

Director AB 1234 Report
May 20, 2025

Director name: Gary Martin

Meetings attended:

- 1) 5/9/25 Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors briefing via Zoom.
- 2) 5/12/25 Attended ACWA JPIA 2025 Spring Membership Summit in Monterey, CA.
- 3) 5/13 – 5/15/25 Attended ACWA Spring 2025 Conference & Expo in Monterey, CA.
- 4) 5/15/25 Attended the Special Meeting of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors in Monterey, CA.

Date of meetings: 5/9/25 and 5/13 – 5/15/25, and 5/15/25 as noted.

Locations: As noted above.

SCV Water Board Meeting to be presented at: May 20, 2025

May 9, 2025

I attended the regularly scheduled briefing of 3 members of the DCA board by the DCA Executive Director and other senior staff of issues that will be coming to the DCA board at the May 21 board meeting. Points of interest:

- DCA General Counsel Josh Nelson provided a legal update on the project.
- DCA Executive Director Graham Bradner presented a summary of the monthly report that will be presented at the next board meeting.
- DWR Environmental Manager Carrie Buckman provided an update on project activities and status, including the “point of diversion” permit hearings with the state board.
- Budget information and updates were included in the monthly report.
- Valerie Martinez provided an update on information and outreach efforts.

May 12, 2025

I attended the ACWA JPIA Board of Directors meeting in Monterey, CA. The agenda and points of interest are as follows:

Following the welcome, call to order, pledge of allegiance, the agenda proceeded as follows:

I. Consent Calendar.

The consent calendar was approved, which included the minutes of the December 2, 2024 board meeting and informational items on the Pooled Program update, the E.G. “Jerry” Gladbach Leadership Grant program, and the H. R. LaBounty Safety Awards Program. Regarding the Gladbach grant awards for 2024-2025, it should be noted that awards went to Cory Ipsen, Chief Plant Operator, Forestville WD, Wesley Massoll, Principal Hydrogeologist, Mojave WA, and to Karleen Harp, Administrative Services Manager, Rainbow MWD.

II. Executive Committee Election.

A vote was taken to fill four vacancies on the Executive Committee. The election winners were Brent Hasteley, Reclamation District 784, Chris Kapheim (incumbent), Kings River Conservation District, Melody McDonald (incumbent), San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, and Randall Reed, Alameda County Water District.

III. Recognition. There were four Recognition items on the agenda. The first required board approval of a resolution honoring David Drake of Rincon del Diablo MWD for his 10 years of service on the JPIA

Executive Committee. David is retiring effective on May 12, 2025. The proposed resolution was approved. Three other recognition items were presented for information only.

IV. Financial.

The audited financial statements for year ending September 30, 2024, and the proposed operating budget for the fiscal year October 2025-26 were approved by separate votes.

V. Programs.

The ancillary programs update was provided for information only.

VI. Updates.

Two updates were provided for information only: the ACWA update and the ACWA JPIA CEO update.

VII. Other Business.

A review of pending lawsuits directly involving the JPIA was provided. There are no such lawsuits pending.

VIII. President's Update

Melody McDonald provided the President's Update.

Adjournment.

May 13, 2025

ACWA Groundwater Committee

The sustainable groundwater management update was provided by Paul Gosselin of DWR. The highlights were as follows:

- GSP status: 86 GSPs approved, 7 GSPs inadequate.
- Periodic evaluations due January 2027. An implementation guide is available.
- Discussion on state intervention.
- Draft Best Management Practices (BMP) document on Subsidence coming in Spring 2025.
- Flood diversion and recharge: 2025 Delta outflow was huge, while Delta exports were small.
- Budget and Prop 4 funding: \$193.5 million each to SGMA implementation and conjunctive use / GW recharge. \$200 million for re-purposing.
- GW subcommittee discussions: GW banking working group; SGMA implantation; GW water quality.
- A presentation was given by the GW Research Association. For upcoming GRAC events see grac.org.
- Soren Nelson gave an update on GW bills being considered by the legislature.

ACWA Water Management Committee

- Water rights update was provided by Eric Ekdahl, Chief Deputy Director, State Water Resources Control Board.
- Update on the "Upward" project, an effort at date modernization – a century of physical and digital records.
- Bay Delta Plan discussion.
- What constitutes "Waters of the US?"

Federal Affairs Committee

- Presentation by Adam Nichols, Bureau of Reclamation.
- President's budget update.
- Waters of the US discussion.

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Main Stage Program & Keynote Presentation

Katherine Zitsch, President, National Water Supply Alliance (NWSA).

- NWSA was formed originally to work collaboratively with the Army Corps of Engineers.
- The goal was to bring all water voices together.
- The challenges are interconnected and growing.
- Water supply is a team sport.
- Currently, data centers use lots of water.
- Sustainable fuels must be produced in a way that conserves water.

Other Main Stage Presentations

Ernie Avila, ACWA VP, discussed the 5-year strategic plan update:

- 10 Region task force.
- 50 progress indicators.
- We must be the change agents for CA water.

