

State Water Legislation

Senate Bill XX 1 (Perta) appropriates \$820,973,000 from voter approved bond measures 1E, 84, 50 and 13 to help secure more reliable water supplies from the State.

The bill will

- allocate investments to ensure emergency preparedness in the Delta;
- improve stormwater flood management;
- clean up contaminated groundwater basins;
- develop integrated regional water management plans and projects;
- protect endangered species in the Delta; and
- conduct feasibility studies for surface storage projects.

See pages 2-4 for the coalition letters sent to the Governor and to members of the Legislature. Additional letters from the Associates to energy leaders are available on our website.

The letters were signed by W&PA President, Richard Dickinson and representatives of 38 other organizations.

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VOTE NOVEMBER 4, 2008

The right of citizens to select their leaders in open elections is a key feature of democracy.

In many other democracies, voter turnout is 80 percent or higher. Since the 1970's, voter turnout in U.S. presidential elections has usually been between 50 and 55 percent.


If you inspire a friend to vote, and you vote, that statistic could move closer to the 100% mark. And wouldn't that be Great?!

VOTE NOVEMBER 4, 2008

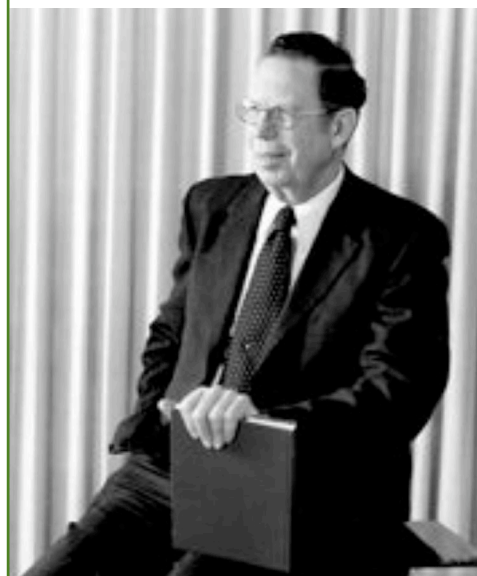
Membership Meeting

Our annual Membership Meeting of Water and Power Associates will be held in February 2009. All members and guests of Water and Power Associates are invited and encouraged to attend. *See the January 2009 newsletter for the date, time and location.*

Board Officers will present annual reports, we will elect board officers for 2009-2010, and we will discuss our direction and plans for the organization for the year ahead. We want to hear from you.

Membership is open to everyone who has an interest in the gathering, discussing, and disseminating of information concerning electric power and water issues. To join, contact Dave Oliphant at the address on this newsletter or any W&PA member 

**Robert V. Phillips, 91;
helped Los Angeles through
the 1970s energy crisis**

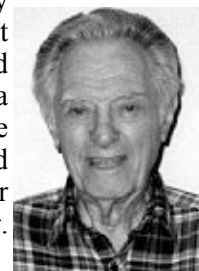


Robert V. Phillips,
former LADWP General Manager and
W&P Associates Director Emeritus.

An obituary appears on pages 10 - 11. A more extensive obituary can be seen on our web site, waterandpower.org. Click on Newsletter October 2008.



We were saddened to learn that Hans Sonderling, a longtime member of the Associates and a "Board observer", died on August 12, 2008. Hans used to attend our Board meetings regularly as a "permanent guest", but would never accept a Board position. He was a valued participant at our meetings, however. We shall miss him.



September 10, 2008

Coalition Letter To The Governor:

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Thank you for your repeated efforts to address the fast-emerging challenges to respond to dry conditions and looming water shortages throughout California. The drought declaration this summer, and the emergency declaration for eight counties in the Central Valley, highlighted the acute impacts on these communities. The recent announcement by the California Department of Water Resources to prepare a 2009 Drought Water Bank will help create an orderly movement of water supplies between willing sellers and willing buyers in the coming months. A critical piece of a successful drought preparedness plan, however, awaits your signature ... SBXX 1 and its much-needed infusion of \$820 million of strategic water improvements at the local, regional and state levels.

SBXX 1 contains funding for water initiatives that could assist in an effective statewide drought response. Some of the funds designated for integrated regional watershed management programs, for example, could have a short-term improvement in water supply conditions. Contaminated groundwater basins, awaiting clean-up funds, are an achievable, reliable source of supply. California cannot successfully manage through drought conditions with a singular approach to supply. A broad, portfolio approach is the key to future water management. SBXX 1 is an indispensable source of funds to help cope with this daunting water challenge.

SBXX 1 also provides funding to meet short-term needs in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the state's most important estuary and the critical hub of California's water supply. The range of Delta projects includes levee improvements, emergency preparedness projects, water quality enhancements and restoration activities.

The Delta and the entire state water system, however, will remain in need of long-term investments. SBXX 1 is a meaningful short-term investment of available bond dollars, but we recognize that it is not the comprehensive solution. We support and applaud your continued efforts to work toward a comprehensive bond package for historic, lasting improvements to our water infrastructure. So long as the state is saddled with an outdated water system in the Delta, two-thirds of state residents from San Jose to San Diego will face curtailments in water supplies. And farmers will wonder whether they will have the water to grow many of the nation's fruits and vegetables.

The potential of a devastating drought this coming year, however, demands every conceivable achievable response to a potential crisis for the state. Thank you for continued leadership on the drought and all of California's water matters. We urge your signature on SBXX 1 as a timely and prudent expenditure of funds from bonds that voters have enthusiastically supported.

Sincerely,



STATE CAPITOL

Coalition Signatories

39 signatures were affixed to this letter. The names of 38 signers (who also signed the letter shown on page 4) appear on page 4. The additional 8 are:

- ▶ James D. Levine, P.E. Chairman
Bay Area Council
- ▶ Joe Panetta President and CEO
Bay Area Council Water Policy Committee
- ▶ Jerry Jordan, Executive Director
California Municipal Utilities Association
- ▶ Carol E. Schatz, President & CEO
Central City Association of Los Angeles
- ▶ Dennis M. Diemer, General Manager
East Bay Municipal Utility District
- ▶ James Beck, General Manager
Kern County Water Agency
- ▶ Kevin P. Hunt, General Manager
Municipal Water District of Orange County
- ▶ Olga Martin Steele, CEO
Santa Clara Valley Water District

Copies of the September 10, 2008 letter to California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger were sent to:

Senator Don Perata
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
Senator Darrell Steinberg
Assembly Member Mike Villines
Senator David Cogdill

- ▶ John Moffatt, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
- ▶ Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency
- ▶ Linda S. Adams, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
- ▶ Lester Snow, Director, Department of Water Resources

Note: Support for SBXX 1 should not be construed as support for legislation that has been formally or informally linked to SBXX 1.

