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on tap

CALIFORNIA WATER ASSOCIATION

Working Together. Achieving Results.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

California's regulated water companies continually look for ways to improve the services we provide to our customers. From addressing aging infrastructure and environmental concerns to partnering with local and state agencies to resolve water supply issues, these utilities, regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission, are always leading the way in innovation and solutions.

With the ultimate goal of providing safe, reliable and quality water services, regulated water utilities employ state-of-the-art systems and solutions, comply with environmental and economic regulations and water quality standards, while continuously implementing additional efficiencies.

This edition of *On Tap* focuses on the regulated utilities' work and collaboration with all stakeholders to efficiently deliver safe, reliable water services:

- California American Water's San Clemente Dam Removal Project on Track
- Honoring Scott Weldy...the Man, the Leader, the Legacy
- Magazine Ad Features Suburban Water Systems
- California Water Service Company to the Rescue for West Goshen Residents
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- Wildlife Conservation – a Priority for California Water Service Company
- Changing of the Guard at the Water Education Foundation
- Why Customers Soon Will Pay More for Water

I hope you can join us for [California Water Association's 2014 Spring Conference!](#) While the online registration is closed, feel free to contact Vanessa Gonzales at 916.231-2147 or vgonzalez@calwaterassn.com if you would like to attend and participate.

To view *On Tap* in PDF format, click [here](#), or access the online version on CWA's website at www.calwaterassn.com.

Sincerely,

R.W. Nicholson
 San Gabriel Valley Water Company
 2013-2014 CWA President

For instant California Water Association news:



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN WATER'S SAN CLEMENTE DAM REMOVAL PROJECT ON TRACK



The San Clemente Dam Removal Project's second construction season begins in May, starting with the final drawdown and draining of the water behind the dam. The project's three-year construction schedule began last summer and is on track for completion next year. This is the largest dam-removal project in California history.

San Clemente Dam is a 106-foot-high concrete arch dam located 18 miles upstream from the Pacific Ocean on the Carmel River in Monterey County. In 1991, the Division of Safety of Dams within the California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) agreed with California American Water's (CAW) determination that the San Clemente Dam was inadequate for seismic stability and flood safety. After years of study, the CDWR and Army Corps of Engineers evaluated five options to address the safety issues.

The option to remove the dam and reroute the river around silt that had accumulated behind the dam was favored by environmental groups and public agencies concerned with protecting and enhancing the Carmel River ecosystem. The project involves an innovative engineering approach to reroute a half-mile portion of the Carmel River into San Clemente Creek and use the abandoned area for sediment storage.

"About 175 people will be directly employed for the project this summer, in addition to numerous outside vendors and suppliers," said CAW President Rob MacLean. "All that activity translates into approximately \$150 million of economic output for the area. We're proud to be partners in this project, which benefits the environment, public safety and the local economy."

Construction activities completed last year included developing a new access road, preparing the 68-acre construction site, partially constructing the Carmel River diversion system, completing geotechnical investigations and relocating fish and other wildlife. Work to be completed this year will include permanently rerouting the Carmel River course to bypass 2.5 million cubic yards of accumulated sediment behind the dam and start the removal of the dam. Next summer, the dam will be fully removed, and the natural character and habitat of the project site will be restored. 



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

HONORING SCOTT WELDY...THE MAN, THE LEADER, THE LEGACY



Many in the water industry were stunned and deeply saddened to hear that Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company General Manager Scott Weldy suddenly passed away in mid-April this year.

A tribute in the *High Desert Daily* by Kirby Brill, General Manager of Mojave Water Agency, where Weldy served as Board President until 2004, kindly noted, “[Scott] had the special gift of empathy. He made everyone feel comfortable and ‘understood’ even when his positions differed from others.”

Having served as President of the Rotary Club of Apple Valley, Weldy “lived” the group’s motto, “Service Above Self.” Tony Penna, Weldy’s close friend and successor, confirmed this in his comments in the *High Desert Daily* and said the company will carry on Weldy’s philosophy of educating the consumer.

“Scott certainly understood the role of water conservation, particularly landscaping, as a subset of sustainability. Given his role in Rotary, he must have embraced helping others and having a servant mindset,” Penna said. “He was loved and admired by his staff and his sudden departure is something that will take a long time to heal. We will honor his memory by continuing his work.”

