

**California Water Commission Procedures for Naming State Water Project Facilities
(adopted August 17, 2011)**

The California Water Code gives the Water Commission the power to name or rename State Water Project facilities.

§ 161.5 Naming Facilities

The California Water Commission shall have the power to name all facilities of the State Water Resources Development System owned by the state. The commission may receive testimony from the public on matters involving its responsibilities under this section, and, after public hearing for the purpose of considering all proposed names for such facilities, may, by resolution, express its decision regarding the naming of specific facilities of the State Water Resources Development System.

The Commission will take the following steps when considering naming State Water Project facilities:

1. The Commission or any individual Commissioner may make a proposal to name a State Water Project facility, or the Commission may receive recommendations from the public.
2. Upon receipt of such a request, the Commission will consider the proposal and may direct staff to further research the proposal. This research will include such factors as:
 - Description of the facility including location, function and history.
 - Information about the individual for whom the name change has been proposed, including biographical information, contribution to the State Water Resources Development System, California water policy, or water management in general in California.
 - Input from the Director of the Department of Water Resources; DWR State Water Project Deputy Director and staff; and other DWR programs.
 - Fiscal, operational and implementation impacts for making the name change
 - Identification and notify community-based interests, other potentially impacted or interested agencies (e.g. local, state, federal, regulatory).
3. Staff will present its findings at a Commission meeting for discussion and consideration.

4. Following review of the staff report, the Commission will hold a public hearing to receive comment and testimony on the proposed name change. The hearing may be part of a regularly-scheduled Commission meeting or may be a separate, publicly-noticed meeting at the Commission's headquarters in Sacramento or in the community in which the facility is located.
5. After receiving public testimony, the Commission will vote on a resolution regarding the naming of the specific facility. If the resolution is approved by a majority of the Commission members, the Commission will direct its staff to inform DWR to proceed with the name change.

TO: California Water Commission

FROM: Sue Sims
Interim Executive Officer

DATE: August 17, 2011

RE: Staff Report on Proposal to Name Thermalito Pumping –Generating Plant

Background

On June 21, 2011, the Water Commission received a letter from Arthur G. Scotland, Presiding Judge (retired) California Court of Appeals, Third Appellate District requesting to acknowledge the significant and lasting contributions of Justice Ron Robie to water management and environmental protection in California by naming the State Water Project's Thermalito Pumping –Generating Plant in his honor.

This item was discussed by the Commission at its July 20, 2011 meeting and staff has prepared the following report on the proposal.

