will be die-penetration tested for cracks.
- Timeframe for restoration is at least two or three weeks. ❖

*Article submitted by Thomas J. McCarthy*



Installation of IGS Tower



IGS Tower Being Lifted



Tensioner

## Pacific DC Intertie Interruption and Restoration



Temporary 4-Pole Wood Structure with V-String Hardware



Conductor Stringing

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

*(continued from page 1)*

This initiative would change the state's constitution to require a 2/3 vote by the people to allow a public utility to expand into a new location. Currently a simple majority is required.

The sole backer of this initiative is Pacific Gas and Electric. An unofficial poll showed that when voters just read the ballot title and statement, only 21% of the voters support Prop. 16. When the pollsters toss in a pro-PG&E statement from their ballot argument, "Proposition 16 would "require a city or other local government to get a two-thirds vote of its people before it could use public funds to provide or expand new electricity service to residents and business" the support rises to 32% in favor, 42% opposing.

However, do not rest easy with those numbers. According to an article in the Sacramento Business Journal on March 5th, PG&E has already spent millions on this campaign. "PG&E Corp. will spend between \$25 million and \$35 million on its campaign to fight public power this year, according to its Securities and Exchange Commission filings released today. PG&E Corp. will spend between \$.06 and \$.09 per share in shareholder money on costs "to support a state-wide ballot initiative requiring local governments to gain voter support before using taxpayer money to establish electric service," the filings said."

In 2006, the Sacramento City Council voted in favor of placing measures on the ballot to allow the Sacramento Municipal Utility District to annex the Davis service area. Following that defeat, in 2007, the Davis City Council passed a resolution in continuing support of public power. The City Council formally expressed several concerns with the initiative. *(continued on page 4)*

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

(continued from page 3)

- ♦ The initiative is currently funded solely by PG&E, which has a clear conflict of interest. The passage of the initiative would make it much more difficult for any public power project to succeed. The 2/3 vote requirement is ordinarily designed to protect the structure of government from casual change and to protect people's rights from capricious abuse of power. This initiative would do the opposite: it would remove the power of local government to protect itself from abuse by utility monopolies via a constitutional amendment. The initiative protects one private corporation and its current service area.
- ♦ Contrary to assertions made by proponents of the initiative, local governments already have experience with utilities. SMUD is a good example. Therefore, the 2/3 requirement is excessive and perhaps counterproductive to the public good.
- ♦ The SMUD Board has unanimously opposed the initiative, as has the Palo Alto City Council. Senator Lois Wolk, along with eight of her Senate colleagues, stated her concerns about Proposition 16 in a letter to the president of PG&E.
- ♦ Community Choice Aggregations (CCA) may want to provide power from more renewable resources than PGE, such as the case with Marin County's new CCA. CCAs arguably give customers a choice of where their power comes from. The initiative would make it more difficult to provide customers with options such as this.
- ♦ The Legislative Analyst's Office concluded that the proposed initiative would create an unknown impact to state and local government costs and revenues, due to the potential impacts on electricity rates and publicly owned electric utility operations.
- ♦ Nine state legislators, led by Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), warned PG&E Chairman Peter Darbee by letter that PG&E's actions might violate state law by interfering with the creation of new municipal power services.

### AB32

AB 32 requires the Air Resources Board (ARB) to develop regulations and market mechanisms to reduce California's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to their 1990 levels by 2020. (Greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide are widely believed to contribute to

global warming and other forms of climate change.) Mandatory caps on GHG emissions will begin in 2012 for significant GHG sources. The caps will be reduced over time to meet the 2020 goals.

The act requires ARB to measure the greenhouse gas emissions of the industries it determines to be significant GHG sources. The act also gives the governor the ability to suspend the emissions caps and regulations for up to one year in case of an emergency or significant economic harm. The ARB is currently developing a plan to implement the requirements of AB32. The Associates recommend that any cap and trade program that is implemented in California provide allowances to existing facilities, based on historical emissions. The program should be flexible enough to allow sources, such as those of the municipal electric utilities, the ability to achieve the goals of the program through the most cost effective means without jeopardizing their ability to continue procuring renewable energy and meeting their other system requirements.

## WATER

At present many water bills are being formulated through the California Legislature. The bills are currently stalled as the California Government struggle with the debt ridden budget.