Weldy’s 25-year-old son Alex noted in the *High Desert Daily* article, “I am proud that he was an integral part of the community. His civic-minded approach to life set a great example of what a community leader should be. He taught me to be open-minded and patient. Approach everything with a critical eye.” Alex Weldy said he would like everyone to remember his father by the motto of “Service Above Self” he lived by.

“Scott will be dearly missed and fondly remembered by all of his colleagues at Ranchos Water, as well as the residents in the High Desert communities whose lives he positively touched,” said Daylyn Presley, Senior Public Affairs Specialist at Park Water Company. “The journey and impact Scott had across the High Desert is, without doubt, incredible. Scott achieved more in his life than could be expected of anyone.”

This [video tribute](#) illustrates Weldy’s leadership, dedication, legacy and his love for life. 

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MAGAZINE AD FEATURES SUBURBAN WATER SYSTEMS

The Quality Assurance (QA) Department at Suburban Water Systems (Suburban) features prominently in an advertisement that Medora Corporation is running in several industry trade publications.

The advertisement, which promotes a submersible GridBee GS-12 tank mixer manufactured by Medora, includes a photo of Suburban QA employees Chris Arrighi, Jesse Malinowski and Department Manager Ken Reich in front of a Suburban reservoir in Covina.

According to Suburban's Communications Manager Michael Nutt, "Medora approached us about participating in the ad after we installed two of the mixers. The idea appealed to us and seemed like a good fit, so we agreed. Our guys don't normally get called on to pose for a photo shoot. It was a fun outing, and we are pleased with the result."

The advertisement will run in the May and June issues of Opflow and the May issues of *Water & Wastes Digest*, *Water World* and *Water Environment & Technology*.



Suburban Water Systems

"We control costs without sacrificing water quality"

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Suburban Water Systems Water Quality Assurance Department Employees (Left to Right): Chris Arrighi, Jesse Malinowski and Department Manager Ken Reich

THE QUALITY & SERVICE FOCUS

CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY TO THE RESCUE FOR WEST GOSHEN RESIDENTS

As reported in the February 2013 edition of *On Tap*, California Water Service Company (Cal Water) responded quickly to the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) request to assist West Goshen residents, whose system was no longer providing them with quality drinking water. At the time, Cal Water sent company teams to assist in bringing clean water to West Goshen by flushing the distribution system, adjusting pump pressures and fixing electrical issues.



March 18 Groundbreaking Ceremony to Commemorate the Water Mainline Extension Phase of the Project

Taking into consideration permanent solutions to the water problem, Cal Water partnered with the CDPH and Self-Help Enterprises (Self-Help) to secure the town's water supply. Self-Help, a Visalia nonprofit group that assists small communities, arranged meetings with public officials and Cal Water and sought government grants. Now, West Goshen residents have a more reliable supply of safe tap water.

"We are excited that West Goshen residents now have a permanent supply of high-quality water on which they can rely," said Cal Water District Manager Scott Bailey. "From the beginning, CDPH, Self-Help Enterprises, West Goshen Mutual and Cal Water have all been focused on doing the right thing and helping our neighbors, and that commitment is what made this outcome possible."

When the CDPH approached Cal Water and Self-Help to assist with an emergency disinfection plan, they developed a temporary plan to repair and maintain West Goshen's water system. With grants totaling \$3.25 million from CDPH and \$150,000 from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), a permanent solution was initiated to connect the town's system to Cal Water's Visalia water system. Because of CDPH's and RWQCB's funding, Cal Water's current Visalia District customers will not incur any costs associated with adding West Goshen to their system.

The project consisted of two phases. The first phase included installing 8,645 feet of 12-inch ductile iron water main from Cal Water's existing service area to West Goshen and serving the community via a master-metered connection overseen by the West Goshen Mutual Water Company (WGMWC). Eight new fire hydrants also were installed to improve fire protection. Cal Water is now planning the final phase, which is anticipated to take approximately six months and will include connecting individual customer services and replacing aging water mains.

The West Goshen pipeline extension project serves as a model for other small communities faced with contaminated drinking water. According to Jessi Snyder, Self-Help Community Development Specialist, in a recent [Fresno Bee article](#), "If you can combine a smaller system with a larger one, that's great. It really is a long-term permanent solution."