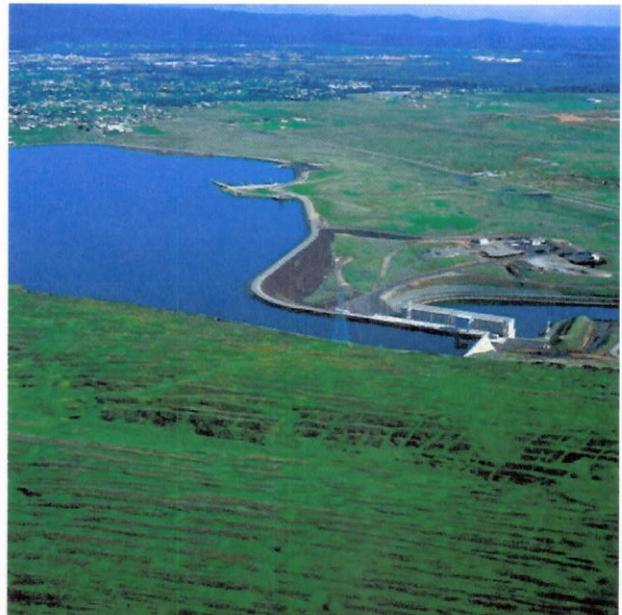
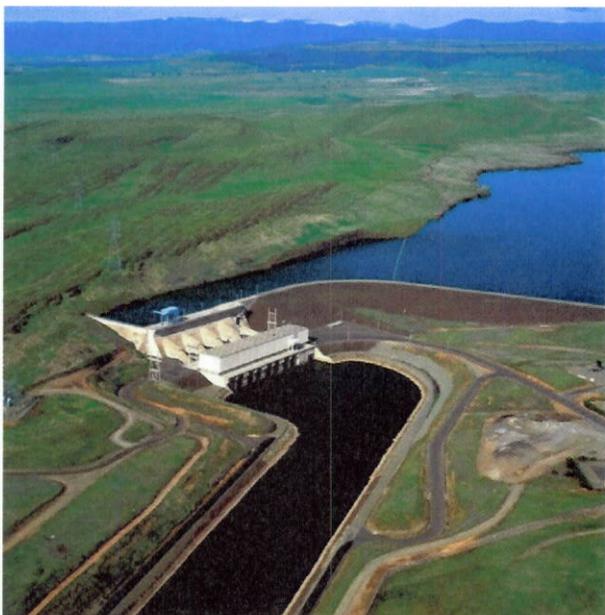
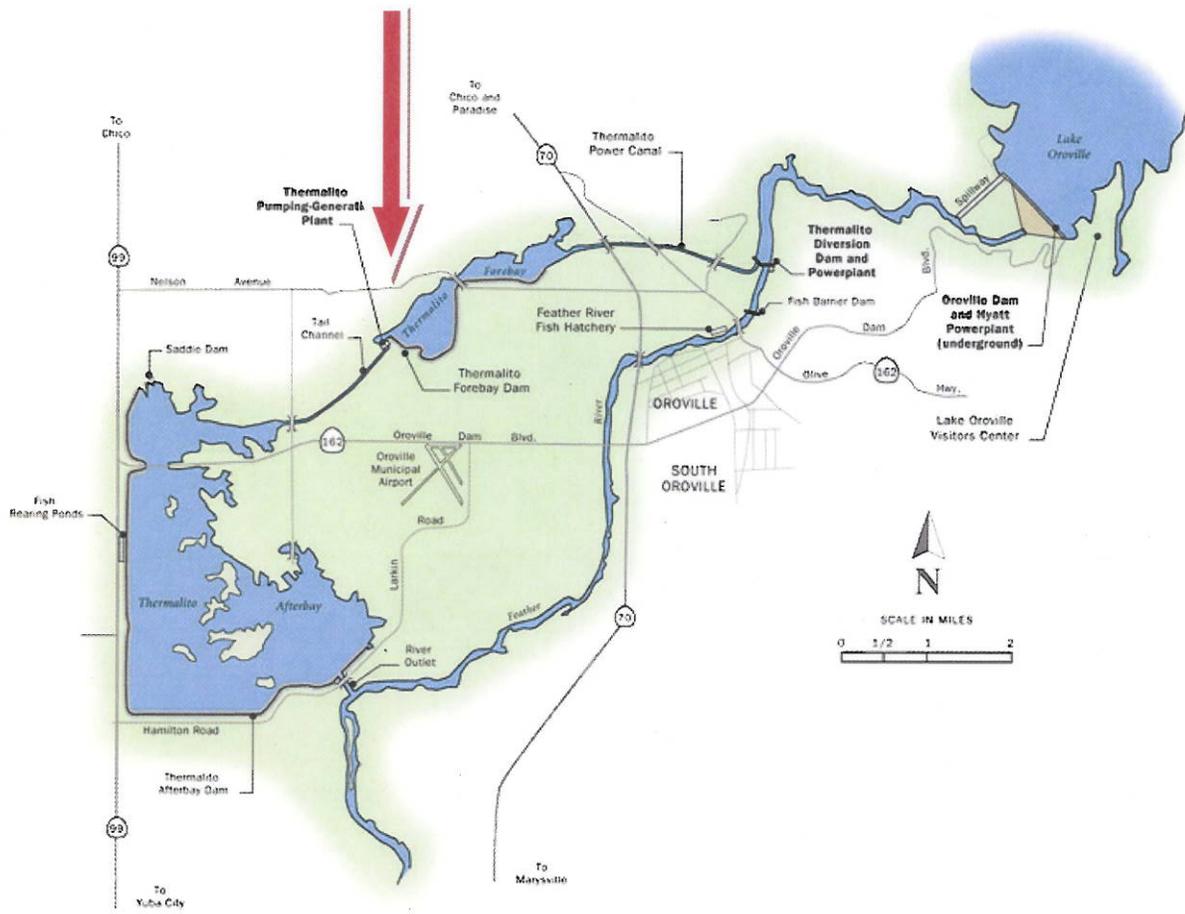
Description of the Facility

The Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant is part of the State Water Project's Oroville-Thermalito Complex, a water and power system that stores about 3.5 million acre-feet and generates power from water releases.

Located about four miles west of the city of Oroville in Butte County, the plant is operated in tandem with Hyatt Powerplant and Thermalito Diversion Dam Powerplant to produce power. Water released from Lake Oroville is used to produce electricity at Hyatt Powerplant, located in the bedrock beneath Oroville Dam. This water flows into the Thermalito Diversion Pool where it is diverted into the Thermalito Power Canal or released into Feather River through the Thermalito Diversion Dam Powerplant which generates additional electricity. Water diverted into the Thermalito Power Canal flows into Thermalito Forebay and through the Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant to produce more electricity before entering Thermalito Afterbay. Water is then released back into the Feather River at the Thermalito Afterbay River Outlet.

To further maximize the efficiency of the Oroville facilities, water that is released for power in excess of local and downstream requirements is conserved by pumpback operations into Lake Oroville during off-peak hours. The water can then be released again for power generation during peak power demand. Construction on the plant began in 1964 and with operations starting in 1968.





Biographical Information of Ron Robie

Ron Robie served as the Director of DWR from 1975-1983, the second longest tenure in DWR's history. Robie led the department through a serious drought in 1976-77, and was instrumental in recognizing environmental forces and implementing conservation measures which resulted in innovative water management and storage projects.

Among his most significant and lasting contributions were those to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and power supply issues for the State Water Project. One of the attached articles from DWR NEWS/People was authored by Judge Robie in late 2010 and provides a first-hand account of the challenges and tremendous accomplishments during his years as Director. The second provides an overview of his distinguished career.

Prior to his appointment as DWR Director by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., Robie was an adjunct professor of law at the McGeorge School of Law and a member of the State Water Resources Control Board. He also served as a consultant to the Assembly Water Committee from 1961 to 1969 and in that capacity, played a major role in the development of the Porter-Cologne water quality act.

Appointed as a municipal court judge in 1983, Robie was later elected to a seat on the Sacramento County Superior Court. In 2002, Governor Gray Davis appointed Robie to the California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District. He was named "Judge of the Year" by the Sacramento County Bar Association in 2002 and is considered one of the state's leading experts on water law issues. He has taught water law and environmental law at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, since 1970 and is Chair of the Governing Committee of the California Center for Judicial Education and Research.

