APPOINTS ROBERT D. ARMENTA, JR. AS DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Assembly Member John Longville (D-CA) has appointed Robert D. Armenta, Jr. as his new District Director. Armenta has worked as a Field Representative for the 42nd Assembly District.

WASHINGTON, DC as the Legislative Assistant Armenta interpreted and briefed the Congressman on legislation concerning labor, immigration, agriculture, health, census, housing and urban development, crime, community and economic development, and minority issues. While in DC Armenta worked actively to increase the presence of Hispanic staff on Capitol Hill as a member of the Board of Directors for the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association.

Robert Armenta, Jr. above recently appointed as District Director for Assembly Member John Longville.

Assembly Member John Longville (D-CA) has appointed Robert D. Armenta, Jr. as his new District Director for the 62nd Assembly District. Armenta has worked as a Field Representative for Assembly Member Longville since March 2000.

Armenta formerly worked in Washington, DC as the Legislative Assistant for the late Congressman George E. Brown, Jr. As Legislative Assistant Armenta interpreted and briefed the Congressman on legislation concerning labor, immigration, agriculture, health, census, housing and urban development, crime, community and economic development, and minority issues. While in DC Armenta worked actively to increase the presence of Hispanic staff on Capitol Hill as a member of the Board of Directors for the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association.

Armenta voluntarily resigned his position with congressional staff of the 42nd Congressional District to return to the district to work as the Deputy Campaign Manager for Marta Macias Brown’s bid to fill the remainder of her husband’s term. Macias Brown lost the election by a slim margin of 537 votes.

In April of this year Armenta was elected as a Gore Delegate to represent the 42nd Congressional District at the Democratic National Convention to be held in Los Angeles this summer. Armenta also attended the Democratic National Convention in 1996 in Chicago as an elected delegate. Armenta is also a member of the San Bernardino County Democratic Central Committee and Vice Chair.

San Bernardino Mayor Judith Valles, above, receiving the Outstanding Elected Official from Gary Nordquist, President of the American Society of Public Administration at the Chapter’s Annual Awards Luncheon. Photo by IEHN

See Article on Page 4

EL CONSULADO DE MÉXICO CAMBIA DE DOMICILIO

El Consulado de México en esta ciudad, Juan José Salgado Saavedra, informó que con el objetivo de ofrecer un mejor servicio a los mexicanos radicados en los condados de San Bernardino y Riverside en California y del condado de Clark en Nevada, las oficinas de Consulado de México se trasladarán a un nuevo domicilio, el que cuenta con instalaciones más amplias y adecuadas para atender a la gran cantidad de mexicanos que acuden diariamente a solicitar sus servicios.

Las nuevas oficinas se localizan en el número 293 North “D” Street, esquina con la calle tercera, justo frente al City Hall de la ciudad de San Bernardino.

Como consecuencia de dicho cambio de domicilio, se comenzará a atender en la nueva sede a partir del lunes 26 de junio con los horarios de 8 a.m. 1 p.m. de lunes a viernes y los miércoles también por la tarde de 3 p.m. a 5 p.m.

Los números telefónicos seguirán siendo los mismos (909 889-9836 y 37).

Para mayor información puede llamar a los números anteriores mencionados.

The City of San Bernardino and the Sinfónica Juvenil de Tijuana at the California Theatre on July 30th at 5:00 call at (909) 381-5388 for information
LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Your Friendly Legislators

Has it all been a big mistake? For some reason, those of us in the term limits movement have gotten the crazy idea that California politicians don’t like term limits. Even though the politicians keep saying, over and over, that they like term limits fine... just want to improve them a little bit... and then a little bit more... and then a little bit more... How silly of us to doubt these guys? How could we have misunderstood their public-spirited motives so completely?