President Lucy Hernandez of the WGMWC summed it up nicely in the article, "This is like a blessing for our community." 🌈

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

CWA TESTIFIES ON PENDING LEGISLATION AFFECTING WATER SUPPLIERS AND THEIR CUSTOMERS



California Water Association's (CWA) Legislative Committee was busy in April and early May providing input to the state Legislature on a number of bills related to water supply and cost allocation, water quality, low income rate assistance and water use efficiency. Foremost among the bills on which CWA has been active are the suite of water bond bills. At this point, CWA has testified or written letters in support of three of them:

- AB 2554 (Rendon) – Formerly AB 1331, this bill was amended to increase the dollar amount to \$8.5 billion; water utilities regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission) are now included as eligible applicants for grant funding from the bond proceeds.
- AB 2686 (Perea) – This is a \$9.25 billion bond alternative that includes \$3 billion continuously appropriated for storage and CPUC-regulated water utility eligibility.
- SB 1250 (Hueso) – Largely similar to AB 2686, this bill would propose a \$9.4 billion bond that would include appropriations for water quality, water supply reliability, Delta sustainability, storage, watersheds, groundwater sustainability and water recycling/desalination. It also includes CPUC-regulated water utility eligibility.

Another water bond bill with CPUC-regulated water company eligibility, SB 848 (Wolk), proposes a \$6.8 billion bond. SB 848 has already passed the Senate Natural Resources and Water (NR&W) and Appropriations Committees and is awaiting floor action. AB 2554 and AB 2686 passed the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee on April 30, although Committee Chair Rendon was forced to accept new amendments related to groundwater cleanup that added \$1 billion to the bill's price tag, bringing it to a total of \$9.5 billion. SB 1250 was held by the Senate NR&W Committee, also on April 30, to give the bill's author time to confer with Senator Wolk to see if those bills can move toward comparability with each other.

CWA also has addressed two CPUC-related bills in the past month. One was AB 2281 (Hagman), which would have added two members of the Legislature (one from the majority party and one from the minority party) to the CPUC and the Air Resources Board to provide legislative oversight of each state agency. One of the benefits of CPUC regulation is that the Commission is not burdened by the pressures of electoral politics, and CWA opposed this bill on this basis. The bill failed initially in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on April 7 but was granted reconsideration. However, the bill was not reheard by the committee.

The bill on which CWA has been most active is AB 1434 (Yamada), which originally created a low-income rate assistance program that called for a 20 percent reduction in total water bills for CPUC-regulated water utility customers in disadvantaged communities, defined in Health and Safety Code Sec. 116275 as the entire service area of a community water system, or a community therein, in which the median household income is less than 80 percent of the statewide average. CWA originally opposed this bill because it singled out CPUC-regulated water utilities and only covered 15 percent of the water customers of California.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

CWA TESTIFIES ON PENDING LEGISLATION AFFECTING WATER SUPPLIERS AND THEIR CUSTOMERS...CONTINUED

The bill has since been amended to create a fee on all water customers, whether served by Commission-regulated or government-owned water utilities, which would fund a statewide, low-income assistance program. CWA testified in support of the amended bill when it was heard on April 21 in the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee (U&C). CWA requested three amendments, though, that it believes will improve the bill. They are:

1. Change the applicability of the subsidy to the water-related portions of the customer's bill, not other elements such as taxes, fees or other charges exclusive of water use. Assembly Member Yamada accepted this amendment at the April 21 hearing.
2. Peg the subsidy to the water utility's average residential bill to provide an incentive for low-income customers to use water efficiently; otherwise, the subsidy could act as a deterrent to conservation.
3. Additionally, in order to avoid any confusion with the use of the term "water service provider," which heretofore has not been a defined term in the California Code of Regulations, CWA requested that the definition be amended as follows: "Water service provider" means a *community water system or a state small water system, as defined in Part 12, Chapter 4, Section 116275 (i) and (n) of the Health and Safety Code.*

Since AB 1434 was going to require more work to reconcile its provisions with Proposition 218 compliance, Assembly Member Yamada said she would like to work with CWA on the latter two amendments to make sure they reflect CWA's and the bill's intent. The bill passed the U&C Committee on a 5-2 vote and is moving forward to the Appropriations Committee.

Another bill on which CWA testified in opposition on April 30 before the Assembly Local Government Committee is AB 2189 (Garcia), which is designed to revise and recast the Replenishment Assessment (RA) provisions in the Water Replenishment District Act. The assessment is levied on groundwater pumpers by the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) in the Central and West Coast Basins to comply with certain requirements of Proposition 218. CWA opposed the bill on the grounds that it would preempt ongoing litigation on the RA and improperly convert the RA into a parcel-related charge when it is actually based on the quantity of water extracted, not the costs associated with the parcel of land or the operation. The RA is based on the costs associated with replenishing and maintaining water quality in the basins.

