



## MEMO

---

To: Board of Directors  
From: Alan E. Clanin  
Date: Dec 29, 2017  
Subject: ACWA/JPIA Fall 2017 Conference Report / Nov 29-Nov 30

### ACWA

#### **Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall**

Kickoff of the official conference and exhibitions. Reviewed exhibits, and talked with vendors.

#### **Finance Program “Innovative Rate Structures”**

From the conference guidebook:

*A wave of litigation seems to have pushed water agencies to more conservative rate structures. This doesn't have to be the case. In this panel, we will hear from agencies and consultants who have innovated within the requirements of Prop 218.*

*Moderator: Eric Sandler, Assistant General Manager/CFO, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission*

Excellent presentation on the creative ways district rate structures are achieved. Where does a district want to earn its income? Charging a higher minimum charge or higher rate for consumption? How frequent should an agency increase rates?

Analysis: There is no right answer. All agencies differ. Population density vs. service connections. Full-time population vs. fluctuating seasonal population. Demand for irrigation. Most agencies wait too long before raising rates.

**Water Industry Trends Program “California Drinking Water: Getting the Lead Out”**

From the conference guidebook:

*Since the drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan, lead exposure through drinking water has captured national and state attention. This has led to new regulatory and legislative developments in California. This program will explore these changes to regulating drinking water protection in California-and why California Differs from Flint.*

*Moderator: Edgar Dymally, Senior Environmental Specialist, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Vice Chair of the ACWA Water Quality Committee.*

Analysis: Interesting report on the new Lead and Copper rules and regulations. The impact new regulations will have on water agencies.

**Exhibitor Case Study – “The Water Energy Nexus: Policy Drivers, Technology Innovations, and Financial Solutions”**

*Presenter: OpTerra Energy Services*

OpTerra’s technical presentation of the energy industry’s policy drivers, and the way these changes will affect the water industry.

Analysis: Cost savings through solar power generation. Banking power reserves and emergency battery backup. Possibly suitable for larger water utilities.

**Solutions Architect**

*Presenter: Badger Meter*

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI System) with direct cellular reporting without the need of collection points. How customer website, customer smart phone application and software analytics provide improved customer service.

Analysis: Very little improvement in this system over the current system the district has in place. Consumer is enticed to employ self-customer service.

## **Cloud SCADA Control Systems**

*Presenter: Xio, Inc*

Real-time control with remote management capabilities for water systems are explained and demonstrated. System security with cloud based SCADA systems.

Analysis: Interesting SCADA application. System is very capable, but deployment is not as simple as you are led to believe. SCADA app allows users to access system from anywhere with cellular service.