

ACWA

NEWS

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Washington Conference Finale Features Keynotes By Senator Feinstein, Representative Calvert

The highlight of ACWA's three-day Washington Conference was its finale, which featured keynote speeches by Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representative Ken Calvert, who are both sponsoring bills to authorize and fund the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Speaking to more than 80 ACWA delegates February 13, Feinstein said that the timing on passing an authorization bill for the CALFED program is now. "Unless we come together now to get these bills passed, there will be no

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What's Inside:

Legislative Symposium to Cover CALFED, Budget, Endangered Species 11

On the Internet: read this issue's top three stories at

www.acwanet.com

Senator Feinstein, Representative Calvert Honored with ACWA Award



Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representative Ken Calvert received ACWA's Water Leadership Award for their efforts toward CALFED reauthorization. (left) Louise Giersch, Tuolumne Utilities District vice president, appears with Feinstein. Their association dates back to the early 1970s when both served on the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Executive Board. (right) ACWA President Bette Boatman and Calvert. *Turn to page 4 for the story.*

Water in Brief

Deadline Approaches for Water Purchase Program

The final opportunity to apply for the California Department of Water Resources' 2002 Dry Year Water Purchase Program is March 31, 2002. The program will allow agencies to participate in direct purchases of water provided by willing sellers through the department. The program is intended to

reduce the possibility of adverse economic impacts and hardship associated with water shortages and is open to all agencies in the state. Contact the department at 916.653.4547 to request a copy of the memorandum of understanding and purchase request form. Information is also on the Internet at http://watersupplyconditions.water.ca.gov/dry_yr_program.htm. Prospective

sellers must indicate how much water they have available, the source, the price per acre-foot, and their address and phone number. Interested participants should send their proposals to Teresa Geimer at: Department of Water Resources, State Water Project Analysis Office, P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236-001. Proposals may be faxed to her at 916.653.9628.

CVP Water Supply Outlook Updated

Mid-Pacific Region Initial Water Year 2002 Allocation									
Probability of Exceedence Forecasts	Percent of Historical Average Sacramento River Runoff & Year Type	North of Delta Allocation (percent of contract amount)				South of Delta Allocation (percent of contract amount)			
		Ag	M&I	R	WR	Ag	M&I	R	WR
90%	70% Dry	100	100	100	100	55*	80	100	100
50%	92% Below Normal	100	100	100	100	60*	80	100	100
Recent Historic Average (5-Year Average Allocation)		90	95	100	100	75	91	100	100

(M&I allocations are based on historical use)

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation February 15 updated its Water Year 2002 outlook for available supplies from the federal Central Valley Project (CVP). South of the Delta allocations were increased from 45% to 55%, while Friant Division deliveries were lowered. Projections for Friant are now for 600,000 acre-feet or 40% of the historic water supply of 1.5 million acre-feet instead of 800,000 acre-feet or 53%. Their allocations will be 75% of Class 1 water, instead of 100%, and 0% of Class 2 water. Reclamation's official allocation uses the 90% exceedence forecast. (**If an injunction should prevent Reclamation from implementing the February 5, 2002, U.S. District Court's decision and order re: summary judgement motion on offset/reset, the allocation may be revised. The allocation may also be revised due to export curtailments that may not be covered by the CVP Improvement Act 3406(b)(2) or the Environmental Water Account.*)

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In Print

What's So Special About Special Districts? A Citizen's Guide to Special Districts in California has been released by Senator Tom Torlakson, chair of the Senate Local Government Committee. This new third edition contains fresh material on the number of districts, recent controversies and the debilitating effects of the ERAF property tax shifts. It introduces and explains the special district form of government and is a helpful primer for voters, reporters and public officials.

How to Order

Order copies directly from: Senate Publications, 1020 N Street, Room B-53, Sacramento, CA 95814. Cost per copy is \$3.23, which includes shipping and sales tax. Make checks payable to Senate Rules Committee and request report number 583-S. Questions? Call 916.327.2155.

Interior's Bennett Raley

Assistant Interior Secretary for Water and Science Bennett Raley gave the luncheon address. His remarks were direct and explained Interior's priorities for 2002.