(See also: *MWD Blue Ribbon Committee, p. 12 & Mammoth Snow Pack, p. 13.*)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Associates Board was treated to a wonderful day long Inspection Trip of Metropolitan Water District's Facilities. These included tours of MWD's Board Room in the Headquarters Building, Water Quality Lab and Water Treatment Facilities in La Vern, and a comprehensive review of the Diamond Valley Lake and Museum Complex in Riverside County. *See photos on pages 8 & 9.*

Mr. Steve Malinoski, LADWP Director of Water Distribution, was our guest speaker for our March Board meeting and addressed the water leaks and blowouts that have made the news for that last few months. Steve presented a very interesting and informative chart that showed the number that occurred this year was close to historical average but this year they just received more press coverage. Even so, the Water System is aware that they do have pipes that need to be replaced and they plan to replace 300,000 feet per year for the next ten years.

The new Associates' Board Directors were elected to the 2010-2011 term. *See Board roster on page 6.* ❖

## Pacific DC Intertie Interruption and Restoration

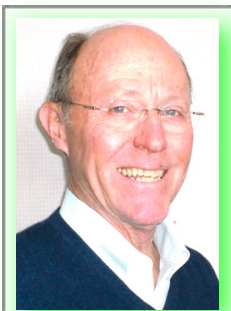


**DC Line ISH Tower Failure due to 100+ MPH Winds**

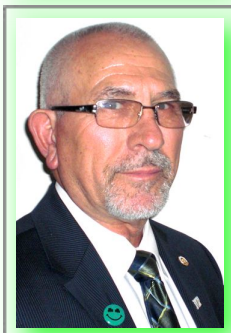


Soil Grading Between Tower 141-5 and Tower 142-1 to Comply with GO 95 Conductor to Ground Clearance Rules

*We Thank Our Recent Guests  
for their participation in our meetings*



*Eldon Cotton,*  
Retired, LADWP  
Assistant General  
Manager Power System



*Steven J. Malinoski,*  
LADWP  
Director of Water  
Distribution



*Eric M. Mills, P. E.*  
MWH Americas, Inc.  
Marketing Director



*Phil Shiner*  
Retired, L.A. City  
Attorney  
LADWP  
Director Legal Division



*Terry R. Schneider,*  
LADWP,  
Public Relations  
Specialist, Public  
Affairs and

### **Board of Directors ~ 2010-2011**

*Elected March 17, 2010*

President	Kent W. Noyes
First Vice President	John Schumann
Second Vice President	Thomas J. McCarthy
Secretary	David J. Oliphant
Treasurer	Carlos V. Solorza
Historical Preservation	David J. Oliphant
Newsletter Editor	Dorothy M. Fuller

#### **Directors-At-Large**

Robert Agopian	Wally Baker
Richard Dickinson	Joan Dym
Edgar G. Dymally	Steven P. Erie
Jack Feldman	Gregory Freeman
Edward G. "Jerry" Gladbach	Gerald A. "Jerry" Gewe
Alice Lipscomb	Michael T. Moore
Pankaj Parekh	Edward A. Schlotman
Roger D. Weisman	

*Thank You*

*Joseph Hegenbart  
Abraham Hoffman  
Peter Kanouvas  
James F. Wickser*

*For your Many Years of Service  
on the Board of Directors  
and for your Contributions to the  
Water and Power Associates, Inc.*

### **Water and Power Associates, Inc.**

is a non profit, independent, private organization  
incorporated in 1971 for informing and educating  
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.

**Membership is Open to All.**  
Contact C. Solorza at 562. 947-2662

## Introducing Our New Board Members



*Gerald A. (Jerry) Gewe*

Newly appointed director, Gerald A. (Jerry) Gewe, is no stranger to Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the City having retired as Assistant General Manager-Water of LADWP in February of 2005 following a 38 year career with the City.

Jerry started with the City's Department of Public Works in 1967 following graduation from Cal Poly, Pomona with a BS in Civil Engineering. While working for the City he attended and received a MSCE degree from the University of Southern California. He felt fortunate to be promoted to a Civil Engineering Associate Position in the Water System of LADWP in 1974 and began a 30 plus year fascinating career in the Water Industry. During his time with LADWP he held positions in most of the major areas of the Water System before rising to the top position.

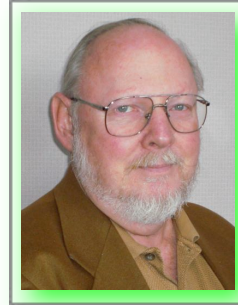
During the early 1990's he honed his communication skills through acting as the City's spokesperson on Drought Issues where he had more television time than the politicians. As a result of dealing with the water supply issues associated with the drought he became a major player in developing water policy for the City and influencing the planning and policy decisions of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

One of his major accomplishments was working with a Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Water Rates to develop a progressive, conservation oriented water rate structure that still forms the basis of the City's water rates today, nearly twenty years later.