Additional background information is provided in the attached articles from DWR's news publication.

DWR Position

The proposed name change has the support of DWR Director Mark Cowin and Deputy Director for the State Water Project, Ralph Torres.

Fiscal, operational and implementation impacts

The naming or renaming of State Water Project facilities is addressed in two DWR administrative documents: Water Resources Engineering Memo (WREM) 21 and Department Administrative Manual 1100.4. Both state that the California Water Commission has the authority to formally name SWP facilities. There does not appear to be any other approval required, however DWR would notify the appropriate agencies including the State Water Project contractors and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission which issues the operating license for the Oroville complex facilities, including the Thermalito Pumping –Generating Plant.

DWR estimates changes in facility and road signage would cost approximately \$10,000 and there may be some other incidental additional costs. Funds are available to complete this work.

Operational documents and plans would be changed to reflect the name change in the normal course of business operations. Nomenclature changes have not caused any significant problems in the past.

Identification of potentially impacted or interested agencies

State Water Contractors

City of Oroville

Butte County

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Letters of Support

Justice Arthur G. Scotland, Presiding Judge (retired) California Court of Appeal

Thomas W. Birmingham, Westlands Water District

Jeffrey Kightlinger, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Eric L. Garner and Jeffrey V. Dunn, Best Best & Krieger LLP

Rita Schmidt Sudman, Water Education Foundation

Edward J. Tiedemann, Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard

Known Opposition

None

Sue Sims

Interim Executive Officer, California Water Commission

(916) 653-6055

Attachment s

Highlights of the State Water Project, SWP 50th Anniversary, DWR News/People Fall 2010

Ronald B. Robie, SWP 50th Anniversary, DWR News/People Fall 2006

ARTHUR G. SCOTLAND
Presiding Justice (retired)
California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District
621 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814

June 21, 2011

Anthony Saracino, Chair
California Water Commission
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Saracino:

From time to time, state facilities have been named for persons who have played important roles in the construction, management, and operation of California water projects. Ronald B. Robie is a person worthy of such recognition.

Now a Justice of the California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, Justice Robie has a long history of service relating to water legislation, water management, and water law in our state. From September 1960 to April 1969, he was principal staff to the Assembly Water Commission under its Chair, Carley Porter. Among the major legislative accomplishments during that time was the Porter-Cologne Act, creating the State Water Control Board, to which Governor Reagan appointed then-attorney Ronald Robie from 1969 to 1975. During his service as its Vice-Chair, the Board developed procedures and practices for integrating water quality and water rights, together with implementation of the Clean Water Act in California. From 1975 to 1983, Robie was the Director of Water Resources, appointed to the position by Governor Brown. During that time, he drafted and received legislative approval for state water facilities; managed the state's water resources during the 1976-1977 drought, the most severe drought in California's history; completed and expanded phases of the State Water Project; and worked with the Chair of the Board to create and implement the Governor's Commission to Review California Water Rights Law.

As a jurist, Justice Robie continues to be very involved in water issues. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Water Education Foundation; has authored and participated in major water law decisions; is the convener of "Dividing the Waters," an educational association of judges who rule on water law matters; and, since 1970, has taught water law and environmental law at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

Ron Robie's career has had a major, positive imprint on the management of water in California. Thus, it is fitting that a state water facility be named in his honor as a lasting recognition of his water-related service to California. The Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant, which came into being under Ron Robie's "watch" as the Director of Water Resources, would be an appropriate and ideal facility to bear his name.

For all the reasons stated above, I enthusiastically urge the California Water Commission to designate that state water facility as the "Ronald B. Robie Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant."

Thank you and other Commission members for your consideration of this recommendation and request.

Cordially,



Arthur G. Scotland



Westlands Water District

3130 N. Fresno Street, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, California 93703-6056, (559) 224-1523, FAX (559) 241-6277

July 6, 2011

Anthony Saracino, Chair
California Water Commission
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Naming a SWP Water Facility in Honor of Ronald B. Robie

Dear Anthony:

I am writing on behalf of Westlands Water District to express its support for Justice Arthur Scotland's proposal to name a facility of the State Water Project in honor of Ronald B. Robie.

For more than six decades, there are few individuals who have affected water resources in California more than Justice Robie. He has spent his entire adult life serving the people of the State; as a legislative staff person, as a member of the State Water Resources Control Board, as a Director of the Department of Water Resources, as a Superior Court Judge, and as a Justice on the California District Court of Appeal. In each of these roles, Justice Robie has had a major, positive influence on water policy and the management of water in California. The people of this State have benefitted from his foresight and leadership, and naming a facility of the State Water Project in honor of Justice Robie is a fitting tribute for his contributions to this State.

For these reasons and the reasons set forth in Justice Scotland's June 21, 2011, correspondence, Westlands enthusiastically supports the proposal to rename the Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant as the "Ronald B. Robie Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant."

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Very truly yours,

Thomas W. Birmingham
General Manager



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

June 29, 2011

Anthony Saracino, Chair
California Water Commission
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Saracino,

From time to time, state facilities have been named for persons who have played important roles in the construction, management, and operation of California water projects. Ronald B. Robie is a person worthy of such recognition.

