

Robbins, Park to Lead Coachella Valley Water District



On April 14, the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) announced the appointment of Steve Robbins as general manager-chief engineer. Robbins had

been the assistant general manager since Nov. 11, 2002 and was named interim general manager-chief engineer effective Dec. 31.

Robbins took on the position while the district was in the midst of formulating ways to cope with anticipated, significant cuts to its supply of Colorado River water; while it was in federal court fighting to protect Coachella Valley's water rights; and while it was in the initial stages of implementing a comprehensive water management plan that outlines ways to protect future water supplies by reducing demand. He has been coordinating aggressive efforts to ensure that federal and state lawmakers and government agencies have a clear picture of the situation and what is at stake for Coachella Valley, while continuing to oversee the day-to-day operations of the district.

Robbins is a California-certified engineer who first went to work for CVWD in 1978. He resigned from the district in 1984, but returned 10 years later and has been there ever since.

On May 13, Robbins appointed Dan Parks to be the assistant to the general manager. Parks was hired by CVWD as director of engineering in 1995. The appointment came after a CVWD board meeting during which a salary range of \$115,212 to \$139,248 was approved for the position.

CVWD is a public agency that provides water and associated services across 1,000 square miles of southeastern California, primarily in Riverside County but also in portions of Imperial and San Diego counties.

Visit www.cvwd.org

Baski Chosen for 2004 McElhiney Distinguished Lecture Series



The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) recently announced that Hank Baski has been chosen as the fourth NGWA McElhiney Distinguished Lecturer.

Baski is president of Baski Inc., a Denver-based company that designs and manufactures equipment for the groundwater industry, including products such as inflatable packers, pitless units, and downhole valves for aquifer storage and recovery and aquifer thermal energy storage.

What commonly believed fallacies hinder optimal development of water wells? What new technologies and innovations will impact the water well industry over the next decade? Baski will explore both questions with his lecture topic, "Ground Water: Fallacies and Forecasts."

The McElhiney Lecture Series, initiated by NGWA in 2000, honors the founding president of the association. McElhiney was a groundwater contractor and civil engineer from Brookfield, Illinois who became president of the new NGWA in 1948.

To request a McElhiney Lecture or for more information, visit www.ngwa.org

Yazzie Wins EPA Environmental Award

On Earth Day, April 22, Milton Yazzie of Blackfalls, Arizona was one of five Arizona individuals and/or organizations recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for their efforts to protect and preserve the environment in 2002. The recognition was made during EPA's Region 9 fifth annual Environmental Awards Ceremony in San Francisco. Additional winners were Ken Edwards, manager, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, Yuma; Sandy Bahr, conservation outreach director for the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter in

Phoenix; the City of Sierra Vista; and Pima County Community College District.

According to EPA's news release, Yazzie has voluntarily organized an education campaign for uranium-impacted communities and the Navajo Nation. Yazzie lives in a rural village with no running water, and the natural water sources are contaminated by uranium. Some families drink the water, or like Yazzie, drive an hour to Flagstaff to get clean water. Yazzie has walked door-to-door and traveled hours to attend uranium meetings. He partnered with Northern Arizona University to do sampling in his area and then organized community meetings to relay the results. In July 2002, more than 50 Navajo-speaking residents, EPA uranium experts, the Army Corps of Engineers, Navajo EPA, Dina College, and health agencies traveled to Yazzie's house to attend an educational workshop. His organizing reached Navajo residents who might never attend an EPA public meeting and serves as an outreach model for the Navajo Nation and similar communities.

The EPA Region 9 Environmental Awards program acknowledges commitment and significant contributions to the environment in California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam and tribal lands. Forty-four groups and individuals were selected this year from more than 200 nominees representing businesses; media; local, state and federal government officials; tribes; environmental organizations and citizen activists.

Visit www.epa.gov/region9/

Sutley Named to Calif. State Water Resources Control Board

California Governor Gray Davis announced in May the appointment of Nancy H. Sutley as a member of the State Water Resources Control Board.

Sutley, of El Cerrito, serves as the deputy secretary for policy and intergovernmental relations at the California Environmental Protection Agency, having been appointed by Governor Davis in October 1999. She

has been a member of the California Water Commission since her appointment by Governor Davis on May 20, 2002. From 1993 to 1999, Sutley worked at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a special assistant to the administrator and senior policy advisor to the Region 9 administrator. She also served as the policy director for the National Independent Energy Producers and as an industry economist for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Sutley earned a bachelor of arts degree from Cornell University, and a master's of public policy degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

The State Water Resources Control Board and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards work to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources and assure their proper allocation and effective use. Sutley will receive a salary of \$108,753. This position requires Senate confirmation.

Visit www.swrcb.ca.gov

UNR Professor Misra Wins Gunnerman Award

Dr. Manoranjan Misra, professor and chair of the Division of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) was awarded the 2002 Rudolf W. Gunnerman Silver State Award for Excellence in Science and Technology for his innovations in environmental remediation and biotechnology. The award, established in 2000 by Reno-area industrialist and inventor Dr. Rudolf Gunnerman, includes a minted medal and \$25,000 prize and recognizes scientific and technological achievements that are based on work conducted primarily within Nevada.

Misra's selection was based on his advances in removing radioactive particles from soil, removing toxic metals from drinking water, and cleaning up pollutants discarded in the waste of mining operations. Misra's successes have resulted in the awarding of commercially valuable patents to UNR as well as the donation of several patents to the university from the Dupont Company.

Misra has several more patents that involve nano-structured protein fibers for removing nano-sized pollutant particles, nanocrystalline materials for arsenic removal from drinking water, and the mitigation of acid mine drainage.

A member of the UNR faculty since 1988, he has been honored there as a Foundation Professor and Outstanding Researcher. He has edited two books and published more than 120 papers in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings.

Visit www.dri.edu

NM Tech Student Wins Horton Research Grant

David F. Boutt, a doctoral candidate in New Mexico Tech's hydrology program, was recently named the 2002-2003 recipient of the American Geophysical Union's Horton Research Grant. Boutt was selected for the prestigious award from an international field of top science and engineering doctoral candidates on the basis of his demonstrated academic excellence and research in hydrology.

Boutt's doctoral research examines the role of fluids in the mechanics of the Earth's shallow crust, with particular emphasis on temporal and spatial scales of fluid transport and the mitigation of fluid pressures in the subsurface.

In addition to working at New Mexico Tech's rock mechanics laboratory, Boutt is a student intern at Sandia National Laboratories, where he is helping investigate the coupled fluid-solid mechanics of near well-bore regions in oil and gas wells.

Visit www.ees.nmt.edu

Water Industry Loses Respected Veteran

Article originally appeared in *Water Tech Online*, April 28, 2003

Langdon W. "Don" Owen, a board member for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, died recently at age 72, the *Orange County Register* reported.

Owen, who was involved in the water industry for half a century, spent 10 years working for the California Department of Water Resources before becoming general manager of the Orange County Water District in 1963, the paper said.

In 1973 he formed a consulting firm specializing in water projects, and in 1996 he was appointed to the board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. He also spent 18 years on the board of the Orange County Water District.

Visit www.watertechonline.com



RBF
CONSULTING CONSTRUCTION

PLANNING ■
DESIGN ■

JOIN THE RBF TEAM!

- Watershed and Stream Corridor Planning
- River Engineering/ Stream Restoration
- Regional Flood Protection Systems
- Sediment Transport/Fluvial Systems
- Urban Drainage Facilities & Master Planning
- Storm Water Quality Control & NPDES Compliance

WWW.RBF.COM 800.479.3808