Jerry also served Southern California through a Governor's appointment to the Colorado River Board of California and was recently appointed to a Blue Ribbon Committee established by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to identify and recommend new business models and strategies to help the region meet its long-range water needs. He also teaches on a part-time basis at California State University, Pomona and does a limited amount of consulting on water issues.

He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Water Works Association.

Jerry is married to Linda and they have two grown children. Jerry and Linda have been involved in providing assistance to rural areas of Kenya for over 20 years, and have recently taken up river cruising, which they have found to be very educational and enjoyable. ❖



*Edward A. Schlotman*

Ed Schlotman, who retired in 2004, joined the City Attorney's Office in 1965 after completing his active duty assignment as a member of the Army Reserve.

In 1966 he transferred to its Criminal Branch after Bar results were announced. Ed tried a broad variety of criminal cases including a substantial number of jury cases. He also represented the City before the United States District Court in a number of matters as well as the Ninth Circuit during his stay in the Criminal Branch.

In 1975 he was asked to interview for an opening in the Water and Power Branch and was subsequently offered the position which he accepted. It was, he said, one of the better moves he ever made. At Water and Power he went to work for Ken Downey representing mostly, but not entirely, the Water System. He soon learned that water came from places besides the kitchen faucet. His work ranged from the day to day to such matters as groundwater pumping in the Owens Valley, utility rates in the Owens Valley and Los Angeles, as well as, the annual surplus funds transfer to the City. Over time his representation broadened to include environmental and commercial matters for the Power System.

Ed succeeded Ken Downey as supervising attorney of the Division's General Counsel Section when Ken retired. In his last five years in the Office Ed served as Assistant General Counsel for Water and Power.

Since his retirement in 2004 Ed has enjoyed travel to Europe and Australia, each time with a different daughter, fulfilling a service opportunity with his church and sporadically attempting to write science fiction. He and his wife, Donna, of 39+ years intend to spend additional time in the future in Texas where his wife has family.

As those of us who know him might suspect Ed remains keenly interested in the human exploration of space. ❖

Mary Nichols, Chairperson  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812

James Goldstene, Executive Officer  
California Air Resources Board  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Comments on the January 10, 2010 Draft Report  
Allocating Emissions Allowances under California's Cap-and-Trade Program

The Los Angeles Water and Power Associates, Inc. (Associates) is pleased to provide comments on recommendations contained in the above titled report prepared by the Economic and Allocation Advisory Committee (EAAC). The Associates previously provided comments on July 30, 2008 to the California Air Resources Board (ARB) regarding its California Climate Change Scoping Plan. The Associates should not to be confused with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power or any other municipal entity.

The EAAC's recommendations to ARB regarding the allocation of allowances are to "rely principally and perhaps exclusively, on auctioning as the method for distributing allowances". This recommendation would require California's municipal electric utilities to purchase allowances, at substantial costs, just to continue to operate their systems. The EAAC projects that allowances could cost several billions of dollars. A further complication is that the proposal will add an "additional cost layer" to municipal electric utilities that are aggressively pursuing renewable energy goals. These goals, 20% by 2010 and 35% by 2020, will require substantial commitments of resources and hundreds if not billions of dollars.

So, at the very same time municipal utilities are committing major revenues to renewable energy goals, the EAAC's recommendation effectively doubles the cost burden of the utilities. Estimates of the combined cost will increase electric bills well over 70%. There does not appear to be any attempt by EAAC to address the economic effects of their recommendations in conjunction with other related programs. However, the EAAC clearly states in their report that ARB should not discourage rate increases because higher rates will encourage conservation and less demand for energy. The electric utility customer/rate payer/businesses/residents of California who will be expected to foot the bill would take issue with this philosophy.

Rulemakings should not be made in a vacuum, especially when the issues are interdependent. Therefore, the Associates recommend that before ARB takes any action, it should consider the combined effect of its recommendation.

To further the uncertainty of the costs and impacts on the customer/ratepayer/businesses/residents of California, ECCA recommends that the proceeds from the auction be given to an as yet to be determined State agency or new commission to administer the redistribution of the proceeds. The report clearly indicates that the proceeds will not necessarily go to those that paid the bills. This reallocation of potentially billions of dollars by the will of an agency or commission is ripe for misuse and will likely result in the transfer of wealth from one segment of society to another. It appears that ECCA's focus is on generating revenue for the State and not necessarily on reducing green house gases (GHG). The ability of a municipal electric utility to continue to provide services, meet system requirements, increase its renewable energy portfolio and purchase allowances will strain its ability to meet its financial responsibilities.