Further, CWA noted that the proportional RA implicated by AB 2189 would dramatically raise the assessments for pumpers in the West Coast Basin because of the accompanying higher costs associated with preventing saltwater intrusion from further contaminating the groundwater in that basin. Conversely, CWA said that any cost savings achieved by Central Basin pumpers through a proportional assessment would be offset by legal and engineering costs to adjudicate the lost underflow from the Central Basin to the West Coast Basin. Such costs would be passed along to the retail customers in both basins and would exacerbate the rising cost pressures already being absorbed by those customers.

Assembly Member Garcia told the committee that she plans to sort out the Proposition 218 ramifications of AB 2189. Following this discussion, the bill passed the Local Government Committee and will be heard next by the Appropriations Committee. 🌍

POINTS OF INTEREST

DON'T MISS CALIFORNIA WATER ASSOCIATION'S 2014 SPRING CONFERENCE



Don't miss the opportunity to experience an exciting line-up of speakers and educational panels and network with industry experts at California Water Association's 2014 [Spring Conference](#) on May 19-21 at The Citizen Hotel, 926 J Street, Sacramento. Among the featured speakers are Assembly Members Anthony Rendon and Henry Perea and State Water Resources Control Board Chair Felicia Marcus.

This year's theme, Mission Possible: Securing California's Water Future, includes topics of interest such as:

- How water purveyors are managing the drought
- The synergies between the California Water Action Plan and California Water Plan Update 2013
- The case for passion in groundwater
- A new home for the state's drinking water program
- The latest on the hexavalent chromium standard
- Helping low-income customers pay the water bill
- Water is front and center in the 2014 legislative session

While the online registration is closed, feel free to contact Vanessa Gonzales at (916) 231-2147 or vgonzalez@calwaterassn.com if you would still like to attend and participate. 🌍

POINTS OF INTEREST

SIX MAYORS OPPOSE BALLOT MEASURE TO TAKE OVER CALIFORNIA AMERICAN WATER'S MONTEREY PENINSULA SYSTEM

On June 3, voters in the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) must decide whether to vote in favor of or oppose Measure O. If approved, Measure O would:

- Create policy to establish and maintain public ownership of MPWMD's water system, which is currently owned and operated by California American Water (CAW);
- Commission a report on the feasibility of MPWMD's acquisition of the water system and the development of a plan and schedule to move forward; and
- Instruct the MPWMD board of directors to begin the process of acquiring all water system assets and infrastructure, provided the report is positive.

In response to state- and court-imposed reductions of MPWMD's water use from the Carmel River and Seaside aquifer and the state's cease-and-desist order imposing a deadline of January 1, 2017, to significantly reduce water withdrawals from the Carmel River, several stakeholders came together to reach an agreement on a Water Supply Project to address these reductions. Tests are currently underway, and the project is moving forward.

Monterey Mayor and President of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority (MPRWA) Chuck Della Sala and Carmel-by-the-Sea Mayor and MPRWA Vice President Jason Burnett, on behalf of themselves and the mayors of Del Rey Oaks, Pacific Grove, Sand City and Seaside, submitted a [guest commentary](#) to the *Monterey Herald* urging a no vote on Measure O.

According to the commentary, "Just when things are looking brighter, along comes Measure O, [which] threatens to create discord out of harmony. It jeopardizes the fragile agreement we have forged to create a long-term solution."

The mayors contend that Measure O could put the Project's permitting at risk, increase the cost of financing, delay the restoration of the Carmel River and force water rationing, which is "why all six mayors on the Monterey Peninsula unanimously oppose Measure O," stated the commentary. "Whether or not you support public water, this is the wrong time and the wrong way to approach the issue. We are making significant progress on the desalination plant — with a finish line in sight — but Measure O would jeopardize this progress while offering no alternative solutions. It just leaves us dry."

Subsequently on May 6, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted to oppose Measure O by a 4 to 1 vote. Additionally on May 9, both the *Monterey County Herald* and the *Carmel Pine Cone* recommended voting No on O. The *Herald* editorial stated, "Measure O is at best a distraction and at worst a hindrance to making progress on solving the Peninsula's water problems." 



