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American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association

January 2011 E-News

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

ARIZONA

Tary Campbell

CALIFORNIA

Natasha Granoff
Park Guthrie

CANADA

Jonathan Kearns

CONNECTICUT

Andy Cornell

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Jamal Kadri

GEORGIA

Judy Sharpton

MASSACHUSETTS

James DuBois

MINNESOTA

Tim Ellerton

MONTANA

Joe Cortopassi

OKLAHOMA

Christopher Bargas

TEXAS

Stephen Colley
Luke Snyder

WASHINGTON

Bob Taylor

California's Hope To Enter the Rainwater Harvesting Paradigm

By Neal Shapiro, CSM - ARCSA Member

2011 could become a "watershed" year for California with the passage of AB1834, literally. While many states, and other industrialized countries, have and continue to move toward a more sustainable approach to local water management, California has been silent on regulations to permit rainwater and stormwater harvesting for indoor and outdoor non-potable and potable end uses at a critical period when reliance on imported water resources is unreliable and unsustainable state-wide. While the state water code defines potable, recycled and gray water resources, it is silent on rainwater and stormwater. Some interpret this to mean that their uses are allowed, though no uniform set of guidelines and regulations, permitting and inspections exists to provide a regulatory system that is user-friendly to those who want to use these local water resources. Due to this void, to make this a permissible activity, regulations for another water resource are used to formulate a regulatory framework, resulting in a cumbersome system that is a regulatory maze, cost-prohibitive and fails to promote a sustainable activity. AB1834 will provide a uniform standard for rainwater harvesting and use, and give flexibility to local agencies to implement this sustainable strategy. At a time when the state and the western United States continue to face drought, adding a local water resource to the overall water management mix is a welcome, necessary, and bold step.

AB1834 is expected to be re-introduced by Assemblyman Jose Solorio (D-Santa Ana, 69th District) into the state legislature in the first quarter of 2011. The bill defines rainwater, rainwater capture system (systems on a parcel, onsite catchment), stormwater and stormwater capture system (systems with offsite catchment from the MS4 and surface waters); it will allow indoor and outdoor end uses; and it focuses on rainwater use on private and public parcels. Stormwater applications are not authorized due to the need for a stakeholders' discussion on how stormwater harvesting impacts the balance between local uses and water rights of water agencies. Western water law is a unique challenge for many states and locales when it comes to rainwater-stormwater harvesting. Utah and Colorado are two examples where this has become a roadblock for rainwater harvesting. And

it could be in California areas where surface waterways are used for recharging aquifers. A small group of interests, including non-governmental organizations, cities, and water agencies, has been working with the Assemblyman's staff to craft a bill that at a minimum can put California on a preliminary sustainable water management path. Once this bill is passed and positive experience is gained, further steps can be taken to expand rainwater uses to larger government stormwater use projects and potable applications.

In the meantime, some rainwater harvesting programs exist around the state. San Francisco, the city and county of, passed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2008 that establishes a legal framework for rainwater harvesting projects for non-potable indoor and outdoor intended uses. This MOU is unique because it involves the city and county, building and public health offices, and the public utility commission. The cities of Los Angeles and San Diego did pilot projects and studies to determine the effectiveness of a permanent rainwater harvesting program. Santa Monica has a rebate program for downspout redirect, rain barrels and cisterns. Berkeley has a very effective rainwater harvesting regulatory framework. And in Southern California, as a region, a small group of cities, LA County Public Works and Public Health, and NGOs have been working for a few years to develop a matrix that allows for a limited number of applications for rainwater and stormwater and under specific filtering and disinfection standards; this document has not been approved.

Indeed, California is on the brink of a significant and bold step toward sustainable water management at a critical time of water supply uncertainty and of climatic change influencing precipitation patterns. Given the urgency of creating a uniform legal framework for rainwater and stormwater harvesting, 2011 is our year in California for a Rainwater Catchment Act.

For more regulatory and how-to manual information on rainwater harvesting around the country, contact Neal Shapiro, City of Santa Monica, neal.shapiro@smgov.net, and ARCSA Board Member Doug Pushard's website, http://www.harvesth2o.com/statutes_regulations.shtml#.