Therefore, the Associates recommend that, before ARB supports the establishment of another agency and another substantial program in California, it should encourage and seek input from stakeholders, the segment of society that is going to be asked to pay for it - the customer/rate payer/businesses/residents of California, and not chiefly rely on academia, environmentalists, regulators or utilities.

The Associates believe that there are several successful cap and trade programs that can be emulated by California. The Federal Acid Rain Program [FARP] for the reduction of sulphur dioxide emissions (SO<sub>2</sub>) is an excellent example for allocating allowances to existing emitting sources, with specific reduction goals. The Federal Program allows sources to participate in the market to buy or sell allowances. It provides the covered sources with a means to assess and meet their needs in the most cost effective manner while still meeting the objectives of the Acid Rain Program. The program leaves it up to the source to determine the method to achieve compliance and not the regulator.

Another example of a successful program is California's South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) Regional Clean Air Incentives Market Program (RECLAIM) to regulate emissions of nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>). Under RECLAIM, facilities received emission allocations with a declining cap. RECLAIM is also market driven in that allowances can be bought and sold and it leaves it up to the facility to determine how to achieve compliance in the most cost effective way. Both the Federal and SCAQMD programs provide facilities with initial allowances, have declining allowances and leave it up to the source to maintain compliance. The key to both of these programs is their flexibility to allow the sources to achieve compliance in the most effective manner. Therefore, the Associates recommend that ARB use a similar approach to allocate allowances to facilities and not implement the pure auction approach recommended by EAAC.

The ARB has acknowledged that there are other regional and federal GHG cap and trade programs currently under consideration. GHG emissions have no boundaries, state, regional or otherwise and should be regulated accordingly. If ARB continues with their rulemaking, there is no reason why sources covered by the ARB program could not be included in region/national programs without duplication or additional costs. The EAAC stated in their report that allowances can not be given to sources because of potential conflicts with future programs. However, the Associates believe and recommend that ARB develop and include in their rulemaking a methodology that can accommodate sources with allowances while protecting the State from conflicts with future federal or regional programs.

In summary, the Associates recommend that any cap and trade program that is implemented in California provide allowances to existing facilities, based on historical emissions. The program should be flexible enough to allow sources, such as those of the municipal electric utilities, the ability to achieve the goals of the program through the most cost effective means without jeopardizing their ability to continue procuring renewable energy and meeting their other system requirements. The benefits of this approach are clear. The objectives of the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) can be achieved. The program would be simple to implement, fair and cost effective. The customer/rate payer/businesses/residents of California will not be subjected to another substantial rate hike and the municipal electric utility will have some certainty in the management of their resources.

Sincerely,  
 Kent W.Noyes, President,  
 Water and Power Associates, Inc.

### **Los Angeles City Council, Utility Spar Over Renewables Push**

The debate between the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and city officials could "serve as a warning to officials in other cities and states who are also trying to change the energy mix of local utilities, substituting more power from renewable sources, such as wind and sun, for power from coal- or gas-burning plants," the Wall Street Journal reported today from Los Angeles. The push for renewables could spark a spike in power rates, leading to the controversy and dissension from the Los Angeles City Council.

*Wall Street Journal, April 5*

## Metropolitan Water District Inspection Trip for Associates

Throughout the trip we were given in-depth descriptions of the purposes, procedures, tools, and skills used in various Divisions. . . .