Maybe it was the nearly 6 million bucks California’s state legislators raised to run ads trashign Proposition 140, the 1990 initiative that passed term limits to begin with. One could easily construe that as opposition. Or maybe we got confused when the legislators sued the voters the minute the votes came in. Could it be that the lawsuit was just their quiet way of explaining that they like term limits fine... just didn’t realize what would happen when they passed term limits. How the voters who were just to dumb to grasp the real meaning of term limits. How the politicians themselves just fine but thought that... well, maybe they could be improved just a little bit... and then a little bit more. Term limits are great, the legislators said; except when the terms are too limited in which case they’re terrible.

Terrible how? Well, it turns out that under term limits, representatives actually do have to vacate their seats after a number of years and give other members of the public a chance to represent their neighbors. Seems there is indeed vibrant electoral competition now—just as predicted—and good-ole-boy net works don’t have a chance to even a get a foothold, let alone become calcified—as predicted. Political power is now shared rather than monopolized. Democracy lives.

The politicians, God love ‘em, pretended to be shocked, shocked. Some of the guys said term limits with teeth are unworkable seeing as how it takes your average legislator several years just to find the men’s room. They said other citizens should not get a chance to govern before they’ve had enough terms to really get in the groove.

Oh, quit kiddin’ around, guys!

Well, legislators in term-limited states seem to quit kidding around just when they figure out that the people don’t quite appreciate all their well-intentioned efforts to “improve” term limits.

Legislators haven’t gotten the message yet in California. The public-spirited politicians here are working overtime to make what they claim are dramatic enhancements to California’s law: they want to improve the limits by 50 percent more in the Senate and to double the House limit. And if they succeed in doing that, what do you think they’re going to want to do next? Why, improve a little more, is all.

It’s time for Californian legislators to just cut it out please and acknowledge that the people have already spoken on this issue. And if your friendly neighborhood legislator has any trouble finding the men’s room, can somebody please just hand him a map?

Paul Jacob is the national director of U.S. Term Limits in Washington, D.C. and can be reached at Jacob@termlimits.org.
GOVERNOR DAVIS ANNOUNCES SKY­ROCKETING STATE EXPORTS
Mexico — up 36.5 Percent - Paves way for California Exports of $29.1 Billion

Governor Gray Davis announced that California exports abroad surged 17.5 percent during the first quarter of 2000 to $29.1 billion, led by a phenomenal 36.5 percent growth in shipments to Mexico, and double-digit growth in seven of the state's top nine leading export markets.

"California experienced across-the-board growth in nearly every category," said Governor Davis. "Mexico's improving economy, coupled with renewed strength in Japan and Asia, created a favorable environment for sales of California-made goods and products. This is outstanding news for California's explosive export growth was in sharp contrast to a 6.7 percent decline during the first quarter a year ago. The state's top 16 export markets all showed positive growth in the first quarter. California exports to Mexico continue to be driven by shipments of electronics and electrical equipment and industrial machinery and computer equipment. In the first quarter, exports in these two sectors totaled $2.2 billion or 52 percent of total state exports ($4.2 billion) to Mexico.

In the first six years of NAFTA, California exports to Mexico have increased nearly 129 percent or $8.4 billion. Today, California exports to Mexico directly and indirectly support approximately 179,000 jobs in the Golden State, with more than 100,000 of these jobs resulting from export growth under NAFTA.

Export statistics are made available to the Governor's Trade and Commerce Agency through the Massachusetts Institute of Social and Economic Research (MISER).

For a complete analysis of 1999 California exports, access the Trade and Commerce Agency's international page at: http://commerce.ca.gov/international/about.htm

COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT AND CITY ARTS GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Applications are now available for the Community Arts Project and the City Arts grant programs offered annually by the Greater Riverside Arts Foundation. Grants are awarded to organizations in October 2000 and funded through June 30, 2001.

- The Arts Foundation encourages Riverside area non-profit organizations (arts, health, human services, etc.) to create partnerships with individual artists or community groups to develop and present a specific visual or performing arts integrated project to new or under-served audiences in the community.