Now a Justice of the California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, Justice Robie has a long history of service relating to water legislation, water management, and water law in our state. From September 1960 to April 1969, he was principal staff to the Assembly Water Commission under its Chair, Carley Porter. Among the major legislative accomplishments during that time was the Porter-Cologne Act, creating the State Water Control Board, to which Governor Reagan appointed then-attorney Ronald Robie from 1969 to 1975. During his service as its Vice-Chair, the Board developed procedures and practices for integrating water quality and water rights, together with implementation of the Clean Water Act in California. From 1975 to 1983, Robie was the Director of Water Resources, appointed to the position by Governor Brown. During that time, he drafted and received legislative approval for state water facilities; managed the state's water resources during the 1976-1977 drought, the most severe drought in California's history; completed and expanded phases of the State Water Project; and worked with the Chair of the Board to create and implement the Governor's Commission to Review California Water Rights Law.

As a jurist, Justice Robie continues to be very involved in water issues. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Water Education Foundation; has authored and participated in major water law decisions; is the convener of "Dividing the Waters," an educational association of judges who rule on water law matters; and since 1970, has taught water law and environmental law at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

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Mr. Anthony Saracino, Chair
Page 2
June 29, 2011

being under Ron Robie's "watch" as the Director of Water Resources, would be an appropriate and ideal facility to bear his name.

For all the reasons stated above, I enthusiastically urge the California Water Commission to designate that state water facility as the "Ronald B. Robie Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant."

Thank you and other Commission members for your consideration of this recommendation and request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Kightlinger". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager

cc: John Laird, Secretary of Resources
Arthur G. Scotland

BEST BEST & KRIEGER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

INDIAN WELLS
(760) 568-2611

LOS ANGELES
(213) 617-8100

ONTARIO
(909) 989-8584

RIVERSIDE
(951) 686-1450

5 Park Plaza, Suite 1500
Irvine, California 92614
(949) 263-2600
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(619) 525-1300

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(925) 977-3300

Jeffrey V. Dunn
(949) 263-2616
jeffrey.dunn@bbklaw.com

July 14, 2011

Anthony Saracino, Chair
California Water Commission
State of California, Resources Building
1416 Ninth Street, First Floor Auditorium
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Justice Ronald B. Robie

Dear Mr. Saracino:

This letter is to request consideration of, and to recommend, Justice Ronald B. Robie, Justice of the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, for recognition by the California Water Commission. We join with others in requesting that a State Water Project facility, the Thermalito Pumping-Generation Plant, be named in his honor because of his significant contributions to the development of water law and water resource management in California.

Justice Robie has a long and distinguished record of public service. As a staff member of the California Water Commission in the 1960's, Justice Robie worked on passage of the Porter-Cologne Act which created the State Water Resources Control Board. Governor Ronald Reagan then appointed him to the newly-created State Water Resources Control Board and he served from 1969 to 1975. During his tenure, the State Water Resources Control Board developed key policies and procedures for water quality and water rights.

In 1975, Governor Brown appointed Justice Robie as Director of the Department of Water Resources and he served in this capacity until 1983. As Director, he provided leadership during one of the most severe droughts in California history. He also was instrumental in obtaining legislation for the development of the State Water Project facilities.

Best, Best & Krieger has a history of over 100 years in California and is a nationally-recognized leader in the area of water resources including water rights, water quality and the development and preservation of our State's water resources. As a former judge of the Sacramento County Superior Court and now, as Justice of the Court of Appeal, Justice Robie has had a significant judicial role in the development of water law. He has worked tirelessly on the cases before him, including important decisions affecting all Californians. Additionally, he has volunteered countless hours to public service including his service as a member of the Board of

BEST BEST & KRIEGER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

California Water Commission
July 14, 2011
Page 2

Directors of the Water Education Foundation, an educational association of California judges on water law matters, and has taught water law at the McGeorge School of Law.

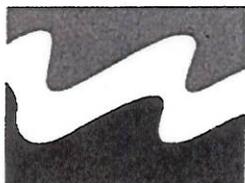
We believe that Justice Ronald B. Robie is deserving of recognition for his over 40 years of public service. For these reasons, we respectfully request the California Water Commission designate the State Water Project facility referenced herein as the "Ronald B. Robie Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant."

We appreciate the Commission members' consideration of this wholehearted recommendation and request.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Garner

Eric L. Garner and Jeffrey V. Dunn
of BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP



**WATER EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

717 K Street, Suite 317
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-444-6240
Fax: 916-448-7699
www.watereducation.org
http://aquaforia.com

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Byron M. Buck

State and Federal Contractors Water Agency

Celeste Cantú

Santa Ana Watershed Project Association

Huali Chai

Law Office of Huali G. Chai

JaNell Cook

MWH

Daniel M. Dooley

University of California

Phil Dunn

EDAW, Inc.

Harrison C. "Hap" Dunning

The Bay Institute of San Francisco

Dennis Falaschi

Panoche and Pacheco Water District

Linda Fiack

Delta Protection Commission

Charolette Fox

Riverside League of Women Voters

Kathy E. Freas

CH2M Hill

David J. Guy

Somach Simmons & Dunn

Randee Kanouse

East Bay Municipal Utility District

Mary Aileen Mathis

Irvine Ranch Water District

Jonas Minton

Planning & Conservation League

David Orth

Kings River Conservation District

Timothy H. Quinn

ACWA

William E. Rinne

Southern Nevada Water Authority

Ronald B. Robie

Court of Appeal, 3rd Appellate District

Anthony Saracino

The Nature Conservancy

Satoru "Sat" Tamaribuchi

Environmental Issues Consultant

Linda Waade

MWF of Southern California

Walter Yep

Walter Yep, Inc.