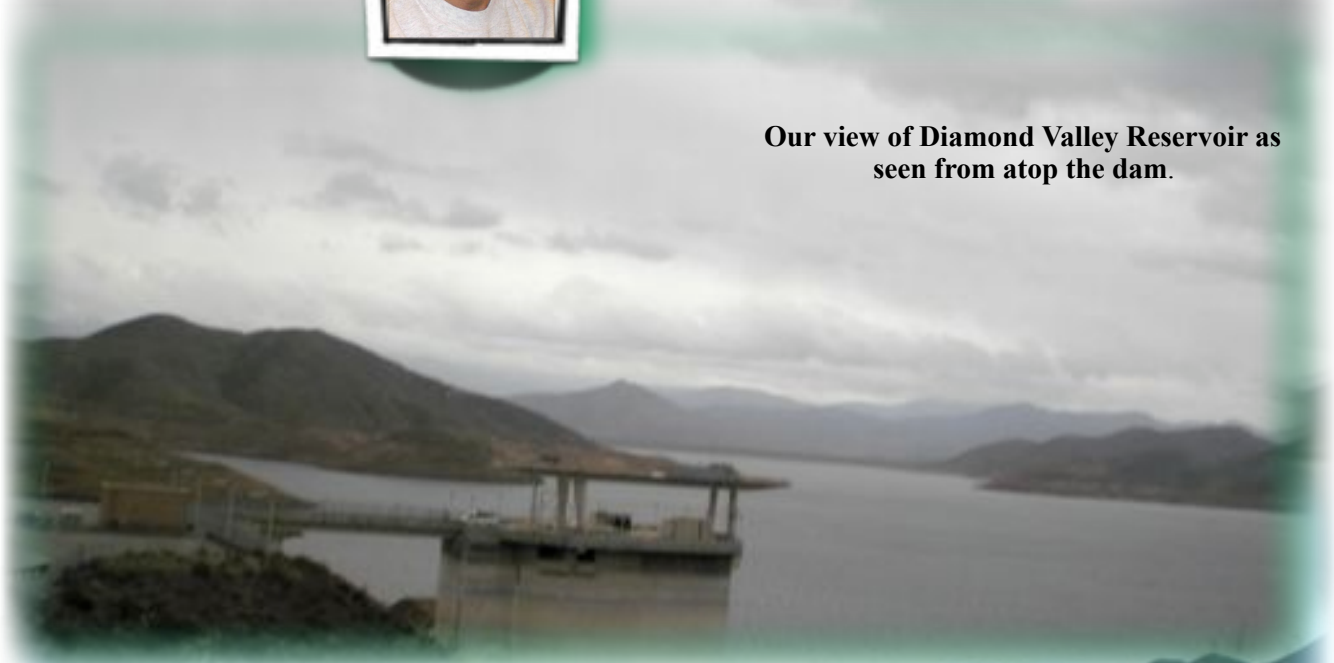


*Pat Chandler,*  
MWD, Inspection



*Maham Ahmed,*  
MWD, Intern  
Office of the Board

**Our view of Diamond Valley Reservoir as seen from atop the dam.**



### **Atop the Diamond Valley Reservoir Dam**

*Phil Shiner, Steve Erie, Dave Oliphant, John Schumann, Carlos Solorzo, Maham Ahmed, (unidentified), Pat Chambers, Anita Ruoft, John Harrigan, Alice Lipscomb, Dorothy Fuller, Tom McCarthy.*

MWD Managers gave detailed explanations of their areas of expertise.



Steve Shriver Weymouth Operations Team Manager  
Water System Operations Group



Jim Kostelecky Weymouth Plant Unit Manager  
Water System Operations Group



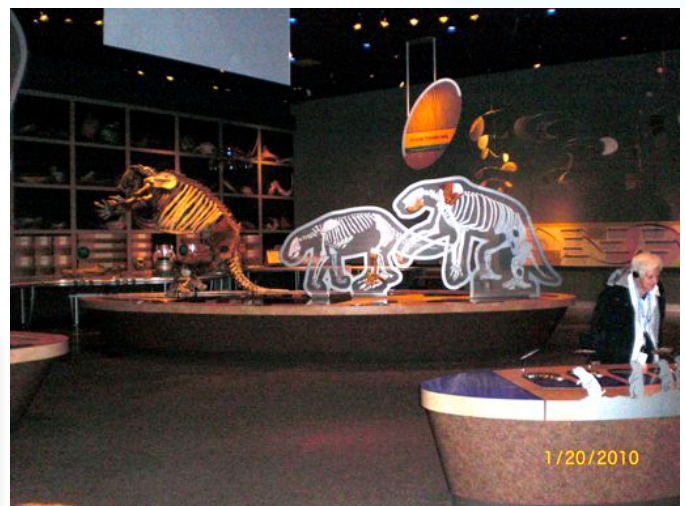
Eric W. Crofts Team Manager VI,  
Organic Chemical Compliance TeaWater Quality Section



Jeffrey P. Dennis, M.S.  
MWD, Manager Inorganic  
Chemistry Compliance,  
Water Quality Section



Luis Alberto Valverde Driver ,  
Silver State Trailways



The Western Center for Archaeology & Paleontology in Hemet houses more than one million specimens including remains of “Max”, the largest mastodon ever found in the Western U.S. Many discoveries were made by MWD workers excavating the reservoir site. The Center includes world class museum attractions, laboratories, research, and curation facilities, plus an education and conference center.  
westerncentermuseum.org

## BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE NAMED TO PROVIDE METROPOLITAN WITH INSIGHT, CHANGES NEEDED TO MEET FUTURE DEMANDS

Members of 2060 Blue Ribbon Committee drawn from  
Southland's public, private, academic sectors

*(Press Release February 9, 2010 by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California)*

A blue ribbon committee of more than 20 of Southern California's corporate, community and academic leaders was appointed by Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors today to identify and recommend new business models and strategies that will help the region meet its long-range water needs.

