



News for Immediate Release

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DWR Notes Passing of Retired ACWA Executive Director

SACRAMENTO----DWR Director Lester Snow today issued the following statement after learning of the death of Stephen K. Hall, retired Executive Director of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA). Hall, 58, died of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), widely known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Hall was ACWA's Executive Director from 1993 until retiring in 2007. Said Snow:

"Steve Hall was a dedicated, effective leader in California's water community. He played a major role in seeking and encouraging realistic solutions to our State's water supply and water quality challenges.

An outstanding advocate of California's public water agencies, Steve was energetic and tireless in educating the public and seeking beneficial policies regarding California's most complex water problems. Under his leadership, ACWA sponsored and conducted many vital conference to illuminate water issues and opportunities.

He encouraged the creation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. I worked with him closely during my five years as CALFED's first Executive Director (1995-1999). Steve was one of the key water community leaders who successfully encouraged passage of Proposition 204 in 1996 and Proposition 13 in 2002, to provide funding for important water management projects and programs.

As DWR Director since 2004, I enjoyed working with Steve on a range of important priorities, including the Delta, water supply, water quality and Endangered Species issues. In many ways, his work helped make possible legislative passage of the recently enacted water reform package.

Even after ALS necessitated his retirement in 2007, Steve continued to advocate for legislation on ALS at the State Capitol.

On behalf of DWR, I extend my sympathy and best wishes to Steve's wife, Pamela, and his family, as well as to the staff and members of ACWA. We've lost a very special water leader with Steve's passing but he leaves us a great example to emulate."

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.