

SERRANO WATER DISTRICT



APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER

A publication of the Serrano Water District, servicing the City of Villa Park and portions of the City of Orange

From the Desk of the General Manager



Jerry Vilander
General Manager

Serrano Water District has a few important changes that I would like to highlight.

At the December 9, 2016 Board of Directors meeting, Frank O. Bryant was appointed President and Rich Freschi was appointed Vice President of the Board. We also had Greg Mills sworn in as our newest Director.

We are also proud to announce that Serrano Water District has earned

the *District Transparency Certificate of Excellence*, awarded through the California Special Districts Association. This program was created by the Special District Leadership Foundation to provide districts an opportunity to showcase their efforts in transparency.

Congratulations to all of our staff members for their hard work in achieving this certificate.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. For additional updates, be sure to visit our website.

Jerry Vilander

Board of Directors

Frank O. Bryant
President, Division 4

Rich Freschi
Vice President,
Division 1

C.L. "Larry" Pharris, Jr.
Director, Division 2

Greg Mills
Director, Division 3

Jerry L. Haight
Director, Division 5

Meet the Director – Greg Mills

Meet the newest member of the Board and Director of Division 3.

Professional Background

Director Mills has extensive experience working as a high-tech manufacturer's representative in the pharmaceutical and bio-tech electronics fields. He received his B.A. in Chemistry from Illinois College and earned his M.S. degree from Santa Clara University in Engineering Management.

Public Service

Greg wanted to serve on the Board because he has always been deeply interested in public works infrastructure, especially from the aspect of the construction endeavors.

Hobbies and Interests

Greg and his wife Andie have been residents of Villa Park for 20 years and have a daughter, Abigail, at Villa Park High School. Greg was raised on a farm in Illinois and was previously on the Villa Park City Council for 4 years and the immediate past mayor. He is a member of Villa Park Rotary and the Orange Elks Club and enjoys hiking and traveling in his free time.



In Memory of Former Director Gordon Lockett

The Locketts' – 56 Years Of Dedicated Service

Over half a century ago Board Member Gordon L. Lockett's family began a legacy of service to the Villa Park Community. This year marks the 56th year of Lockett leadership for the water needs of this area.



Reservoir in 1931 at a cost of \$1,000,000. Santiago Creek and Reservoir provided local control and a major storage facility for Villa Park.



Gordon L. Lockett

Gordon L. Lockett, the present family member serving on Serrano's Board was born in Villa Park but moved to Santa Ana at a young age before 1931 there was no domestic water supply or sewer system, no electricity and lots of muddy roads.

Gordon attended Santa Ana High School until June of 1931 and received a degree in business administration from the University of California, Berkeley Campus. His early career included working for the Orange County Water District in Villa Park. He also worked for the Orange County Planning Department. Mr. Lockett related "It was relatively calm around here in the 1930's, 40's and 50's but things began to change after he was seated on the board in 1961."



Early Villa Park Orchards. The road junction is Wanda & Santiago Blvd.

In those days the water reservoirs were unlined. All that water was only 650 water users but urbanization was on its way. In 1971 Mr. Lockett was instrumental in the building of the Willard Smith Reservoir, followed by the Cerro Villa Reservoir in 1973 and the Willard Smith Reservoir II in 1976. Soon construction will begin on more water improvement projects to meet the needs of the growing Serrano District's 2,200 service connections.

In the early 1900's Lockett's family has contributed to the continued growth and prosperity of Villa Park. They have witnessed the transformation of an agricultural area to an industrial community and are fortunate to have such dedicated men providing leadership and management for the water needs of this area.



Early subdivision of citrus groves. During Henry and W. B. Lockett's era 95% of the area was citrus tanning. The only major development that occurred was the subdivision of groves, not homes.

It is with great sadness and heart-felt condolences, that the Serrano Water District informs our constituents of the loss of our former Director, Gordon Lockett. Mr. Lockett passed away in January of this year.

Mr. Lockett came from a family of water service. His Uncle, Henry Lockett, served on Serrano's Board from 1929 to 1960. His Father, W. B. Lockett, was involved in water management in Villa Park in the early 1930's which included taking over the operations of the Villa Park Mutual Water Company in 1957.

Gordon Lockett moved to Santa Ana at a young age. Before 1931, there was no real water supply, sewer system or electricity. In 1961, Gordon Lockett took a seat on the Serrano Water District Board. From there, Director Lockett was instrumental in the construction of a water treatment plant in 1969, the building of the Willard Smith Reservoir in 1971, the historic Cerro Villa Reservoir in 1973, and Willard Smith Reservoir II in 1976. He retired in 1994.

Former Director Gordon Lockett will be very missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

System Maintenance

Residents may have noticed staff replacing some of the valves throughout the distribution system.



As part of a proactive preventative maintenance program, SWD routinely exercises various water valves, hydrants, and other water system components. For example, the specific purpose of a valve maintenance program is to ensure proper isolation of main breaks when they occur so that service disruption is minimal.

It is prudent to exercise hydrants and valves every one to two years to ensure operability, to identify valves that need systematic replacing, and extend their useful life. In this next year the residents will likely see staff flushing fire hydrants. This is necessary to ensure the hydrants operate properly.

Irvine Lake Update

The recent rain storms presented a nice surprise for Serrano Water District. In a five day period the lake level increased by over six feet.

What this means to you is that water in the lake will supplement our already purchased water in the lake and the purchased groundwater supplies.

At the end of January, the Santiago Creek was still flowing amidst blue sky and sunshine. Keep your fingers crossed for more rain.

