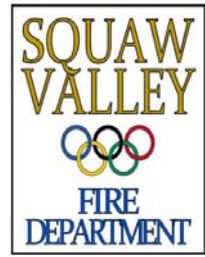




SQUAW VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



National Rural Water Association – 2016 Rural Water Rally

DATE: November 17, 2015

TO: District Board Members

FROM: Mike Geary, General Manager

SUBJECT: Participation in National Rural Water Rally

BACKGROUND: At the October, 2015 Board of Directors meeting, staff presented information about District staff submitting a water sample and winning the California Rural Water Association's *Best Tasting Water in California*. The District has been invited to submit an entry in the *Great American Water Taste Test* to vie for the Best Tasting Water in America at the National Rural Water Association's (NRWA's) *2016 Rural Water Rally* on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. February 8-10, 2016. The annual event brings utility system representatives to Capitol Hill to support funding for infrastructure, training and technical assistance.

In order to compete for the award, the NRWA requires at least one District representative to be present at the *Rural Water Rally* in Washington, D.C. The Board directed staff to provide more information including expenses and potential benefits before authorizing staff to participate.

Last year's award winner was from Easthampton, Massachusetts beating out the five other finalists from rural water agencies representing Buhl, Idaho; Whitter, Alaska; Francis City, Utah; and Del Paso Water District, California.

For more information on the NRWA, see: <http://nrwa.org/> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Rural_Water_Association

DISCUSSION: The 2016 *National Rural Water Rally* provides an opportunity for the District to contribute on critical issues facing rural water purveyors. Legislative and regulatory changes impact all rural water purveyors in providing clean, safe and affordable water. One of the key features of this event is the opportunity to meet with congressional staff and members of the Congress to express concerns and share information that is critical to the water industry.

Staff would prepare for the opportunity and tap into local resources (lobbyists) for insight on how to leverage the visit to garner the best results for the District and its interests; specifically to develop relationships and partnerships with its federal representatives with the goal of procuring capital funding for water supply projects. This is consistent with the District's #1 Goal in its Five-Year Strategic Plan:

Goal 1: Water Supply. Develop and maintain a high quality water supply that meets the needs of our community today and in the future.

Task 1.1.3: Look for partnerships to enhance water supply options. Continue to collaborate with other agencies. Pursue funding opportunities for primary and redundant water supply projects, and the Truckee River Utility Corridor & Bike Trail Project.

In addition to educational forums and congressional appointments, the District would vie for the blue ribbon in the *Great American Water Taste Test*. This contest is only open to those that have won a state award.

The travel schedule would include departing for Washington D.C. on Sunday, February 7, 2016 and returning on Thursday, February 11, 2016.

ALTERNATIVES: 1. Authorize staff to participate in the conference and submit a water sample in the *Great American Water Taste Test*.

2. Do not authorize staff to participate in the event.

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS: Staff estimates the travel, lodging, registration, meals and shipping costs to be approximately \$2,750.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Board authorize staff to participate in NRWA's Rural Water Rally and submit a sample in the *Great American Water Taste Test*.

ATTACHMENTS: 2015 National Water Rally – General Information and Schedule (2016 schedule has not been released).

DATE PREPARED: November 5, 2015.



Rural Water Rally 2015
Monday, February 09, 2015 - Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Hyatt Regency on Capital Hill
400 New Jersey Avenue NW
Washington, District of Columbia 20001
United States

 [Map and Directions](#)

Reservation Phone: 202-737-1234
Reservation Fax: 202-719-8457
Rate: \$289.00 Single/Double
[Book Reservations Online](#)

General Information



Your work at the 2015 Rural Water Rally is critical to our industry, to your association, and your utility. The opening session is designed to provide you with important details and the latest information to enhance the effectiveness of your work and the discussions with your Senators and Representatives. In addition to this information, you will hear from key people who have a direct influence on the future of the water and wastewater industry.

It is important that you share your experiences and the information you gain from your visits. Share with us your “hill” experience at the Wednesday evening reception. YOU are the “Power of Association”! Attend the Rally and help secure the future of Rural Water for

everyone.

A message from our NRWA President . . .

Dear Friends,

As we gather together February 9-11, for our Rural Water Rally in Washington, D.C., let our voices unite to carry the message of Rural Water to our elected officials. By your participation, you are exercising one of the freedoms your forefathers provided thru representation and the right to free speech.



There is change in D.C. - changes on the hill - new people we need to meet and establish working relationships with!

Powerful legislative and regulatory changes continue to challenge rural America in providing clean, safe and affordable water. When you join with other rural water and wastewater professionals at our nation's capitol, you're contributing to positive outcomes on critical issues facing our industry. Rural Water's voice heightens the importance of our agenda before Congress, assuring continued support of our important programs that benefit so many utilities.

The 2015 Rally will be one of the most informative and educational experiences of your life. You'll learn about the latest trends in our industry and then you'll be able to carry the message forward to your elected officials. Our grassroots movement is the hallmark of our efforts and the benchmark of our success.

Your dedication to Rural Water makes a difference!

I look forward to seeing you in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles A. Hilton', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Charles A. Hilton
NRWA President



- [Event Home](#)
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2015 Agenda

Sunday, Feb.8

8:00 am

Worship Service

Monday, Feb. 9

1:00 pm-5:30 pm

Registration

5:30 pm-6:30 pm

Welcome Social

Tuesday, Feb. 10

7:30 am-11:00 am

Registration

8:30 am

Opening Session

What Congress Needs to Know About Rural Water

Congressional/Agency VIP Speakers

Rally Informational Session

First Time Attendees Orientation

(immediately following Opening Session)

10:30 am

Congressional Appointments

Wednesday, Feb. 11

8:00 am-5:00 pm

Congressional Appointments

12:00 Noon

Lunch & Water Taste Test National Finals

5:00 pm-6:30 pm

Rural Water Social

Thursday, Feb. 14

Congressional Appointments

(as needed)