William R. Gianelli

President Emeritus

June 30, 2011

Mr. Anthony Saracino
Chair
California Water Commission
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Saracino:

I am writing to support the request to name a California water facility in honor of Judge Ronald Robie.

I have known Judge Robie since I was a young reporter at the State Capitol covering water and other issues. Additionally, for over 30 years, I have served as Executive Director of the Water Education Foundation. During all those years I have observed Judge Robie and benefited from his guidance on the complicated issues involving water. I particularly remember him as Director of the California Department of Water Resources and his innovative approaches to promoting water conservation after the most severe drought in the state's history. He brought a management approach to the position which was important as the State Water Project was largely completed and needed new direction.

For five decades Judge Robie has been involved in key water issues. As a young Assembly staff member and principal staff person to Carley Porter, then Chair of the Assembly Water Commission, he helped create the State Water Resources Control Board. He then served on that Board during a time when the first state water quality regulations were developed. He has served as a judge for over two decades. I know that he is well regarded by the water bar and his decisions regarding water issues are considered very significant. He is considered a leading jurist and scholar on water law.

I feel privileged that he takes time from his busy schedule to serve on the Water Education Foundation's Board of Directors.

I am sure I speak for the Foundation's Board when I say that I agree with the proposal for the California Water Commission to name a State Water Project facility in Judge Robie's honor based on the major roles that he has had in water-related matters in our state. Judge Robie is worthy of this honor. I would like to see his name join others such as former California Department of Water Resources' Directors Bill Gianelli, Bill Warne and Harvey Banks, all of whom have facilities named after them.

I appreciate consideration of this request by you and all the members of the California Water Commission.

Sincerely,

Rita Schmidt Sudman
Executive Director

cc: Water Education Foundation Board of Directors

The mission of the Water Education Foundation, an impartial, nonprofit organization, is to create a better understanding of water resources and foster public understanding and resolution of water resource issues through facilitation, education and outreach.

KRONICK
MOSKOVITZ
TIEDEMANN
& GIRARD
A LAW CORPORATION

June 29, 2011

Mr. Anthony Saracino
Chair
California Water Commission
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

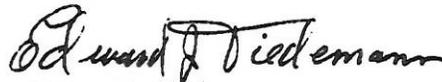
Dear Mr. Saracino:

It has come to my attention that consideration may be given to naming one of the State's important water facilities, such as the Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant after Ronald B. Robie. I wholeheartedly and strongly urge you and the Commission do this.

I doubt that very few, if any, persons have been so broadly involved in the development and protection of our State's water resources in an environmentally responsible manner for the common good in so many effective ways, as Justice Robie has been. He has had an extensive distinguished career involving California's water resources with his service in the legislative, executive and judicial branches of our government. This has involved his service as a consultant to the Assembly Water Committee, his term as the Director of the Department of Water Resources, and as an author of opinions dealing with water issues that have and will continue to have lasting effects on how our State's water resources will be used. Throughout his career Justice Robie has been an influential leader in the development and protection of California's water resources.

As one who has had the opportunity from time-to-time of working with and observing Justice Robie in his service in all three branches of government involving water resources, I join with Justice Scotland and others in strongly urging the California Water Commission to designate the Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant as the "Ronald B. Robie Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant."

Sincerely,


Edward J. Tiedemann

EJT/djk

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DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION
1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



Sent August 19
to Attached List

The California Water Commission will consider a proposal to rename the Thermalito Pumping Generating Plant in Oroville to honor Justice Ronald Robie, former director of the Department of Water Resources and one of the state's leading experts on water law issues. Under the proposal, the new name of the facility would be the Ronald B. Robie Thermalito Pumping Generating Plant.

The matter will be heard at the Commission's regularly-scheduled meeting on September 21, 2011. We welcome your comments on the proposed name change.

Meeting Date and Location: California Water Commission
1416 9th Street, First Floor Auditorium
Sacramento, California 95814
Wednesday, September 21, 2011
Thermalito Agenda Item and Public Comment - 1:00 p.m.
(This meeting will be webcast for viewing)

Written Correspondence: California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Email: cwc@water.ca.gov

Attached is a copy of the staff report from the Commission's August 2011 meeting as background information. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Ballanti of the California Water Commission by email: rballant@water.ca.gov or (916) 653-8517.

Sincerely,

Sue Sims
Interim Executive Officer
California Water Commission

Attachment – July 2011 Staff Report

Oroville Agencies and Organizations Contacted Regarding Renaming of State Water Project Thermalito Pumping –Generating Plant

Butte County District 4 Supervisor - Steve Lambert
3159 Nelson Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965
Phone: (530) 538-2516
Email: district4@buttecounty.net

Butte County District 1 Supervisor - Bill Connelly
5280 Lower Wyandotte Road
Oroville, CA 95966
Phone: (530) 538-6834
Email: BConnelly@buttecounty.net

City of Oroville Mayor - Linda Dahlmeier
1735 Montgomery Street
Oroville, Ca 95965
Phone: 530-538-2535
E-mail: dahlmeierll@cityoforoville.org

City of Oroville Administrator – Harold Duffey
1735 Montgomery Street
Oroville, Ca 95965
Phone: 530.538.2535
E-mail: admin@cityoforoville.org

Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce - Claudia Knaus
1789 Montgomery Street
Oroville, CA 95965
Phone: 530.538.2542
E-mail: cknaus@orvillechamber.net

Feather River Recreation and Park District – Scott Perkins
1875 Feather River Boulevard
Oroville, CA 95965
Phone: (530) 533-2011
E-mail: scott@frrpd.com

