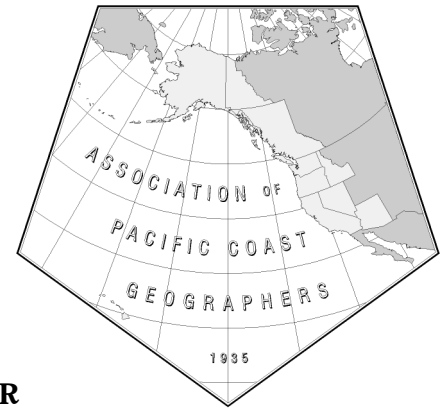


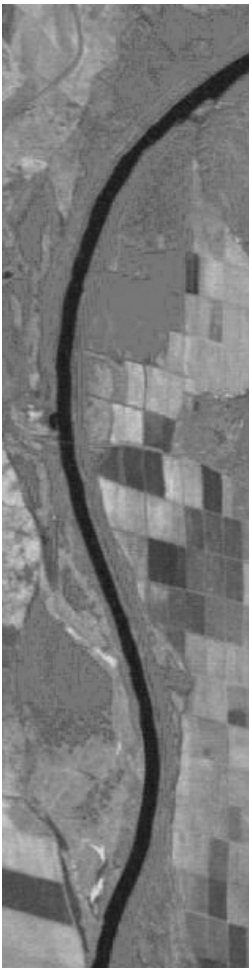
# PACIFICA

The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Fall 2002



## THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER TRANSFERS AND THE SALTON SEA

Philip R. Pryde



The use of Colorado River water by Californians has always been a contentious issue. The debate has heated up in recent years because California has been taking more of the river's water than its basic entitlement. As a result, in December 2000, then-Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt crafted an agreement between southern California water agencies and other Colorado basin states that spelled out new rules governing how much of the river's water California can use in the future. Southern California's water picture has become more complex, and the implications of the "Babbitt agreements" for the region, and especially for the Salton Sea, are huge.

To understand the complexities, it is necessary to focus sequentially on four key aspects of water movement in southern California, and to understand how each of these factors interacts with the others.

- First, California has a legal right to a very specific amount of water from the Colorado River (called its "firm allocation") and eventually will have to use no more than that amount.

- Second, the Colorado River Aqueduct is presently the only means available to convey water from the Colorado River to Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, and most of Riverside counties.

- Third, the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) and the Metropolitan Water District of Los Angeles (MWD), both of which wholesale Colorado River water within southern California, have signed agreements with the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to transfer conserved water from Imperial County to coastal southern California. MWD is currently transferring about 100,000 acre-feet per year under a 1988 agreement; SDCWA signed a transfer agreement in 1998, but for various reasons has yet to receive any water.

- Fourth, there are the probable environmental and economic impacts to the Salton Sea and its environs to resolve. These potential effects to the Salton Sea pose the greatest threat to the water transfer proposals.

### Background of the Babbitt Initiative

The waters of the Colorado River were divided up among the seven river basin states in the 1920's, and California received a firm allocation of 4.4 million acre-feet a year. An acre-foot is 325,000 gallons; to visualize this amount, imagine a football field covered with a foot of water. The average family uses about .5 acre-foot a year.

Most of California's allocation (about 87%) goes to agricultural uses in Imperial and Riverside counties. MWD wholesales the rest to almost all of southern California's water agencies. The

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*Teresa Bulman* merges her love for fieldwork into a discussion about APCG field trips.

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2003 Portland, Oregon September 17-20, 2003  
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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE****Field Trips and the APCG**

*Teresa Bulman, Portland State University*

I'd like to take the opportunity in this column to discuss two topics of geographic interest to me. The first is fieldwork, which has been a research focus of mine for some years. The second is of more recent but equally intense interest to me: the 2003 APCG Annual Meeting to be held on my home campus, Portland State University. I begin by echoing the sentiments expressed in another President's Column. In her 1997 Association of American Geographers newsletter column, then-AAG President Patricia Gober noted that:

"[M]ost geographers have a deep connection with place, one that has drawn us to the field, one that we communicate to students, and one that binds us together as an intellectual community. At its very heart is our interest in real places, how they look, feel, and work. Fieldwork is fundamental to the way many geographers understand the world."

Having recently attended the annual meetings of the APCG and the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE), I have been struck by how eager we geographers are to share our connection with place in the form of annual meeting field trips. At the San Bernardino meeting participants had the opportunity to go into the field to learn about rivers, urban spaces, faults, and water supply (and more faults!) At the NCGE in Philadelphia the focus was on historical geography and the rural/urban interface.

But what is the role of field trips in annual meetings? Why do people sign up for field trips, and why do departments go to the considerable effort required to offer a range of field trips? In a highly unscientific and non-random survey, I discussed these questions with meeting participants at both the APCG and the NCGE, and this is what was discovered. Geography faculty who attend field trips get first-hand experience in the illustration of theoretical concepts, often in a new setting, or one they are revisiting after many years' absence. Faculty frequently get ideas or materials for classroom use. Long stretches of sitting on a bus and hiking to field sites or across an urban park also provide opportunities for networking with new colleagues from other departments or catching up with old friends. Students who participate in field trips increase their knowledge of how geographers do fieldwork and they have the opportunity to mix with faculty from, and learn about, other institutions (and faculty can recruit the students!). Frequently, geographers' partners join the fieldtrips. The "significant others" I spoke to said they enjoyed the geography trips not only because they were fun and informative, but because they got some insight into how geographers think about and observe the world (through one spouse told me such insight didn't help her understand her husband one bit better. . .). All participants gain information about the region, filtered through the unique perspective of a geographer eager to share a deep connection with that place.

But long before the meeting, the Local Arrangements Committee of the host institution has to dream up and organize the

*(Continued on page 10)*

# MINUTES OF THE APCG BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, October 5, 2002

California State University, San Bernardino

Bob Richardson, CSU Sacramento

1. President Nancy Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. Twenty-three people were present at the start, a few more arriving somewhat later.

2. Last year's Business Meeting minutes, as published in the Fall '01 issue of *Pacifica*, were approved unanimously.

3. Election results: Teresa Bulman is the President Elect, David Plane is the Vice President Elect (terms to begin at the close of this Annual Meeting).

