

Resilience *In Action*



Letter from the Executive Director

A year unlike any other, 2020 provided us with the opportunity to see our coalition members from water and energy utilities, businesses, regional and local government, agriculture, labor, and nonprofits step up to protect public health and safety. Watching the actions of our coalition members as they grappled with the impact of COVID-19 and held critical conversations about racial equity was deeply gratifying – a true light in seemingly dark times. This year has shifted our thinking about how we deliver essential services and I see great promise for the future in this transformation.

We've long been proud of the diversity of interests among our coalition members. That's because we believe that working with and learning from a broad range of people helps us do the important work of ensuring a healthy and reliable water supply for all Californians. 2020 shined a light on the importance of expanding that diversity as broadly as possible across a spectrum that includes race, ethnicity, language, gender, abilities/disabilities, socioeconomic status and more. Without a doubt, this year gave the SCWC the opportunity to showcase its ability to adapt in a multitude of ways, while continuing to advance the issues most important to the region's water supply future.

Exemplifying strength in dynamism, the SCWC adapted its in-person meetings and events to online forums with great success. The inception of the "What Matters" webinar series brought expert panels together to discuss innovative solutions to an array of issues relevant to California water professionals including stormwater, human resources, communications, water policy, and more. The webinars offered collaborative discussion between panels of diverse water professionals to address topical issues with cooperation and innovative thinking.

A highlight in water news this year was that the final version of the California Water Resilience Portfolio was published in late July. The document included a single-tunnel, modern conveyance solution as one of the portfolio's key actions. The SCWC continued its support of California Governor Gavin Newsom's efforts to modernize the State Water Project's water delivery system and are pleased to see the state moving forward with the portfolio. The SCWC has always supported collaborative, solution-based efforts such as this to secure resource resiliency for all citizens of California.

This year, if anything, showed us all that the future is never certain. In our personal and professional lives, we try to make plans for years in advance, but often things do not turn out the way we intended. Looking to the future, I feel assured of the SCWC's proven ability to adapt to any climate through strong roots in innovation and resilience. No matter what the world throws our way, we will and must adapt, as often times the only constant is change. With change in mind, we will forge into the future together, continuing our work toward a sustainable, resilient water supply for California.



Charles Wilson
Executive Director



About Southern California Water Coalition

Founded in 1984, the SCWC is an alliance of leaders from regional government, businesses, water agencies, and organizations who lend their voices to water resource advocacy. As a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization using tools such as public education and partnership, we drive advocacy and action to ensure reliable and resilient water supplies in Southern California.

Membership BY THE NUMBERS



The SCWC contributes to topical education by offering multiple task forces to provide ideas, offer resources, and propose strategies to regional water issues.



Join Us

Everyone in Southern California has a stake in the future of California's water supply. By joining the conversation and offering your support, you're ensuring that your voice is heard and is among the full range of perspectives represented when critical water infrastructure decisions are being made locally and statewide.

Membership also confers great benefits:

- Share insights, gain knowledge and shape solutions on issues like stormwater, the water-energy nexus and more by joining our task forces.
- Learn and collaborate with experts and stakeholders at our workshops and events.
- Network with water industry leaders at premier statewide events.
- Tap into policy analysis, outreach and advocacy on issues you care about.

In addition to our general membership levels, we offer the following premium membership levels:

- ◆ Founding (\$25,000)
- ◆ Executive (\$15,000)
- ◆ Premier (\$10,000)
- ◆ Patron (\$5,000)
- ◆ Advisory (\$2,500)

Delta Conveyance

Infrastructure modernization is one of the most pressing issues threatening the reliability of California's water supply. In 2020, SCWC was pleased to see the Delta Conveyance project incorporated as a key aspect of Governor Gavin Newsom's Water Resilience Portfolio, an initiative which will secure regional water supplies for the future. Modernizing the Delta Conveyance is an elemental aspect to the plan as the current conveyance through the Delta is outdated and subject to many uncontrollable vulnerabilities.