California's 4th District Senator - Doug LaMalfa
1550 Myers Street, Suite C
Oroville, CA 95965
Phone: (530) 532-5860

California's 3rd District Assembly Member – Dan Logue
1550 Humboldt Road, Suite 4
Chico, CA 95928
Phone: (530)895-4217
E-mail: assemblymember.logue@assembly.ca.gov

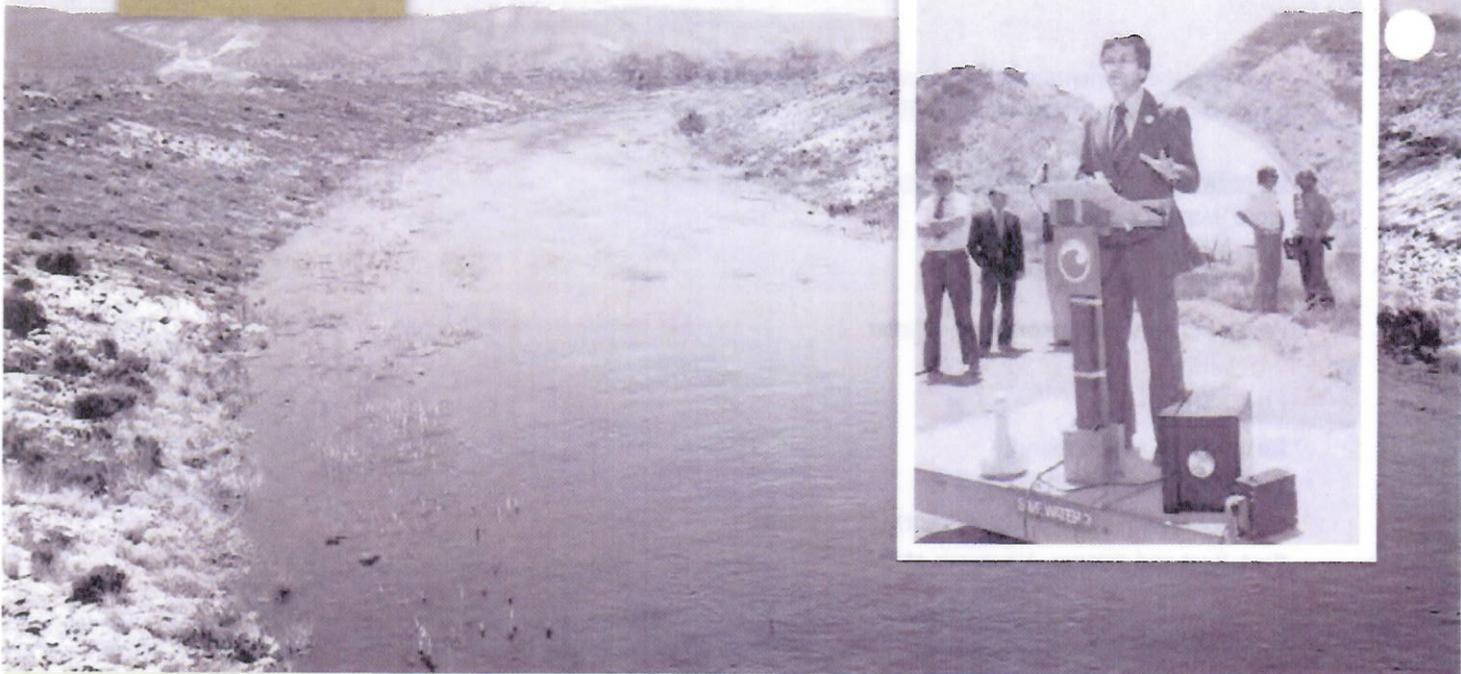
California State Parks Northern District Superintendent – Marilyn Linkem
400 Glen Drive
Oroville, CA 95966
Phone: (530)538-2200
E-Mail: mmurphy@park.ca.gov

Sutter Extension Water District – Carl Yank
4525 Franklin Road
Yuba City, CA 95993
Phone: (530)673-7138
E-mail: lpsewd@hughes.net

Richvale Irrigation District – Brad Mattson
P.O. Box 147
Richvale, CA 95974
Phone: (530) 882-4243
E-mail: rid@pulsarco.com

Biggs-West Gridley Water District – Karen Peters
1713 W Biggs Gridley Road
Gridley, CA 95948
Phone: (530) 846-3317
E-mail: kpeters@bwgwater.com

Western Canal Water District – Ted Trimble
P.O. Box 190
Richvale, CA 95974
Phone: 342-5083
E-mail: tedtrim@aol.com



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE State Water Project

(Robie is currently Associate Justice of the Third District Court of Appeal. He served as DWR Director from 1975-1982 under Governor Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown)

By Ronald B. Robie

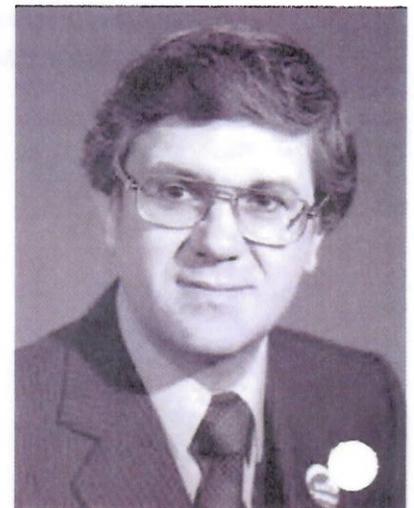
I joined DWR in early 1975, just as most of the initial construction of the State Water Project was finished and operative. But much more remained to be done.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

The major unfinished business was a Delta facility for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP). This was made more difficult by the fact that the Bureau of Reclamation still did not agree it was bound by state water law - the law that governed the SWP. It took a decision by the U. S. Supreme Court - California v. U.S., 438 US.645 (1978) - to finally get the Bureau on the same page as the state. During this period, Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus was very helpful in moving the Bureau into a more cooperative approach.