"This broad-based and diverse mix of leaders will give us a fresh perspective on developing approaches to reliable and sustainable imported water supplies over the next 50 years," said **Metropolitan board Chairman Timothy F. Brick**. "We're counting on the committee's insight into the global, natural, economic and demographic changes that our 5,200-square-mile service area will encounter in the future," Brick said. "The observations and recommendations to be made are critical in positioning this agency to meet the region's water-related needs and in providing sustainability in the coming decades."

**Robert Simonds**, who served as a *city of Los Angeles representative on Metropolitan's board from April 2004 to January 2006*, will chair the 2060 Blue Ribbon Committee. The committee members ratified during today's board meeting were among more than 120 nominees recommended by Metropolitan directors and managers of the district's 26 member public agencies.

Brick said the six key areas targeted by the Metropolitan board for committee review and study are:

- ♦ developing new water options for Southern California;
- ♦ energy for the future;
- ♦ economic development and new technologies;
- ♦ financial stability;
- ♦ workforce;
- ♦ and communications.

The committee's charge is to focus on the main areas to identify the best strategies and practices that can be applied to foster environmental stewardship, water reliability and new sources of competitive advantage for Southern California," Brick said.

Joining Simonds as members of the committee are **Grame Barty** of the *Australian Trade*

*Commission; Ruben Barrales of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce; Carol S. Carmichael of the California Institute of Technology; Yoram Cohen of the University of California, Los Angeles; Lucy Dunn of the Orange County Business Council; Mildred Garcia of California State University, Dominguez Hills; Lawrence Geraty, president emeritus, La Sierra University; Gerald R. Gewe, water industry professional; John R. Hanna of Hanna & Scott; Bob Hertzberg, lawyer, businessman and community activist; John Lormon, of Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves and Savitch, and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Cynthia McClain Hill of Strategic Counsel PLC; Sunne Wright McPeak of the California Emerging Technology Fund; Julie Meier-Wright of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp.; Terry O'Day of Environment Now; Mark Pisano of the University of Southern California; Betsy Rieke of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Sherry Simpson-Dean of the United Nations Association of Pasadena; Gary Toebben of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce; Robert Wilkinson of the University of California, Santa Barbara; and Lance Williams of the Los Angeles chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council.*

The genesis for the committee's formation was a November 2009 Metropolitan board retreat. The retreat featured various expert speakers on anticipated changes in the region's current environment, impacts on Metropolitan and how the district needed to adapt and meet the future demands of water supplies, energy, workforce development and communications. The committee's structure is similar to a previous blue ribbon committee convened in the early 1990s by Metropolitan's board to review the district's finances and operations.

*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.* ❖

LADWP's March 1 snow survey results which show that the snowpack in the eastern Sierra is just about normal for this time of year.

March 1, 2010

**MAMMOTH LAKES AREA** (Contributes 27% of Owens River runoff)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Water Content</u>	<u>Normal to Date</u>	<u>April 1 Normal</u>	<u>% of Normal to Date</u>	<u>% of April 1 Normal</u>
Mammoth Pass	34.92	36.6372	43.6291	0.9531	0.8003
Mammoth Lakes	19.383	18.7176	21.0863	1.0355	0.9192
Minarets 2	24.8912	26.048	30.1620	0.9555	0.8252
<b>Average:</b>	<b>26.3981</b>	<b>27.1343</b>	<b>31.6258</b>	<b>0.97286</b>	<b>0.83470</b>

**ROCK CREEK AREA** (Contributes 16% of Owens River runoff)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Water Content</u>	<u>Normal to Date</u>	<u>April 1 Normal</u>	<u>% of Normal to Date</u>	<u>% of April 1 Normal</u>
Rock Creek 1	8.2387	8.2753	7.3414	0.9955	1.1222
Rock Creek 2	8.9541	10.2930	10.5563	0.8699	0.8482
Rock Creek 3	12.7374	13.5981	15.0153	0.9367	0.8482
<b>Average:</b>	<b>9.9767</b>	<b>10.7221</b>	<b>10.9710</b>	<b>0.9304</b>	<b>0.9093</b>