4. AAG Business: AAG President Duane Nellis noted this was a time of transition in leadership for the AAG. Executive Director Ron Abler will step down soon, Doug Richardson will assume his position. Everyone is encouraged to attend the 2003 Annual Meeting in New Orleans March 4-8, and the Centennial Meeting in Philadelphia in 2004. The Centennial Endowment Campaign fund now has about \$2.5M. Pacific Division Councillor Judy Walton thanked us for electing her and gave a fact-filled report from the three Council meetings she has attended to date (details on page 11).

5. Publications reports: (a) *Pacifica* editor Michael Schmandt again asks for feedback from readers. He wants to get issues out faster, especially in Spring, so will be more of a bulldog regarding deadlines.

(b) *Yearbook* editor Darrick Danta's deadline for submissions for vol. 65 is January 1. With Jack Mrowka's passing there is a vacancy on the Editorial Board, to be filled through the Executive Council. No news to report on MUSE, the electronic publication project through Johns Hopkins which Hawai'i Press has urged us to join. Because of extra cost and the question of whether or not a paper had been presented, Darrick proposed that we consider no longer including abstracts of papers presented at Annual Meetings in the *Yearbook*. A very lengthy discussion followed, with arguments pro and con being expressed. Options such as on-line publishing of abstracts, or titles only, or restricted length, or print in smaller type were proposed. A straw vote showed elimination the minority view, but those favoring retention were split between titles only or as is, pruning no-shows. The matter will be considered this year by the Executive Council and revisited at the next Annual Meeting.

6. Committee reports: (a) Awards Committee Chair Dolly Freidel reported that six travel grants were given and that seven students submitted papers for awards competition, two of whom dropped out. Four awards will be given tonight (see page 10). She would like increased numbers of students in the competition in future. The Committee needs two new members for the coming year—anyone interested should contact Dolly.

(b) Membership Committee report (Stephen Frenkel): Stephen was unable to attend. Bob Richardson distributed data showing a drop this year in membership of about 50 compared to the same time last year. The rate of non-renewals is about the same as last year, but new members are fewer. Nancy suggested that she and Roger Pearson drum up membership with letters to departments, especially targeting departments that have new hires. The value of department advocates was stressed. Dan

Arreola noted that if the AAG screened papers we would probably have more members and presentations at the regional level. Jenny Zorn suggested contacting graduate students through department list servers where possible. Nancy invited further suggestions from any and all.

(c) Women's Network report (Jennifer Helzer): at the Women's Network Luncheon two travel grants were awarded and two Margaret Trussell Scholarships, each recipient speaking briefly about her goals (see page 10). More travel grants were available. The WN web page will be launched soon, and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the WN by Margaret Trussell is coming up. Donations to support future WN travel grants are sought.

7. Annual meetings: (a) 2002—Jenny Zorn distributed a status report as of the day before showing good attendance from a number of states and the prospect of running a good profit, triggering a round of applause for probably the calmest meeting chair ever. Dolly thanked her for providing very nice student awards on short notice. See page 5 for her full report.

(b) 2003—Martha Works reported that rooms have been reserved and that they have a rough idea of events. Field trips covering Mount Hood, the urban area, and perhaps wine and soils are possible. Graduate students are planning a Geography of Brew Pubs. See page 5 for further information.

(c) 2004 and 2005—Dan Arreola will consider submitting Arizona State U. as host for 2005. A host for 2004 needs to be found very soon. Nancy will explore Asilomar as a possible site, perhaps with several Northern California campuses as co-hosts. Efforts to find a host in British Columbia have not been successful. Other possibilities included San Luis Obispo, Alaska, and the Yosemite Institute in Marin County. Dennis Dingemans made his perennial plea for shorter meetings.

(d) Incoming VP David Plane will serve as liaison for the next meeting, providing a closer link between the Executive Council and local hosts than has been the case in the past. He and Matt Rice (APCG '01) and Judy Walton (APCG '00) and perhaps Jenny Zorn will also develop guidelines for future hosts, somewhat as the AAG has done.

8. (a) Treasurer's report (Bob Richardson): The Treasurer's Report (see page 4) shows receipts and disbursements about equal, but "lumpiness" in these numbers masks what really is more nearly a net loss of about \$2900. We lost \$5000 to last year's annual meeting but this was masked by the Women's Network repayment of \$3000 from the Trussell Fund (advanced last year before the CD rolled over) and Larry Ford's largess of \$915. Other peculiarities this year were payment of Women's Network travel grants (because David Miller's gift last year was to the APCG rather than the WN) and the overdue rebate from AAG. If the lumpy aspects are ignored—if receipts were simply dues, AAG rebate, and interest and disbursements were just the usual grants and awards, membership costs, and publication costs for the *Yearbook* and *Pacifica* we would be safely in the black, by a bit over \$3000.

The horrors of 9/11 last year meant the Santa Barbara Annual Meeting would lose money, but I only learned the magnitude in  
(Continued on next page)

# APCG NEWS

## APCG TREASURER'S REPORT

OCTOBER 5, 2002

Robert T. Richardson, CSU Sacramento

Transactions for September 7, 2001—September 25, 2002.

early June: roughly \$13,700. Add another \$1000 for receipts that were to be passed through to us, and realize as well that registrants unable or unwilling to attend forfeited about \$3000 in fees. Near the end of June, after considerable exchange of information, we agreed to help the Geography Department at UCSB with \$5000 in assistance. UCSB Chancellor Henry Yang—a very fine and sensitive man—graciously provided \$5000. The bulk of the remaining loss was covered by a private donor, resolving an extremely difficult problem for the Department at the end of their fiscal year. The 2001 meeting was wonderfully planned and enjoyed by all who attended. We are deeply in debt to UCSB geographers for their efforts and sacrifice.

Special funds are healthy. The Bailey scholarship was not awarded last year so the big drop in interest earnings this coming year will not mean a reduction in principal. Tom McKnight and Joan Clemons contributed another \$1000 this year to their fund, which is earning more annually than it pays out, even at this coming year's lowered interest rates. The Margaret Trussell Scholarship Fund repaid its first two scholarships (given in June, 2001), each for \$1500. This year's two scholarships, each \$1000, will not show up until next year's budget. With lowered interest rates the fund will be losing principal for now. Continued travel grants for women will require finding sources of funding in the future, but David Miller's gift this year of \$300 will pay for this year's recipients. His gift to the APCG of \$2500 last year more than covered last year's awards.

