

# 2019 ACWA Conference

## Partnerships in Action

Thank you to the Board of Directors and General Manager Alan Clanin for encouraging me to attend the 2019 Association of California Water Agencies Fall Conference and Exhibition. ACWA is committed to providing high-quality, educational and timely events at a reasonable price. I was provide a great deal of information that will enable me to serve this District. I am proud to serve the community of Crestline as a member Board of Directors of the Crestline Village Water District. I have worked hard to gather information to serve this Board and our community. I appreciate your willingness to allow me to increase my knowledge by attending the 2019 ACWA Conference.

The 2019 ACWA was not only motivational it was extremely informative. Many of the sessions I attended were informational concerning rate increases and dealing with cost associated with medical and retirement benefits. Below please see the list of sessions that I attended:

Tuesday, December 3

**8:00-9:45 ACWA JPIA Seminar: Steady As She Goes for Stable Board Meetings**

Sharing a common commitment for effective Board Meetings.

**10:00-11:30 ACWA JPAI: Building Tomorrow's Water District: Customer Engagement & Life Cycle Replacement.**

Challenges facing agencies with aging infrastructure.

**12:00-1:00 Luncheon: ACWA 101**

Working luncheon networking and learning about ACWA JPIA

**1:00-3:00 ACWA JPIA Sexual Harassment Prevention for Board Members & Managers**

Certificate class regarding sexual harassment.

**5:00-6:30 Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall**

Wednesday, December 4

**8:00-9:45 Opening Breakfast**

**10:00-11:30 Finance Program: Learned, How to a Successful 218 Meeting**

Discussion surrounded a Proposition 218 meeting

**11:45-2:00 General Session Luncheon- Keynote speaker discussed water rights laws.**

**2:15-3:30 Water Industry Trends: ACWA Talks: Inspirational Ideas Worth Sharing**

Ted Talk Format

**3:45-5:00 Finance Program: Purposeful Positioning for Positive Debt Issuance Results**

Developing a compressive water resource management strategy

Thursday, December 5

**9:00-9:30 Legislative Coffee Break**

**9:30-11:00 Finance Program: Addressing Growing Retirement Costs: Pension Financing Solutions and How to Use a 115 Trust.**

Discussion on raising pensions and medical cost

11:45-2:00 **General Session Luncheon-** Cary Talbot Chief of Flood & Storm Protect U.S Army Corp of Engineers.

2:15-3:15: **Exhibitor Case Study by U.S. Geological Survey Monitoring and Sustainable Groundwater in the Los Angeles Coastal Plain**

7:00-10:00 **Dinner and Entertainment**

**Friday, December 6**

8:30-10:00 **Hans Doe Past Presidents' Breakfast in Partnership with ACWA JPIA**

Although I found the entire Conference worthwhile, I have highlighted the sessions that I felt were most relevant to our District. This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> year serving on the Board of Directors for the Crestline Village Water District. Being able to attend the ACWA Conference has helped me gain much needed knowledge concerning the water industry in California.

We are facing some challenges in the next few years as a water district providing quality service at a fair price to our residents. The more knowledge and experience that all the Directors gain I believe will serve the Crestline Village Water District.

Thank you once again for your dedication and commitment to the residents of Crestline.

Sincerely,

Robert Kinzel



## MEMO

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To: Board of Directors  
From: Alan Clanin  
Date: Dec 12, 2019  
Subject: ACWA/JPIA Fall 2019 Conference Report / Dec 03-Dec 06

### **December 03, 2019 Travel, Check-in**

### **December 04, 2019**

#### **ACWA JPIA Seminar: “Building Tomorrow’s Water District: Customer Engagement and Life Cycle Replacement”**

From the conference guidebook:

Is your agency challenged with aging infrastructure and assets? In this session, Citrus Heights Water District will share how they approached wide-sweeping and high-cost life cycle replacements with advanced planning, customer engagement and community leadership development.

Speakers: Citrus Heights WD Representatives. Hilary Straus, General Manager

Analysis: Look far down the road. Prepare early.

#### **ACWA JPIA Seminar: “Finance Program: Lessons Learned, How to Hold a Successful 218 Hearing”**

From the conference guidebook:

The environment surrounding Proposition 218 Hearings has increasingly become more confrontational and challenging. Increasing water rates is not a pleasant topic. Unfortunately, as agencies struggle with declining water demand and increasing regulatory and repair and replacement needs, a further increase in water rates will be required. In addition to this, agencies have an intensifying lack of trust with governing bodies which has fueled litigation on water rates. Given future water rates will be required to rise, the question is how can we alleviate conflict, or even make the Public Hearing a positive experience for the agency? This panel will discuss the simple steps

## ACWA/JPIA Fall 2019– Attendance Report

that can reduce the tension in a Public Hearing and assist your utility in making an unpleasant discussion tolerable, and potentially even constructive for your community.

Moderator: Sanjay Gaur, Vice President, Raftelis Financial Consultants Panelists: Jack Bebee, General Manager, Fallbrook PUD Ron Duncan, General Manager, Soquel Creek WD Robert Shaver, General Manager, Alameda County WD

### **JPIA “Leadership Essentials Alumni Reinforcement”**

Meeting with former classmates and previous graduates of the JPIA Leadership Essentials for the Water Industry course. Engaged in further discussion with Hilary Straus, General Manager of Citrus Heights Water District and Tom Neisler, General Manager of Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District regarding long term planning and execution of project. Public pushback following a necessary rate increase to cover infrastructure cost.

Analysis: Education is the answer.

### **Technology Program: Take It To The Cloud!**

Cloud computing has become the future for IT organizations. It provides a whole new world of opportunities for data management and information storing. It appears to be beneficial in reducing IT costs, and provides flexibility, scalability, collaboration and accessibility. But does it do all of this? How will we manage access, security and integration across existing data centers and the cloud? How does it benefit water agencies and is it an effective model for managing technology to deliver water in California? In this session, attendees will hear from experts who understand cloud computing and water agency professionals who have experienced migrating to the cloud. They will share their experiences and lessons learned.

Moderator: Charles Eckstrom, Information Technology, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Panelists: Darren Bennett, Deputy Director - CISSP, City of San Diego Andrew Levine, Manager of Information Services, East Bay Municipal Utility District Steven Reese, Account Technology Strategist - State & Local Government, Microsoft

Analysis: The risks and limitations of Cloud Computing far exceed the benefits.

**Toured exhibit hall and had various discussions with vendors.**