**BIG PINE AREA** (Contributes 32% of Owens River runoff)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Water Content</u>	<u>Normal to Date</u>	<u>April 1 Normal</u>	<u>% of Normal to Date</u>	<u>% of April 1 Normal</u>
Big Pine Creek 1	17.3402	18.5311	22.0867	0.9357	0.7850
Big Pine Creek 2	11.5648	13.3034	14.2092	0.8693	0.8138
Big Pine Creek 3	15.9931	16.2269	18.5027	0.9855	0.8643
<b>Average:</b>	<b>14.9660</b>	<b>16.0204</b>	<b>18.2662</b>	<b>0.93418</b>	<b>0.81</b>

**COTTONWOOD AREA** (Contributes 25% of Owens River runoff)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Water Content</u>	<u>Normal to Date</u>	<u>April 1 Normal</u>	<u>% of Normal to Date</u>	<u>% of April 1 Normal</u>
Cottonwood Lakes 1	13.9714	11.2013	12.9626	1.2473	1.0778
Cottonwood Lakes 2	15.4908	11.8728	14.5168	1.3047	1.0670
Trailhead*	15.4726	11.6945	13.6173	1.3230	1.1362
<b>Average:</b>	<b>14.9783</b>	<b>11.5895</b>	<b>13.6989</b>	<b>1.2923</b>	<b>1.0933</b>

**EASTERN SIERRA OVERALL SNOW PACK** (Weighted by contribution to Owens River runoff)

<u>Average of all Snow Courses</u>	<u>Water Content</u>	<u>Normal to Date</u>	<u>April 1 Normal</u>	<u>% of Normal to Date</u>	<u>% of April 1 Normal</u>
	17.2574	17.0657	19.5642	1.0112	0.8820

## BOOK REVIEW



**BLUE COVENANT: *The Global Water Crisis and the Coming Battle for the Right to Water***, by **MAUDE BARLOW**. New York: The New Press, 2007. 196 pp. Sources and Further Reading, Index. Cloth, \$24.95. Order from the New Press, 38 Greene Street, New York, NY 10013; [www.thenewpress.com](http://www.thenewpress.com).

**Maude Barlow is the founder of the Blue Planet Project and heads the Council of Canadians**, the largest public advocacy organization in Canada. *Blue Covenant* follows her earlier *Blue Gold* (2002) as treatises on the global water crisis. The book under review examines two ideological views concerning water—human need and human right. These are not views that invite neutrality—you are on one side or the other. If you see water as a human need, water is a commodity that can be bought and sold. This is the viewpoint of the World Bank, the International Money Fund, the World Water Council, and private companies that build dams and irrigation projects, market bottled water, or are manufacturers of recyclable water systems and desalination plants.

On the other hand, if you see water as a human right, then you believe that it can't be sold or denied to someone who can't afford it. However, commodification of water has made it very difficult if not impossible for people in poor nations to obtain clean water. Barlow is a major leader in the global water justice movement and a harsh critic of the privatization of water. Her book strongly argues for water equity, and she builds her case well. She demonstrates with instance upon instance of desertification—the drying up of lakes and rivers that have been diverted for industrial use—along with pollution, broken promises from private companies, and the willingness of corrupted governments to give generous concessions to private companies. Numerous irrigation projects and waterworks systems, constructed on a for-profit basis, benefit only those who can afford to pay for the water. Everyone else lives in abject poverty, susceptible to or suffering from hunger and disease.

Barlow names names in identifying major companies, usually international in their scope, that have reaped enormous profits from their waterworks projects. Besides such international companies as Suez, Siemens, Severn Trent, and Nestle (which makes a lot more than hot cocoa), Barlow faults Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, producers of Aquafina and Dasani bottled water, for marketing bottled water so effectively that

people in the United States have come to believe it is somehow safer than tap water. As of 2007 Americans were consuming 32 billion liters of the liquid a year, with Mexico (20 billion), China and Brazil (14 billion each), and Italy and Germany (12 billion each) as major consumers of bottled water. The cost of bottled water may run 240 to 10,000 times more than the equivalent of tap water depending on whether the consumer has been brainwashed by the advertising and drinks the water while wearing designer jeans and brand-name shoes. Barlow provides an interesting statistic: one bottle of Evian costs the same as 4,000 liters of tap water.