2020 marked many great steps toward a modernized Delta Conveyance, and the SCWC demonstrated consistent support over the course of the year:

The coalition kicked off the year by calling its members to action when the Water Resilience Portfolio was still in draft form, asking each to send a letter to California's Department of Water Resources detailing their support of modernization to the state's water system, particularly a single-tunnel Delta Conveyance.

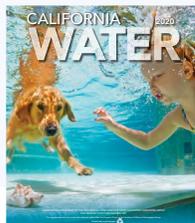
Also in early 2020, the state kicked off the environmental planning process for Delta Conveyance through its Notice of Preparation released in January. SCWC and its members were there again to express our support, releasing statements and communications extolling the importance of this critical project. SCWC also updated its stock of informative fact sheets to include the latest project parameters.



SCWC Executive Director Charley Wilson demonstrated support in-person by attending the Los Angeles-area Notice of Preparation scoping meeting on February 5th. Among the commenters were coalition members Los Angeles County Business Federation, Calleguas Municipal Water District, Inland Action, Southern California Partnership for Jobs, Building Industry Association of Southern California, Inland Empire Economic Partnership, Municipal Water District of Orange County, and the Inland Empire Utilities Agency.

As 2020 came to a close, SCWC showed its support once again as water agencies that depend on the State Water Project to serve their communities approved funds for environmental planning.

SCWC also partnered to showcase the importance of Delta Conveyance through two high-quality magazine publications distributed through newspapers in Orange County and the San Gabriel Valley.



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The SCWC stays engaged in the process of realizing this essential project for securing California's water supply resilience by promoting modernization campaigns, tracking legal updates in water exportation, and lending their voice in every development surrounding the project. After a year of process advancement for the Delta Conveyance project, the SCWC looks forward to another successful year of providing support. Together, the future of a reliable and resilient water supply is achievable for all Californians.



Climate Resilience Bond

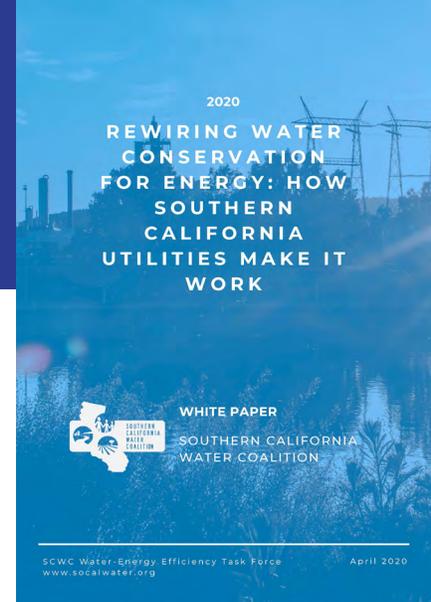
In March, our Legislative Task Force presented the California Legislature with five recommendations for the 2020 Climate Resilience Bond, including a focus on repair of state-owned water conveyance facilities that are failing and additional funding for recycled water projects. While the bond did not move forward due to a focus on the COVID-19 pandemic, we anticipate that the state's preparation and adaptation to the inevitable impacts of climate change will certainly carry over to the next session.

Promoting Innovation

The SCWC stayed at the top of innovation in resource conservation throughout 2020 through educational publication and mobilization in collaboration.

Rewiring Water Conservation for Energy

In April, the SCWC's Water-Energy Efficiency Task Force published a white paper on the link in conservation efforts between water and energy. The white paper, "Rewiring Water Conservation for Energy: How Southern California Utilities Make it Work" highlights collaborations between water and energy utilities for the reduction of resource consumption. The Task Force examined case studies to provide utility agencies with an informed plan on collaborative efforts such as these to innovate conservation in their region.



New SCWC Website

In January and February, SCWC worked hard on a new website that makes it easier to modify and upgrade the technology, track website usage, find information and take action on important issues. The new site launched in March.

Water Recycling Task Force

This year, the SCWC introduced a new task force to their lineup, and it's all about water recycling and reuse. Under Chairs Dan Ferons of the Santa Margarita Water District and Paul Liu of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Water Recycling Task Force is looking at the future of water reclamation facilities and exploring ways to make greater use of recycled water.