Coalition Letter To Members of the California Senate:

August 15, 2008

Subject: SBXX 1 (Perata, et al.) SUPPORT
As Amended August 4, 2008
Bond Funding for Near-Term Water Projects

This letter was first sent
August 10, 2008 to
Members of the California Senate.

To:

The Honorable Karen Bass
Speaker of the California Assembly

The Honorable Don Perata
Senate President pro Tempore

The Honorable Mike Villines
Assembly Minority Leader

The Honorable Dave Cogdill
State Republican Leader

Dear Senate and Assembly Legislative Leadership:

California is grappling with the effects of a record-dry spring, court-mandated pumping restrictions to protect endangered species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the prospect of even greater water challenges in 2009. Accordingly, it is critical that the Legislature move swiftly to appropriate bond funds for urgently needed water supply and improvement projects and programs. The water suppliers and business leaders who have signed this letter are in full support of the projects authorized by SBXX 1 as prudent and timely investments to address California's water needs, and to make wise use of existing bond dollars.

For example, expedited state funding can remediate contaminated groundwater basins, converting unsafe water supplies into new water sources. Additionally, regional water supply reliability projects need matching funds to move forward, and studies for new surface storage projects must be completed. The vital ingredients for implementing short-term projects on a variety of fronts and for advancing long-term solutions are contained in SBXX 1.

SBXX 1 would create an economic infusion of \$842 million for strategic water improvements at the local, regional and state levels, with the added benefit of stimulating the state's economy. Small communities and disadvantaged areas would be eligible for millions of dollars in grants to improve their drinking water systems. Cleaning up groundwater basins would benefit large and small communities throughout the state. In the City of Los Angeles, for example, groundwater cleanup in the San Fernando Valley has been identified as one of the most important projects to help ensure additional water supply in the future.

SBXX 1 also provides funding toward achieving a comprehensive solution to the Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta, the state's most important estuary and the critical hub of California's water supply. The range of Delta projects includes levee improvements, emergency preparedness projects, water quality enhancements and restoration activities.

Because of past sound investments in local and regional projects and conservation programs, Southern California has avoided widespread economic hardship during these challenging times. This has allowed The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to cooperatively work with San Joaquin Valley farmers to help reduce the impacts of the statewide water shortage. But water reserves are being quickly depleted by this ongoing drought. Farmers in the southland and San Joaquin Valley have been forced to stunt their trees, abandon crops and furlough workers because of reduced water availability. We're also mindful that environmental conditions in the Delta remain extremely fragile; investments in Delta solutions must begin as soon as possible.

SBXX 1 is an essential, timely and readily available tool to address many of these critical needs.

The voters have already spoken, having authorized these expenditures. We urge your favorable consideration of this legislation, putting the voters' mandates into motion.

Sincerely,

(Continued on page 4)

Coalition Signatories

31 signatures were affixed to both letters. An additional 8 signatures (see page 2) were affixed to the letter to the Governor.

- **Ronald L. Davis**, State Legislative Director
Association of California Water Agencies
- **Joe Panetta**, President and CEO
BIOCOM
- **Jack K. Hawks**, Executive Director
California Water Association
- **Donald R. Kendall**, General Manager
Calleguas Municipal Water District
- **Dan Masnada**, General Manager
Castaic Lake Water Agency
- **Steve Robbins**, General Manager
Coachella Valley Water District
- **Walter J. Bishop**, General Manager
Contra Costa Water District
- **Robert A. DeLoach**, General Manager
Cucamonga Valley Water District
- **Anthony J. Pack**, General Manager
Eastern Municipal Water District
- **Richard Atwater**, General Manager
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
- **John R. Mundy**, General Manager
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- **Brian McNeerney**
La Verne Chamber of Commerce
- **Gary Toebben**, President and CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
- **Jeff Kightlinger**, General Manager
Metropolitan Water District of So. California
- **Lucy Dunn**, President/CEO
Orange County Business Council
- **Michael R. Markus**, General Manager
Orange County Water District
- **Phillip L. Forbes**, Interim General Manager
Rancho California Water District
- **Lisa Rivas**, Executive Director
Regional Legislative Alliance of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties
- **Lani Lutar**
San Diego County Taxpayers Association
- **Maureen Stapleton**, General Manager
San Diego County Water Authority
- **Angelika Villagrana** for **Ruben Barrales**
President and Chief Executive Officer
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
- **Julie Meier Wright**, President & CEO
San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation
- **Ed Harrington**, General Manager
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- **Ron Wood**, President & CEO
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
- **Laurel Rosen**, President and CEO
Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce
- **Randy D. Poole**, General Manager
Sonoma County Water Agency
- **Joan Dym**, Executive Director
Southern California Water Committee
- **Terry Erlewine**, General Manager
State Water Contractors, Inc.
- **Richard Hansen**, General Manager
Three Valleys Municipal Water District
- **Debi Schultze**, President & CEO
United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley
- **Richard Dickinson**, President
Water and Power Associates, Inc.




Governor Schwarzenegger Signed SB XX 1



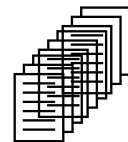
9/30/08 Press Release: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed SBx2 1 by Senator Pro Tempore Don Perata (D-San Francisco), which appropriates \$842 million in funding from two initiatives passed by voters in 2006 - Proposition 84 and Proposition 1E. While these funds will help water agencies address the current statewide drought and provide a first step toward investing in water supply reliability, a much more comprehensive plan is needed in order to update California's water system which urgently needs increased storage, improved conveyance, a restored and better protected Delta ecosystem and greater water conservation. The Governor also signed four additional bills that will help address our state's water crisis and further increase water conservation.

