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News

The AWRA 2008 Annual Conference. 17-20 November 2008. Sheraton Hotel New Orleans, Louisiana

Roll out the red carpet, Water TV is here!

The AWRA 2008 Annual Conference is the first conference in the world where you can watch Water TV – the new online television channel dedicated to water resources news and views.

We'll be screening a new special episode each and every day of the conference. You can watch around the exhibition and in your hotel room as well as online: www.waterresourcestv.com.

Whether it's a workshop, debate or speech, Water TV will be there to cover all the important issues that emerge. You'll also be able to watch exclusive

reports produced especially for the conference from organizations across the United States who are leading the way in the industry.

And remember, you're the stars!

The Water TV team will be touring the exhibition and conference to get your views on various issues. Comment on speakers and sessions you've just attended, and let us know what parts of the conference you are looking forward to.

Visit us at our booth for more information. We look forward to meeting you!

President's Message:



Welcome to New Orleans!

I am delighted to introduce you to **Water TV**, AWRA's partner in providing this new and exciting facet to the AWRA Annual Water Resources Conference. Throughout the conference – and on a special channel in your hotel room – you can view the programs that have been specially produced for the conference as well as some of the unique events and happenings occurring during the conference. Afterwards, you'll be able to view the content on a special website. We sincerely hope you enjoy the programming and find it valuable!

This year's conference promises to live up to the excellent benchmark set by previous AWRA conferences. Our informative and thought provoking technical sessions will address a broad array of water resources research, management, and technology themes. Our keynote speakers are second to none when it comes to federal, state, and local perspectives on New Orleans and coastal Louisiana water resources issues. And, our special events and activities are not to be missed!

Be sure to tune in to **Water TV** throughout the week, and do let us know what you think.

Thanks for coming,

Jane O. Rowan, AWRA President

Living River Concept - New Model for Corps of Engineers

Over the past two decades flood protection projects have changed dramatically, with traditional concrete wall projects being replaced by a "Living River" concept of flood protection. This concept, adopted by the Corps of Engineers over recent years, connects the river with the floodplain and combines high level protection with the creation of significant environmental restoration.



The Napa River/Napa Creek Flood Protection Project is a model for this concept and the new Corps. The project was one of the first of its kind in creating a functioning river system that also provides significant flood protection and other benefits to the local community.

The project was pursued as the City of Napa, CA, commonly known as the gateway to the United States wine industry, faced serious flood risks. The federal government originally offered a

flood solution of 15-foot high concrete walls to protect the community from the river. This approach was simply unacceptable as it proposed cutting off the Napa River from downtown, a solution which would not only threaten the environment but most likely lead to a decrease in tourism. This was not an option given that tourism supports the region's wine industry, economic development and continued growth.

Facing these challenges and knowing that breaking through the Corps

system takes technical knowledge, perseverance and a substantial Washington expertise, the Napa County Flood Control District hired Carmen Group (a full-service government relations consulting firm with over 20-years of experience working on Corps of Engineers issues) to help the community find and develop a more environmentally-friendly solution for the flood problem which could be approved and would attract significant federal dollars.

Through active engagement of the community and the deployment of Carmen Group, approvals for the "Living River" project were secured through the Corps of Engineers and Congress leading to the creation of a project providing over 700 acres of tidal wetlands, floodplain terraces and the restoration of formerly contaminated riverbanks.

While the project has become the premier environmentally-sensitive multi-purpose project in the Corps' portfolio, this was not an easy feat. A difficult battle was fought by the District and Carmen Group as Corps' policy endorsing concrete solutions ran counter to the project's vision and needs. Considerable efforts were

employed to breakthrough barriers and create a new policy allowing this project to proceed.

Robert Peterson, Director of the Napa County Public Works Department, realized these obstacles and Carmen Group's value through his years of experience with the project and the Corps.

"The District recognizes the indispensable work of Carmen Group in securing necessary Federal funding and in working effectively with key officials at the White House and the Army Corps of Engineers. Carmen Group's strategy to pursue changes in administration budgeting criteria demonstrated keen insight and skilled professional judgment regarding the critical link between decisions affecting both policy and funding," said Peterson.

The Napa River/Napa Creek Flood Protection project is a model for the future of the Corps and shows that solutions can be shaped to meet the needs of local communities, states, and the Corps of Engineers if a coordinated effort is developed based on, and driven by the vision of the community.

Program Highlights



Keeping Water Knowledge Flowing

Water TV showcases the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center, which collaborates with many water stakeholders to deliver highly relevant water management, policy research and educational outreach programs.

Sponsored by Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona



Making Paradise Possible

The Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority faces many challenges in operating a pipeline that spans some 130 miles of unique geography. But, by focusing on meeting the demands of an ever changing customer base and finding alternative water sources, the FKAA is ready for the future.

Sponsored by The Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority



Securing Arizona's Water Future

Water TV discovers how vision, imagination and commitment enable the Arizona Department of Water Resources to continue to protect the water supply in one of the world's driest places.

Sponsored by Arizona Dept of Water Resources



Napa: The Living River

Carmen Group helped the county of Napa create an innovative vision and secure federal support for flood protection through environmental greening. Water TV discovers how this success resulted from great teamwork, including the Flood Control District, City and Corps of Engineers.

Sponsored by Carmen Group



Changing Water-Use Behaviors

Water TV finds out how the work of local partnerships has significantly increased the success of water conservation programs and ultimately changed water-use patterns in arid south western Riverside County, California.

Sponsored by Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County



Water for Today and Tomorrow

Water TV discovers how the use of inventive water contracts, new partnerships and visionary projects has enhanced the quantity and quality of irrigation water in Utah's desert environment.

Sponsored by Washington County Water Conservancy District



Managing Agricultural Landscapes in ARS

With the agriculture industry accounting for the largest consumption of water in the US, Water TV takes a look at how USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has developed technologies which maintain agricultural productivity while sustaining or enhancing the environment.

Sponsored by Agricultural Research Service - USDA



United Water - Meeting the Demands of the Future

United Water New Jersey's Haworth Water Treatment Plant is undergoing the largest and most extensive upgrade in United Water's history. Water TV looks into the \$100 million project which will provide improved water quality, safeguard the environment and enhance service reliability to 800,000 people in Bergen and Hudson Counties.

Sponsored by United Water



An Innovative Approach to Flood Protection

Zone 7 Water Agency's 'Stream Management Master Plan' depends on extensive public collaboration and represents a forward-thinking suite of multi-benefit projects. Water TV takes a look at their work in the Livermore-Amador Valley where they combine flood protection with opportunities to improve water quality, wildlife habitat and recreation.

Sponsored by Zone 7 Water



Coping with a Booming Population

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is growing its water supply as the region faces a population boom over the next 25 years. Water TV found out the water district is using a "don't put all your eggs in one basket" approach to diversify its water portfolio.

Sponsored by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California



Meet the Host of Water TV:

Lisa Singer has reported and produced for a multitude of media outlets; including Metro Network News, Boston Works, E! Entertainment Television and Court TV's "Hollywood Heat" for which she earned an esteemed Telly award. Her genuine personality and ad-libbing abilities have allowed her to interview everyone from today's top celebrities and respected politicians, to athletes and business executives.

Where to Watch

You can watch **Water TV** on plasma screens around the conference and in the plenary hall during breaks and lunch. You can also catch us online at www.waterresourcestv.com.



Also, don't miss our daily highlights program in your hotel bedrooms on **Channel 17**.



Production Credits

Executive Producer.....Stephen Horn
Output Producer.....Kelly Davis
ReporterLisa Singer



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