

AB1234
Director Report

Director Braunstein

Attended: ACWA Spring Conference on May 3-5 2022, in Sacramento CA

Board Meeting to be Presented: June 21, 2022

On May 3-5 I attended the ACWA Spring Conference. This was my first in-person conference. The event was well attended, and had many sessions dedicated to DEI (Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion).

The creation of the ACWA foundation was announced, which is devoted to increasing diversity, equity and inclusion within California's water community. It is to help create tomorrow's leaders in the water industry.

In addition, a new campaign launch was announced - QuenchCA. Its goal is to help gather underlying support from the public for long term, generational climate resiliency. It will also feature ways for local agencies to customize the campaign for their own specific needs. www.QuenchCA.com

Awards and scholarships were announced during the opening breakfast. I was proud to see a local recipient, Shelby Negosian, receive the BBK scholarship. It's exciting to see our local youth striving to excellence.

In the opening breakfast, Women in the industry were also recognized and applauded.

I appreciated the innovation of Fish and Wildlife and local rice grower industry in trying to find new ways for growth. The out of the box ideas which will benefit both groups while encourage healthy fish in the Sacramento River. While focusing on a win-win

solution and not trying to assign blame, it seems like new partnerships can emerge. This was a fascinating discussion. The moderator was David J. Guy, President for Northern California Water Association. Panelists were Jacob Katz who is a senior scientist for Cal Trout, and Luke Matthews who is a wildlife Program Manager for California Rice Commission.

Spending time with other Directors, GMs and communication specialists in a roundtable setting was a unique way to hear about how other Agencies deal with communication challenges. It was great to see that SCV Water Agency is a leader in that department. I had many opportunities to share all the hard work our communication and outreach department do on a regular basis.

I especially loved the session on communicating with diverse audiences. This was such a great program with many actual tips on how to go about outreach. I learned a new term “culturally competent”. It refers to the idea that to really reach an audience you need to understand their culture. Understanding the nuances that can make the difference between saying something offensive or inappropriate to something funny when trying to translate to a different language. It is vital to build a relationship of trust between the community and the agency so that when the time of need arises, it is there, and can be used to share important information. I was so grateful to the moderator Lily Lopez from Walnut Valley Water District, along with the excellent panelist Jim Chien from San Francisco, Mike Lee from San Diego, and Crystal Tufenkjian from Kings River.

My first Region 8 meeting was extremely informative. We got a report from ACWA President Pamela Tobin along with a report from Gregory Reed, the new GM of West basin Municipal Water District. We got committee reports and an update regarding a region event on August 12th.

The Innovation forum celebrated unique programs, and out of the box thinking to deal with problems that were encountered. Acknowledging the risk taking some of the projects took is important as we look forward to new ways to grow.

EMWD took on a new approach to the brine challenge most recycling water deals with. Even though ultimately they chose a different path, what they learned in the process will help future innovation in this field.

Rainbow Municipal Water District came up with a new helicopter filling tank that fills at need and allows the agency to track how much water was used to fight fires.

San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District had a project that not only increased water recharge, but also expanded endangered species habitat.

Lastly, Sonoma Water created a program called FIRO that uses forecast information to better control letting out water from reservoirs for flood control protection. This allowed them to be more proactive and conserve more water for future use.

All of the agencies that participated in this session said that their big takeaway is to not be afraid of thinking outside of the box, or taking risks. It was an extremely rewarding discussion.

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Director AB 1234 Report

June 21, 2022

ITEM NO.
10.2

Director name: Gary Martin

Meetings attended:

Dates of meetings: June 10, 15 and 16, 2022

Location: Virtual

SCV Water Board meeting to be presented at: June 21, 2022

On June 10, 15 and 16, respectively, I attended the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board Prep, Project Briefing, and Board of Directors Meeting. The points of interest of each are as follows:

June 10 DCA Board Prep

This meeting is held between DCA staff and 3 of the 7 DCA Board members in preparation for the monthly full board meeting. Major items covered were as follows:

- Carrie Buckman (DWR Environmental Manager) provided an update of draft EIR for the project. The draft EIR is still forecast to be released for public review later this summer.
- Tom Philp was introduced to the members and is on loan from MWD to provide support in public information. Mr. Philp has been with MWD for 15 years and prior to that he was with the SacBee reporting on water-related issues in Sacramento. Tom will be working on a comprehensive narrative for the project written in layman's terms to help promote a better understanding of the project. In addition, Tom has been asked by a MWD member agency to draft an op-ed piece that will explain the benefits of the project.
- DCA Executive Director, Graham Bradner provided an overview of the monthly report and a preview of the 6/16 board agenda.
- Refer to the board meeting discussion below which covers the 6/16 board meeting.

June 15, DCA Project Briefing

During ACWA week in May this year, DCA made a presentation of the Delta Conveyance Project at the DCA Sacramento Office. Attendance was limited to avoid any Brown Act violations due to quorum attendance by the DCA board and any other agency boards, such as SCVWA. I was not able to attend the Sacramento presentation, but was able to attend this virtual presentation. The presentation provided a high-level overview of the project and its benefits. It was an excellent presentation and very informative.

June 16 DCA Board of Directors Meeting

The following are the highlights of the information presented and actions taken at the June 15 DCA Board meeting:

- The Board approved by unanimous consent to authorize remote (virtual) meetings under AB 361.
- The DCA monthly report was presented by DCA Executive Director Graham Bradner. Included in Mr. Bradner's report was an announcement that hybrid meeting project is complete and operational. Also included was a status report on the field work for the spring geotechnical investigation work. The 1st round of borings are complete and data is under review. The next round of borings will take place later in the summer. Mr. Bradner presented a review of budget and schedule, and the project is on schedule and will show a budget under-run for FY21/22.
- The FY22/23 budget was presented for adoption and was approved by unanimous vote. The total budget will be \$31.16 million.
- The Board adopted an updated investment policy.
- The Board received a report from the General Counsel.
- The Board also received a report from Carrie Buckman (see above).