"This funding is a band-aid measure that will help water agencies improve their conservation efforts in the face of the state's current drought but will not solve our long-term water supply problems, which require a more comprehensive solution to ensure that California has the water it needs to keep our environment and economy healthy," Governor Schwarzenegger said. "I encourage each and every Californian to look at ways to reduce their water usage whenever possible, and this package of legislation will further aid in those conservation efforts which are so critical to California's water supply right now."

SBx2 1 also includes \$200 million to help stabilize the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta, help prevent catastrophic failure of the Delta's levees and accommodate pumping restrictions mandated by a federal court ruling. Additionally, the legislation provides \$100 million to help clean up ground water basins in Southern California. 

(Continued from page 3)

Copies of the Coalition letter to members of the California Legislature were sent to:



- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
- Senator Darrell Steinberg
- Members of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
- Alf Brandt, Consultant,
Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
- Phil Nails, Assembly Republican Caucus
- Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
- Dennis O'Connor, Consultant,
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
- Steve McCarthy, Senate Republican Caucus
- Kip Lipper, Office of the Senate President pro Tempore
- Carol Baker, Office of the Assembly Speaker
- John Moffatt, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
- Mike Christian, Secretary, California Resources Agency
- Linda S. Adams, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
- Lester Snow, Director, Department of Water Resources
- Assembly Special Committee on Water



Book Review



In 1923 the United States Geological Survey (USGS) sponsored a scientific survey of the Colorado River to inspect possible sites where dams could be built for hydroelectric power, water storage, and flood control. The trip would begin where the Paria River enters the Colorado River and end at Needles, California. Until this time fewer than a hundred people had attempted to run the river; the best known was John Wesley Powell. This expedition would be the first to include men specializing in geology, topography, and hydrography, and it would accurately chart the course of the river and rapids as well as finding likely dam sites.

Claude Birdseye (cousin of Clarence Birdseye of frozen food fame) headed the expedition. He assembled a group of men that along with the USGS personnel would include boatmen, cook, and assistants. Four boats were outfitted, three of them provided by the Edison Company. On August 1, 1923, the team left Lee's Ferry and proceeded on a journey that would go on to October 19. Unlike previous expeditions, this trip would have periodic contact with the outside world. They had a radio that clearly received programs from Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, and other cities, proving wrong the predictions there would be no radio reception in Grand Canyon. They were able to stop at a number of places to obtain supplies and mail. However, for the most part they were on their own.

Rather than write a narrative telling about the expedition through Grand Canyon, Diane Boyer and Robert Webb let the participants tell the story in their own words. *Almost all of the men recorded their experiences in diaries, letters, and subsequent books and articles, making possible an account of each day of travel as they experienced it.* This method of presenting the account also provides for multiple perspectives and different interpretations of the same event. It also reveals that Birdseye headed an expedition that consisted of men who complained about whom was not doing a fair share of the work, anger at the USGS about the wages paid, and other expressions of discontent. There were several cliques as men found common ground to bicker about the others. The main area of agreement, however, was everyone's respect for Birdseye who managed to keep the expedition together and to conduct the scientific work successfully.

Two complaints stand out above all others. Emery Kolb, a Grand Canyon veteran who, with his brother, operated a photography studio, resented having his work displaced by USGS photography (including motion pictures). He believed this undercut his own work that he depended on for his living. Eugene C. La Rue, the hydraulic engineer, had his own ideas about locating dam sites, and strongly opposed the location of a hydroelectric dam in Black Canyon, the choice of his rival Arthur Powell Davis.

DAMMING GRAND CANYON:

The 1923 USGS Colorado River Expedition,

by Diane E. Boyer and Robert H. Webb.

Logan: Utah State University Press, 2007. 289 pp.

Maps, Illustrations, Notes, Index. Cloth, \$34.95.


Order from Utah State University Press,

7800 Old Main Hall, Logan, UT 84322; (800) 621-2736;

www.usu.edu/usupress/contact/

The eventual construction of what would be named Hoover Dam at the site proved La Rue wrong, but he had an abrasive personality that alienated himself from others and would ultimately result in his resigning from the USGS.

Boyer and Webb do a fine job in presenting the contrasting (and sometimes conflicting) personalities of the expedition members, bringing them to life in the men's own words and through research into their subsequent experiences. They also point out an important irony in the purpose of the expedition. None of the sites recommended by Birdseye became the location for a dam, and neither the USGS, the expedition members, nor anyone else at the time even considered what construction of the dams would have done to the Grand Canyon in destroying its natural environment.

Boyer and Webb note the ultimate triumph of the environmental movement in blocking such proposals as Echo Park Dam, but they also observe that a later generation of policy-makers would support passage of the *Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992*. Their book is a worthy addition to the literature of Grand Canyon history. 



Abraham Hoffman
teaches history at
Los Angeles
Valley College.

LADWP POWER SYSTEM NEWS

By Thomas J. McCarthy



Aram Benyamin,
Senior Assistant General Manager-
Power System, LADWP

LADWP Power System Head, Aram Benyamin, spoke at Associates September 10, 2008 Meeting The following points were discussed:

- ❖ Budget focus on infrastructure and alternative energy projects to increase reliability and reduce carbon footprint
- ❖ Additional focus has been placed shortening the hiring process to hire *best in class* technical employees and paralleling the training classes to train additional craft workers.
- ❖ Infrastructure goals to increase reliability by replacing cables, transformers, and poles. General Manager **David Nahai** is developing a strong leadership team to carry out an aggressive move to lower carbon dioxide generation while improving the reliability of infrastructure.
- ❖ Future generation will move to more geothermal, wind, solar and hydro energy mix, currently about 8%, must include 20% renewable by 2010. Aram stressed his key goal is to bring all Power System organizations together to achieve these ambitious goals.

Newly initiated Power System News letter

Aram envisioned a newsletter to provide a medium for the employees in the Power System to know what their goals and strategies were. He wanted a vehicle so that all knew what progress was being made and foster a spirit of teamwork and communications.

