

DIRECTOR AB 1234 REPORT

Director Name: Kathye Armitage

Meeting Attended: Annual Labor Compliance Conference

Date of Meeting: November 17, 2022

Location: Downtown Los Angeles, CA

Board Meeting to Be Presented At: December 6, 2022

This was an informative conference where I learned about how prevailing wage is determined, compliance requirements for public works projects (by awarding body and contractors), apprenticeship/skilled & trained workforce requirements, and Project Labor Agreements. This conference was well worth the time.

Overview of points of interest:

- Public works projects are where construction workers get their training through apprenticeships
- Prevailing wage laws allow for the training of the next generation of construction workers who live in the community
- Prevailing wage is the single rate paid to the greatest number of workers in a geographic area
- In order for a project to be considered a public work, it must meet three criteria:
 - Paid for in whole or in part out by public funds
 - Construction and related work
 - Related work = alteration, demolition, installation, repair
 - Done under contract
- When a project is considered a public works project, there are certain requirements that the awarding agency and contractor each must meet
 - There are requirements related to hiring a “skilled and trained workforce”, which includes apprenticeships
 - Payroll and paperwork requirements
- Apprenticeships use a “learn and earn” model and give students another option besides college/university for career paths
- Funding for apprenticeships in California has increased and there is a big push to make apprenticeships available to everyone
 - Example: The Rising Sun program in Oakland is an all woman program that recognized that a barrier for participation is childcare, so they launched a childcare grant program for participants
- Project Labor Agreements (PLA) are collective bargaining agreements that establish employment requirements for both union and non-union contractors, set labor dispute resolution procedures, and set community workforce goals
 - Community workforce goals can include residency requirements, graduates of certain schools/programs, and veterans
 - Apply to primary contractors and subcontractors
 - Not every type of contract is covered under a PLA

Director AB1234 Report

Director Braunstein

Attended: ACWA Fall Conference on 11/29-12/1 2022, in Indian Wells, CA

Board Meeting to be Presented: December 6th, 2022

Conference program can be found at <https://www.acwa.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/FC22-brochure.pdf>

November 29 through December 1, 2022 I attended the ACWA fall conference. This was my second in person conference. The event was well attended. It had many sessions, discussing drought messaging, the condition of our current water supply, and our future water strategies.

Awards and scholarships were presented during the opening breakfast, in addition to recognition of our late Board Director, Jerry Gladbach, and his lifetime achievements.

Keynote speaker this time was Marco Sermoneta, Consul General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest. He spoke about Israel's water resilience, how they got there, and what they have learned along the way. They have addressed their water needs in a centralized way to ensure everyone gets what they need. Over 90% of their water is recycled, and over 50% of the water used for drinking is from desal. They are also partnering with neighboring countries to provide water, while getting green energy in return.

During discussion in the roundtable talk about developing and cultivating a diverse workforce, two main thoughts stuck with me. First, when posting jobs, to ensure that we are asking for things that are actually needed to preform the job and not things that would be nice but could be a potential obstacle for some. The second point, and it hits to the essence of the issue, is that representation matters. You can't tell people they

can be something without having real examples in your agency. We need to cultivate an environment that is open and accepting of all. I do believe that this is something our agency strives for.

Women in Water reception was lovely this time around, and I appreciated hearing Sandra Kerl speaking about her life and path to where she is now, GM of San Diego County Water Authority. I enjoyed networking and meeting many other women in the field.

I was extremely impressed by WaterGen's exhibit. Their technology of getting water out of the atmospheric rivers is definitely something I would keep my eyes on in the years to come as they keep on improving their technology. They also participated in the international forum with the Netherlands regarding innovation in water management in times of climate change. One of the main points that they wanted to convey, is that the solution needs to be holistic. There is no one answer to solving the issue, and collaboration and innovation needs to be a key part of our strategies moving forward.

While "Unpacking California's Water Supply Strategy" sounds complicated, it seems like the attempt is to do the opposite. They have identified 142 actions to help local agencies. On top of that they are trying to work hard on streamlining permitting, simplifying the language and removing other obstacles that may be barriers. Ground water recharge is a HUGE part of the strategies going forward, and working collaboratively with all stakeholders in the watershed seems to be the imperative. This discussion also brought up the issue of an holistic approach, acknowledging that there is no one solution.

Discussion of equity also emerged as water prices are raised which could be an unreasonable burden to underserved communities. Since access to safe water is a basic human right, we will need to tackle this hurdle as well.

We all have a part to play in this next chapter, and it is important that we do our math right. We need to be sure that the resources we have are actually there. While planning for our agriculture and communities water needs, we must also make plans for our

environment needs as well. They are tied in together, and all will benefit in the end if we make sure we do not overlook our ecosystems.

I particularly loved that they took the time to also ask the attendees how a program was working for them - really appreciating feedback. To me, that right there was a symbol of good leadership.

The last session I got to attend was about innovation. To me, this is one of the most exciting discussions. To truly come up with great new ideas we all have to be ok with RISK.

The presenter from Long Beach talked about innovative ways to partner with other stakeholders to develop programs to help replace lawns for underserved communities without worrying about prop 218.

The presenter from TID (Turlock Irrigation District) spoke about a unique 3D imaging of the whole water shed that give exact and precise information that allows them to maximize storage potential while doing better flood control.

The City of Roseville spoke about innovative pumps that can both pump out water and can also pump back water to replenish the groundwater.

Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program, spoke to an innovative watershed scale collaborative program to improve its resiliency and reliability.

All in all, it was great to see how different agencies are dealing with water challenges with a fresh approach.

