



## Memo

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To: Board of Directors  
From: Karl B. Drew  
Date: December 11, 2015  
Subject: Report on ACWA Conference Meetings Attended at Fall Conference in Indian Wells, CA,  
December 2 – December 4, 2015

### ACWA Meetings/Seminars

Supplemental information is not yet available on the ACWA website. Most of the PowerPoint presentations will be available at this site: <http://www.acwa.com>. There are usually videos of some of the presentations available.

### Wednesday, December 2

#### Opening Breakfast

- *Godzilla vs. the Blob: Which Weather Monster Will Win Predictions about whether California will be faced with a Godzilla El Niño or a Blob or some other monster. Condition are changing daily. An El Niño, which is a warm water swath near the equator, that occurs roughly every two to seven years, could steer massive storms toward California. The Blob, which is a giant pool of warm water off the West Coast has been blocking storms from reaching California over the past few years.*

*The outcome of this battle between climactic monsters remains to be seen, but no matter what, the weather will be the game changer for 2016. Come hear an expert predict the outcome and what it means for our drought-stricken state.*

*Keynote Speaker: Dr. Michael Dettinger, Research Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey National Research Program; Resident Scientist, University of Nevada, Reno; and Research Associate of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.*

Dr. Dettinger discussed the existing conditions. There is not enough recorded history with big El Niño years to be able to make a prediction regarding this winter's weather. The main concern is that any snow pack that is accumulated will be quickly melted with a warm storm.

#### Statewide Issue Forum - Coping with Drought on the Colorado

- *Colorado Water Basin - With California and other Western states dealing with unprecedented drought conditions, managing the Colorado River basin has become extremely challenging, requiring extensive coordination and innovation. Attend this panel to learn how California agencies are working together to deal with current conditions and to prepare for continued drought and water shortage on the Colorado River.*

*Moderator: Jim Barrett, General Manager, Coachella Valley Water District*

#### *Panelists:*

*Daniel Bunk, River Operations Manager, Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region  
Dan Denham, Colorado River Program Director, San Diego County Water Authority*

*Bill Hasencamp, Colorado River Resources, Metropolitan Water District of California  
Tina Shields, Interim Water Manager, Colorado River Resource Manager, Imperial Irrigation District  
Tanya Trujillo, Executive Director, Colorado River Board of California*

The panelists presented a good background on the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins. It was an interesting presentation with information regarding the legal agreements, historical operation, current operations and actions that are being taken to insure reliable future supplies.

#### Luncheon Meeting

- Overview & Update on the California Water Action Plan: *ACWA is pleased to welcome Secretary John Laird who will provide an overview and update on the California Water Action Plan. This plan is the Brown's administration's comprehensive statewide water plan that provides a roadmap for a more resilient water future.*

*Keynote Speaker:  
Secretary John Laird, California Natural Resources Agency*

#### Technical Presentation - Smart Infrastructure Solutions for Drought Mitigation (Aclara)

- *This presentation will outline how technology can be used to reduce non-revenue water loss and how data can be used in the water audit process.*

*Presenter:  
Todd Stocker, Director of Product Marketing, Aclara*

This was a presentation by the company that provides our meter fixed network system. I sat in on it to see if they were doing anything new that might help us. Nothing new was presented.

#### Statewide Issue Forum - Affordable Safe Drinking Water For All: What Works and What's in the Works

- *The State of California recently released a Framework document that outlines proposed strategies intended to ensure that every Californian has access to an adequate supply of safe drinking water. The Framework includes the mandated consolidation of some public water systems and management assistance by third-party contractors. Learn more about the Framework and how the State, water agencies and other organizations are working to address this critical issue.*

*Moderator:  
Cindy Tuck, Deputy Executive Director Government Relations, Association of California Water Agencies*

*Panelists:  
Gordon Burns, Undersecretary for Environmental Protection, California Environmental Protection Agency  
Cindy Forbes, Deputy Director, Division of Drinking Water, State Water Resources Control Board  
Greg Morrison, Director of Legislative and Community Affairs, Elsinore Valley MWD*

This panel discussed the drought impact on wells in the Central Valley and what the State is doing to consolidate the small private and local government water systems. 2/3 of dry wells are in Tulare County. 500 disadvantaged communities receive water that is not safe to drink. 700 large systems serve 98% of population. Consolidation efforts are focused on small systems. The State is securing funding sources for large systems that take over or manage small systems for a 10 year period.