Knowing of the great controversy over a Peripheral Canal, I commissioned a task force to take a comprehensive

look at the entire issue of Delta transfer. I hoped something other than a Peripheral Canal would work but the result of the study (done jointly with the Department of Fish and Game) was that the Peripheral Canal was the best, most environmentally sound means of providing water transfer and protecting and enhancing the Delta environment. With the concurrence of the Governor I proceeded to develop legislation to authorize the canal, along with various environmental protections. This was controversial, since I agreed



Inset: Director Robie speaking during Silverwood Lake dedication - Silverwood Lake water pumped from the Kern River that is flowing to the Mojave River in the first SWP underground storage of surplus flow



the canal could be built without legislative approval but I felt that nearly 20 years after the original authorization of the SWP this was an appropriate way to obtain consensus.

For most of four years, my Deputies **Chuck Shoemaker**, **Jerry Meral** and I participated in seemingly endless legislative hearings on the issue. It was an exhilarating time. I continue to be amazed (in view of the controversy over the Delta which has raged for the past 30 years) that our bill (Senate Bill 200- Ayala) authorizing the canal and necessary environmental protection measures passed both houses of the Legislature in 1980 by a substantial majority in each house and was signed by the Governor. I consider this my major accomplishment vis-à-vis the SWP. I continue to believe the canal is the most environ-

mentally sound solution. At the same time, we were able to get several California wild rivers incorporated into the federal wild and scenic river system. Our bill had substantial support in Northern California but a small group collected signatures to force a referendum on the bill which resulted in its rejection by the people in 1982. Sadly, we are not much closer to a resolution of Delta issues today, although recently the Legislature passed a water package which may finally allow construction of a Delta facility.

Power

The second major problem facing the project was its long-term power supply and independence from the private utilities whose restrictive contracts tied the Department's hands in many ways.

The SWP uses an enormous amount of power but has significant generating capacity as well. The effort to obtain reliable power supplies for the SWP was a very high priority issue with me. While I was director we withdrew Oroville power from PG&E and resold it to Southern California Edison, successfully obtained the power output of the Pine Flat Project of the Kings River Conservation District, contracted for coal power



Above: Director Burke attending Alamo Project's 20th Anniversary ceremony in April 1980.

Left: Burke and others signing Alamo project power sale with Southern California Edison in January 1974.



from the Reid Gardner Project of Nevada Power, pioneered in the use of wind energy, built the Warne and Alamo plants on the SWP, and in a successful major lawsuit, freed the SWP to use the transmission lines of private utilities to better market our power and meet SWP needs. In an environment hostile to the expansion of nuclear power, we were able to use other sources to firm up our power position to the significant benefit of SWP contractors.

Drought

Long term operating procedures came to the forefront as major issues before the SWP in the 1976-77 drought, the most severe in the state's history.

The drought dramatically brought home the fact that during the project's early years we were able to deliver all quantities requested by contractors. At my direction the staff developed a "rule curve" plan for operations, including the provision of sufficient carryover storage and a procedure for determining what percentage of contracted supplies could be delivered each year. This has become progressively more difficult over the years as all attempts to increase the safe yield of the project to that contemplated by and committed in the water supply contracts have been largely unsuccessful.

During this time the Department created the Office of Water Conservation and undertook major urban and agricultural water conserva-

tion efforts. Californians use significantly less water per capita today than when we began these efforts. We also focused on the conjunctive use of surface and ground water through project activities such as the Kern River Intertie and major study efforts.

During the drought, water transfers were possible as never before. The SWP demonstrated its great flexibility and delivered water to Marin County (via a temporary pipeline over the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge) and San Francisco users! These areas- which historically rejected and fought the SWP- were beneficiaries of it in a most difficult time. The project fulfilled the dreams of its creators—including Assemblyman Porter and Governor Edmund G. Brown—to be of statewide benefit to California. ■



Above: On November 27, 1962, Former Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown and then Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., with Director Ron Robie (at right) during ceremony for the renaming of California Aqueduct to Governor Edmund G. Brown California Aqueduct.

Right: Director Robie signing contract for Napa agreement on North Bay Aqueduct in December of 1982.

RONALD B. ROBIE

DWR Director 1975-1982

by Pete Weisser

RONALD B. ROBIE, AN ATTORNEY AND EXPERT ON CALIFORNIA WATER LAW, SERVED AS DWR DIRECTOR FROM 1975-1982 UNDER GOVERNOR EDMUND G. (JERRY) BROWN.



Robie led DWR during an era of rising environmental concerns, confronting complex issues of Delta water quality and water supply.

Under Robie's guidance, DWR adapted to environment regulations and made progress on water conservation. He was influential in developing DWR's skills in innovative water management and storage programs

"My years at DWR were some of the greatest of my career," said Robie. "The employees of the Department were always first rate—the finest in State government. We worked together to obtain reliable power supplies for the Project, and to increase its yield. We laid the groundwork for current CALFED efforts. We were also able to guarantee that several California wild rivers were incorporated in the federal wild rivers system. In this way, we were able to balance Project and environmental needs."