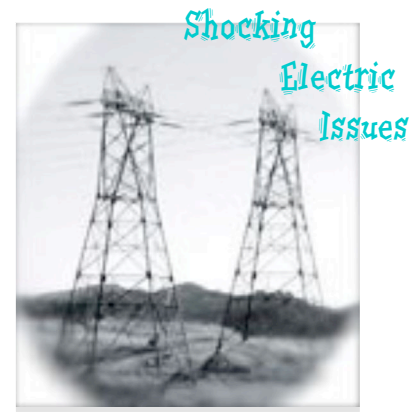
Recently published, the *Power newsletter named the Live Wire* will share ideas and promote Communication across the Power System's various divisions. The main focus of the newsletter will be the employees.

Excerpts from *Live Wire* Newsletter

The Department is going through some exciting times. Power system in the process of building the largest municipal-owned wind farm; Castaic is going through a major renovation; and we have a long-term plan to increase our generation resources.

Many of these projects, such as **Haynes 5 and 6**, are in the planning stages. Our power generation mix will be very different in 10 years from what it is today, with wind, solar, geothermal resources coming on line and making up more than 35 percent of our power. Our infrastructure is going through a major upgrade. We will be replacing thousands of poles and pole top transformers, change out deteriorated vaults, and replace underground cables that have been in the ground since World War II.

The Haynes 5 & 6 is a project at the Haynes Generating Station in Los Alamitos where the power system will replace existing boiler fired generating units #5 & #6 with gas turbine powered generators.



The single biggest component for the success of these programs is our human capital. LADWP's hard-working men and women are the best craft, technical support and professional groups in the utility industry. We need to work more closely with each other to ensure that our employees are trained properly, given the right tools to do their jobs, and provided with a workplace where employees treat each other with respect and the spirit of collaboration. The partnerships we have developed with our labor unions and the joint institutions are models of what can be done if we all work together to achieve our common goals.

On June 19, 2008, the Board of Water and Power Commissioners approved the LADWP's \$4.3 billion budget for Fiscal Year 08-09, \$3.5 billion of which is allocated for the Power System. This will allow us to continue moving forward with the largest Power Reliability Program and system expansion the LADWP has ever seen.

As a customer-focused company, we owe it to our ratepayers to be frugal and responsible with the way we conduct the City's business. I am confident that we will live up to these challenges and will be able to execute our planned projects flawlessly. (Continued on page 7)

Burning Water Issues

Water and Politics in Southern California

On October 4th Loyola Marymount University (LMU) hosted a conference examining the vital resource of water in Southern California politics and history. Scholars from throughout California examined current water policy, historical sources crucial for the study of water in Southern California, and case studies in water management and use.

LMU's Department of History, the Charles Von der Ahe Library, and the Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts sponsored the conference. Funding for the conference was provided by the Haynes Foundation.

Among the featured speakers were W&PA Board members, *Dr. Steve Erie*, Professor, Department of Political Science, and Director of the Urban Studies and Planning Program, University of California, San Diego and *Dr. Abe Hoffman*, Professor, Los Angeles Valley College.

A summary will appear in the next issue.

Power System

(Continued from page 6)

Thank you for taking the time to read the inaugural issue of **Live Wire**. I hope that you find it a useful and exciting way to share our own personal and organizational news, and encourage you to contact the writers and editors if you have a particular piece of news you'd like to share, including promotions, milestones or projects you think may be of interest to your fellow Power System peers. ☞

Review by
Thomas J. McCarthy



Developing a Vision for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Ensuring Its Stability and Viability

In 2008, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta lies at the heart of almost all discussions about California's future water supply, with the health of Delta's ecosystem a key part of those deliberations.



By Joan Anderson Dym
Executive Director,
Southern California Water
Committee

The Sacramento San Joaquin Delta

The Delta lies in the area where the Sacramento and the San Joaquin Rivers converge. It is home to 500,000 people and contains 500,000 acres of agriculture. The Delta provides habitat to 700 native plants and animal species and is traversed by energy, communications and transportation corridors. The Delta is considered the "hub" of the state's water supplies. It provides water for more than 25 million people in both northern and southern California, and for 3 million acres of agriculture. It is estimated that water from the Delta supports a \$400 billion economy in California.

For more information on
Delta Vision, link to
www.deltavision.ca.gov.

The Delta in Crisis

When the Delta was first discovered by explorers in the late 1700s, it was a sizable tidal marshland and a natural estuary. In the 1850s, settlers began arriving in the Delta region to farm and by 1861 California's legislature authorized the **Reclamation District Act** to allow drainage of Delta lands and construction of levees to protect farm lands from flooding. Today, land subsidence, sea level rise and changes in climate put those levees at considerable risk. Experts warn that an earthquake of magnitude 6.5 would cause substantial damage to Delta levees, resulting in severe flooding and intrusion into the Delta's fresh water.

By all accounts, the environment in the Delta is rapidly deteriorating. Endangered species and fisheries continue to decline. There are fears that one species, the Delta smelt, considered the '*canary in the coal mine*', faces extinction. Delta water quality is at risk from salts from the ocean and from agricultural drainage. Delta land has become a source for regional growth, which also increases the costs of flood risks and curtails land management options.

State Leaders Recognize Water Crisis

It goes without saying that Hurricane Katrina, and the resulting damage to New Orleans, heightened public awareness of levee instability in the Delta. The collapse of key Delta fish populations resulted in a recent federal court ruling that cuts the state's two largest water delivery systems by up to one-third. (Continued on page 8).

Capitol Delta Visions

(Continued from page 7).

California's population continues to grow, but it has been more than 30 years since any major investments have been made in the statewide systems that provide water supplies from the Delta. Many experts believe that California is facing a severe drought; 2007 ranked as a record dry year in Southern California. Climate change is reducing mountain snow pack while potentially increasing the amount of rainfall, which will change the amount of water in the Delta available in the winter and summer.

For environmentalists, Delta farmers and residents, and for agricultural and urban water users, it is urgent to agree on a plan to respond to this crisis.

On December 17, 2007, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued **Executive Order S-17-06** creating 'Delta Vision' with the intent that this effort would *comprehensively evaluate the Delta and craft a long-term and sustainable "vision" for its future.* "Delta Vision" builds on the CALFED Bay Delta Program, but broadens the focus of past attempts to recommend actions that address the full array of natural resources, infrastructure, land use and governance issues.

The Executive Order calls for a Delta Vision Committee that includes the Secretary of Resources as Chair, and the Secretaries of Business, Transportation and Housing, Food and Agriculture, CAL EPA, and the President of the Public Utilities Commission.

