

SoCal Salinity News

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Coalition Members

Central and West Basin
Municipal Water Districts

Los Angeles
Department of
Water & Power

Inland Empire
Utilities Agency

Irvine Ranch
Water District

Metropolitan
Water District
of Southern California

Orange County
Sanitation District

Orange County
Water District

San Diego
Water Authority

Sanitation Districts of
Los Angeles County

Santa Ana
Watershed Project
Authority

in Affiliation with the

National Water
Research Institute

SoCal Salinity Coalition Becomes a Member of the Multi-State Salinity Coalition

For the last two years, the Southern California Salinity Coalition (SCSC) has worked with the Multi-State Salinity Coalition to promote advancements in desalination technology and salinity control strategies in the arid southern and western United States. They cemented their relationship this December when SCSC became an official member of the Multi-State Salinity Coalition.

“Partnering with the Multi-State Salinity Coalition will provide SCSC with a significant opportunity to identify future collaborative efforts on critical salinity issues,” said Jeff Mosher, Acting Executive Director of the National Water Research Institute, which manages SCSC on behalf of its member agencies.

Established in 2001, the Multi-State Salinity Coalition is made up of 16 water agencies throughout California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas whose source waters are impacted by salinity. By working together, these agencies hope to share information, promote legislation, and carry out research focused on lowering salinity levels in both drinking and reclaimed water, such as salt-removal technologies like desalination.



Triajuncta in uno. Timeo Danaso et dona ferentes. Naturam expellas furca, tamen usque recurret. Forsan et haec olim meminisse juvabit. Exception probat regulam de rebus non exceptis. Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem. Eheu fugaces labuntur anni.

“Our Coalition is in a great position to support, promote, and carry out research to control salinity in the United States,” said Ed Archuleta General Manager of El Paso Water Utilities in Texas and Chair of the Multi-State Salinity Coalition. “If you are in the water industry and salinity is an issue, you need to join our Coalition.”

Some research areas that the Multi-State Salinity Coalition supports include:

- Addressing the disposal of concentrates, which are byproducts of the desalination process.
- Lowering salinity to improve the use of reclaimed water.
- Developing alternative treatment technologies to remove salts from water.
- Improving public awareness of the environmental impacts of salinity and desalination.

In addition, the Multi-State Salinity Coalition holds an annual Salinity Management and Desalination Summit, which serves as a forum to discuss and promote new

Please see MULTI-STATE COALITION on reverse side

Consumer-Related Salinity Reduction Program Nears Completion

Work on the current phase of the SCSC-sponsored Salinity Reduction Program will be completed by February 2006, according to Principal Investigators David Kung, Ph.D., and Kim Knight of Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California.

The purpose of the Salinity Reduction Program is to reduce salinity in residential areas by developing tools for utilities to implement cost-effective salinity management plans. Examples of tools include public awareness and reduction-of-use programs to encourage residents to use water softeners — considered a leading source of salinity — more efficiently and with less salt.

Earlier phases of the program focused on market research conducted in collaboration with the Irvine Ranch Water District and Inland Empire Utilities Agency.

“We have completed a comprehensive door-to-door survey in one of our

Please see SALINITY REDUCTION PROGRAM on reverse side

Salinity Reduction Program Seeks to Educate Consumers

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target areas and are conducting extensive evaluations on the resulting data to get an accurate perspective on households," stated Knight. "In that regard, we have been extremely

fortunate to secure funding and support from the Inland Empire Utilities Agency to continue our survey work on consumers."

The current phase of the project has involved a new partner in the research — members of the Pacific Water Quality Association — to identify and encourage water

softener owners to participate in an onsite evaluation of their water softeners, with the possibility of upgrading or replacing existing units. Onsite visits have begun, with representatives of the Pacific Water Quality Association and Claremont Graduate University coordinating evaluation and data collection.

"We are hopeful that a statistically significant amount of data will be collected through this process so that we can get a better idea of salinity sources in homes and possible resources or alternatives to help reduce them," said Kung. "The goal is to get the utility agency, the softener manufacturer or provider, and the consumer all on the same page concerning certain practices and their consequences on our water system."

Once additional survey work is complete, the principal investigators expect to submit a final report by February 2006.



David Kung (from left) and Kim Knight are shown with their graduate research associates, Woman in White Blouse and Man in Dark Shirt.

Multi-State Coalition Gains Strength in Numbers

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and innovative water treatment and concentration management techniques. SCSC has participated in and supported the last two Summits, the most recent held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in

December 2005 at the invitation of Senator Pete V. Domenici (R-New Mexico), who is Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Over 200 people attended the 2005 Summit, which focused on the policy side of funding and implementing successful desalination programs. One issue brought up at the Summit included the stringent siting and permit restrictions placed upon constructing a desalination plant, showing that the obstacles facing desalination are not necessary technological in nature, but rather political and environmental.

It was at the Summit that SCSC representative Martha Davis, Executive Manager of Policy Development at the Inland Empires Utilities Agency in California, represented SCSC during the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding making SCSC an official member of the Multi-State Salinity Coalition. She also served as a member of an environmental panel at the Summit to discuss breakthroughs in desalination and concentrate management technologies.

"The Summit addressed many issues confronting SCSC and provided a unique opportunity for SCSC members to interact with their MSSC counterparts," Davis said. "We look forward to continuing these efforts as part of the next Summit."

Multi-State Salinity Coalition MEMBER AGENCIES

Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority is a joint agency that administers the water and wastewater utility for all of the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County in New Mexico.

Central Basin Municipal Water District is a public agency that purchases and wholesales imported water to cities and water agencies in southeast Los Angeles County, California.

City of Phoenix in Arizona is the fifth largest city in the U.S. and has a population of 1.4 million, with most of its water coming from rivers.

City of Scottsdale has a population of over 215,000 people and is the fifth largest city in Arizona.

Coachella Valley Water District protects and conserves water sources within Riverside, Imperial, and San Diego counties in Southern California.

El Paso Water Utilities manages and operates the water and wastewater system for the City of El Paso, Texas.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency provides regional wastewater service and imported water deliveries to eight agencies in Southern California's San Bernardino County region.

Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District provides water to 45,000 people in the northwest region of the Tucson metropolitan area in Arizona.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a consortium of 26 cities and water districts that provide drinking water to nearly 18-million people in parts of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, and Ventura counties in Southern California.

Northern California Salinity Coalition was formed by eight water agencies located in the San Francisco Bay area of Northern California to protect the region's water supplies from salt contamination and to advance desalination technology.

Salt River Project is made up of the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District and the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association.

San Antonio Water System is a public utility owned by the city of San Antonio, Texas, which serves approximately 1 million people in the urbanized part of Bexar County.

Southern California Salinity Coalition is a non-profit organization run by 10 member agencies to address the critical need to remove salt from water supplies and to preserve water resources in Southern California.

Southern Nevada Water Authority is a regional agency that treats, manages, and encourages adequate future water supplies for the Las Vegas Valley in Nevada.

Tucson Water is a department of the City of Tucson, Arizona, that serves approximately 675,000 customers in a 300-square-mile metropolitan area.

West Basin Municipal Water District is a public agency that purchases and wholesales imported water to cities and water agencies in southwest Los Angeles County in Southern California.

There are no dues to join the *Multi-State Salinity Coalition*. For more information, please visit www.multi-statesalinitycoalition.com.

Southern California Salinity Coalition

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