

IN THIS ISSUE

- [Special Feature](#)
 - [Staff Notes](#)
 - [In the Spotlight](#)
 - [Announcements](#)
 - [Gifts & Donations](#)
 - Free Publications
-

INCREASING THE WATER SUPPLY TO SAN DIEGO AND TIJUANA

by Lori Saldana

San Diego, California and Tijuana, Baja California, create the largest urban region along the US-Mexico border; their combined population is expected to measure nearly 5 million with the next census. The region receives less than 10 inches of rain a year, and the two cities import 90% of their water. Both cities have developed public education campaigns to encourage water conservation.

San Diego imports water via two aqueducts that are managed by the Metropolitan Water District in Southern California. One delivers water from northern California, and the other carries water from the Colorado River. Tijuana relies on water carried via an aqueduct from the southernmost section of the Colorado River. However, both cities anticipate water shortages within a few years as their rapidly growing populations exceed available water supplies.

To ward off these dry years, last October, the state of California and the San Diego County Water Authority agreed to fund a \$3 million study of a new, larger Colorado River aqueduct to be constructed in Mexico. Mexico will provide staffing, project management and other in-kind services, and Tijuana and San Diego will share the water carried in this new pipeline.

However, both cities are already struggling to expand their sewage collection and treatment infrastructure to keep pace with rapid growth. When these systems fail, sewage spills close public beaches. Both cities

now treat sewage to only advanced primary levels before dumping it into the ocean - a situation that many consider unsustainable and potentially harmful to the environment. Each day, the two cities discharge a combined total of nearly 250 million gallons of wastewater into the sea.

In 1989, the US agreed to construct a secondary-level treatment plant in San Diego to assist Tijuana with reducing these flows. However, lack of funds have delayed completion of this project. Environmental groups are pushing the federal government to raise the spending cap and construct the higher quality treatment plant as soon as possible, but completion is still years away. For now, the focus is less on adequate sewage treatment than on importing more water to the region. An update to EPA's announcement to construct ponds for secondary treatment at the International Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP) can be found at <http://www.netconnection.com/IWTP/>. Information on the water quality impacts of the IWTP's discharge into the ocean at the end of the pipe can be found at <http://www.netconnection.com/outfall/>.

A new water reclamation plant is now under construction at the border. It will eventually produce up to 15 million gallons of water per day that can be used for non-potable applications, such as industrial use or landscape irrigation. The city of San Diego will own and operate the plant, and plans to market some of the water to Tijuana. Until its completion in 2002, however, both cities will continue to develop new sources of water to fend off shortages, and make improvements to sewage collection and treatment facilities to keep their beaches open.

Lori Saldana <lsaldana@mail.netconnection.com> has served as Chairwoman of the Sierra Club's San Diego Chapter, and the city of San Diego's Wetlands Advisory Board. Last year President Clinton appointed her to serve on the Border Environment Cooperation Commission's (BECC) Advisory Council. The BECC provides technical assistance and funding for water delivery, wastewater treatment and solid waste disposal projects in communities along the United States-Mexico border.

WRCA SAYS FAREWELL TO KATHY DIEDEN

The Water Resources Center Archives reluctantly bids farewell to Kathy Dieden. Kathy, who was a member of the WRCA staff for over three years, is leaving to pursue part-time consulting work and to spend more time with her granddaughter, family, and friends.

In addition to her responsibilities as Circulation Supervisor and head of new acquisitions, Kathy also served as editor of WRCA News. During her tenure, she improved the quality of both the design and the content of the

researchers in the water community and conducted the interviews for the "In the Spotlight" column. Kathy also assisted in developing an effective outreach plan for UC and CSU faculty and students. She played a significant role in the development and expansion of WRCA's corporate membership program, which resulted in both increased use of the collections by non-academic researchers and increased donations to the library.

Kathy contributed enormously to the Water Resources Center Archives' fundraising efforts. She organized and publicized two tremendously successful events for WRCA in conjunction with the Mono Lake Committee: the Northern California premiere of Stephen Fisher's documentary film "The Battle for Mono Lake;" and, "Music for Mono," a classical music recital featuring violinist David Abel and pianist Julie Steinberg.

Kathy will be greatly missed, not only for her excellent work, but also for her sense of humor and style, her seemingly boundless energy, and her incomparable story-telling abilities. Please join us in wishing Kathy all the best as she enters the next exciting phase of her career.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT - ANN RILEY

by Kathy Dieden

Ann Riley is the Executive Director of Waterways Restoration Institute.

Q: What first piqued your interest in water and water issues?