POINTS OF INTEREST

NEW PPIC REPORT FINDS WATER SUPPLIERS ARE PROVIDING SAFE, RELIABLE SERVICE

A new report released in late March by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) affirms that California's water supply and wastewater providers are performing reasonably well – providing safe, reliable levels of service and preparing for future needs. The report notes that these utilities, including government-owned water agencies and water utilities regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission, are almost entirely locally funded and account for 84 percent of the \$30.4 billion California invested annually on water and wastewater service, flood management, aquatic ecosystem management and debt service on general obligation water bonds. To date, PPIC says, they have generally been able to raise rates to be able to comply with new treatment requirements and replace aging infrastructure.

However, the new financial challenges are daunting. Rising regulatory standards carry new costs, and water supply, not only that shipped through the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta but all sources, remains at risk. From the perspective of fiscal health, a significant concern according to PPIC is the potential for Proposition 218 to stymie the public agencies' ability to pursue the modern water management techniques needed to maintain reliable water service in the face of population growth, climate change and increasing water scarcity. Fortunately, this is not an impediment for Commission-regulated water utilities, who have greater access to capital through equity markets, more investment flexibility and a greater willingness to invest.

The report goes on to identify critical funding gaps in five key areas of water management: safe drinking water for small, disadvantaged communities; flood protection; management of stormwater and other polluted runoff; aquatic ecosystem management; and integrated water management. The report identifies the overall funding gap in these five areas at \$2 billion to \$3 billion annually. Filling this gap would require a spending increase of 7 to 10 percent – or \$150 to \$230 per household – for a (statewide) water system that already has annual spending of more than \$30 billion.

The report spends considerable time on water rate affordability, noting that the generally accepted threshold for affordability – a water bill that requires less than 2 percent of household income – is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain. Statewide, PPIC says, the share of single-family households that may already face water bills exceeding 2 percent of their annual incomes is nearly 13 percent. The lowest-income households (with annual incomes at or below \$25,000) are potentially affected in most counties in the state, and lower-middle-income households (with annual incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000) also are affected in counties where water rates are especially high such as Santa Barbara. The report notes that the state will clearly need to consider affordability for lower-income households as water bills continue to rise, even though water is still highly affordable for the vast majority of California's households and businesses.

Finally, PPIC addresses an issue that Assembly Member Henry Perea (D-Fresno) is wrestling with in his bill, AB 1527, water consolidation for disadvantaged communities. PPIC's report covers both physical consolidation and administrative consolidation of utilities and states that the latter – with combined management and technical oversight – may also help reduce costs and improve performance, especially where physical consolidation is impractical. The report notes the obstacles associated with consolidation, one of which is that substantial sums have been available to support safe drinking water delivery under numerous state and federal programs, but this funding often is difficult for small systems to access because of their limited organizational capacity.

Moreover, most funds, including those specially earmarked for small systems, have been restricted to capital improvements rather than the ongoing operations and maintenance support these systems often need. Some of these gaps could be addressed through better organization of existing funding programs, including creating a single application for the numerous funding programs. Perhaps most important to facilitating physical and administrative consolidation would be indemnifying utilities that agree to annex small systems from potential liabilities for preexisting problems. This is one measure CWA hopes can be included in AB 1527. It would go a long way toward helping customers in those communities with distressed water systems. Assess [full report here](#). 

POINTS OF INTEREST

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN WATER ANNOUNCES PLANS TO PURCHASE MEADOWBROOK WATER COMPANY



California American Water (CAW) recently executed a binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to acquire Meadowbrook Water Company of Merced, Inc.'s operating assets and assume responsibility for providing domestic water services in Meadowbrook's Merced County service area. CAW's acquisition of this investor-owned Class C Water Utility will add approximately 1,650 new water service connections to its current California customer base of approximately 183,000 and a total population served of about 600,000 people.

"With this transition, Meadowbrook customers will have access to expanded services," said CAW's Director of Northern California Operations S. Audie Foster. "These include a 24-hour customer service center, web self-service, paperless billing, robust conservation and water efficiency programs and rebates and the H2O Help to Others Program, which provides Low Income Rate Assistance to customers on low fixed-incomes and families facing financial hardships."

"This is most certainly a positive step in securing long-term quality service for our current and future customers at Meadowbrook," said Meadowbrook Water Company Chief Executive Officer David Walker.