The Sacramento Delta

The delta consists of myriad small natural and man-made channels (locally called sloughs), creating a system of isolated lowland islands and wetlands defined by dikes or levees. The delta's so-called "islands" are not really islands in the classic sense, but they are referred to as such because they are completely surrounded by water and are so isolated in many cases that they are accessible only by boat, ferry or aircraft.

The Delta Vision Committee is responsible for making a final recommendation to the Governor on a Strategic Plan for the Delta. The Governor also appointed a *Blue Ribbon Task Force*, responsible for developing this strategic plan by October 2008. To support the Task Force efforts, the Delta Vision Committee appointed a *Stakeholders Coordination Group* to involve 40 members of local government, water agencies, scientists, engineers, and non-governmental organizations with interest in the Delta.

Last year, the the Task Force released *Our Vision for the California Delta* which **provided twelve integrated, linked recommendations to protect the Delta's ecosystem and the state's water supply, recognizing that the Delta cannot be fixed by any single action.** The Task Force started with the premise that the Delta ecosystem and reliable water supplies for the state are "co-equal" values. That premise led to recommendations that include significantly increasing conservation and water system efficiencies, new facilities to move and store water, and likely reductions of water taken from the Delta watershed. The Task Force also recommended a new governing structure for the Delta that would have secure funding, and the ability to approve spending, planning and water export levels.

The Task Force is charged with submitting a Strategic Plan that will identify and evaluate alternative implementing measures and management practices that will be necessary to implement Delta Vision recommendations by October 31, 2008. The Task Force released their third draft Strategic Plan in August 2008, with a fourth draft scheduled for release in September. The Task Force's Strategic Plan will reviewed by the Delta Vision Committee in early December, which will report its findings to Governor Schwarzenegger by December 31, 2008.

The preliminary drafts of the Task Force's Strategic Plan advance the policy basis for moving forward on major infrastructure investments in conveyance and storage to protect the environment and provide for water supplies necessary for the health and well being of Californians. *The preliminary drafts also emphasize that relying on a system that is fragile makes California's economy vulnerable to intolerable risks.* Most agree that the draft Strategic Plan contains the right mix of policy changes and physical actions, but specific details remain of concern to the various interests of stakeholders.

Completing the Strategic Plan by October 2008 is a daunting task. Even more important is whether or not this Plan will succeed where other attempts to solve the problems in the Delta have failed. Only time will tell.



For a July analysis by California Research Bureau on financing Delta improvements. ~ <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-011.pdf>

Other Recent Guests



James H. Caldwell, Jr.
Assistant General Manager
Environmental Affairs Division,
LADWP



Sarah Grossman
Senior Government Analyst
LAFCO



John F. Krattli,
Senior Assistant County Counsel,
County of Los Angeles



Sandor L. Winger,
Executive Officer,
LAFCO

Local Agency Formation Commission For the County of Los Angeles 101

(Summary of Presentation by LAFCO Guests)

Mandated by state law, there are 58 Local Area LAFCOs in California, one in each county. Because cities were engaging in annexation wars, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) was created in 1963 as a quasi-legislative agency of the state government engaged in the pursuit of an overriding State purpose. It is the Legislature's watch dog for governmental efficiency. There is a LAFCO in every county. There is limited legal challenge to LAFCO decisions.

The goals:

- Encourage the orderly growth of local government agencies;
 - Preserve agricultural and open space land resources;
 - Discourage urban sprawl;
 - Promote efficient public services;
 - Consider regional housing, adequate water, and other essential services.
- LAFCO

Sphere of Influence

At any given time LAFCO may be involved in administering an application for a new city, the creation of a new service district, the annexation or detachment of territory to or from an existing agency.

LAFCOs are required to update the sphere of influence boundaries of agencies every five years and perform municipal service reviews of the service area associated with the sphere studies.

LAFCO may also conduct special studies of agency services as it deems appropriate.

As a Planning Agency LAFCO develops and periodically updates spheres of influence for cities and special districts. It also prepares Municipal Service Reviews to help update spheres of influence and coordinate the provision of services, and it works cooperatively with public and private agencies, and other interests.

As a Regulatory Agency, LAFCO regulates boundaries of existing agencies, the creation of new local agencies and local governmental structure, and the formation of special districts.

LAFCO can approve changes only if consistent with spheres of influence,

It controls extension of public services without annexations, and is prohibited from directly regulating land use.

LAFCOs are required to update the sphere of influence boundaries of agencies every 5 years and perform municipal service reviews of the service area associated with the sphere studies. LAFCO may also conduct special studies of agency services as it deems appropriate.

Composition of L.A. County LAFCO Commission

9 Voting Members, 6 Alternate:

County ~ 2 members, 1 alternate.
City of Los Angeles

~ 1 member, 1 alternate.

Cities ~ 2 members, 1 alternate.

San Fernando Valley Statistical Area
~ 1 member, 1 alternate.

Special Districts

~ 2 members, 1 alternate.

General Public

~ 1 member, 1 alternate.

Water Agency Enabling Acts - District Formations

California Water District
County Water District
County Waterworks District
Irrigation District



“Thirsty City” presented by the *Theater of Will*

One hundred and forty 4th and 5th grade students watched and participated in a play on August 12th in the Water and Power Headquarters cafeteria. A preview performance of “*Thirsty City*,” a live, interactive theater play created for elementary school students was given. The play, portrays the early 20th century construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct, the role of William Mulholland, and covers important concepts of gravity flow and water conservation.

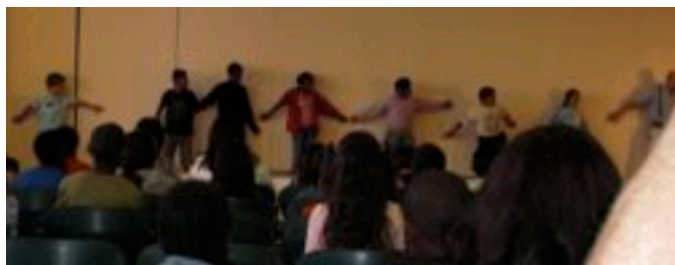
The play was sponsored jointly by the Metropolitan Water District and the L.A. Department of Water and Power. It was performed by seasoned teaching artists and engaged the children in a living history lesson. The kickoff of the play at the DWP was the idea of Tim Brick, Chairman of the MWD Board of Directors.