For a complete analysis of 1999 California exports, access the Trade and Commerce Agency's international page at: http://commerce.ca.gov/international/about.htm

For additional testing times and locations, please call (909) 383-3060.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY RECOGNIZES NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

Thursday, July 5, 2000

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 650,000 - 900,000 people nationwide are living with HIV/AIDS, and as many as 300,000 do not know they are infected. The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) and the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health encourage all residents, especially those at high-risk for contracting HIV, to take the HIV antibody test.

Despite the successes of new HIV/AIDS medications, and the reduction of new AIDS cases in this country, the HIV epidemic continues to affect our communities, especially racial/ethnic minorities, women and young people. African Americans account for 20% of San Bernardino County AIDS cases, but make up only 8% of the total county population. Latinos make up 26% of AIDS cases in San Bernardino County, while the national rate for this same population is 20%. Fifteen percent (15%) of all local AIDS cases are at the age of 35, and almost half of these infections were transmitted through heterosexual contact with infected men. Between 1993 - 1998, the national rate of women with HIV increased by a staggering 234%.

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For a variety of reasons, American youth engage in risky behaviors, including unprotected sex and injection drug use/needle sharing. Locally, 22% of reported AIDS cases have occurred in people under the age of 35. It is estimated that more than half of all new HIV infections in this country occur in people under the age of 25. All figures are provided by NAPWA, April 2000, and the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health AIDS Program Report, August 1999.

San Bernardino County residents at highest risk for contracting HIV are men who have sex with men, injection drug users and/or those who share needles for any reason, sex partners of injection drug users, and persons with multiple sex partners.

Until there is a cure or vaccine, prevention is our strongest weapon in the fight against HIV. You can help.

Knowing your HIV status, and taking care of yourself and your loved ones is an important part of this battle.

The Department of Public Health will provide free and anonymous HIV antibody testing at the Clinical Services building located at 709 E. Railo Avenue in San Bernardino.

An anonymous HIV antibody test grant award is $1,000.

The City Arts Grant is awarded for general support of Riverside-based arts organizations that make a significant contribution to the cultural life of the city. Eligible organizations must be a Riverside-based non-profit 501©(3), with minimum of a three-year operating history, and must submit a Letter of Intent by July 15, 2000.

Interested organizations/individuals are encouraged to attend one or both of the grant workshops offered by the Arts Foundation on the following dates: Tuesday, July 11th, 6:00 p.m. (Community Arts Projects); Thursday, July 13th, 12 noon (City Arts). Admission is free, however, reservations are required and may be made by contacting the Arts Foundation office at (909) 680-1345.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY RECOGNIZES NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

Continued

is available through the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health on the following days and times:

Hesperia Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:00 - 10:30 am
San Bernardino: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 p.m., with extended hours on Tuesdays until 6:30 p.m.

For additional testing times and locations, or information about HIV prevention, education and outreach, please call (909) 383-3060.
UCR STUDENT, FROM GRASSROOTS TO POLITICAL AMBITIONS

By Sandra B. Martinez

Araceli Lucatero went to work in the farm fields of Fresno with her parents at the age of 12. The experience opened her eyes to a world of injustices. For the First time she noticed poverty and illness among her Latino community. It sparked her determination to succeed.

“My ultimate goal is to become a senator, I have strong roots to my people and culture, I identify with them. I want to enhance laws and make them more understandable for my people,” said Lucatero.

Lucatero, 24, is a junior at the University of California, Riverside, and is majoring in political science, concentrating on law. Her parents were both Mexican farm workers from Michoacán, Mexico, who attended nightly meetings with Cesar Chavez, founder of the United Farm Workers. Seeing farm workers organize and advocate for their rights, along with seeing so many homeless all around, shaped Lucatero’s politics.

“I feel that by becoming a senator, I can help my people live better lives. Since I was young, I began to see children being born with birth defects caused by the pesticides in the fields. I want to make a change,” said Lucatero.

Lucatero’s mother, Francisca, 54, and her father José María, 60, worked for more than 12 years in the fields to provide for the five children.