The two water companies anticipate filing an application this fall seeking approval from the California Public Utilities Commission with the final transfer of Meadowbrook's operations to occur in spring 2017. 🌍

POINTS OF INTEREST

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION – A PRIORITY FOR CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY

With the completion of phase one of California Water Service Company's (Cal Water) fish passage initiative at its Bear Gulch diversion facility, the company remains committed to finding wildlife conservation solutions.

Previously, steelhead trout, listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act, were unable to migrate and spawn in Bear Gulch Creek due to the industry-standard water pumping system. Working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Marine Fisheries Service, Cal Water developed an operations plan that includes minimum bypass flow requirements to protect the fish.

"As the steelhead trout population started to diminish on the West Coast, we felt a responsibility to do what we could do protect this endangered population and help them thrive," said Cal Water's Bear Gulch Local Manager Dawn Smithson. "We realized we needed a creative solution, and this fish passage project is an important first step."

In 2007, a cone fish screen was installed at the water intake, and Cal Water recently installed a concrete weir at the diversion point to accurately measure and monitor bypass flows to maintain sufficient water in the creek for fish to migrate upstream.

Cal Water also is developing a fish ladder in Bear Gulch to maintain minimum bypass flow and allow the trout to migrate upstream and downstream of the intake diversion. The project will include a series of ascending pools allowing the fish to move from pool to pool until they can swim beyond the ladder.

"What we have accomplished through the construction of the screen and weir, and what we hope to achieve through the ladder, is a clear path for migration of these fish to the bay and ocean," said Smithson. "As a company, we remain committed to environmental conservation and look forward to watching the steelhead trout repopulate." 



Concrete Weir on Bear Gulch Creek

POINTS OF INTEREST

CHANGING OF THE GUARD AT THE WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

On March 27, longtime Executive Director Rita Schmidt Sudman ceded the helm of the Water Education Foundation to award-winning journalist Jennifer Bowles. Sudman retired after 34 years of heading the highly regarded nonprofit whose mission is *to create a better understanding of water resources and foster public understanding and resolution of water resource issues in the West and Southwest through facilitation, education and outreach.*



Under Sudman's direction, the Foundation became a leading, impartial organization for water education and known best for its bimonthly magazine *Western Water*, water tours, school programs, conferences on key water issues and Emmy-winning public television documentaries. Sudman will continue to serve as the Foundation's senior advisor.

In a news release issued by the Foundation, President of the Board of Directors Bill Mills said, "Rita is leaving the Foundation in a solid financial position. Her dedication, energy and creativity have helped make the organization an internationally recognized force in water education, and the Board is confident that Jennifer's background in marketing and journalism will help grow the Foundation and maintain its high level of integrity."

Bowles previously served as a writer and communications strategist at Best & Krieger LLP, working with some of California's leading water law attorneys. Prior to that, she worked as the environmental/water reporter at *The Press-Enterprise* based in Riverside, garnering awards for her coverage of water issues in California, and as a reporter and supervising editor at The Associated Press in Los Angeles.

Bowles commented in the news release, "I can't think of a more interesting and challenging year to join the Foundation with the drought that has placed a spotlight on water issues in California and the need for conservation."

In her farewell column in the March/April edition of *Western Water*, Sudman cautioned, "There is no doubt that the way we manage water in California and the West often is through a silo approach. Increasingly many stakeholders agree that local, state and federal systems need more integration and flexibility. And that includes managing groundwater and surface water together."

"The California Water Association (CWA) appreciates Rita's valuable and unbiased contributions to public education about complicated, and often controversial, water issues," noted CWA Executive Director Jack Hawks. "Our member companies join together in wishing Rita the very best and thank her for her excellent work. And, we welcome Jennifer and look forward to working with her to increase understanding of water issues throughout California." 🌊

POINTS OF INTEREST

WHY CUSTOMERS SOON WILL PAY MORE FOR WATER

In her article “Why You’ll Soon Pay More for Water,” appearing in the May edition of *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance*, Sandra Block identifies aging infrastructure and drought as the key factors impacting rising water bills. Block contends “homeowners can prepare for rate increases by adopting measures that are already widespread in California.”

Focusing on one lesson of the recent water crisis, President of the Pacific Institute, Peter Gleick commented, “We can’t take what comes out of our taps for granted. It’s really the one thing we can’t do without, and yet we pay less for our water than we do for our cell phones or our cable TV.”

It is worth noting that California’s regulated water utilities provide safe, reliable service and deliver high-quality water to consumers’ water taps for less than a penny a gallon.

[Click here](#) to read the entire article. 