We have yet to receive our royalty from Hawai'i Press for volume 63 but its costs seem no more than volume 62 so we seem to be okay in this aspect of the budget.

(b) Budget Committee report (Terry Young and Dennis Dingemans): Dennis said they found no errors and endorsed the Treasurer's Report completely, "...a terrifically accurate representation of a reality." "We do find that it is the product of a slightly more careful mind than is necessary."

Bill Crowley raised the question of how so large a loss could have been incurred by UCSB, leading to a lengthy response by Matt Rice, who emphasized how fortunate it was that the original plan to use the Radisson rather than be on campus had been abandoned. Bob Richardson noted that there were no charges from the Geography Department, nor other frills. Discussion again turned to the importance of providing meeting hosts with help in planning, plus a reminder of the need to keep within budget constraints.

Meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

### SPECIAL THANKS

We very greatly appreciate UCSB Chancellor Henry Yang for the \$5000 in assistance he provided to help cover losses from last year's Annual Meeting. He had attended several events, including the Presidential Plenary Session and the Awards Banquet. Thanks again, for yet another year, to Tom McKnight and Joan Clemons for adding another \$1,000 to their scholarship fund. And thanks once again to David Miller for continuing to think of us from afar in Milwaukee. He gave \$300 to the Women's Network this past summer.

Bob Richardson, California State University, Sacramento

**Forward at close of books, 9/7/01** **\$30,420.40**

### RECEIPTS

Dues	\$11,555.28
Profit (loss), 2001 Annual Meeting	(\$5,000.00)
AAG Regional Allocation (overdue)	\$0.00
Interest on Regular Account	\$1,025.46
Gift from Larry Ford	\$914.70
Gift from Jim Scott	\$30.00
Reimb. from Trussell Fund for '01 scholarships	\$3,000.00
Women's Network Luncheon	\$490.00
YEARBOOK income, v.62 and earlier	\$93.75
YEARBOOK income, v.63 (not received yet)	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$12,109.19</b>

### DISBURSEMENTS

APCG '01 Annual Meeting Grants & Awards	\$1,139.74
Student Travel Awards (inc. GeoBowl)	\$800.00
Presidents Awards	\$300.00
Distinguished Service plaque	\$39.74
Women's Network Travel Grants & luncheon	\$2,247.60
<b>PACIFICA</b> Printing Production Postage	
F'01 (700x16 pp)	\$547.63 \$154.19 \$701.82
S'02 (725x16 pp)	\$842.22 \$154.99 \$997.21
Corporate Filing Fee (Olympia, WA)—late but OK	\$0.00
Membership (mostly mailings)	\$826.90
YEARBOOK vol. 63 (excludes royalty)	\$3,751.02
YEARBOOK vol. 64 (excludes UH charges & royalty)	\$2,244.79
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$11,909.08</b>

**Balance on books, 9/25/02** **\$30,620.51**

### SPECIAL FUNDS

<b>Bailey Schl. Fund</b> (forward 9/7/01)	<b>\$2,963.83</b>
Interest earned on CD	\$173.40
Balance 9/25/02	<b>\$3,137.23</b>

<b>McKnight/Clemons Schl. Fund</b> (forward 9/7/01)	<b>\$9,522.81</b>
Interest earned on CD	\$520.82
Additional gifts from T. McKnight/J. Clemons	\$1,000.00
Special award to Matt Rice at UCSB	(\$250.00)
Balance 9/25/02	<b>\$10,793.63</b>

<b>Margaret Trussell Mem. Fund</b> (forward 9/7/01)	<b>\$62,840.91</b>
(\$60,480.42 of which is Trussell Scholarship fund)	
Interest	\$3,722.77
Trussell Scholarships (reimb—awarded 6/1/01)	(\$3000.00)
Gift from David Miller	\$300.00
Balance 9/25/02	<b>\$63,863.68</b>
(\$61,062.74 of which is Trussell Scholarship fund)	

Membership 5/15/96:	442	ultimate in '96:	479
Membership 8/29/97:	464	ultimate in '97:	477
Membership 9/30/98:	532	ultimate in '98:	555
Membership 9/17/99:	619	ultimate in '99:	636
Membership 9/01/00:	623	ultimate in '00:	686
Membership 9/7/01:	645	ultimate in '01:	686
Membership 9/25/02:	593		

## APCG MEETS IN PORTLAND IN 2003

The Geography Department at Portland State University is pleased to host the APCG meetings September 17-20, 2003. PSU is conveniently located along the South Park Blocks immediately south of the central business district of downtown Portland. The Portland Art Museum, Oregon Historical Society, and Performing Arts Center are located in the adjacent park blocks forming a cultural corridor connecting PSU to downtown. A streetcar line and several bus lines run through the campus providing opportunity to explore other city areas.



The Portland International Airport is served by all of the major airlines and is a non-stop flight from most western cities. Transportation to downtown Portland from the airport is easy and inexpensive on MAX, our regional light rail system, as well as by bus or taxi. The Union Pacific train station is also located near downtown for those inclined to travel overland. We have rooms reserved at two hotels near the PSU campus and will provide you with information on other hotels in the downtown area. Information about the meeting is available on our web site: <http://geogres.pdx.edu/APCG/index.htm>. As part of our preparation for the meetings we will be compiling maps and other information useful in exploring the city and the surrounding region before or after the meeting.

Most meeting activities will be held on the PSU campus. The meeting is scheduled for the week before the beginning of the Fall Term. Our program will begin with an opening session featuring geographers from the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and Portland State University who will be speaking on the general rubric of global and regional environmental change. Field trips are planned to Mt. Hood (biogeography and geomorphology), the Columbia Gorge (historical geography of the Lewis and Clark trail), the Willamette Valley (wine, soils, agriculture), and the Portland metropolitan area (New Urbanist developments and regional planning). We are planning an evening event at the Natural Capital Center in Portland's Pearl District. The renovated historic building houses several conservation and sustainability-oriented organizations. The President's Plenary session, tentatively titled 'Portrait of Portland: history, place, region', will be presented by a panel of guest speakers. Our meeting activities also include special workshops for graduate students and a pub crawl of famous and not so famous micro-breweries, pubs, and bars of Portland.

