

Bio for Richard Atwater

Richard Atwater is the Executive Director of the Southern California Water Committee. As Executive Director he has been engaged on all aspects of water policy issues affecting southern California: the Colorado River, statewide issues like the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and the Governor's water action plan, stormwater capture and water use efficiency, water recycling, groundwater storage and desalination. He previously was the CEO/GM of Inland Empire Utilities Agency (1999-2010), President of Bookman-Edmonston Engineering (1996-1999), GM of West Basin and Central Basin MWDs (1990-1996).

Mr. Atwater has over thirty-five years experience in water resources management and development in the western U.S. He has pioneered many award-winning water projects and implemented numerous innovative water resource management programs that meet today's high standards for quality, reliability and cost-effectiveness. Mr. Atwater has testified extensively before the U.S. Congress and the California Legislature on water policy issues. In 1994 Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt awarded Mr. Atwater the Conservation Service Award, the highest citizen award for resources management. And has received from three separate Governors the Economic and Environmental Balance Award (Wilson, Davis and Schwarzenager). Mr. Atwater was a member of the California Water Commission, the California 2001 Drought Task Force, 2003 Water Recycling Task Force and the 2006 Desalination Task Force.

Mr. Atwater has testified extensively before Congress and the California legislature and has participated in policy formulation workshops and expert panels for the National Academy of Sciences, Western Governors Association, Western Water States Council, and the National Water Research Institute. In addition, Mr. Atwater has served on the Board of Directors of the Association of California Water Agencies, Urban Water Institute, WaterReuse Association (President 2007-2009), Southern California Alliance of Publically Owned Treatment Works (SCAP, President 2007-2010) and the Western Urban Water Coalition.