

October 21, 2015 Board Written/Narrative Comments by Dick Quigley

Sept 21-23 Attended CSDA annual meeting at Monterey Convention Center.

Monday: network district discussion groups focusing on, what are districts Networks, role of public affairs field coordinator and needs, collaboration grant funding/key project support takeaways. Greater influence and understanding over key policy issues unified Special district voice, public education/participation.

Tuesday: Opening speaker was worth the price of admission speaking on “Creative Strategies for Turning Challenges into Opportunity, and Change into Advantage”. Followed by a session on “Ongoing Drought and California’s New Sustainable Ground Water Management Act Creates New Challenges for Local Agencies”. Take a way’s; break down silos with collaborative story telling. Find touch points drive expectations viral. There is appetite for tech change with education and understanding. Special Districts are being forced to navigate in uncharted legal and technical territory.

Afternoon session was a “Water and Sewer Rates: From Defensibility to Taylor-Made Rate Design” I brought home a book for staff and board perusal and possible use, developed by NBS titled “Rates, Fees and Charges in the post-proposition 13,218,and 26 Era in California. This was a very interesting and enlightening session.

Cal LAFCO (Sacramento) and State Water Resources Control Board had conversation booths in the Exhibitors show case hall and were fun to visit with. Pam Miller Ex Director of Cal LAFCO congratulated on our recent award and the District transparency flag on my nametag.

Wed: Computer Security Specialist spoke about and warned us on how to “Protect Your Organization from Computer Crime” I hope we are up to speed in this area. Might be something to weave into our up dated strategic plan goal setting.

Sept 24-25 Attended ACWA Board meeting /Tour & work shop Cucamonga Valley Water District.

Thur: Met to review proposed ACWA 2016 budget, discuss driving factors, and budget building blocks, proposed revenue enhancements / expense cuts and recommend alternatives. We also reviewed a history of FTE, dues adjustments, and operating expenses. We proceeded to a tour of several water district facilities reservoirs and recharge ponds. Their district is similar in geographic size and population to ours and they are aggressively seeking to expand their water portfolio with greater recycling and storm water run off capture retention & reuse.

Fri: Full executive committee and board meeting with reports out on Water Storage, Water Transfer Initiative, Headwaters HR2647 (Westerman) and path forward. Implementing SGMA bills in the hopper also discussed as the landscape is quickly changing. Prop 218 and ACWA joining forces with (CSAC) Cal League of Cities and Draft Ballot Measure- Constitutional Amendment floated. Lots of discussion and I liked explanation from Dan H of Legal committee explaining. We are Flood and need to be involved at the table! I am forwarding Draft to Jill & David as a special phone board meeting call will be happening within two weeks. I suggest we review and plan a response.

Drought related activities were discussed at length, drought outreach and save our water campaign, as well as the Fix It For good messaging.

ACWA Fall Conference was mentioned the theme will be “2015: A GAME CHANGER”. I shared Region 5 is planning a 90 minute program on Atmospheric rivers, and we have a Oct 25 & 26 event in Buelton, The Lake Cachuma Project Past, Present, and Future. Registration is available on line at ww.ACWA.com

Oct 6- Participated in a ACWA webinar for discussion of:
ACWA SUPPORT FOR AMENDING ARTICLE X OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS BACKGROUND

In 1996, California voters approved Proposition 218, which added Article XIII C (governing taxes) and Article XIII D (governing property-related fees) to the California Constitution. The intent of Proposition 218 was, in part, to strengthen the nexus between the property-related fees, such as water and sewer service fees, imposed by local public agencies and the cost of providing those services. To accomplish this, Article XIII D, section 6 requires that water rates for any class of water users be proportionate to the costs of providing that service.

While most public water agencies agree they should be accountable for the revenues they raise through rate setting and that those revenues should be commensurate with the costs of providing service, the strict proportionality and other provisions of Proposition 218 have had some unintended and undesirable consequences for many ACWA member agencies. One concern is the difficulty local public agencies face in financing stormwater and flood control infrastructure. Though environmental regulations under the Clean Water Act are making it increasingly necessary to capture and manage stormwater, Article XIII D makes it difficult to finance the infrastructure needed to do so, putting local public agencies between a rock and a hard place. The strict proportionality requirements of Article XIII D also constrain the ability of local water management agencies to establish conservation-based tiered rate structures or to implement lifeline water rates to make water service more affordable for low-income households.

To address these concerns, ACWA has been active in a coalition with the League of California Cities (League), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the California Water Foundation (CWF) to identify and implement a strategy to accomplish three goals:

- 1) Enhance the ability of local agencies to finance stormwater and flood control infrastructure;
- 2) Provide more flexibility for the establishment of conservation-based tiered rate structures; and
- 3) Allow public agencies, at their discretion, to implement lifeline water rates for low-income households.

To provide more flexibility to ACWA members in accomplishing the above goals, staff recommends that ACWA commit to an action plan consistent with the following policy guidelines:

- 1) Amend Article X of the California Constitution to provide a separate and voluntary means of financing for public water agencies that:
 - a. Allows for financing stormwater and flood control infrastructure in a manner consistent with financing water and sewer systems; and
 - b. Retains cost-of-service requirements for water and sewer service charges while expressly authorizing establishment of conservation-based water rates and lifeline rates.

2) In cooperation with our coalition partners, pursue a strategy that includes both filing an initiative and introducing legislation to preserve maximum flexibility to accomplish these policy objectives.

3) Work in close collaboration with the Brown Administration to make the Administration, in effect, a full partner in this initiative.

Oct 6- Special ACWA full Board meeting (teleconference)

ACWA SUPPORT FOR AMENDING ARTICLE X OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

And discussion. After a lengthy discussion and debate [Final vote: Yes: 27; No: 7; Abstain:](#) All six members from Region 5 voice voted yes.

Oct 7- Participated in the Patterson Ranch Tour and workshop. Good questions from community participants! Public access, trails, recreation. How can we utilize if an el nino or AR comes soon?

[Let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.](#)

[Thanks DQ](#)