#### **Thursday, December 3**

#### Town Hall - Urban Conservation Regulations: Drought or No Drought

- *Californians and their water suppliers have stepped up to meet unprecedented emergency urban conservation regulations that have resulted in significantly reduced water use (and water agency revenues) statewide. Will continued or new water conservation regulations be imposed in 2016, drought or no drought?*

*Come hear the latest thinking about Water Board amendments to emergency regulations, or intentions to promulgate permanent regulations.*

*Moderator:*

*Timothy H. Quinn, Executive Director, Association of California Water Agencies*

*Featured Speaker:*

*Felicia Marcus, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board*

Ms. Marcus made a brief presentation and then answered questions from the attendees. She indicated that the Water Boards intends to extend the current emergency regulations that expire in February and possibly include more restrictions.

#### Luncheon Meeting: "Groundwater Legislation: History in the Making or Another Dead End?"

- *Water in the West: Then & Now - With California mired in continued drought and impacts rippling through the state with reduced water supply and historic fires, ACWA members are continuing water conservation efforts and finding solutions to California's aging infrastructure. Bruce Babbitt, a former governor of Arizona who served as Interior secretary from 1993 to 2001, will provide his unique perspective on water issues and the environment. Babbitt was actively involved in addressing and negotiating agreements on the Bay-Delta and the Lower Colorado River during his tenure at Interior.*

*Keynote Speaker:*

*Bruce Babbitt, President, Raintree Ventures Former Secretary of the US Department of Interior Former Governor of Arizona*

#### Statewide Issues Panel - Four Years and Counting: Is the Drought a Catastrophe, or Are We Showing Resilience

- *California's millennial drought has spawned competing narratives about the state's readiness for prolonged water shortages. While some argue that the state's water management system was unprepared for the current drought, others say extensive local and regional investments equipped us to respond and have allowed California's \$1.9 trillion economy to remain relatively unscathed in a fourth dry year. Hear various perspectives on whether the drought is sending California over the cliff or whether it's proving how resilient we continue to be.*

*Moderator:*

*Timothy H. Quinn, Executive Director, Association of California Water Agencies*

*Panelists:*

*Jay Famiglietti, Hydrologist, UC Irvine Professor and Senior Scientist, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory*

*Felicia Marcus, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board*

*Maureen Stapleton, General Manager, San Diego County Water Authority*

*Paul Wenger, President, California Farm Bureau Federation*

The panelists did not have a consensus about the catastrophe or resilience question.

#### **Friday, December 4**

##### Hans Doe Forum:

- *Local Government Tackles Big Issues Together - ACWA, the League of California Cities, and the California State Association of Counties have come together as a coalition to tackle some of the most pressing water problems facing local government today. On the menu: water conservation pricing, stormwater and flood control infrastructure financing, and voluntary lifeline rates.*

*Moderator :*

*Timothy H. Quinn, Executive Director, Association of California Water Agencies*

*Panelists:*

*Karen Keene, Senior Legislative Advocate and Deputy Director of Federal Affairs, California State Association of Counties Jason Rhine, Legislative Representative, League of California Cities Cindy Tuck, Deputy Executive Director Government Relations, Association of California Water Agencies*

The panelists discussed a proposal to add a proposition to the ballot that would provide an alternative to the Proposition 218 procedure for creating new fees. The main discussion was if it should be done through the legislative or initiative process.