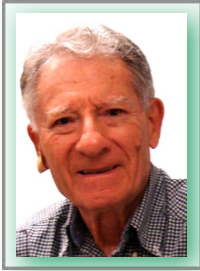
All is not gloom and doom despite the deterioration of the environment worldwide, global warming, and other factors of concern in the water crisis. There are numerous advocates of global water justice who have formed national and international organizations to pressure the United Nations and national governments to establish water as a basic human right. Barlow surveys nations and regions to note the progress—or lack of it—these organizations have made in staging public demonstrations, sponsoring forums, and arguing for either government accountability in water resources or, at the least, public-private partnerships that hold private companies responsible for keeping their promises and agreeing that even poor people are entitled to safe drinking water.

Barlow ends her book on a note of optimism. She calls for a Blue Covenant, an international agreement on water that would consist of water conservation, water justice, and water democracy, the latter point an understanding that everyone has a fundamental human right to water. Perhaps she expects too much from governments whose leaders are in bed with the water companies. But she notes that given the lengthy droughts and environmental degradation in many parts of the world, there may well come the day that desperate people demand equity from their governments. There is still time to redress the crisis, but Barlow warns that such time is limited. ❖

By *Abraham Hoffman*.  
Hoffman teaches history  
at Los Angeles Valley College.



[www.waterandpower.org](http://www.waterandpower.org)



## The Feather Bed Project

By *Leon Furgatch*

As a former Public Relations Representative my job for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power took me before many civic groups. Recently, going through a voluminous personal file I have on Governor Pat Brown's California Water Plan and the Peripheral Canal, I ran into this interesting experience that I had planned to relate to the Water and Power Speakers Club, an organization that is unfortunately no longer in existence today.

One night I spoke before a women's club about California's plans to build the Feather River Project, the greatest water conservation project every conceived by man. We now know the title of that project was changed to the California Aqueduct Project, and it has been in the news lately in connection with the Delta Smelt.

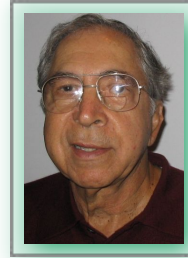
My audience that night was a group of women. Their business concluded, the program chairwoman rose to introduce me, but to my amazement she addressed the group as follows: "Our speaker tonight is Mr. Leon Furgatch, of the Department of Water and Power, and he's going to tell us about the 'Feather Bed Project'."

### *Feather beds!?!?!*

There was a period of strained silence, during which I looked at her in speechless consternation. However, to my relief, she must have realized her mistake almost immediately, because she decided to try again.

But my relief was shortlived, because the lady said: "Mr. Furgatch will speak to us about the '**Feather Bed River Project**'."

It was a very warm evening. ❖



## Letter to the Editor

By *Robert Agopian*

In response to a DAILY NEWS article in the March 16, 2010 edition, "**Battle may be looming over DWP rate hike**", Associate Robert Agopian [also a Los Angeles resident] wrote the following letter which was printed in the March 19 DAILY NEWS Editorial / Letters section, page A16:

### ***"Low-cost electricity from coal***

*Mayor Villaraigosa called Los Angeles Department of Water and Power the dirtiest utility in the country. This is the most absurd public statement I've heard by a mayor of Los Angeles. Where is the proof? Half the U.S. electric energy is generated by coal. Forty-seven percent of DWP's energy is generated by coal -- mainly at the power plant in Delta, Utah, in partnership with other utilities. Utah welcomed it. Millions were spent to clean emissions. This is low-cost, reliable, around-the-clock energy available on demand.*

*Villaraigosa stopped the low-cost coal contract from being renewed after the year 2027 when the current contract expires. This scenario is an end run around the defeat of Measure B, rejected by the Los Angeles Voters. The mayor now wants a carbon tax on electric rates so there will be millions of dollars available for installing solar panels."* ❖

## Solar (Un)Reliability By *Leon Furgatch*



In the February 1, 2010 Times Sports page, C8, there is a small 2-inch squib about the 16-year-old girl, *Abby Sutherland*, who is attempting to sail around the world by herself, but had to make a detour to Cabo San Lucas to load up on batteries because her **solar panels and wind generators, designed to provide her with electricity, were not keeping up with her needs.**

I mention the irony because everyone who mentions the flaws in this system of generation is denigrated by environmentalists and politicians who believe the rationale that this **so-called free source of energy** will solve our global warming problems. No doubt those who endorse this solution will miss the implication of Sutherland's action, but we should not. ❖

Contributors to this Newsletter also included: *Gerald Gewe* - Mammoth Snow Pack Chart.  
*Thomas J. McCarthy* - Pacific DC Intertie Interruption.