

ASCE, continued from page 19

the Southwest, ASCE's statistics show wastewater infrastructure needs increasing in Arizona, California, and Texas, but decreasing slightly in New Mexico.

Regional boards were generally more sanguine about wastewater infrastructure than the national group. The Texas regional panel assigned its state a grade of C- in this category, noting that the wastewater infrastructure is improving in most urban centers because of large investments. San Diego County assigned itself a B, while acknowledging that collection systems are in poor physical condition. Los Angeles County gave its wastewater system a B, citing the generally good condition of the area's sewers, pump stations, and treatment plants. Orange County rated itself a C+ in this category, acknowledging stresses to the sewer pipeline collection system and noting that all treatment plants in the county are owned and managed by special districts.

### **Call for a Trust Fund**

ASCE's national panelists strongly advocated a significantly enhanced federal role and investment in improving the state-of-the-nation with respect to drinking water and wastewater, recommending that the government begin to reduce funding gaps by establishing a federal water infrastructure trust fund for construction and repair of water treatment plants. The report also stressed the need for the federal government to be flexible and innovative in the financing mechanisms it utilizes. Wealthier communities and those with greater economies of scale may be adequately served by loans and credit incentives, but many communities that face more economic challenges will need grants.

Additionally, ASCE supports a federal capital budget system that will ensure that both short-term and long-term drinking water and wastewater needs are addressed through an efficient process of planning, design, and construction. The report criticized the current budgetary process, which does not differentiate expenditures for current consumption from those for long-term investment.

View the full ASCE report card at [www.asce.org/reportcard/2005/index.cfm](http://www.asce.org/reportcard/2005/index.cfm).

## SOCIETY PAGE

### **ACWA Recognizes Districts' Environmental Efforts**

*from the Association of California Water Agencies*

In December, the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) presented its 2005 Theodore Roosevelt Environmental Awards for Excellence in Natural Resources Management. The awards were presented at ACWA's annual fall conference in San Diego.

The Roosevelt awards are given in three categories to recognize water agencies for programs that protect natural resources while meeting public needs.

In the category of projects costing \$100,000 or less, Cucamonga Valley Water District won top honors for its Kids Environmental Festival. Held for the first time in May 2004, the festival uses interactive games, activities, and programs to show students that they, too, can play a role in conserving natural resources.

Contra Costa Water District captured the award in the \$100,000 to \$1 million category for its efforts to create 17 semi-permanent wetland ponds to provide habitat for protected species such as the California red-legged frog and the tiger salamander. The project, designed to offset impacts of constructing Los Vaqueros Reservoir, also provided habitat for the San Joaquin kit fox.

In the \$1 million or more category, Santa Clara Valley Water District was honored for its Santa Clara Valley Resources Protection Collaborative. Initiated to better coordinate and clarify land-use and public works activities in the region, the program has improved resource management and reinforced the value of local agencies working together.

ACWA is a statewide association whose 440 member agencies are responsible for about 90 percent of the water delivered in California.

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

### **Arizona Hydrological Society Creates Charitable Foundation**

At its annual meeting last September, the Arizona Hydrological Society (AHS) voted to establish and sponsor a new charitable organization, the Arizona Hydrological Society Foundation (AHSF). Building on several years of volunteer work, the foundation was established as a separate Arizona corporation and is applying for 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit charitable organization.

AHS established the foundation to create an organization focused solely on charitable endeavors. A nine-member board of directors led by Howard Grahn, the foundation president, will oversee the fundraising, investment, and charitable activities of the group. As a 501(c)(3), the foundation will provide maximum tax advantage to donors, and it is hoped that over time the foundation will become a major force in promoting hydrology education for all age groups.

The new organization was seeded by a \$17,650 grant from AHS. The board was thrilled to receive an additional \$25,000 donation from board member Herman Bouwer, who generously shared his winnings from the 2005 Prince Sultan Bin AbdulAziz International Prize for Water. Bouwer asked only that his donation be "put to good use" by the foundation.

According to foundation bylaws, the new organization will "provide support for advancing the science, practice, and public understanding of hydrology and water resources in the semi-arid Southwest." The new board met for the first time in January to discuss the foundation's mission, goals, and immediate operational needs, and to chart a path toward assisting corporate partners in funding science and educating the next generation of scientists and the public about the unique aspects of arid and semi-arid hydrology.

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