A longtime legislative consultant on water policy, Robie skillfully spearheaded Governor Brown's campaign to achieve legislative approval in 1980 for Senate Bill (SB) 200 (by State Senator Ruben Ayala). This controversial bill authorized an expanded State Water Project, including a Peripheral Canal to improve water delivery reliability for the system.

Though a sound engineering concept with ecological as well as supply benefits, the Peripheral Canal ultimately drew heated opposition, both among environmentalists and within a divided California water community.

1973

Edmonston Pumping Plant, which has the world's highest single lift of water, was dedicated.



On September 1, John R. Teerink was appointed DWR Director. He resigned as Director on March 5, 1975, and returned to civil service status. (Teerink died in an automobile accident on July 30, 1992.)

1975

On March 4, Ronald B. Robie was appointed DWR Director by Governor Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown, Jr. Robie resigned December 31, 1982.

1975

Director Robie adopted the wave seal and the "Save Water" logo.



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Robie's forces won the legislative battles for SB 200 and the bill was signed into law by Governor Brown. However, it was overturned by a 1982 referendum, and the Peripheral Canal was banished to political neverland.

Both former Governor Brown and ex-DWR Director Robie remain proud of the 1980 Peripheral Canal's legislative passage, approved by a two-thirds vote in both the Assembly and State Senate.

"This was a very significant legislative achievement," said Robie.

He drew high marks from environmental groups for his strong public conservation leadership during the major statewide drought of 1976-77, the first big drought in California since 1934.

Today, Robie passes DWR headquarters daily, walking to his office in the Library and Courts Building. Since 2002, he has been an Associate Justice of the Third District Court of Appeal.

A 1958 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Robie earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism.

In a distinguished public career, Robie has served in all three branches of State government. He began his State service in the Legislature, serving as a consultant to the Assembly water policy committee. He worked closely with one of the Legislature's veteran water leaders, Assemblyman **Carley Porter**.

Porter was the coauthor with State Senator **Hugh Burns** of the California Water Resources Development Bond Act (known as the Burns-Porter Act). Its passage in



Director Robie was sworn as DWR's fifth Director by the late Claire Dedrick, Secretary for Resources.

1959 authorized the issuance of \$1.75 billion in general obligation bonds to finance construction of California's State Water Project.

In November 1960, California's voters approved the bond issue, setting in motion construction of the largest State-run water and power system in the nation.

While working as a legislative consultant, he earned a law degree at McGeorge Law School. During his years as a legislative consultant, he became an acknowledged expert on water law and California water policy. This expertise was helpful to him when Governor **Ronald Reagan** appointed him to serve on the State Water Resources Control Board, a regulatory body with jurisdiction in areas of water rights and water quality.

1975

In March, the Division of Manpower and Management Services became the Division of Employee Relations and Management Services. In May, it was retitled the Division of Management Services.

1977

The State Water Project Analysis Office was established in November.

1979

The Dam Safety Program's 50th Anniversary. The State began regulating dams on August 14, 1929.



The Snow Survey Program celebrated its Golden Anniversary in August.



Robie served on the water board from April 1969 to February 1975.

"I had the unique opportunity to write the legislation creating the Water Board and then being a member of it," recalls Robie. "During the time I was on the Board, it issued some very important decisions: The first Delta Decision (D 1379), the American River Flows Decision (D 1400), and the New Melones Decision (D 1422). We also were the first State to receive delegation to implement the Federal Clean Water Act."

"I was fortunate to have been able to approach all my State positions in a bipartisan manner," notes Robie. "When I was consultant to the Assembly Water Committee, the Committee was equally divided between the political parties and between North and South. Then I was honored with appointment and reappointment by Governor Ronald



(left to right) At Director Robie's swearing in as Associate Justice of the Third District Court of Appeal in January of 2002, there was Arthur G. Scotland, Presiding Justice Third DCA, Director Robie, Robie's wife Lynn, Chief Justice Ronald George, and Attorney General Bill Lockyer.

“ I was fortunate to have been able to approach all my State positions in a bipartisan manner. When I was consultant to the Assembly Water Committee, the Committee was equally divided between the political parties and between North and South. Then I was honored with appointment and reappointment by Governor Ronald Reagan to the Water Board and Governors Edmund G. Brown, Jr. and Gray Davis to the courts.” —Robie

Reagan to the Water Board and Governors Edmund G. Brown, Jr. and **Gray Davis** to the courts.”

In 1975, Brown appointed Robie to the DWR directorship. Robie was a prominent spokesman for water policy in California throughout the Brown era, both in water and government circles and as a public spokesman for State water policies.

"While Director, I presided over a gala party celebrating the Department's 25th birthday," recalls Robie. "How time flies."

After Robie left DWR, Governor Brown in 1983 appointed him to the Sacramento Municipal Court bench. In 1986, Robie won election to the Sacramento County Superior Court. In his years on the Superior Court bench, he earned a reputation as a tireless, energetic judge with an enormous workload. In 2002, Governor Gray Davis appointed him to the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District. ■

1981

The Water Conservation Office was established in October.

DWR dedicated its first Wind Turbine at San Luis Reservoir in March.

On June 3, DWR celebrated its 25th Anniversary at the Sacramento Convention Center.

On June 3, Pyramid Powerplant was renamed William E. Warne Powerplant and the Delta Pumping Plant was renamed Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant.