A subcommittee of the new task force teamed up to produce a three-part animated video series in English and Spanish that tells the story of how recycled water will help Southern California build a resilient water supply for the future. The video series was made possible through generous funding provided by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the work of the dedicated members of SCWC's Water Recycling Task Force video subcommittee under the leadership of chair Jesus Gonzalez of LADWP. Subcommittee members included representatives from Carollo Engineers, Eastern Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Los Angeles County Public Works, LADWP, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Diego County Water Authority, Santa Margarita Water District, UCLA, and Water Research Foundation. The water experts teamed up with the video and storytelling experts at Epipheo to produce the series.

The video series was launched on National Recycling Day on November 15.

More than **25,000** views of the videos in the first month of publication.



Leading the Conversation

Progression in Leadership

On July 30, 2020 the SCWC announced a new addition to its leadership team. Janice Rutherford, Supervisor for San Bernardino County's 2nd District, was named Chair of the organization's Board of Trustees.

Besides an extensive history in public service, including serving on Fontana City Council before back-to-back terms on the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, Rutherford also serves on many County boards, including the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, and the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority. The SCWC is fortunate for her contributions to collaborative leadership thus far in her term of service.



Annual Event and Award Winners

The 36th annual SCWC event and award presentation was held digitally this year on November 12 to celebrate the year's accomplishments and reflect on the innovations that were used to overcome the unique challenges presented by 2020. The remote gathering featured:

- Remarks by Jim Brulte of California Strategies and Garry South of Garry South Consulting on Political and Policy Forecast
- A special message from U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
- The presentation of Hon. Harriett Wieder Award to Jeffrey Kightlinger, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- The announcement of the Kathy Cole Award to David Pedersen, General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- A keynote by Brenda Burman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
- A fun trivia game with featured players Phyllis Currie, Jeffrey Kightlinger, Felicia Marcus and Brian Thomas.

January Quarterly Luncheon

On January 24, 2020, the SCWC hosted over 120 regional water leaders for the Quarterly Luncheon and Board Meeting in Ontario. The event, presented by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, consisted of a panel discussing topics such as importing supplies, Southern California's investments, and how best to connect with the public and politicians on the topic of water. The panel included experts Ed Manning of KP Public Affairs, Adam Probolsky of Probolsky Research, and Jay Ziegler of the Nature Conservancy California. The successful event proved to be one of the last in-person meetings the SCWC shared this year before shifting to digital platforms in the wake of the global pandemic.



By the NUMBERS



What Matters Webinar Series

As all events and gatherings turned remote over the year, the SCWC developed a brand new way to hold educational workshops and contribute to the discussion on California's most critical water issues. The What Matters Webinar Series was launched in the spring of 2020, with five installments to-date, all proving successful in virtual attendance. Each webinar was centered around a different topic to equip California water professionals with tools to thrive amidst the increasing change.

Expert panels came together to deliver informative insights on the following "What Matters" topics:

- Trust Matters: Building and Maintaining Confidence Through Communications
- HR Matters: Working and Managing Remotely and More
- Money Matters: Infrastructure Financing During the Coronavirus Crisis
- History Matters: Lessons from 40 Years of California Water Policy
- Stormwater Matters: Increasing Water Supplies While Reducing Pollution



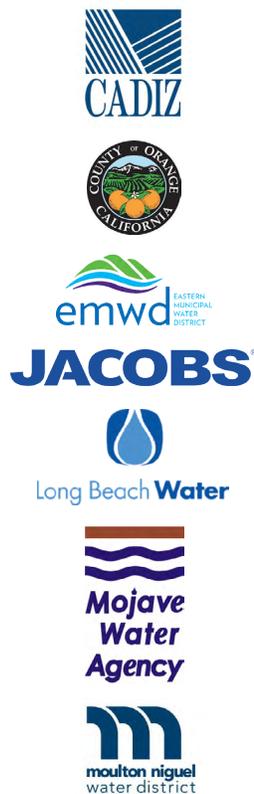
The videos of these webinars are available online as a year-round resource.

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