Lucatero explains that she did not see her parents much, they were out in the fields most of the day. According to Lucatero, not having her parents around much made her mature faster because she had to make many decisions about her future on her own.

“I love learning, and as long as what I study keeps me interested, I will continue in school. It’s okay that I’m 24 and still in school, I love what I do,” said Lucatero.

Determined to get an education and hoping that moving away from home would help her become a strong person, Lucatero attended UC San Diego but after a short time she did not find herself happy there. She went to Riverside Community College and studied for three years. This academic year, Lucatero transferred to UCR and finds herself with a full schedule.

“I finally feel like at home. Here at UCR, I feel rooted somehow, I’m happy,” said Lucatero.

For the past years Lucatero has lived with her older sister in Riverside. A day in Lucatero’s schedule begins at eight in the morning and finishes at one in the morning. This quarter she is taking Constitutional Law, Political Violence and Social Revolutions, and Death, A religious Studies course. After classes in the evening, she works at the UCR Student Recreation Center, then heads home to study.

Her plans are to graduate in the spring of 2001, after which she plans to teach for a year or two here in Southern California. Attending graduate school at New York University, Stanford, Harvard, or Boston is also in her future plans.

Lucatero’s hometown is Woodlake, a city south of Fresno, where her parents still reside. All Lucatero’s siblings continued to get a higher education. Her sister Veronica is a UCR alumna who graduated in 1996 with a double major in Spanish and Ethnic Studies and now a teacher in nearby Perris.

“One day my dad told us that we either worked like dogs like they did, or we went to school to get educated. My Parents are my inspiration because they worked hard to get all of us this far,” said Lucatero.

STUDENT TRUSTEE TAKES OATH BEFORE COLLEGE DISTRICT TRUSTEES

MAYOR JUDITH VALLES AND ART GOMEZ RECEIVE AWARDS

The American Society of Public Administration-Inland Empire Chapter recently awarded its Outstanding Elected Official to San Bernardino City Mayor Judith Valles and Outstanding Rising Administrator to Art Gomez. Deputy Administrative Officer to San Bernardino County’s Chief Administration Officer at the Annual Awards Luncheon Program held at the Riverside Registrar of Voters.

Prior to taking office as mayor of San Bernardino in March, 1998, Valles accumulated over 40 years of professional experience in the field of education, including a vast array of on-hand responsibilities in administration.

Valles has served as college president of Oxnard Community College, Cal-State, San Bernardino. Rendezvous event area in downtown San Bernardino.

Calling all car enthusiasts! The organizers of the 2000 Stater Bros. Route 66 Rendezvous need volunteers during this year’s event on September 14 – 17, 2000. More than 700 volunteers are needed to perform various functions throughout the 30 block Rendezvous event area in downtown San Bernardino.

“The response from last year’s volunteers was amazing, and hopefully we’ll top that this year with old-timers and newcomers alike who want to continue on Page 6.
TEN TIPS ON SPOTTING DEPRESSION IN CHILDREN

By learning to recognize the signs of depression in children, parents may be prepared to take preventative steps when they are needed.

"Many people don’t expect that children, especially very young ones, five, six, or seven year-olds, can be depressed," said Dr. James Feldman, national parenting and children’s crisis expert. "Not only do we not expect it, but we are also unfortunately not well equipped to spot depression in children because children don’t always show all the same, more familiar signs and symptoms we see in adolescents and adults."

To help, the not-for-profit national children’s crisis organization KidsPeace and its National Hospital for Kids in Crisis list ten commonly seen signs of depression in children:

1. Depressed children don’t always look depressed but their behavior may change. They may develop angry outbursts, disciplinary problems in school, and aggressive or negative behavior.

2. Sleep changes. Children and young teens may oversleep, while older adolescents may have trouble falling asleep.

3. Appetite changes. Significant weight loss or gain (as much as 25 pounds) in a few months. Although it can vary, older teens usually lose weight, while younger children and teens may gain.

