



# Santiago Canyon College

8045 East Chapman Ave. • Orange, CA 92869-4512 • (714) 628-4900 • Fax: (714) 628-4723 • www.sccollege.edu

**Orange Education Center**

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## Water Utility Science Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes: Spring 2020 February 21, 2020

### MINUTES

#### I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS (SEE ATTACHED SIGN IN SHEET)

Attendees: Marty Friebert (SCC), Lauren Hatch (Irvine Ranch Water District), Dennis Cafferty (El Toro Water District), Ian Morgan (Moulton Niguel Water District), Adrian Tasso (Moulton Niguel Water District), Balyee Bontems (Orange County Sanitation District), Dorien McElroy (Irvine Ranch Water District), Colt Martin (Irvine Ranch Water District), Dave Crowe (Irvine Ranch Water District), O. Oneill (Irvine Ranch Water District), Itzel Sandoval (City of Santa Ana), Robert Hernandez (City of Santa Ana), Lisa Haney (Irvine Ranch Water District), Marie Bowers (Irvine Ranch Water District), Lisa Srader, (Irvine Ranch Water District) Kenia Ckueto, PhD. (North Orange County ROP), Jeffrey Dennis (SCC Water Faculty).

#### II. WATER UTILITY SCIENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Various Awards including Associate's Degree/Certificate of Achievement programs in Water Treatment, Water Distribution, and Wastewater were discussed.
- Six Certificates of Proficiency, three in the same areas as the AS/COAs, plus Water Conservation, Water Equipment O&M, and Water Utility Management
- Over 1000 enrollees per school year (many of our students are counted multiple times)

#### III. UPDATE SINCE LAST ADVISORY MEETING

- Enrollment is approximately 10% higher than the previous school year (+30% in four years) (>1000 students/year)
- Online course enrollment continues to increase over the previous school year
- All seven courses for Certificate of Achievement in Water Treatment are offered online each year
  - Offering online exam reviews every semester
- Water Science (Water 020) has over 30 students this Spring
  - Primary audience being local high school students, but mostly others still
- Offering courses in hybrid format this semester, plus 8-week courses
- Revisions to most Certificate and A.S. degree programs to include more elective courses
- California Water Service Company providing scholarships!

#### IV. CURRENT PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

- Continued development of courses and a program in Automation



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- Continue to work with local high schools
- Work with AWWA and CWEA to attract students involvement

## V. COMMUNITY/INDUSTRY UPDATE & EMPLOYMENT NEEDS

- Effort to Expand Internships:
  - On-going Apprenticeship program with Metropolitan Water District of So. Cal.
  - On-going Internship programs:
    - Orange County Sanitation District
    - East Orange County Water District
  - Pending program with Rowland Water District
  - Pending program with Irvine Ranch Water District
- Water Career Day on campus
  - Approximately 40 students and 10 local Water employers attended
  - Planning and coordination with Vital Link
  - Included sessions on job interview skills
  - SARBS looking to participate
- Water Energy and Educational Alliance Orange County and North Orange County ROP
  - March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to support the development of new high school Career Technical Education courses in Orange County – Kenia Cueto, PhD.
- Other Community/Industry Discussion items?
  - How can we ensure the material is relevant and valuable?
  - What current and future industry trends may affect what is being taught in the classroom?
    - More emphasis on student tours
    - Students need to research and know the specific water industry
    - Bring back ‘Hot Topics’ (Need a way for students to obtain CEUs)
    - Hot Topic course needed for interview skills and resume building
  - What curriculum adjustments, if any, need to be made to ensure the needs of the field are being met?
    - More hands-on course work for water distribution skills, e.g., maintenance
    - Work more closely with CWEA and AWWA
  - Does the curriculum focus on the required job skills necessary to be successful in this career?
  - What state of the art equipment do we need to incorporate into the curriculum?
  - Will you hire someone with the skills learned in this program?
  - What does the job market look like in the next 1-5 years in the water industry?
    - Emphasis on the “wave of retirements”



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- Positions will be opening

## V. PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT DISCUSSION

- Recruitment strategies
  - Continue working with OUSD to offer Introduction to Water Science classes at local high schools.
  - Resuming advertising in CA-NV AWWA Source magazine and web site
  - Work with CWEA

## SUMMARY OF ITEMS DISCUSSED:

Various water districts noted the “Silver Tsunami” of retirees anticipated in the Water labor market over the next decade.

The TAC consensus was that both replacing staff with new hires and providing existing staff with additional skills so that they can be successfully promoted to supervisory/managerial positions this are among the most serious concerns for employers in this industry.

Bring back “Hot Topics” for CEUs (Management Topics)

Baylee Bontems described the successful existing internship program at OCSD.

TAC endorsed SCC’s goal of increasing internship opportunities with local water agencies. The TAC also discussed challenges to establishing internship programs including union requirements, varying definitions of “contract” and “temporary” employees, and insurance concerns.

With respect to attracting and recruiting high school students into Water careers, Irvine Ranch Water District and others noted the need for more visual methods of informing students of these opportunities, such as tours and videos especially at the High Schools and Jr. High Schools.

Irvine Ranch Water District emphasized job shadow days and tours, and working with Rialto High School to implement water programs in local High Schools.