

## ***In Memory of Dennis Underwood***

*from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

Dennis B. Underwood, western water expert and former commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation who just last April became the chief executive officer and general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, died of cancer in November at age 60. Metropolitan's Board Chairman Wes Bannister, Interior Secretary Gale Norton, Reclamation Commissioner John Keys, and Lester Snow, director of the California Department of Water Resources, all praised Underwood's dedication, compassion, and leadership.

Underwood took a medical leave of absence in late October and named Debra C. Man as acting CEO and general manager. On Feb. 8, Metropolitan's board of directors named its general council, Jeffrey Kightlinger, to the permanent position.

In his limited time as CEO and general manager, Underwood launched several initiatives designed to further enhance the water district's relationships with Metropolitan's 26 member public agencies and other stakeholders. Prior to this, Underwood was Metropolitan's vice president of Colorado River resources, where he was pivotal in the development of a plan to bring California's water use in compliance with its legal apportionment for Colorado River supplies. He also helped forge a long-term program to pay farmers to annually set aside a portion of their land, rotate their crops, and transfer saved water to urban Southern California. In addition, Underwood helped negotiate the lower Colorado River habitat conservation program, covering 27 species along more than 450 miles of the river.

Underwood's career included water resource development and management at both the state and federal levels. As commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation from 1989 to 1993, he directed and managed the bureau's activities related

to water, energy, land, conservation, environmental protection and enhancement, and endangered species management and recovery for 17 western states. Underwood served as executive director and executive secretary for the Colorado River Board of California from 1978 to 1989, working with stakeholders to address water and power resources needs in the Colorado River system. Prior to that, Underwood worked for the California Department of Water Resources for 10 years.

Recognizing his contribution to sound management of water resources in the West, the National Water Resources Association recently honored Underwood with its Distinguished Service Award for 2005.

Visit [www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com).

## ***In Memory of Sol Resnick***

Sol D. Resnick, beloved member of Arizona's hydrologic community, died in December at age 87. Resnick was a professor at the University of Arizona (UA) in the Department of Hydrology and Water Resources from its inception until his retirement in 1984; he was also the director of Arizona's Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) for nearly 20 years. He specialized in the areas of water resources conservation, augmentation, and management in arid and semi-arid areas, and worked to develop village irrigation projects in India, Brazil, Thailand, and Israel for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), World Bank, and other agencies.

Resnick's career in water resources began in the early 1940s with the Tennessee Valley Authority. In the late 1940s he taught hydrology at Colorado A&M (now Colorado State University). From 1952 to 1957, he worked for USAID in India, later chronicling his experiences, "the best five years of my life," in *Irrigating India*, a book coauthored with his wife, Elaine. He arrived at the UA in 1957.

Resnick was honored several times in

recent years, receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of Arizona in 1993, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arizona Hydrological Society in 1998, and in 2003 he was feted at the dedication of the WRRC conference room in his name. At each ceremony, colleagues and former students praised Resnick for both his sensible, practical approaches to hydrology problems worldwide, and his human qualities of sensitivity, warmth, and humor. His highly recommended book (reviewed in *Southwest Hydrology*, Mar/Apr 2003) reveals all those qualities.

Visit [www.ag.arizona.edu/azwater](http://www.ag.arizona.edu/azwater).

## ***Jacobs to Lead AZ Water Institute***

*from the University of Arizona*

In late December, Katharine L. Jacobs, a faculty member at the University of Arizona (UA), was selected to become the first executive director of the recently formed Arizona Water Institute. Jacobs holds positions in the soil, water, and environmental science department and the hydrology department at the UA, including the position of deputy director of the National Science Foundation Center for Sustainability of semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas (SAHRA). Prior to her arrival at the UA in 2003, Jacobs was with the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

The Arizona Water Institute, known as the Arizona Virtual Water University during its planning phase, was formed by an initiative under Gov. Janet Napolitano. The institute is a consortium of the state's three universities, and will draw on faculty and researchers regarding issues pertaining to sustainable water resources. In collaboration with state agencies and Arizona communities, the Arizona Water Institute also is expected to provide public education and analytical support for policy makers, as well as new technology development.

Visit [www.azwaterinstitute.org](http://www.azwaterinstitute.org); contact Kathy Jacobs at [kjacobs@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:kjacobs@ag.arizona.edu).