A: I was in Iowa attending Cornell College and my biology professor saw an article in Field and Stream magazine in which the author showed that it was possible to collect important information about the values and uniqueness of watersheds and use the data to make resource decisions. I decided to test the thesis. For months afterwards I waded Buffalo Creek collecting quantifiable information and produced a report for the county identifying areas that it should purchase for public parks. I even had reporters following me as I waded the creek. A year later in Washington, D.C. I met the author of the Field and Stream article - Luna Leopold. This was the beginning of a twenty-five year working relationship. Because of Luna and the work he was doing, I moved to Berkeley and earned both my master's and graduate degrees in the College of Environmental Design at UC Berkeley. I'd like to add that I have been a frequent user of the Archives. Even before I entered graduate school, I used the

collection often in the course of working on projects with Luna.

Q: What has been the most interesting project you have undertaken?

A: I do have a favorite project - Wildcat Creek Flood Damage Reduction Project. The project began as early as 1950, half a century ago, and we now have a comprehensive project that produced a stream restoration and flood control plan for North Richmond. This is our demonstration project. We learned to build consensus and to develop an innovative program that restores streams without damaging the environment.

Q: Why did you found the Waterways Restoration Institute?

A: Waterways Restoration Institute was founded in response to the national need for the development of a new paradigm to address flood damage reduction, floodplain management and river management needs. Our focus is to help traditional water agencies, i.e., U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, state agencies, and local flood control districts, make the transition from using outdated concrete channels, dams, levees, and channelization projects to using river restoration concepts in their place. My book, Restoring Streams in Cities, which you have in your library, is devoted to this topic. One of the ways we promote stream restoration is to hold workshops around the country for engineers helping them design projects that are in concert with nature and provide greater sustainability in the long run.

Q: Why does there appear to be so much interest, both nationally and locally, in wetlands and restoration at this time?

A: Two reasons:

1. The alarm is sounded. The public is aware of the paucity of riparian systems and the danger that it poses.
2. A growing understanding of restoration projects. In the past restoration projects were seen as either benefiting the environment at the expense of personal property rights or its converse. Today the public knows that there are many successful design projects that have not made adversaries out of the participants.

Q: Can you briefly describe the restoration bond act and what it will do for restoration of streams?

A: There are two bond acts - the park bond and the water bond. The park bond focuses on the state sharing revenues with local governments to acquire park lands. The water bond provides a generous amount of money for acquiring river lands and restoration. The two acts are important because a number of environmental agencies, like the California

Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife and State Conservancies, are at the end of their budgets and these acts will fund their programs.

Q: Can we expect the citizens of California to support urban restoration projects in the future and why?

A: My response is a resounding, "yes!" The urban stream restoration program is very local. Like Tip O'Neill said, "All politics is local." Legislators and decision-makers have an acute understanding that there is a strong and vocal constituency that wants to re-establish a connection with their community and wants to improve the quality of their environment. The urban stream restoration movement is at the core of that movement. We have a slogan here at the Waterways Restoration Institute: Urban stream restoration is urban community restoration. I think the diversity of our clients speaks to the interest in preserving our waterways. There is a broad political momentum from business and community groups, environmental organizations, and government agencies to address the revitalization of urban areas, and stream restoration is an important part of that effort.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRIDGES RECEPTION MARCH 1ST

On Wednesday, March 1st from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Morrison Room of Doe Library, there will be a reception celebrating the installation of [Bridging the Bay: Bridging the Campus](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/news_events/exhibits/bridge/), an exhibit which contains a wide selection of historical and contemporary materials showcasing the building of the Bay Area's bridges. The exhibit is a collaborative effort featuring materials from eight libraries on the UC Berkeley campus including extensive materials from WRCA's Charles Derleth Collection.

The reception for sponsors, exhibitors and their guests will feature a presentation by Rafael Manzanarez, Vice President of T.Y. Lin International and Marwan Nader, Associate at Lin. The presentation is entitled: Design of the New San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge East Span. T.Y. Lin International/Moffatt Nichol Engineers were awarded the design/build contract for the new East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

The exhibit is on display through April 30, 2000 in the Bernice Layne Brown Gallery, Doe Library, University of California, Berkeley. The

exhibit may be viewed any time the Library is open. For library hours, please call (510) 642-6657 (64-BOOKS).

GIFTS & DONATIONS

GIFTS

WRCA wishes to thank the following corporations and individuals for becoming Friends of the Archives.

Benefactors/ \$1000 +

- Balance Hydrologics, Inc.

Patrons/ \$500+

- Lin International

Associates/ \$250 +

- Tony Landolt and Verena Landolt
- PHR Environmental Consultants
- Stetson Engineers
- Weatherford & Taaffe, LLP

Donors/ \$50 +

- Professor Emeritus Joe Johnson

DONATIONS

The Archives wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations for their donations in kind to the library.

- Lawrence J. Bauman, Dept. of the Interior
- Jing-Chang Jay Chen, Colorado River Board
- Gary L. Goffe, Calaveras Public Utility District
- Anne Hayes, Aquatic Outreach Institute
- Philip Williams & Associates