4. Irregularity of bowel movements. Withholding or accidents in children normally old enough to control their bowel movements

5. School problems. Sudden negative changes in interest or performance, including a drop in grades, disciplinary problems, lack of completing homework, etc.

6. Extended bad reaction to crises. A reaction more severe and longer than would normally be expected following a death, divorce, or a move to a new school.

7. Loss of interest in old pleasures. A child loses interest in activities they previously enjoyed.

8. Change of friends. The child gives up old friends or may spend time with friends perceived as less desirable by parents.

9. Expressing a sense of hopelessness. Take seriously when young children and teens verbalize that they have no hope for the future.

10. Physical complaints, such as stomach aches or headaches, especially if accompanied by a withdrawal from typical activities.

When symptoms persist for more than a couple of weeks or if there is more than one, take action. Talk to the family doctor and get help.

One free resource to help children themselves is an innovative web site, TeenCentral.Net, created by KidsPeace. The network gives kids information that helps them identify problems facing them and lets peers share stories of how they overcame similar issues—all clinically screened for safety. These may be difficult times for children, but with vigilance and information, parents can help kids through the kinds of crises that can strike any child.

FREE PROSTATE AND COLORECTAL EXAMS OFFERED FOR MEN

Ballard Rehabilitation Hospital, in conjunction with the American Cancer Society, is offering free prostate and colorectal examinations for men as part of their commitment to community health.

The free screenings will be held on July 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ballard Rehabilitation Hospital, located at 1760 W. 16th St. in San Bernardino.

Prostate is the most common cancer in men, with more than 179,000 new cases expected this year, and nearly 37,000 deaths from the disease. Men age 50 and over should have one of the following: a fecal occult blood test and flexible sigmoidoscopy (if normal, repeat FOBT annually, and flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 to 10 years). A digital rectal examination should be done at the same time as sigmoidoscopy, colonoscopy, or double-contrast barium enema.

People should undergo screening more often if they have a personal strong family history of colorectal cancer or polyps, a personal history of chronic inflammatory bowel disease, or if they are a member of a family with hereditary colorectal cancer syndromes.

To make an appointment for a free prostate and colorectal cancer screening for men, call Ballard Rehabilitation Hospital at (909) 473-1206. Walk-ins are acceptable, but reservations are preferred.

Free Cancer Conference Features Renown Authors and Various Workshops for Survivors, Patients, Caregivers and Health Professionals

If you’re a cancer patient or cancer survivor, or know someone who is, then mark your calendar for the American Cancer Society’s free two-day conference entitled “Surviving and Thriving After Cancer,” to be held on Saturday, July 15th and Sunday, July 16th at the Riverside Convention Center at Rainbow Square in Riverside.

Several hundred cancer survivors, patients, family members, caregivers and health professionals are expected to attend the two-day event, which features noted authors, healthcare professionals, and cancer survivors sharing insight on how to thrive after cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Now in its second year, the conference offers information on sexual, spiritual, survivorship, side-effects, Social Security, and other topics.

A variety of workshops will be offered, including:
- Managing Cancer Pain: Myths, Medicines and Non-Medicines; Pain Management through Complementary Holistic Medicine; Ancient Wisdom for a New Age; Cancer According to Chinese Medicine; Medicines for Cancer and Treatment for Side Effects; Genetics and Cancer: Special Needs of Family and Caregivers; Issues in Survivorship after Childhood Cancer; Managed Care; Are You Eligible for Social Security Disability?
- Breast Cancer Panel; Prostate Cancer Panel; Emotions, Sexuality and Cancer; Nutrition for Cancer Survivors.

On the first day of the conference, several speakers will be featured, including Marilyn Joyce, R.D., writer, nutrition and health educator and author of 5 Minutes to Good Health.

Also speaking will be cancer survivors, speaker and humorist Trudy Grossman, author of When Life Hands You Lemons, Stick Them in Your Ear! On a different note, Cheryl Morgan, M.S.W., a specialist in death and dying issues, will discuss how “To Live Until We Die.”

