

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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DWR Director David Kennedy is Elected to National Academy of Engineering

SACRAMENTO--David N. Kennedy, Director of the Department of Water Resources, has been elected to membership in the National Academy of Engineering, one of the highest professional distinctions available to engineers. Academy membership honors those who have made "important contributions to engineering theory and practice."

Kennedy was honored for engineering leadership in planning and managing California's water resources for more than 30 million people. He has been director of the Department of Water Resources since 1983, longest tenure of any Director in DWR history. DWR is California's leading water management agency, playing a major role in water resource planning and management. DWR operates the State Water Project, largest State-run water and power system in the nation.

His accomplishments include a major expansion of the SWP's Delta Pumping Plant and construction of the Coastal Aqueduct to bring SWP water to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. In 1994, he helped negotiate the Monterey Agreement, a major reform to allow more flexibility in contracting with the State's 29 longterm water contractors. In 1992, he helped Governor Pete Wilson develop the State's first long-range water policy, a 10-point policy to help California keep pace with evolving water needs.

Kennedy helped facilitate the 1994 Delta Accord which provided a framework for longterm solutions to Delta water quality and supply problems. Kennedy has been an active manager in times both of flood and drought, serving during major flood events in 1997, 1995 and 1986. During the 1987-1992 drought, he created and implemented the State Emergency Drought Water Bank Program, a first in water bank planning in the U.S.

As a California representative on the Colorado River Board, Kennedy has helped influence Colorado River policy. He has developed a plan to enable California to achieve the goal of reducing its Colorado River water use to 4.4 million acre-feet per year.

Kennedy is respected for his ability to nurture consensus on challenging water issues, working cooperatively with legislators, water users, regulatory agencies, environmental and business groups to formulate and put into action sound water resource policies, programs and projects.

Governor George Deukmejian first appointed Kennedy as DWR Director in June, 1983. In February, 1991, Governor Wilson announced that Kennedy would continue in that post, managing a \$900 million annual budget and overseeing the work of about 2,500 employees.

Prior to his State service, Kennedy was Assistant General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California from 1974 to 1983. An MWD engineer from 1968-1974, he held engineering positions in planning, hydrology and operations.

From 1962 to 1968, Kennedy served as an engineer in DWR's Statewide Planning Office. He was involved in planning of water development facilities throughout the State.

From 1960-1962, he served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Kennedy earned both BS and MS degrees in Civil Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Western States Water Council.

Kennedy and his wife, Barbara, are the parents of three.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs. The State Water Project provides water to two-thirds of California's population.

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