Please plan on joining us in the wonderful collegiality of the APCG meetings in Portland! The weather is usually beautiful

in September with day temperatures in the 70s, cool nights and no rain! We think you will find Portland and the PSU campus a great location for a meeting and look forward to seeing you!

*Martha Works and Keith Hadley, Co-Coordinator, APCG 2003*

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## RECAP OF APCG 2002

### CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO

Hosted in the sparkling setting of a brand new College of Social and Behavioral Sciences building on the California State University, San Bernardino campus, the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meetings of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers lived up to their usual standards of sterling research presentations, convivial spirit, and fascinating field trips.

The meetings began with a fascinating keynote presentation by CSUSB Geographer Jim Mulvihill who spoke on land use variations in the Inland Empire region of San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Jim showed some interesting photos of residential housing structures that looked like a 1970's smiley face while the residents of storage units converted into houses certainly aren't smiling.

Field trips took participants to the San Andreas Fault either by foot in a short hike behind the San Bernardino campus or on a drive around the local area examining land uses near and on top of faults in the region. Others boarded a bus and traveled to the new earthen Seven Oaks Dam built for flood control of the Santa Ana River to protect millions of residents from the San Bernardino Mountains through San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange counties to the mouth of the river at the Pacific Ocean. An urban excursion of San Bernardino took participants to downtown San Bernardino which is planning a Vision 2020 Project to develop inland lakes and streams not unlike San Antonio, Texas. Yet another group traveled to ESRI for a tour of the GIS software developer's headquarters. An all day excursion to the desert examined ruptures from the Landers Earthquake from 10 years ago.

At the Friday evening President's reception AAG President Duane Nellis reported on the latest AAG happenings, NCGE President Elect Susan Hardwick acknowledged all of the geographic education related sessions at the meetings, and California Geographical Society President Jenny Zorn invited participants to the CGS meetings in Sacramento April 25-27, 2003.

APCG President Nancy Wilkinson's traditional Presidential Address entitled "Water and the Geographic Imagination," concluded the meetings with a toast to the west's valuable resource, water. Nancy took us through much of the water and dam development in the west with interesting photos and intriguing interpretations of water use and water rights.

The entire CSUSB Geography Department worked hard to host the meetings whether it was lugging chairs and tables from one room to another or shuttling beer and wine in a baby stroller. We were pleased to host the meetings and to bring you to our new digs.

*Jenny Zorn, Coordinator of the 2002 APCG Meeting*



## FEATURE ARTICLE

(Continued from page 1)

majority of them rely heavily on this source. The MWD's 13% amounts to a guaranteed right of only 550,000 acre-feet of the river's water a year. This isn't nearly enough to meet the needs of the MWD's client water agencies, but fortunately other sources exist. The main additional source is another 662,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water in years when there is sufficient water in the river. Because other states in the Colorado River basin have not been using their full allocations, to date there has always been additional water available that California could use. The MWD also has contracted to transfer 100,000 acre-feet per year from Imperial County. This transfer will be looked at in more detail later.

Since this extra 662,000 acre-feet to MWD is supplemental to California's firm allotment, this means that California has been taking in excess of 5 million acre-feet annually for many years. Other states in the Colorado River basin have been using increasing amounts of their own allotments, and they have been applying pressure to get California to scale back to using only its firm allocation of 4.4 million acre-feet a year. As noted, former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt supervised an accord that requires this to take place. This has been termed the "4.4 Plan", and California must begin the process of cutting back on its use of river water by January 1, 2003.

### ***The Pipeline as Lifeline***

The Colorado River Aqueduct, built in the 1930s, can justifiably be called one of the engineering wonders of its era. It was designed to convey a little over 1.2 million acre-feet of water a year to southern California. This 1.2 million is not a random figure; it is just slightly more than the sum of the MWD's firm and supplemental allocations (550,000 plus 662,000 acre-feet per year). As mentioned, at present it is the only way to get river water to coastal California. Because all 1.2 million acre-feet are currently put to use by the region's cities and farms, the aqueduct has been running full, or close to it, for most of the past twenty years.

Under the 4.4 Plan, however, and the recently approved Interim Surplus Guidelines, this will change. At the end of a 15-year transition period, the MWD will be able to convey no more than its guaranteed allocation of 550,000 acre-feet. It will also have available 200 to 300 thousand acre-feet of water from other agreements. This means that, unless other water sources are found, the Colorado River Aqueduct in 2016 will be running at perhaps only three-quarters of its capacity.

If this were to be the actual scenario, many local water districts, including the city of San Diego, would have a serious problem. Needless to say, the MWD is looking at various ways to keep the Aqueduct full.

### ***Finding "Extra" Water to Transfer***

It was noted above that MWD signed an agreement with the IID to transfer 100,000 acre-feet of conserved water to coastal southern California, and the SDCWA has an agreement with IID to transfer up to 200,000 acre-feet of water. These agreements are an integral part of the 4.4 Plan. The main feature of the MWD agreement is the lining of canals to eliminate seepage. The conserved water will then be available for shipment to coastal water districts. The SDCWA agreement would work as follows. IID farmers would reduce their water

use by changing watering practices, installing improved equipment, and taking other measures to reduce the amount of irrigation water they require.

Similarly, additional water can be saved by improving the efficiency of the IID's distribution canals. Many of the canals in the Imperial Valley were constructed long ago and utilize antiquated water control technologies, resulting in more water flowing through the system than is really needed. Improvements to the canals are planned, and so are measures to capture any excess water in one part of the system for transfer to other areas that might need it. In all these ways, less water



will be flowing through the canals, and the unused water will be available for transference westward. These improvements would be paid for by the SDCWA's member water districts who will buy the conserved water.

All this would appear to be a good deal for everyone. Although the Colorado River Aqueduct is running full at present, there would be room in the aqueduct for this conserved water once the "4.4 Plan" is implemented in 2003, since each year California must cut back a bit more on its use of river water.