On July 16, television news journalist Dave Lopez of CBS 2 News will discuss his bout with prostate cancer, including how he overcame the shock and fear of his diagnosis. Inland Empire oncologist and patient advocate Linda Bosserman, M.D. will speak on advocacy and managed care during cancer treatment.

The event is sponsored by the American Cancer Society, the Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center, Parkview Community Hospital, Rancho Springs Medical Center, Tenet Healthcare Foundation, and Redlands Community Hospital, with support from Loma Linda University Medical Center and Loma Linda University Cancer Institute.

A bookstore at the conference will make available a variety of books on the topic of cancer, including those by the conference speakers.

The conference and workshops are free. A $25 donation is requested to cover the cost of lunch on both days, or $12.50 for the cost of lunch on one day.

Continuing Education Units are available for health professionals. Up to five CEU’s are available per day for a total of ten continuing education Units.

For registration information, call the American Cancer Society at (909) 320-7142, ext. 209.

"DISARMING DIABETES" SCHEDULED FOR JULY

"Disarming Diabetes," a program to teach diabetics how to manage their disease, will be presented on July 10 and 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Loma Linda Diabetes Treatment Center. A follow-up class will be held on Wednesday, July 19.

While in the program, the diabetic remains under the care of his or her personal physician. The program is recognized by the American Diabetes Association.

A referral from a physician and proof of insurance coverage are necessary for the course. Pre-registration is required. For more information call (909) 558-3022.

Five $7,500 Grants Available for Community Organizations offering School-to-Career Programs (Pending Funding)

Community organizations, business, labor organizations, and government agencies who collaborate with public schools and colleges to serve students in acquiring basic skills and preparing them for the challenges of the workplace may apply.

Application deadline is:
- 4 P.M., Friday, September 15, 2000

Contact Leslie Rodden, Horizons School-to-Career Project Specialist, San Bernardino County Superintendent of School Office (909) 387-4404 to obtain an application for funding.
Superintendent of Schools, led a delegation to Baja California June 22-23 to lay the groundwork for new program that would bring more much needed bilingual teachers to Riverside County schools.

"It was an extremely positive and fruitful trip," said Long. "We are extremely excited about what the future holds."

Long was accompanied on the trip by Juan Jose Salgado, Mexican Consul for Riverside and San Bernardino counties, and Bill Gavitt, Chair of the Riverside/Ensenada Sister City Committee.

He also brought several members of the Riverside County Office of Education staff, including: Ofelia Valdez-Yeager, Assistant to the Superintendent; Barbara Clarence, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services; Rocio Moss, Administrator for the Bilingual Teacher Training Program; Linda Childress, Director of the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Unit; and Tina Marinez, Director of the Migrant Education Program.

They met with Lorenzo Gomez Morin, Secretary of Education for the State of Baja California, and other Mexican education officials.

Long said the trip was prompted by the ongoing shortage of qualified bilingual teachers. There are more than 125,000 Hispanic students in Riverside County, and many of them are English Language Learners.

"Mexican teachers who are fully proficient in Spanish can be considered as a new and un tapped pool of teaching talent who with support can be prepared for teaching duties in our schools," Long said.

Long said there are two major objectives to the program. First is to enter into an agreement with education officials in the State of Baja California that will bring teachers to Riverside County.

Second, Long proposed that Baja California and Riverside County officials hold an "education summit" as early as April of 2001. "I feel that a close relationship with the State of Baja California is extremely important to the education of youngsters in Riverside County," he said.

Long said there could be many other positive outcomes from the proposed new program. "We don't know what the future will hold, but we know that a positive relationship between the State of Baja California and Riverside County will benefit children.

The Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools (RCSS) is a service agency supporting the county's 27 school districts and linking them with the California Department of Education. RCSS has three missions:

- to give administrative support to districts;
- to operate student programs for 41,000 preschool, special education, pregnant minor, correctional education and Migrant Vocational/Regional Occupational Program students;
- to provide professional training, support and resources for teachers, administrators and staff.

