



**OCWA**

Orange County Water Association

ESTABLISHED 1957

# Water Matters

News for the Orange County Water Community

First Quarter 2022

## A Full-Slate of Activities are On-Tap for 2022

By TIM HOGAN, OCWA Communications

Building on its successes from 2021, your Association's Board of Directors looks forward to a New Year of educational opportunities, informative presentations, and renewed social gatherings.

To steer the Association in 2022, a slate of quality officers and directors have already taken the reins. **President Sandy Scott-Roberts**, along with the rest of her Board, have renewed their commitment to provide quality, timely information, along with enjoyable social events, for the entire Orange County water community.

To kickstart the year right, the Board has instituted a new tier of membership for all Orange County public water agencies. This trial program permits agencies to pay a flat rate — \$250 — to qualify as many of its people as they'd like for membership.

As an introductory program, the **Agency**

**Bundle** is meant to give as many agency personnel as possible the opportunity to experience all the many benefits of Association membership. When compared to the individual rate of \$70 per member, this is an unbeatable bargain.

Interested agencies should contact Board members **Candice Espinoza** or **Bobby Young** for complete details.

Returning this year will be the popular **Industry Insight webinars**. Since the monthly luncheon presentations were brought online two years ago, viewers from throughout the State of California have been attracted by the exceptional programming. And as they have from the beginning, the Board is committed to providing another year of quality, timely information.

This month, Jason Fussel, of Tetra Tech, will discuss their creative design for the new **Stormwater Capture** system recently installed in the City of Lakewood's Bolivar Park. And though we're uncertain at the moment what our drought situation may be this year, knowledge about innovative mitigation processes like this will prove invaluable in the future.

The Board is hard at work to finalize the webinar plans for the rest of the year.



After a year of outstanding presentations, in which topics as diverse as the Doheny Desalination Project, MWD's Recycled Water Purification Center, and Yorba Linda's New PFAS Treatment Plant were featured, the Board is eager to clear the high bar they've set for themselves. Further details will be released as the presentations are arranged.

The Board is open for suggestions, as well. If there's a project you'd like to know more about, or your firm or agency is doing something noteworthy, please let a Board member know. They'll be happy to look into any topics raised. It could also be an opportunity for you to make the presentation, should you be so inclined.

Beyond the monthly presentations, however, the Board looks to hold all of its annual training sessions and social events in person this year. In May, we'll hold our

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### 2022 Board of Directors

The 2022 OCWA Board of Directors are:

**Sandy Scott-Roberts**, *President*;

**Dave Jones**, *Vice President*;

**Bobby Young**, *Treasurer*;

**Candice Espinoza**, *Secretary*;

**Taryn Kjolsing**, *Director*;

**Derek Kurtti**, *Director*;

and **Tanner Bennett**, *Director*;

**Ryan Gallagher**, *Ex-Officio*

# Ryan Gallagher: OCWA's Only Two-Term President

When Ryan Gallagher relinquished the Presidency to Sandy Scott-Roberts at the Holiday Party last month, it marked the end of his time as OCWA's longest serving executive. At two terms, he served twice as long as any previous President. Of course, the disruption caused by the pandemic played a large part in the Board's decision to give all the 2020 officers another opportunity to preside over a more favorable year. But the inscription on the plaque presented to Ryan at the Holiday Party told the full story: "So Nice We Asked Him Twice."



Ryan's pleasant attitude wasn't the only attribute he brought to the Board. He exhibited leadership from the start, and helped usher in changes to the Association that will reverberate for years to come. At Ryan's urging, the Board moved the membership roster to the cloud, so each member can manage their own membership. The membership site also gave the Association a single place from which to manage all public communications, along with event registration and all financials.

As President, Ryan oversaw the development of a new logo for the Association. He also moved quickly to implement on-line webinars to replace the luncheon meetings when the pandemic hit. And, together with the Board, a new membership category was added with hopes it will spur more agency involvement.

In his professional life, Ryan is a Principal and Operations Manager for MKN, a water-focused consulting company that is located and exclusively services Central and Southern California. Ryan founded the company's Irvine office shortly after joining in 2019. Since joining, the company has grown from 30 to 50

employees. Prior to joining MKN, Ryan was a Principal at KEH from 2014 to 2018. At KEH, he helped grow offices in Ventura County and Orange County. The company was sold in 2018 to Gannett Fleming, a national engineering company.

Ryan graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in 2006 and subsequently spent 10 years in Ventura County working for Kennedy/Jenks and then AECOM. Throughout his career, Ryan

has been an active participant in the water industry, serving as President for various organizations including ASCE YMF, Santa Barbara/Ventura (2012), American Public Works Association – Ventura County (2014), Association of Water Agencies Ventura County (2016) and most recently for Orange County Water Association (2020 & 2021). Ryan was recognized for his achievements in 2018 by ENR where he was honored as a national Top 20 under 40.

In his personal life, Ryan is an active community member. He recently served as a Tustin Planning Commissioner and was elected to the Tustin City Council in 2020. In that capacity, Ryan was appointed as a Board Member for Orange County Sanitation District where he serves on the Steering Committee, GWRS Committee, and is Vice Chair of the Operations Committee.

For fun, Ryan enjoys spending time with his wife Morgan, two boys (Cole and Clay), and dog Gus. They are expecting their first girl, Camden, in March 2022. Ryan is an avid traveler, having visited over 40 countries across six continents.

## 2022 is Shaping Up to be a Great Year for OCWA

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annual county-wide safety training event for operators, **SafetyFest**. This will be followed in September by our always-popular **Operator Expo**, which will again feature training sessions, vendor displays, and spirited competitions.