### ***Possible Stumbling Blocks***

Needless to say, however, things rarely go as smoothly as planned, especially in the water business. There are a number of fairly complex challenges that have been and will need to be addressed.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

An initial problem was a reluctance on the part of MWD to let the SDCWA transport its conserved IID water through the Colorado River Aqueduct (at least at a reasonable price). This problem was resolved by means of a 1998 agreement allowing SDCWA to transfer water via the Colorado River Aqueduct for the next 30 years. After that, either the agreement will be renegotiated, or SDCWA will need to construct its own aqueduct by that time.

A second problem is that the primary canal, called the All-American Canal, runs for part of its length directly along the Mexican border. Some of the water that “leaks” out of it therefore drifts southward across the border. This unintended groundwater bonanza is viewed by Mexico as “their” water, and in fact it is currently being mined, via wells on both sides of the border, for use in the thirsty Mexicali Valley. If MWD lines this portion of the canal, then this source of water is lost. The United States sees this as a non-issue, but Mexico of course has a different view. Litigation, or at least the threat of it, seems likely.

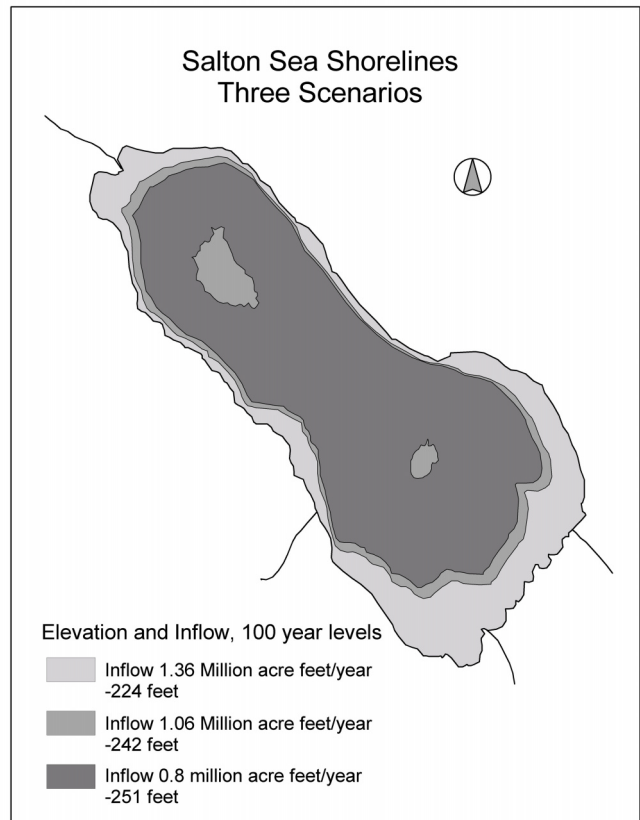
Two other problems require a more detailed review. These are the possible effects of the transfers on the Salton Sea, and the future of the Imperial Valley economy.

### **Effects on the Salton Sea**

The third problem, and perhaps the most difficult one, is the probable effects of the transfers on the Salton Sea. A portion of the excess water from farmers’ fields and the unused water flowing through the distribution canals presently flow to the Salton Sea, but they will no longer when the transfers begin. Exactly how much this flow will decrease as a result of the water conservation and transfer measures can only be estimated at this point, but it could be considerable.



There is consensus that as a consequence of these reductions in inflow, the Sea’s level could fall over time by several feet. If this happens, the shoreline of the Sea could recede in places, especially at the south end, by as much as several miles. An obvious consequence will be the appearance of a vast amount of newly exposed shoreline, representing a portion of the former Sea bottom. These exposed bottomlands will contain



salts and other environmentally harmful chemicals. In the absence of some mechanism to stabilize these sediments, it is likely that periodic high winds could produce harmful “dust-salt storms” similar to those now plaguing the area around dried-up Owens Lake. Air pollution in the Imperial and Coachella valleys, already bad, would become worse. Additionally, wildlife habitat, shoreline developments, and tourism could be adversely impacted. By 2002, many people in the two valleys, including the Salton Sea Authority, were advocating rescinding the IID-SDCWA transfer agreement.

However, even before the water transfers begin (and even if they were to be rescinded), there still exists the challenge of stabilizing its salinity level, and identifying the causes and reducing the magnitude of fish kills and deaths of aquatic birds. By reducing inflows, the transfers will significantly magnify these challenges. To address and remedy these problems, a considerable amount of mitigation money will be needed. Congress anticipated reduced inflows to the Sea when it passed the Salton Sea Reclamation Act (P. L. 105-372) in 1998. But only a limited amount of money, less than 10% of what may be needed, was appropriated towards this goal.

If fully restoring the long-term viability of the Salton Sea were to be required as mitigation for the water transfers, the cost would be steep, perhaps as much as a billion dollars. Water

*(Continued on next page)*



## FEATURE ARTICLE

agencies such as the SDCWA and the IID will agree to pay only a small portion of the mitigation costs (the IID has said not more than \$15 million). California, because of its electric energy debacle, has no funds to contribute. That places the onus on the federal budget, which is currently unbalanced. To add to the problem, what Congressman in Iowa or Georgia feels strongly about the Salton Sea, or has even heard of it for that matter? Thus, if the fate of the water transfers is tied to mitigation for the Salton Sea, the transfers, and California's economy, could be in serious trouble.

### **Effects on the Imperial Valley Economy**

One other simple way to use less water in the valley would be to plant fewer crops, that is, to leave some agricultural land idle, or "fallow". During the water transfer negotiations, the Imperial Valley representatives insisted that fallowing could not be part of the plan for keeping the Aqueduct full. Their concern was that having less land in crops would reduce the large agricultural support economy in Imperial and Riverside counties. And indeed, fallowing was never discussed.

But elsewhere, people were willing to take a chance on fallowing. The nearby Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID), south of Blythe, signed an agreement in 2001 whereby the MWD would pay them to reduce crop production by up to 29 percent. A maximum of 110,000 acre-feet could be made available by this program, with the unused water being available for MWD to ship to its member agencies. The PVID is hopeful that negative multiplier effects would be minimal because the in-lieu payments that the participating farmers would receive would mostly be spent locally.

This PVID experiment has not yet swayed opinion in the Imperial Valley, but if it were to be successful, the IID farmers would have to be intrigued. Such a program would represent steady income every year for the participating farmers, which is not something that can be said for growing crops. It also represents the least environmentally destructive option for diverting more of California's share of the Colorado River to urban users.