Rania Pallad, the Executive Director of the *Theater of Will*, which created the program, plans to perform this play at elementary schools throughout the Los Angeles School District.

A luncheon for the sponsors and guests (which included Associates Board members), provided an opportunity to critique the program with the director and the performers. Walter Zeisl, manager in the DWP Public Relations section, who introduced the performance and performers, said the program has tremendous potential to create a strong positive image for the Department while teaching students important historical and scientific concepts as well as the need for intelligent use of our water resources. ☞

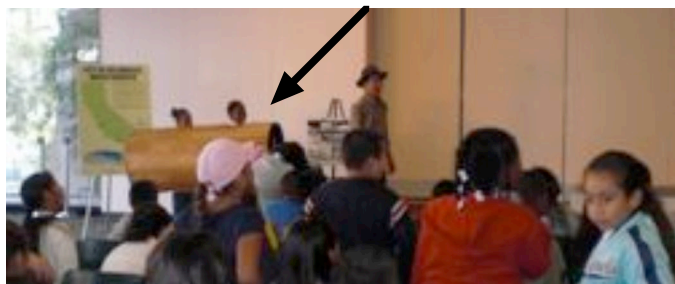


♦ Students eagerly volunteered to perform as early builders of the L.A. Aqueduct.



♦ Aqueduct workers often traversed narrow mountain ledges to reach their worksites.

♦ Bringing the two parts of the pipeline together in the Elizabeth tunnel, after tunneling through the mountain from both ends.



Review by
David J. Oliphant

WATER AND POWER ASSOCIATES, INC.

www.waterandpower.org

Water and Power Associates, Inc. is a non profit, independent, private organization incorporated in 1971 for informing and educating its members, public officials and the general public on critical water and energy issues affecting the citizens of Los Angeles, of Southern California and of the State of California.

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Robert V. Phillips



On Saturday, September 13, 2008, in the lobby of the Ferraro Building, the Public Affairs Division of the DWP and the Water and Power Associates sponsored a joint commemoration of the life of Bob Phillips.

Walter Zeisl, *Manager of Environmental Communications and Educational Services*, introduced the event and Associates Board member Mike Moore ably emceed it. It was noted that though Robert Phillips retired from LADWP in 1975, many in attendance had not yet begun their careers at DWP, yet some 70 people were in attendance. Among many dignitaries present were Ron Deaton (*recently retired DWP General Manager*), and Carl Boronkay (*retired Metropolitan Water District General Manager and former Chief Counsel*).

Many of Bob's memorabilia items, including awards, photograph albums, letters, and artifacts brought by *Bob's daughter*, Jane Wehrey, were arranged into a display by Thu Pham, *DWP Director of Displays and Exhibits*, with Associates assistance.

Associates Board members present included: Alice Lipscomb, Ken and Nancy Downey, Dorothy Fuller, Steve Erie, Joe Hegenbart, Mike Moore, and Dave Oliphant. A number of Associates' members were also present including Leon Furgatch and Vince and Dolores Foley.

Each of the presentations seemed to dovetail with the others so that when the remembrance was complete the audience had a fairly complete picture of Bob Phillips, as the program stated, as truly a man for all seasons.

Councilman Tom LaBonge began his presentation with a moment's silence in honor of those who lost their lives in the Chatsworth train disaster, from which he had just come after spending the previous day at the site. He spoke of Bob's dedication to serving the Los Angeles community, being the last management connection with William Mulholland and a DWP chief in the same mold.

Tom Erb, *Director of Water Resources*, spoke of the debt of gratitude the City owed to Bob Phillips as a dedicated manager of the water system and head of the Department and as a mentor and teacher.

Jane Wehrey, who is a historian, spoke of Bob's wish for his memorial service and burial to be at the little Pioneer Church in Independence, for which he had designed the blueprints, and for the reception in the meeting hall that he had also constructed. She spoke of Bob's broad area of interests including astronomy, his beloved Owens Valley, the Independence Masonic Lodge, his public speaking, and his consulting work in Brazil, Egypt, Guam, Thailand, and as a member of the Management Board of the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority. She spoke of Bob's family and we learned of James Emerson Phillips, Bob's father who preceded him as head of Aqueduct and instilled in him the importance of public service. We learned of Phillips Peak, the small mountain Bob named, that overlooks Tinnemaha Creek.

During Bob's tenure as General Manager and Chief Engineer, the Legislature was under pressure to change the rule that when municipal utilities acquired property it was taken off the tax rolls. The Legislature wanted to make municipal utilities subject to the same property taxes as private property.

Duane Georgeson, *retired Water System Manager*, spoke of Bob's leading the fight to limit the taxes in a way that was fair to the municipals. The State Constitution was amended to establish the tax formula that Bob developed, and Duane pointed out that it was thenceforth known as the Phillips Formula.

Eldon Cotton, *retired Power System Manager*, spoke of

the awesome challenges that Bob faced during his tenure as GM – the first EPA-imposed environmental changes, the 1973 Arab oil embargo, and the 1974 labor strike.

Katherine Dunlap, *former DWP Commissioner*, spoke of her experience as the first female Commissioner of the DWP, and also of MWD, and Bob's ever ready willingness to spend time with Board members to fully explain issues.

Tim Brick, *Chairman of the Board of the Metropolitan Water District*, spoke of his initial experience with DWP, when Tim was first involved with DWP as an enthusiastic environmentalist. He spoke of how impressed he was by Bob's openness to listen and discuss new ideas such as the change from a declining block electric rate rewarding greater electric usage to one that reversed the approach to encourage conservation. Tim echoed the other speakers in recognizing Bob's constant commitment to public service and the public good.

The final speaker, Steve Erie, *UC San Diego Professor*, spoke of Bob as the teacher who enriched his experiences, how they surveyed the Owens Valley together always searching along the way for whiskey bottles left by Fred Eaton and William Mulholland in their initial survey of the Owens Valley. Steve spoke of Bob's continuing generosity of time and spirit in teaching Steve about the Water System and the Owens Valley.