In June we'll tee-up the annual **Golf Tournament**. We were excited to host it at its regular time last year as it proved a rousing success, with a full card of players. And finally, the annual **Holiday Party** is set for December 2<sup>nd</sup>. You'll definitely want to attend. Plans are underway already for an event that will soar to new heights of holiday cheer!

For all events, further details will be provided closer to the date. In closing, the Board would like to thank all the many sponsors

who stepped forward this past year to support our events and activities. We are especially indebted to the 23 sponsors who helped ensure the success of our year by contributing to our inaugural Corporate Sponsor program. They are all listed on page 4. It was extremely gratifying when, in less than a day, we had more than double the number of Sponsors we had hoped to attract. With this support, we were able to build upon the previous year's successes while we strove to renew the many events and activities we had postponed during the years of pandemic lockdown.

We are both humbled and proud to be supported by so many thoughtful, caring friends. On behalf of the membership, as well as the entire Orange County water community, thank you for your support.



January 19: Industry Insight Webinar

## STORMWATER CAPTURE! City of Lakewood Project Diverts Runoff for Use in Bolivar Park

Presenter: [Jason Fussel](#), Tetra Tech

A stormwater captures system (StormTrap) was installed at Bolivar Park as part of an innovative stormwater management project for the City of Lakewood. The project addresses water supply issues and helps the City meet local water quality requirements. Stormwater runoff is diverted from a nearby flood control channel, pre-treated and then conveyed into the StormTrap system.

Tetra Tech was the engineer for the project. Their innovative design, an air-inflated, rubber dam diversion system, redirects all urban and stormwater runoff from the Los Cerritos channel through a pre-treatment system that removes trash, debris, and sediment. A pump station and drainage pipeline conveys the water into a 2.9-million-gallon, multi-chambered storage and infiltration facility



beneath the park. The collected stormwater is then treated and used to irrigate the landscaped areas in Bolivar Park, satisfying 100 percent of the park's 9.5-million-gallons-per-year irrigation needs.

Plan now to join us January 19 for a look at this innovative project that

addresses one of the more pressing needs of our day. Make your reservations today! You won't want to miss this.



### About Our Speakers

**Jason Fussel** has more than 13 years of experience in the stormwater and BMP arena, which includes successful implementation of sustainable design practices for a vast array of improvement projects.

As a Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP) and Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD), Mr. Fussel has ample experience with providing Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) for construction activities and Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP). Additionally, Mr. Fussel is an Envision™ Sustainability Professional and LEED Accredited Professional.

## Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Online ZOOM Presentation

**Webinar Open for Log-In: 12:00**

**Presentation: 12:30 – 1:00**

**OCWA Members with Reservation: FREE**

**Non-Members with Reservations: \$10.00**

*Cancellations received AFTER Tuesday, January 18 CANNOT be refunded.*

**Visit the OCWA website to make reservations:  
[www.ocwater.org](http://www.ocwater.org)**

RSVP IS A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT. NO-SHOWS WILL BE BILLED.

## 2021 OCWA Corporate Sponsors

By their generous support, the following corporations were instrumental in ensuring OCWA's success during the second year of the pandemic.

On behalf of the membership, and the entire Orange County water community, thank you.

AES Water, Inc.

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

Black & Veatch ♦ Carollo Engineers

DN Tanks ♦ DUDEK ♦ Hazen and Sawyer

HDR, Inc. ♦ Irvine Ranch Water District

JIG Consultants

John Robinson Consulting, Inc.

Leighton Consulting

Michael Baker International

MKN Associates ♦ Mueller Systems

MWH ♦ Ninyo and Moore ♦ Pace Water

Peterson Structural Engineers ♦ Psomas

Richard C. Slade & Associates

Stantec ♦ Tetra Tech

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

OCWA Members and their organization can post unlimited job listings to the Association website for FREE. Listings are promoted with weekly e-blasts sent to our 1,500+ contacts, representing over 45 agencies and more than 120 companies county-wide.

This is saturation coverage throughout the County. What else would you expect from the only Orange County Association dedicated to the local water community?

If you would like to post a job opening here, and are a current member, please send a PDF, or a link to a web page detailing the position to the OCWA webmaster.

### NEW OPPORTUNITIES:

**SCWD – Utility Management Analyst**  
**Mainline Sales - Customer Care Associate**  
**MNWD – Sr. Human Resources Analyst**

**MNWD – Communications Coordinator – Sr. Coordinator**  
**MNWD – Customer Account Representative I/II (01-21)**  
**Santa Ana - Civil Engineer**

**EOCWD - Water Distribution Lead Operator (02-01)**  
**PERC Water - Operations Manager-Chief Plant Operator**  
**PERC Water - Chief Plant Operator Vista Canyon Tejon**

**IRWD – Accountant (Payroll)**  
**OCWD - Director of Recharge and Wetland Operations**

**CAA - Environmental Associate**  
**MNWD - Customer Account Supervisor**

**United Water Works - Estimator**  
**United Water Works - Inside Sales Associate**  
**United Water Works - Outside Sales Associate**

**and dozens of more listings on the website . . .**

For further information on these and other currently open positions, please visit the "Opportunities" section of the OCWA website:

[www.ocwater.org/Opportunities](http://www.ocwater.org/Opportunities)

*Members and their agency or company can post Opportunities to the OCWA website, free of charge, as often as they'd like. If you wish to post a job opening, and are a current member, please send a PDF of your listing to the OCWA webmaster. We'll post the listing to the website and, if space permits, advertise it in the member's-only monthly newsletter as well.*

## Board of Directors

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## Key Contacts

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OCWA's Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month, unless notified otherwise.

At present, meetings are being held virtually. The next meeting is scheduled for:

**January 19, 2022**  
**11:00 am to Noon**

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