Dr. David Long, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools; Lorenzo Gomez, Secretary of Education for the State of Baja California; and Jose Jose Salgado, Mexican Consulate for Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Riverside County and Baja California education leaders meet June 23 to discuss a new bilingual teacher program and education summit. From left are: Bill Gavitt, chair of the Riverside/Ensenada Sister City Program; Dr. David Long, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools; Lorenzo Gomez, Secretary of Education for the State of Baja California; and Jose Jose Salgado, Mexican Consulate for Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

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15 YEARS IN BUSINESS
WATER WARS! IS THE END IN SIGHT!

After 36 years, a truce has been called in the Water War between the people of the East San Bernardino Valley and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. As a result, for the first time, the East Valley’s water surpluses can become the financial asset they were one day destined to be. This will allow major investments to be made throughout our region, without raising taxes. Below, the full story is told.

1. The Battlefield

✓ East Valley Sits Atop A 1,000 Foot Deep Underground Lake

How can the East Valley be rich in water, when it looks like a coasted desert?

Our area is crossed at a diagonal by the San Jacinto earthquake fault. It runs from roughly Cajon Pass, under San Bernardino Valley College, under the I-215 & I-10 freeway interchange and continues into the hills behind Loma Linda and Redlands. Where this fault crosses the Santa Ana River, it acts like a natural underground dam.

For centuries, as water has drained from the San Bernardino Mountains and the eastern end of the San Gabriel Mountains, it has moved down the Santa Ana River and Lytle Creek channels. Most of this flow is underground and invisible. When it hits the San Jacinto Fault, it runs into a nature dyke. This forms the 1,000 foot deep underground lake in the Bunker Hill Basin below Hospitality Lane, Inland Center, the freeway interchange and downtown San Bernardino.

This lake is our key source of surplus water,

✓ East Valley’s Underground Water Is An Asset... And A Threat

Having a 1,000 foot deep lake under such key economic assets as Hospitality Lane, Inland Center, the I-10 and I-215 freeway interchange and the offices in downtown San Bernardino presents problems for our area. The surface of the lake lies just below ground level and sometimes rises to flood the buildings above it. We had a near miss in 1999, partly due to El Nino.

In the past, jobs were lost when the former South “E” Street Post Office and an Orange Show Road theater were permanently closed due to flooding. Also, in a strong earthquake liquefaction from this high ground water could cause the collapse of buildings or the I-10 freeway interchange.

Our region thus has an interest in lowering this high ground water level and selling the excess water.

✓ Met Moves To Take Control Of The East Valley’s Water

Throughout the 20th Century, Met and its affiliates have successfully acquired water rights throughout the West. For example, the LA Department of Water and Power drained the Owens Valley. Met obtained rights to Colorado River Water including the excess not used by other Western States. Met acquired rights to a major share of the water from the California State Water Project.

By 1964, Met had convinced most of the East Valleys established leaders that the area should join their system and let Met manage the region’s water assets. In 1964, they scheduled an election to bring about the transfer of control.

✓ Holcomb Wins The War To Keep Local Control Of Water

Those who experienced the 1964 election remember it as the toughest in the East Valley’s long and colorful history.

Former San Bernardino Mayor Bob Holcomb, whose family had helped settle San Bernardino County, became convinced that the region’s surplus water was far too valuable to be controlled from Los Angeles. In a coastal desert, access to water could decide the community’s fate and that power needed to be kept in local hands. Besides, he and his allies believed that the region’s underground surplus water was the key to the East Valley’s long term prosperity just as underground oil had built Long Beach.

In what many saw as an unexpected outcome, over 60% of the public agreed with Holcomb’s position.

Today, the farsightedness of those who fought the 1964 election is evident. The region controls more than enough water to handle its own growth. Southern California is thirsty and the region has one of the few untapped sources of supply. However...

To Be Continued 7/19/00