** ARCSA and its members continue to push for changes in RWH codes and statues around the country. This is another reason you should support ARCSA and become a member today!

RICHARDSON WEIGHS PLAN TO PERMIT RAINWATER IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, SET STANDARDS

It could soon be far easier to use rainwater for irrigation in Richardson, Texas. City officials have crafted a proposal that would permit rainwater harvesting systems and allow for their installation with a city permit. The City Council will review and discuss the proposal.

Please [click here](#) for the full story.

ACCEPTING ADVERTISERS!

Are you looking for ways to get your company name, product or service out in the RWH Industry? Then you need to be one of the first advertisers in the new ARCSA Quarterly Newsletter an ARCSA Website Sponsor. Advertise in one newsletter or in all four, to get the most visibility. As a website sponsor, your sponsor logos will scroll and appear on each page. When the logo is clicked on, it will take the user to sponsor page with a company description and contact information. A great way to get your information out to ARCSA members, non members and consumers. To get the advertising and sponsorship application, please contact Tisha Mackey at tisha.mackey@arcsa.org or call the ARCSA office at (512) 617.6528 to have the registration form sent to you.

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE ARCSA 2011 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The next ARCSA National Conference will be held in September 2011. It will include three days of presentations, tours, large exhibit area, and networking opportunities. Individuals interested in presenting at the conference are asked to prepare a short description (1 - 4 pages beginning with a 150 word abstract describing the presentation). Please use MS Word, Times New Roman, 12-point, single-spaced) describing the subject matter in sufficient detail to allow evaluation of the proposed presentation.

In order to streamline our process, only one submission will be requested. The submitted description will be used both for evaluation and for potential publication in the conference packet of materials.

Suggested Presentation Topics:

- Innovative residential designs
- Innovative public building designs
- Innovative commercial designs
- Materials options (gutters, filters, pipes, tanks/cisterns, pump, electrical, plumbing, solar)
- Maintenance requirements and solutions, such as freeze protection
- Troubleshooting tips for common issues
- Water treatment and/or water quality for both potable and non-potable purposes
- National, state, or local initiatives that support or endanger rainwater harvesting
- New technologies such as integration into stormwater systems.
- Successful marketing strategies

Presentations allowing for hands-on training are of special interest. Conference attendees will include landscape architects, home builders, roofing/guttering professionals, do-it-yourselfers, water conservationists, rainwater harvesting product suppliers, water utilities and regulators.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 28, 2010 (Earlier is preferred)

Presentation Formats:

Three types of presentations are planned:

- Type A: 20-minute solo presentations, followed by a 10-minute discussion period.
- Type B: 35-minute solo presentations, followed by a 10-minute discussion period.
- Type C: Longer technical sessions allowing for hands-on training (equipment to be provided by presenter).
- Type D: Panel sessions presenting a variety of perspectives and/or knowledge on a single topic.
(ARCSEA reserves the right to group individual presentations into panel discussions as appropriate).

Abstract Submission Guidelines:

Abstracts may be submitted via email to conference@arcsea.org in MS Word format, using the following structure:

- Presentation title
- Presentation type preference (A, B, C or D)
- Author(s) name(s), organization(s), and contact phone number(s) and email address(s)
- Description with Abstract - 1 to 4 pages in length, 12-point Times New Roman font, single-spaced

Submissions may be sent as an email attachment to conference@arcsea.org, faxed to (512) 495.9031 or mailed to ARCSEA at 823 Congress Ave., Suite 230, Austin, TX 78701. Call with question to (512) 617-6528.

***Presenters will be chosen by the end of March 2011. One half page bios will then be required of all speakers.**

15th ANNUAL IRCSEA CONFERENCE

The 15th Annual International Rainwater Catchment Systems Conference will be held at the International Hall, Chinese Culture University, Taipei, Taiwan, from March 28 to April 4, 2011, and will comprise 2 days of technical sessions and 4 days of field tours to the southern part of Taiwan.