The event, organized by Mike Moore and Thu Pham was well received and a most appropriate way to celebrate the life of a unique individual. ☞

For an expanded obituary and summary of Bob's career and personal life visit our website and click on Newsletter.

Robert V. Phillips Memorial Celebration

Robert V. Phillips, former General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, died in Pasadena on June 28, 2008, following several months of deteriorating health. He was 91.


Phillips was General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power from May 1972 to April 1975. As head of the largest municipally owned utility in the nation, he joined a new generation of utility managers confronted by major new national and state environmental laws and the dramatic changes they accelerated in electric utility economics. Additionally, in reaction to an unforeseen and unprecedented Arab oil embargo, Mr. Phillips took the initiative in implementing long-term measures to insure reliable, low-cost electricity for Los Angeles in the face of rapidly rising fuel costs. He also had to contend with the consequences of a major change in labor relations laws in California, including a strike.

The early 1970's ushered in major changes in electric utility economics. Prior to that, electric utilities were considered a declining cost industry. Each new steam generation unit put on line was able to produce electricity more cheaply than older units through the use of technological improvements that increased efficiency. Over several decades, electric utilities generally operated without rate increases. In 1965 Los Angeles was even able to lower its rates to reflect these savings. However, by the beginning of the new decade the technology and efficiency of steam generation had reached a plateau and the onset of major new environmental mitigation measures required by the Clean Air Act was adding greatly to the cost of generation. As a consequence, electric utilities, including the Department of Water and Power, faced the need for regular rate increases to keep up with these rising costs.

When Phillips became General Manager, the City's electrical generation relied primarily on oil or natural gas burning steam plants in the Los Angeles basin. In 1967, in order to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions, the Department had agreed to use only low sulfur fuel oil when natural gas was not available. The Department's reliance on foreign low-sulfur fuel oil came into sharp focus in December 1973, when the Arab oil producing countries announced they were boycotting shipment of oil to the United States. This brought chaos and great discomfort to all Americans who soon would be lining up at gas stations on either odd or even days to buy gas. Like the rest of the electric utility industry, the Department's conventional approach to short-term electricity shortages was the use of rolling blackouts, similar to those used during power shortages statewide today. However, when confronted with this prospect, Mayor Tom Bradley immediately appointed a Blue Ribbon Committee of civic leaders to devise another way to ration electricity use in the City that would be less disruptive to the business community and the public.

That plan required Phillips and the Department to immediately install and manage a rationing plan that penalized customers who did not conserve electricity based upon historical usage. The plan was rapidly implemented with great success and Los Angeles led the nation by reducing electricity usage by 17% during the first quarter of 1974, until the Arab oil boycott ended. This effort and a number of other conservation initiatives soon put the Department in a leadership role in promoting energy conservation. Toward this end the Department, under Phillips' leadership, worked closely with another Blue Ribbon Committee appointed by the Mayor to revise its electric rate structure to promote greater energy conservation on an ongoing basis, while easing the burden on low-income customers. Again, the Department became a model for utilities nationwide that were trying to promote the new conservation ethic. The Department's new rate structure was approved by the City Council in 1975.

Most importantly, Phillips accelerated the Department's efforts to develop generation that did not depend on foreign oil, taking the lead in implementing the emerging national consensus at the time to "get off oil" and reduce the country's strategic vulnerability. In 1974 the Department gained City Council approval to participate in the coal-fired Intermountain Power Project in Utah which remains one of the main sources of power for the City today and remains unaffected by the rising cost of oil. DWP also tried to develop a nuclear plant in the San Joaquin Valley but was stymied in that effort by opposition in Sacramento.

During Phillips' tenure, the Water System also faced major challenges including the construction of a new reservoir to replace the key in-basin Lower Van Norman Reservoir that was badly damaged during the major Sylmar earthquake on February 9, 1971. That earthquake also caused great damage to the Sylmar Converter station that terminated the newly constructed high voltage direct current transmission connection with the Pacific Northwest and the Bonneville Power Administration. Both projects were vigorously pursued during Phillips' management of the Department. 

OBITUARY OF ROBERT V. PHILLIPS

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Phillips faced yet another major challenge in 1974 when DWP employees went out on strike. In 1968 the California State legislature had passed the Meyers Milias Brown Act (MMB) which gave labor unions greater freedom to organize public employees, collectively bargain, and ultimately strike. One of the first major strikes by public employees following MMB was the 1974 strike by the unions representing Department of Water and Power employees, the most important of which was the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 18. The strike lasted several days and badly polarized labor-management relations at the Department for some time to come, but it ushered in a fundamental new dynamic in managing the Department. Unlike private sector utilities, which operated under the National Labor Relations Act and which only allowed unions to organize up to the level of foreman, the Department, under MMB, was left extremely vulnerable to a strike because all but a literal handful of employees at the top could walk out in a strike.

As the Chief Waterworks Engineer and Deputy General Manager of the Department from 1967 through 1972, Phillips oversaw the design and construction of the Second Aqueduct from the eastern Sierra that would increase the City's ability to import water from the Mono Basin and the Owens Valley, its principal source of water. He also led the response to and recovery from the 1971 Sylmar earthquake which had damaged sections of both the original and second aqueducts from the eastern Sierra, and northerly portions of the distribution system in the San Fernando Valley. Mr. Phillips served as Assistant Chief Water Works Engineer from 1966-67.

From 1961 to 1967 Phillips was head of the Aqueduct Division, responsible for managing this key water lifeline bringing water from the eastern Sierra, 300 miles to the north, overseeing the City's almost 300,000 acres of land in Inyo and Mono Counties, and maintaining good relations with the civic leaders and communities there.

Phillips was uniquely qualified to be the Department's manager in the Owens Valley because he had spent time there first as a youth when taken there on trips in the late 1920's by his father, who at the time headed up the Aqueduct Division. Later he would work there during the summer as a college student in the 1930's. He began his career with the Department there as a Junior Civil Engineer in 1939. Shortly thereafter he met Mary V. Bandhauer of Independence and they were married that same year. She had been raised in the Owens Valley and her father ran the general merchandise store in Independence. In 1941 they purchased a lot in Independence and designed and built a home there which is still owned by his daughter Jane. During this period Phillips took on many responsibilities as the only engineer based in the Valley. He enjoyed telling of his many adventures then, such as snow surveys in the Sierra. That is when he met Dave McCoy, who was a Department hydrographer at the time, but who would later go on to found the Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort. They remained lifelong friends. Over the years Phillips gained the respect of the Owens Valley's people and their leaders and worked with them on numerous projects benefiting the communities there. Phillips also served on the Board of Trustees of the Owens Valley Unified School District from 1946-52.