He said his time is currently occupied with national security issues, budget and policy initiatives, but that he spends 75% on California-related issues.

"The rumors that the administration is backing away from CALFED are not true," Raley said. "We remain very supportive of the goals of CALFED, and we're committed to moving it forward in a way that achieves balance, is 'implementable,' and affordable."

Raley moved on to the Colorado River and Interior's resolve to meet the milestones in the interim surplus guidelines, part of the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA). He said that under no circumstances would problems with fully protected species

or environmental objections be allowed to sidetrack this process.

"Anyone who wants to hold hostage the QSA, for gain in other areas, will not be viewed favorably by the administration."

Raley also advised delegates that the administration will hold firm to the year-end deadline for meeting California's 4.4 plan for the Colorado River.

During questions and answers, Raley talked about the draft biological assessment for the Klamath Basin, and what the document meant for long-term Bureau of Reclamation policy. He said Interior and the Bureau would "comply fully" with the Endangered Species Act, but that it also intends not to allow external factors to dominate its core mission of contractual water deliveries.

"The department believes in the integrity of treaties, the integrity of compacts and the integrity of contracts," he said. The 103-page draft

biological assessment can be viewed online at www.doi.gov.

Senate Speech Program

The agenda for the Senate speech program Monday brought several key staffers together with ACWA members in the Senate's Dirksen Office Building. Warren Weinstein, Senator Feinstein's key staff member assigned to CALFED; Sara Barth of Senator Boxer's office; David Kim of Governor Davis' Washington Office; and Valerie West, natural resources director for Oregon Senator Gordon Smith, a member of the Senate's Budget and Energy & Natural Resources committees, all spoke.

Reclamation Commissioner

Tuesday's breakfast and speech program gave delegates a chance to meet first hand with key policy makers from various administrative agencies. First up was the Honorable John Keys, commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. In addition to reinforcing the need for California to meet the deadline by the end of the year for the Colorado River 4.4 plan, Keys spoke about security issues, the Bureau's centennial celebration this June and the nation's overall water challenges.

"[The Bureau] is at a heightened level of security at all major facilities as a result of information that came out of interrogations at Guantanamo Bay," said Keys. He went on to say that they are grappling with how much security is enough, where to get the money and whether increased security efforts are reimbursable. He said they view the need for increased security post September 11 as a national responsibility. Keys also pointed out the security budget has gone from nothing in 2002 to \$28 million in 2003.

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Photo by Al. W. Math. v. Mancini

During the breakfast program February 12, Reclamation Commissioner John Keys answered questions from ACWA member delegates.

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Photo by ACWA's Carrie Van Driel



Representative Ellen Tauscher, D-10



Photo by ACWA's Madeline Maurer

(l-r) Representative Doug Ose, R-3, ACWA Vice President Jerry Gladbach and ACWA President Bette Boatman.

Photo by ACWA's Carrie Van Driel



(l-r) Representative Ed Royce Jr., R-39, and his father, Ed Royce Sr., a director on the Municipal Water District of Orange County board.

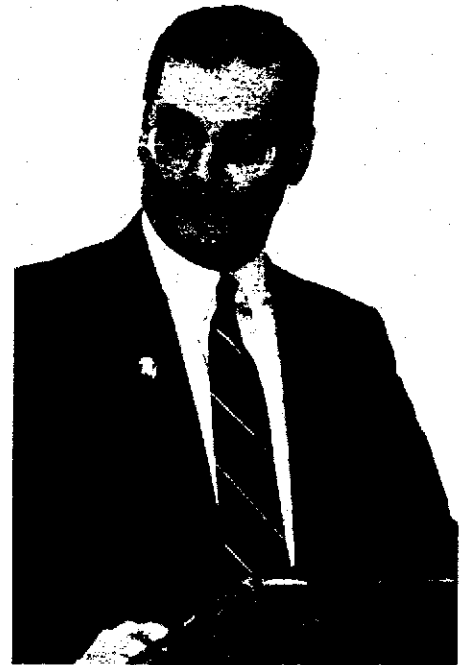


Photo by ACWA's Carrie Van Driel

Representative John Doolittle, R-4