Major topics to include: surface / groundwater water supplies, domestic / agricultural / industrial / commercial usages, promotion / implementation / educational programs, disaster prevention and mitigation, ecological / environmental issues, green building / energy coupling, landscape / recreational purposes; plus a full exhibition.

Field Tours:

- A mid-conference (1 1/2 day) field excursion tour will be arranged to visit and to exchange ideas and information on many successful examples of utilizing rainwater in the northern part of Taiwan. This includes the Taipei Zoo, Rainwater Park in National Taiwan Ocean University, Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, and International Flora Expo.
- A post-conference (4 days) field excursion tour will be arranged to visit the southern and central part of Taiwan on various aspects of rainwater utilization such as: water supply, agriculture, animal husbandry, education, landscape, recreation, and ecology.

Registration and hotel reservation: **February 28, 2011**

Please [click here](#) to find out more information and to register.

COMMITTEE POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The ARCSA Governance and Nominating Committee is seeking interested members to join the committee for 2011. The Governance and Nominating Committee focuses on governance issues and includes planning for or providing governance training for the Board of Directors; assisting in evaluating the performance of the Board; reviewing and updating ARCSA policies and procedures as required; and soliciting and managing the nomination and election process for new Board members. If you are interested in volunteering to serve with the Governance and Nominating Committee, please contact Ramiro Ortiz at Ramiro.Ortiz@arcsa.org.

ARCSA MEMBERSHIP

Have you thought about becoming an ARCSA member, but have never joined? Are you already a member of ARCSA but are not taking advantage of the membership benefits? If you aren't a member of ARCSA, why not? Why wait any longer to be a part of this growing organization!

American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association Mission Statement:

To promote sustainable rainwater harvesting practices to help solve potable, non-potable, stormwater and energy challenges throughout the world.

Please visit the [ARCSA Website](#) to view the membership benefits and to join ARCSA today!

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT

Check out the "Members Only" section of the website!

Go to the website - www.arcsa.org

Log In with your username and password

If this is the first time you've logged in - use the email address this was mailed to you to get a temporary password

If you need help, there is a 5-minute tutorial under "Website Tours."

Once logged in, on the main menu, you'll find an item: Members Only
It only appears after logging in.

Click on the "Members Only" menu item on the main menu bar.

Within the "Members Only" portion of the website are a large array of documents and features available only to members:

Technical Papers and Conference Presentations -

Informative and insightful presentations and technical papers.
Peak Water?
Water Rights in US
US Rainwater Harvesting Market Survey
Passive RWH
Catchment System sizing tool
Disinfection & Sanitation
and much more!

ARCSA Jobs -

List your availability or -- if you're a business -- list your job opening.

Members Only Discussion Forum -

a location to get feedback from knowledgeable ARCSA members.

ARCSA Corporate Documents -

Bylaws, Board meeting minutes, agendas, Policies and Procedures.

Check in frequently - there's more there every day.
If you have any suggestions or questions, send us an email at:
info@arcса.org

RWH WORKSHOPS & ACCREDITATION COURSES

2011 WORKSHOPS

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

The Urban Farmer Store
2121 San Joaquin Street Richmond, CA 94804

100 LEVEL

February 7, 2010 8:30am-5:00pm
Cost: \$75.00

[Please click here to register for the Level 100 Class in Richmond](#)

200 LEVEL - 2 DAY WORKSHOP

February 8-9, 2010 8:30 am-5:00pm (both days)
Cost: \$295.00 for the 2-day class

OR \$445.00 for the 2-day class + Accreditation

[Please click here to register for the Level 200 Class in Richmond](#)

As a reminder, in order to take the accreditation exam after the level 200 workshop, you must be a current member of ARCSA in good standing. To sign up to be a member of ARCSA if you are not already, [please click here.](#)

ARCSA is continuing to finalizing the 2011 workshop and class schedules. To review the types of courses that are offered by ARCSA, please visit the [ARCSA Website](#). The [ARCSA Event and Education Calendar](#) will continue to be updated on a regular basis, so be sure to check often for additional dates

being posted. If you are interested in learning more about becoming an ARCSA Accredited Professional, you can review the [program online](#).

American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association

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