Excellence in Water Industry Award went to Wes Monier, Chief Hydrologist for the Turlock Irrigation District.

A special presentation was made to David Drake on his retirement.

The ACWA JPIA presentation was Melody McDonald, board president.

The ACWA JPIA Chief Executive Officer Adrienne Beatty made a presentation on the California Water Insurance Fund (CWIF).

The ACWA Foundation presentation was made by John Morella and Lis Mealoy.

10:30 Program DWR's Watershed Resilience Initiative

Eric Tsai, DWR, discussed the program:

- A new path forward for California's water future.
- Climate change challenges.
- Translating the California Water Plan into action.
- Intent and options.
- Statewide vision of watershed resilience.
- Watershed networks.
- Discussed various pilot program awards and lessons learned from each.

1:30 Program Apprenticeship Partnerships, ACWA Foundation Workforce Development.

Colton Anderson, former operator, Workforce Resource Solutions (WRS), presented:

- State of the water sector.
- Vision, mission and goals of WRS.
- Pre-apprenticeship qualifications program – writing skills, math skills, critical thinking, mechanical aptitude, digital skills.
- 24-month period in 4 – 6 month blocks.
- Grades 1,2 and 3 operator training and certification included.

2:30 Program Building Trust in Delta Decision Making Through Shared Science.

Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Proposal:

- Proposed as part of the State Board's Bay-Delta Plan update.
- 8 tributary systems and the Delta.
- Delta habitat.
- 8-year evaluation period.
- Diversion vs. conjunctive use.

3:45 Region 8 Meeting

- Introductions of the Region 8 Board
- Committee reports
- ACWA President Kathy Green remarks

May 15, 2025

9:00 Program State, Local, and Federal Efforts to Enhance Water Supply.

Dorene D'Adamo, State Water Resources Control Board

- Discussed SGMA and basin plans that need to be brought up to compliance.
- Recharge efforts and the State Board's role.
- Existing water rights and those that need a permit.
- Trying to facilitate progress, but the average time frame is about 4 months.
- Need to take advantage of high flows under the terms of the recent executive order.
- Discussed the portfolio of projects needed to achieve the Governor's goals for the future.

Adam Nickels, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

- Spoke of the history of investments in the CVP over the years.
- We need to plan now for 21st century conditions, and build more storage in northern California.
- Future investments in groundwater – 3 steps: build more, build more, build more!

Johnny Amaral, Chief Operating Officer, Friant Water Authority

- Friant – Kern Canal subsidence issues have caused a 50% loss of carrying capacity.
- Constantly chasing subsidence issues and problems.
- Advice to State Officials – DO NOT dismiss ideas and projects that come from the current administration.

10:30 Program Keynote and Closing

Dan Keppen, P.E., Executive Director, Family Farm Alliance

- Challenges in Western Irrigated Agriculture
- % of disposable income paid for food in the U.S – 2005 6.2%, 2025 11.2%

ACWA Scholarships

- Amelia Flores, environmental policy analysis, UC Davis
- Kirsten Larson, agricultural education, Cal State Fresno

Claire Hill Award Recipient

- Calleguas – LVMWD Interconnection Project

Claire Hill Scholarship Recipient

- Peter Otoshi, civil engineering, Cal Poly Pomona

BBK Scholarship Recipient

- Christina Huang, environmental engineering, UC Berkeley

E.G. "Jerry" Gladbach Scholarship Recipient

- Jade Meichtry, bioscience and agricultural engineering, Cal Poly SLO

12:00 Lunch & Learn Program

Engineers & Accountants Address Infrastructure Needs

May 15, 2025

I attended the Special Meeting of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors in Monterey, CA.

- The DCA Board of Directors voted to authorize a letter from the Board President and/or the DCA Executive Director in support of the Governor's legislative proposals to fast-track the Delta Conveyance Project, a critical water infrastructure project.

AB 1234 Report

Director name: Dan Masnada

Meeting attended: Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Conference

Date of meeting: May 13-15, 2025

Board meeting to be presented at: June 3, 2025 Board Meeting

Points of Interest:

Programs that I attended during the conference were:

- Welcome Keynote by Katherinne Zitsch, President of the National Water Supply Alliance, who presented Coast to Coast Water Wisdom – Learning from Atlanta and California’s Water Supply Strategies. Her presentation was preceded by a recognition of ACWA staff
- A Practical Guide to Diverting Flood Water for Groundwater Recharge
- Building Trust in Delta Decision Making Through Shared Science
- Region 8 Membership Meeting
- State, Local and Federal Efforts to Enhance Water Supply
- Keynote Closing by Dan Keppen, Family Farm Alliance Executive Director

I attended presentations that I felt were the most relevant to SCVWA. I was very impressed by the quality of the presentations and the qualifications of the presenters, which obviously go hand-in-hand. My attendance also provided me the opportunity to network with industry professionals and agency representatives that I had not seen since my retirement and to establish new connections. It also provided me the opportunity to get better acquainted with SCVWA staff that attended the conference.