### **Summary**

Southern California economic interests hope that when the "Babbitt Initiative" comes into play, the water transfer agreements, together with other new inputs of water into the Aqueduct, will have been implemented. The impasse regarding the SDCWA transfer may have been broken in October 2002, when an agreement was reached that would allow a transfer of up to 200,000 acre-feet by 2020. The key was economic stability payments of \$20 million from SDCWA to IID in exchange for a 15-year fallowing provision and a guarantee of diminished flows into the Salton Sea over that period. All appropriate boards must approve the agreement, and what happens after 15 years is unresolved (Gardner, 2002).

The salinity of the Salton Sea remains the most significant unresolved issue, with neither a plan for stabilizing salinity, nor the funds to do so, in hand as 2002 draws to a close. With the budget surpluses of the late 1990s a thing of the past, it will not be easy to convince elected officials at either the state or federal levels that southern California water issues such as the Salton Sea are important, and that adequate funding to resolve

them must be forthcoming. If it is not, there could be hard times ahead for both the Salton Sea and the environment of the Imperial Valley.

Philip Pryde taught water resources courses at San Diego State Univ. for thirty years, and is a past chair of the long-range planning committee of the SDCWA. He also served as chair of Audubon-California's task force on the Salton Sea. He extends appreciation to personnel at the SDCWA and other agencies for reviewing earlier drafts of this article for accuracy.

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## NEWS AND NOTES

### IN MEMORY - WILLIAM L. THOMAS

William Leroy Thomas, Professor Emeritus of Geography & Southeast Asian Studies at California State Univ., Hayward, died July 11th, 2002 at his home in Oceanside, CA. Bill was the founder of the Geography-Anthropology Dept. (1963) and founder and first Chair of the Dept. of Geography (1972). Born March 18th, 1920 in Long Beach, CA., he lived most of his 82 years on the edge of the Pacific Ocean. He earned a Baccalaureate degree in Geology in 1941 from UCLA, then did graduate work before induction into the U.S. Army in 1942. Lt. Thomas transferred to the Army Corp of Engineers as a photomapping officer, served in New Guinea and the Philippines with the Intelligence Division, and was discharged in 1946. Returning to UCLA, he completed his M.A. in Geography in 1948. Bill helped develop a new Department of Geography at Rutgers Univ. and earned a Ph.D. from Yale's Southeast Asian Studies Program in 1955.

From 1950 to 1957, Bill was Assistant Director of Research for the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research in New York City. He conceived and organized an international symposium in 1955, then edited the results into the world-renowned volume *Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth* (1956), a pioneering work on human impacts on the earth's ecosystems. Returning to southern California in 1957, Bill helped found a new Dept. of Geography at the Univ. of California, Riverside. In 1963 he moved to then Alameda State College as Professor of Anthropology and Geography, where he became Professor of Geography and Southeast Asian Studies from 1971 to 1990.

Bill was a very active scholar who left a bibliography of over eighty-five entries, including books, monographs, periodical articles, chapters in books, and book reviews. Best known of which were co-authored works with his UCLA mentor Joseph E. Spencer including *Cultural Geography: An Evolutionary Introduction to our Humanized Earth* (1969), *Asia, East by South, A Cultural Geography* (1971) and *Introducing Cultural Geography* (1973). He was a Fulbright Scholar to the Univ. of Western Australia, Perth (1974) and to Mariano Marcos State Univ., the Philippines (1984-85). Bill served as President of both the California Geographical Society (CGS) (1967-68) and APCG (1977-78); he received meritorious awards from the AAG (1961), the CGS (1986), and the APCG (1987).

After retirement, Bill was an Invited Scientific Lecturer on cruise ships in the Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic, Alaska, and east and southeast Asia logging twenty-three cruises with his wife, Rosalinda, over five years. He is survived by his wife, four sons, four daughters, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

*Herb Eder*, California State University, Hayward

### IN MEMORY - JACK P. MROWKA

Jack P. Mrowka died at age 58 on 6 July 2002. Jack was Professor of Geography and (since 1996) Chair of the Geography Department at California State University Sacramento. He was born and raised in upstate New York and earned his bachelor's degree at SUNY Buffalo. After receiving his Ph.D. at UCLA in 1974, he served on the faculties of the University of Chicago and the University of Oregon before coming to CSUS in 1984. Jack's specializations were hydrology, geomorphology, and Latin America; he also taught a wide range of courses outside these areas. He was an enthusiastic traveler—visiting 49 states (lacking only Delaware) and 25 countries, a compulsive slide-taker, and an avid supporter of geographic education in all its forms.

Jack was a member of the APCG for a quarter century. He gave papers on fluvial geomorphology at six meetings (1975, 1980, 1981, 1987, 1988, and 1996) and one on vegetation patterns in Venezuela in 1990. Jack co-led the American River Parkway Canoe Tour at the Sacramento meeting in 1996. He was a member of the APCG Yearbook Board of Editorial Consultants from 1997 until his death. Among Jack's proudest achievements was his service on the Council of the Association of American Geographers from 1998 to 2001, where he was the regional councilor representing the APCG (the Pacific Coast Division of the AAG).

The CSUS Geography Department has posted remembrances of Jack on its web page ([www.csus.edu/geog/](http://www.csus.edu/geog/)). Here are two excerpts, the first from former student Meredith Fordyce:

He really cared about his students and did all he could, in so many ways, to help them. Whether it was teaching, advising, sharing his experience as a geographer, offering encouragement, or being a student's number one cheerleader, he was there, present in the moment and doing his enthusiastic best.

This second remembrance was written by fellow geographer, geomorphologist, and Latin Americanist Karl Butzer:

We are all poorer in his passing. He was a fine scientist of great acuity, who devoted most of his energy to inspired teaching rather than publication. He traveled widely and saw much of the world, all the way down to Tierra del Fuego, imparting his enthusiasm for geography to his students, on whom I am confident that he left his mark.

He is sorely missed by the faculty and students at CSUS ("even the rivers will miss him," as geography grad Troy White wrote), where a memorial scholarship has been established in his name. Contributions can be sent to: Department of Geography, CSUS, Sacramento, CA 95616. Please make checks payable to CSUS Trust Foundation and note "Mrowka Fund" on the memo line.