New environmental legislation that had been approved by Congress and California's legislature in the late 1960s and early 1970s, particularly the environmental review process they mandated, had a major impact on the City's water gathering activities in the Owens Valley, giving new legal authority and standing to environmental interests.

OBITUARY OF ROBERT V. PHILLIPS

Soon major environmental groups such as the Mono Lake Committee, the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club and others, as well as government entities such as Inyo County and the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District pursued a number of lawsuits or regulations against the City to restrict the City's export of water and reallocate its use for the benefit of the valley's environment. Over the years many of these lawsuits were successful

While Phillips vigorously defended the City's water rights in the Owens Valley throughout his career, he was also a firm believer in working cooperatively with the communities there and endeavored to build a mutually beneficial relationship. He took great pride in the role the Department and the City had played in preserving the natural environment there and preventing the development that had destroyed so many other beautiful natural areas. He loved the Owens Valley and moved back there after the death of his second wife Janie in 2003 and lived most recently in Bishop before his health began to deteriorate this April. Few other people knew the history, land, agriculture, geology and people of the Owens Valley as well as Phillips and he took great pleasure describing it to others. Those that were able to participate in such discussions with Phillips treasure those moments and the especially warm, gracious, humorous and friendly person he was.

Phillips had entered UCLA shortly after it opened. He took pre-engineering courses there and was a member of the Varsity Crew. However, since UCLA did not yet have an upper division engineering program, he transferred to the University of California at Berkeley where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1939.

In addition to being General Manager of the Department of Water and Power, Phillips was one of the last remaining links to the early history of the Department. As a youth and young man he met with William Mulholland when visiting his father, who was part of Mulholland's management team. His family was also close to another early water leader's family, the Van Normans. Harvey Van Norman was the Department's third General Manager between 1928 and 1944. Phillips told many stories of the Department's early leaders and their efforts.

During his career, Phillips was an officer or Board member of many engineering, utility, and public service organizations, including: the American Public Power Association, the Electric Power Research Institute, Western Energy Supply and Transmission Associates, California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance, the California Municipal Utilities Association, the California Water Resources Association, the United States Committee on Large Dams, the American Water Works Association and Water and Power Associates. In addition he served as Vice Chairman of the Water and Power Committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. He was a fellow in the Institute for the Advancement of Engineering and the American Society of Civil Engineers and was appointed to and served on the Engineering Advisory Council of the University of California.

Among his many professional honors, he received the Engineer of the Year Award in 1973 from the Institute for the Advancement of Engineering, and the Stephen Bechtel Engineering Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

After his **retirement in 1975** Phillips served as a consultant to the World Bank on municipal water system development in Thailand and was a private consultant on projects in the U.S., Egypt and Brazil. For seven years he was Adjunct Professor of Engineering at UCLA. He was appointed to the Management Board of the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority that served 200,000 people of the Navajo Nation in the Southwest in an area of 25,000 square miles. He was proud to have served in that capacity for more than 16 years. Over the years, Phillips was also an occasional contributor to the Op-ed pages of the *Los Angeles Times*.

His interests and hobbies were many and varied, including amateur astronomy and telescope making. He was an expert sailor, and his oil paintings won numerous prizes.

He is survived by his daughter Jane Phillips Wehrey and son-in-law Michel Wehrey; grandchildren Frederic Wehrey and Catherine Wehrey; sister-in-law, Geneva Phillips; nephews Richard Phillips and Gregory Phillips; and Cynthia Selkirk Price and family, and Steven Selkirk.

ROBERT V. PHILLIPS

TRULY A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

His height and booming base voice commanded your attention while his big broad smile and gracious manner put you at ease. Bob Phillips was truly a man for all seasons, equally comfortable talking about the Owens Valley' geology and history or sharing his passion for painting and astronomy. He loved conversation and telling a story--a natural and gifted teacher and shaper of minds. Bob led a very balanced life as the respected leader of the Country's largest municipally owned utility and a devoted family-man who enjoyed partaking in all the world had to offer, particularly the natural beauty of his beloved Owens Valley.

Bob was very bright and possessed of a well-honed sense of intellectual integrity that was the foundation of the strong convictions he held all his life. While always open to new ideas and points of view, they ultimately had to square with what he had already learned or he would figure out why not.

Bob was also one of the last remaining links to the early history of the Department because, as a youth, he met with William Mulholland and other early leaders of the Department when visiting his father, then head of the Aqueduct Division, who was part of Mulholland's top management team.

The observances and remarks contained herein were provided by Bob's family, many current, former, and retired DWP, MWD, and L.A. City personnel, and the Water and Power Associates.

In 1939 Bob started his own career with the Department, straight out of college, as a young civil engineer in the Owens Valley. He rose through a succession of positions to be Chief Waterworks Engineer and Deputy General Manager from 1967 through 1972, during which he oversaw the design and construction of the Second Aqueduct from the eastern Sierra.

During his 36 year career at the Department, Bob vigorously defended Los Angeles' water rights while championing the preservation of the Owens Valley's natural splendor.

As General Manager from 1972-75, Bob joined a new generation of utility managers challenged by recently adopted and ground breaking national and state environmental laws and the dramatic changes they accelerated in electric utility economics. Additionally, in reaction to Arab oil embargo in late 1973, Bob took the initiative in implementing long-term measures to promote energy conservation while pushing for new generation facilities, like the Intermountain Power Project, that did not rely on foreign oil but ensured continued low-cost electricity in the decades ahead. Most of all, he was a leader who had great foresight and a keen sense of responsibility to prepare for future generations.

Bob's public service continued in retirement when he served as a water consultant to the World Bank and a private consultant on projects in the U.S., Egypt and Brazil. He was also an Adjunct Professor of Engineering at UCLA and a long-standing member of the Management Board of the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority.

We, the citizens of Los Angeles, Southern and Northern California, are better for his leadership and friendship. We will always honor his memory. ☞