

NORTH COUNTY CIVIL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION

PROMOTING INTEGRITY, GOOD FAITH, JUST AND EQUITABLE PRINCIPLES IN BUSINESS, UNIFORMITY IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES, AND REPRESENTING THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL INTEREST OF CIVIL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS IN CITY AND COUNTY LEGISLATION

MINUTES OF THE WEDNESDAY February 25, 2026 MEETING:

Meeting held at Cocina del Charro, 1020 West San Marcos Blvd, San Marcos, CA

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Annie Aguilar at 6:50 PM

Our guest speaker for the evening was Tom Kennedy of Kennedy Water Consulting. He was introduced by the Vice President Annie Aguilar.

The following items were discussed:

- 1) Tom started at the City of Vernon and then progressed through Olivenhain MWD and Rainbow MWD. After 32 years he started his own firm and is currently Water Master of the Santa Margarita River Watershed. He also served on the San Diego County Water Authority Board for nearly 10 years, and is presently on the Rincon Del Diablo MWD board.
- 2) He then proceeded to detail historically, the water situation in the County from pre-Mission times to the present.
 - a) Up until the mid-1800's the population relied on natural streams and shallow wells. A number of dams were constructed from 1888 through 1923 mostly by private water companies.
 - b) In 1942 with population well over 300000, the Department of Defense started planning a new pipeline to bring water from the Colorado River to San Diego, to assist the war effort. The County Water Authority was established in 1944 and is still the only County Water Authority in the State. The first water delivery was in 1947.
 - c) The Metropolitan Water District (MWD), had more water from the Colorado than they needed, so between the two, whatever was required was delivered. The drought of 1976-1977 caused some concern, but existing storage was able to handle it. By 1991 MWD was implementing water cutbacks. Most water agencies were OK but SDCWA was dependent on MWD. Relying on 90% of their water from MWD.
 - d) The SDCWA passed an Emergency Storage Project (1.6B\$), which added to the cost of water. With this debt, SDCWA had to have increased water sales to make this work financially. Unfortunately, the peak in sales was in 2006.
 - e) The SDCWA continued to forecast increased future demands. They added 48K acre ft with Desal 2012 and Potable reuse will only make it worse.
- 3) SDCWA has a few options to remedy this huge problem
 - a) Try to get rid of or payoff the contracts. (Desal is locked in, Imperial Irrigation District will never agree, and canal lining is the least cost water supply)
 - b) Hand over Take or Pay contracts to MWD. ((might have been able to broker a deal, but missed the window, MWD has problems of its own.)
 - c) Go bankrupt!
 - d) Collect money in different ways
- 4) Tom then went into the problems with the 1922 Colorado River Compact. Which basically boils down to, there is a 12 MAF natural flow and the Compact requires 15 MAF. Looks like it will be settled in court!
- 5) The Santa Margarita River Watershed was discussed and again it controlled by the courts.
- 6) It was an excellent presentation and very enlightening discussion and our thanks to Tom Kennedy.

OTHER NEWS

1. The February Board of Director's meeting was held at Broken Yolk Restaurant on Las Posas Road in San Marcos on January 12, 2026
2. Our next Meeting will be on March 25, 2026 and the speaker will be Craig Caes, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist, Land & Water Quality Division, County of San Diego.

ATTENDANCE/MEALS USED: 19-people attended our meeting representing 12 member firms. The following firms have used all of their free meals: Latitude 33, Rancho Coastal Eng, San Dieguito Eng, S.R. Clarke Env., Strike Engineers, Value Engineering, UC Iacuniello, Consulting Eng, UES, Will Rogers and Wynn Engineering.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Chuck Iacuniello, Treasurer for the Secretary