*Robin Datel and Tom Krabacher*, CSU, Sacramento

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### HOW TO CHAIR AN ACADEMIC PAPER SESSION

In the Spring 2000 *Pacifica*, Terry Simmons outlines how to chair paper sessions. He states, "Successful annual meetings require effective paper session organizers. The person chairing a session has two vital roles as a good host and as a traffic officer." He then outlines the Chair's duties and responsibilities

before, during and after the paper session. If you are chairing a paper session for the first time or if you are a seasoned Chair that would like a review, please check out this submission in the Spring 2000 issue on page 4 at <http://www.csus.edu/apcg/PACIFICA.HTM>.

## NEWS AND NOTES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued from page 2)

field trips. Apart from continuing the historical precedent of having field trips at the annual meeting, there is a reason why the Local Arrangements Committee is able to entice faculty into leading field trips. The local geographers get to showcase their "place" and their connection with it. What fun to take a group of fellow geographers to your favorite field sites, to share your knowledge of the processes at work there, and to elicit their challenging comments and questions. It's like having a class of eager and well-prepared students – but better because you don't have to grade field notebooks when the trip is over!

Which brings us to the 2003 APCG meeting in Portland. My colleagues and I at Portland State are busy preparing a wide selection of field trips that will take in the mountains, rivers, gorges, urban spaces, brewpubs and vineyards of our "place". We're eager to share it with you, to show you how Portland looks, feels, and works. We invite you to join us next September in Portland. In the meantime go to the meeting web site at <http://geogres.pdx.edu/APCG/> to see what we have planned!

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### WOMEN'S NETWORK NEWS

At this year's annual meeting, the Women's Network awarded two travel grants for participation in the San Bernardino meetings to Susan Hume, a graduate student at the Univ. of Oregon and Diane Besser, a graduate student at Portland State Univ. During the luncheon, the recipients of the Women's Network Travel Grants were introduced and spoke about their future goals in geography. The Margaret Trussell Scholarships were also announced at the Women's Network Luncheon. This year's recipients were Anna Lieberman, UC, Berkeley and Elizabeth Watson, San Diego State.

The Network invites all faculty members of the APCG to nominate an outstanding female undergraduate or graduate for a Women's Network Travel Grant to attend next year's meeting in Portland, Oregon. The Margaret Trussell Scholarship Committee also invites master's and doctoral students in the APCG service area to apply for the Trussell Scholarship. Look for the official announcements in the spring edition of the *Pacifica*.

**Women's Network Travel Grant: July 1, 2003**

**Margaret Trussell Scholarship: July 1, 2003**

The Women's Network currently supports a managed listserv and will be launching a new website this spring. If you are interested in being added to the listserv or have suggestions for the website, please contact me at [jhelzer@stan.csustan.edu](mailto:jhelzer@stan.csustan.edu).

*Jennifer Helzer*, Coordinator, Women's Network

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## AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

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### NOMINATIONS FOR APCG POSTS INVITED

All members are invited to contact Teresa Bulman as soon as possible with their suggestions for nominations for Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer. Please see the Directory on page 2 for Teresa's contact information.

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### APCG SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS

Faculty are invited to submit nominations for next fall's APCG Service Award to Awards Committee. Please contact Dolly Freidel (see the Directory on page 2 for Dolly's contact information).

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### STUDENT PAPER AWARDS PRESENTED AT SAN BERNARDINO

1. Tom McKnight and Joan Clemmons Award for Outstanding Student Paper (\$200) was awarded to: Anna Lieberman and John Rogan, San Diego State University, for their paper entitled "Mapping Fire Effects in Southern California Mediterranean Vegetation using IKONOS and Landsat ETM Imagery".
2. The President's Award for Outstanding Paper by a PhD Student (\$100) was awarded to: Liam Reidy, UC Berkeley, for his paper entitled: "Late Holocene Vegetation Change at Mountain Lake in the San Francisco Presidio: Implications for Park Management".
3. The Harry and Shirley Bailey Award for Outstanding Paper by a PhD Student (\$100) was awarded to: Susan Hume, University of Oregon, for her paper entitled: "Becoming African in America."
4. The President's Award for Outstanding Paper by an Undergraduate (\$100) was awarded to Roy Jackson, Sonoma State University, for his paper entitled: "GIS Habitat Suitability Modeling for the Point Arena Mountain Beaver".

Note: The President's Award for Outstanding Paper by a Master's Student was not awarded this year. Anna Lieberman is an M.A. student; her coauthor is a PhD student. She would have gotten the President's award if she had not gotten best of show. The President's Award for Outstanding Poster was also not awarded.

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### APCG 2003 STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

Faculty are encouraged to tell their students about next fall's Student Paper Competition well ahead of time. Prizes range from \$100 to \$250 for the top scoring papers. There are categories for undergraduate, Masters, and Ph.D. papers, as well as one for posters. So let's get a great field of competitors by planning early! For further information please contact Dolly Freidel, (see the Directory on page 2 for Dolly's contact information).

*Dolly Freidel*, Sonoma State University

## THE NATIONAL SCENE

*Judy Walton*, Regional Councillor

It's been an honor and pleasure to serve as Regional Councillor to the AAG since Fall 2001 (no easy task following in Jack Mrowka's footsteps!). In this space, kindly allotted by the editor, I'd like to report on just a few of the many AAG initiatives that touch our region and remind folks that your national organization is at most only an email away:

**Membership:** Concerns about declining membership (app. 6,700 from a 1995 high of 7,400) and lack of diversity (racial/ethnic and nonacademic) in the AAG have led to several actions, including a "regional division membership challenge." The APCG is working on this, and you can help by reminding colleagues in our region to join the AAG. If you have other membership ideas, contact Julie Winkler, chair of a newly formed Membership Committee, at [winkler@pilot.msu.edu](mailto:winkler@pilot.msu.edu).

