



## Coalition Members

Eastern Municipal  
Water District

Inland Empire  
Utilities Agency

Irvine Ranch  
Water District

Metropolitan  
Water District  
of Southern California

Orange County  
Sanitation District

Orange County  
Water District

San Diego County  
Water Authority

Sanitation Districts of  
Los Angeles County

Santa Ana  
Watershed Project  
Authority

West Basin  
Municipal  
Water District

*in Affiliation with the*

National Water  
Research Institute

## SWMOA to Offer Training and Resources for Membrane Operators in the Southwest

SCSC is pleased to announce its support of the Southwest Membrane Operator Association (SWMOA), a new and unique organization devoted to training and certifying membrane plant operators in Southern California, Nevada, and Arizona.

Based in Southern California, SWMOA plans to offer workshops, hands-on training, and other valuable resources to its member agencies, including Continuing Education Credits (CEUs), with the ultimate goal of making the membrane industry stronger and the technology more reliable in the southwestern United States.

Some of the participating agencies include the Orange County Water District, Irvine Ranch Water District, West Basin Municipal Water District, Boyle Engineering, Sweetwater Authority, Eastern Municipal Water District, and NWRI. It is also an affiliate of the American Membrane Technology Association.

### **Why Is Membrane Operator Training Important?**

In the water and wastewater industries, membranes are used to remove contaminants, like salts, metals, and viruses, from water.

The number of membrane-based treatment plants is growing rapidly in the southwest. It is a technology that, according to SWMOA President, Mehul Patel, P.E., “lends itself to reclamation and conservation efforts. It is also one of the few technologies that can meet the highest water quality standards.”

However, little means exist to educate, train, and support membrane plant operators.

“There are a lot of certificate programs available to become an operator,” said Patel, who is also a Principal Engineer with the Orange County Water District, “but none of those programs provide training specific to membrane plants. Normally, utilities have to train the operators themselves.”

Several national membrane operator training programs are available, added Patel, “but it’s important we have training at the local and regional level. We have issues that are unique to the southwest – the high cost of energy, stricter regulations, and



SWMOA President  
Mehul Patel, P.E.

*Please see PEER-RUN MEMBRANE TRAINING on reverse side*

## National Salinity Summit Set for San Diego in January 2007

The Southern California Salinity Coalition (SCSC) is co-sponsoring the Multi-State Salinity Coalition’s Fifth Annual National Salinity Management and Desalination Summit, which will be held January 11-12, 2007, at the Catamaran Resort Hotel in San Diego, California.

The Summit will focus on the development and implementation of breakthrough policies and approaches associated with salinity and desalination.

Sessions include:

- Future and impending federal legislation regarding desalination and salinity management.
- Balancing desalination and the needs of the environmental community.
- Applied research.

- Innovative regulation implementation.
- Brackish water and ocean water desalination.
- Recycled water desalination.
- Project implementation.

A tour to the Carlsbad Seawater Desalination Plant and Hydranautics Membrane Plant is included.

For further information or to register for the Summit, please visit [www.multi-statesalinitycoalition.com](http://www.multi-statesalinitycoalition.com).

*Shown here is the original, working prototype for the Carlsbad Seawater Desalination Plant. When completed, the Plant would provide more than 50 million gallons of fresh water daily.*



## Visit SCSC's Website for Latest Salinity News

SCSC has launched a new website for the purpose of communicating salinity issues to water and wastewater agencies, regulators, and the general public.

By visiting [www.SoCalSalinity.org](http://www.SoCalSalinity.org), users can access information ranging from:

- Basic facts about salts and removal technologies.
- SCSC's latest research and newsletters.
- Upcoming events, including Board meetings.
- Fellowship opportunities.
- Links to other salinity organizations.

There is also a 5-minute introductory video to SCSC and salinity problems in Southern California on SCSC's home page. Visit us soon!

### Reminder:

## SCSC Graduate Fellowship Deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>

SCSC is now accepting applications for its \$10,000 a year graduate fellowship. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2007.

SCSC awards fellowships to support master's or doctoral graduate research addressing the critical need to remove or reduce salts from water supplies and to preserve water resources in Southern California.

Examples of the Coalition's specific research interests include (but are not limited to):

- Concentrate management
- Institutional and regulatory issues
- Economics of reducing salinity levels
- Innovative treatment technologies
- Regional and watershed planning solutions
- Public education and awareness

This Fellowship is limited to graduate students attending universities or colleges in Southern California. Please visit [www.socalsalinity.org/fellowship](http://www.socalsalinity.org/fellowship) for more details.

## Peer-Run Membrane Training Available for Operators

*Continued from SWMOA TRAINING on reverse side*

an increased amount of reuse, for instance – which we need to consider and address.”

At present, SWMOA is the only organization in the southwest – in the entire western United States, in fact – to offer regional training and resources to utilities, manufacturers, and researchers in the membrane industry. It is modeling itself after established membrane operator programs in Texas and Florida, two states with large concentrations of membrane plants.

One of its first activities will be a 1- or 2-day workshop on membrane-based treatment processes at a water utility in

Southern California. The training session will be run by volunteers from among SWMOA's member agencies.

### **Join SWMOA Today!**

A nonprofit organization, SWMOA is currently seeking new memberships. All members are entitled to a newsletter, published materials, and discounted rates at SWMOA workshops and seminars.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Mehul Patel at [mpatel@ocwd.com](mailto:mpatel@ocwd.com). Applications for memberships may also be downloaded at the Southern California Salinity Coalition's website at [www.socalsalinity.org/swmoa](http://www.socalsalinity.org/swmoa).

**Southern California  
Salinity Coalition**

*in Affiliation with the*

**National Water  
Research Institute**

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