**Raising Geography's Profile:** What would it take for policy makers and the general public to seek out geographers for input on national/international affairs? The AAG is working to raise geography's profile and reclaim its space in public dialogue. The new Strategic Initiative ("Advancing Geography... in Partnership with You") seeks to partner with government agencies and firms in launching high-profile research initiatives (such as "The Geographical Dimensions of Terrorism") and may culminate in a \$2 million endowment, a new geography portal site, and a potential name change (to "Association for the Advancement of Geography"). Efforts are also underway to reinstate geography departments at prestigious institutions, such as Yale and Columbia. What can you do to help? Ideas include participating in international and collaborative research opportunities, identifying as a "geographer" in press releases and interviews, writing opinion pieces for local papers and forums like the Chronicle of Higher Ed., getting your message out to the media as well as to deans, provosts, or supervisors, and of course participating in geographic outreach efforts. To inquire about AAG initiatives and research opportunities in your field, contact Doug Richardson, Executive Director, at [dritchard@aag.org](mailto:dritchard@aag.org), or Alec Murphy, Vice President, at [abmurphy@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:abmurphy@oregon.uoregon.edu).

**Geography Faculty Development Alliance:** Ken Foote (UC Boulder) runs this new and highly successful summer workshop for "early career" faculty, covering all the things you never learned in grad school and providing strong mentorship and support. Email [k.foote@colorado.edu](mailto:k.foote@colorado.edu).

**Honorary Geographer (2002):** John McPhee has accepted this honor. His books speak for themselves as epitomes of geographic writing.

**Careers in Geography:** A new color brochure with exciting graphics to replace those drab old brochures. Order through [www.aag.org](http://www.aag.org) or email [puborder@aag.org](mailto:puborder@aag.org).

**Visiting Geographical Scientist Program:** A great opportunity, especially for small undergraduate departments with limited funding. Provides money to bring a prominent geographer to your campus for a guest lecture and visit with an administrator to promote geography. Sponsored by Gamma Theta Upsilon and the AAG. For more information go to [www.aag.org](http://www.aag.org).

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following 26 new members who have joined since 3/15/02 when the last list was prepared for the Spring *Pacifica*.

In addition to these a number of new members joined with their APCG 2001 registration, but their names are not yet available.

Ralph K. Allen  
Max Boykoff  
Ronaldo I. Caluza  
Steven A. Carlson  
Eliezer Chammou  
Jacquelyn Chase  
Robyn Clark

Michael Emch  
Cynthia M. Hohbach  
Nathan A. Jones  
Suzanne E. Keck  
Maggi Kelly  
Jeffrey F. Krizek  
Paul Laris  
Wei Li  
Willa Mann  
Roy McDonald  
Stuart K. McFeeters  
Irene Naesse  
Yvette O'Connor  
Jonathan Snapp-Cook  
Daniel P. Stelling  
Jennifer Waddell  
Dan Walsh  
Eric Yamashita  
Sandra Zundell

## APPLIED GEOGRAPHY OPPORTUNITIES

The APCG Applied Geographers Committee and the Business, Industry and Government Geographers (BIGG) welcome program suggestions and participation from applied geographers, based both on and off campus, during our next annual meeting in Portland. More generally, we invite all applied geographers, independent scholars of Geography, graduated graduate students, and exiled or retired professors of Geography to convene for mutual benefit. We encourage local leaders, on and off the campus, from Alaska to Arizona, to recruit applied geographers and independent scholars for local professional, activities. Please e-mail me at [terry@environment-lawyer.com](mailto:terry@environment-lawyer.com) or telephone me at 775-322-3333.

*Terry Simmons*, Chair, APCG Applied Geographers Committee

## 53RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS

53ème congrès annuel de l'Association canadienne des géographes

The Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) will meet in Victoria, British Columbia (APCG country) on Tuesday, May 27 to Sunday, June 1, 2003. The conference is hosted by the Department of Geography, University of Victoria.

Joint sessions are planned between the CAG, the Canadian Cartographic Association, and the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives.

For more information, please contact the Conference Directors, Dan Smith and Peter Keller, for more information at 250-721-7325 (tele), 250-721-6216 (fax), [cag2003@mail.geog.uvic.ca](mailto:cag2003@mail.geog.uvic.ca) (e-mail), and <http://venus.uwindsor.ca/cag/cagindex.html> (web page).



## ABOUT THE APCG

Founded in 1935 by a gathering of geographers including graduate students and faculty from universities, normal schools and junior colleges, and a few from government and industry, the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers has a long and rich history promoting geographical education, research, and knowledge. Members gather at the annual meetings for social and intellectual interaction. They receive the annual *Yearbook*, first published in 1935, that includes abstracts of papers from the meetings and a number of full-length peer-reviewed articles. Members also receive the bi-annual newsletter *Pacifica*, first published in Fall 1994. Since 1952 the APCG has also been the Pacific Coast Regional Division of the Association of American Geographers, serving AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, WA, BC, and YT.

## MEMBERSHIP

Questions about membership should be directed to Bob Richardson at the address below, or phone (916) 278-6410, fax (916) 278-7584, or e-mail [apcg@csus.edu](mailto:apcg@csus.edu). Visit our web site at [www.csus.edu/apcg/index.html](http://www.csus.edu/apcg/index.html) for lots of information about the organization and for a new member application form.

APCG member dues, although raised for 2001, remain modest: Regular \$20; Joint (2 people at same address) \$23; Student and

Retired \$10; Contributing \$25 or more (any contribution over \$20 is tax deductible). Joint members receive only one copy of *Pacifica* and one *Yearbook*.

Dues are paid for the calendar year. Unless you indicate otherwise, checks dated before November 1 will be credited to the current year, while those dated after November 1 will be credited to the next year. Only current year members receive the *Yearbook*. Current members will be sent a membership renewal notice near the end of the calendar year.

## CORRECT ADDRESS?

Most mailings to members are done using the APCG's Non-Profit authorization. Non-Profit mail is not forwarded, so to be sure you receive your copies of *Pacifica* and the *Yearbook* it is critical that you provide new address information to the Association.

*PACIFICA* is a publication of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, a regional division of the Association of American Geographers. The newsletter appears two times a year in fall and spring. The deadline for submission of announcements and reports for the Spring issue is March 1 and for the Fall issue is October 20. For further information contact Michael Schmandt at [schmandt@toto.csustan.edu](mailto:schmandt@toto.csustan.edu) or phone (209) 667-3557.

**The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Inc.**

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