

## PRESS RELEASE:

On November 17, 2009 the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District honored General Manager Mel Aust for his 20 years of service. Mel was presented with a crystal bowl and plaque from the District, a Proclamation from the County of Lake Board of Supervisors and a Congressional Resolution from Congressman Mike Thompson. The documents depicted Mel's 20 years of accomplishments and dedication to the Hidden Valley Lake Community, Statewide and Nationally.

Some of Mel's accomplishments are as follows:

- Established the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District in 1984.
- In 1991-1992 replaced 7,000 foot 12" pipeline crossing Putah Creek.
- A 200,000 gallon water storage tank was installed.
- 1993 a water distribution inter-tie system was installed.
- Engaged the merger between the Hidden Valley Lake CSD and Stonehouse Mutual Water Company on January 1, 1993. The merge resulted in a tremendous cost savings in operations, staffing, State oversight, and access to low cost loans and grants.
- Mel testified before the California State Senate's Agriculture & Water and Finance committees regarding AB 1504. This legislation passed on December 31, 1992 to allow a tax exempt merger of Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District and Stonehouse Mutual Water Company.
- Established Water Rights and rebuilt the Guenoc Gauge, which registers the water flows in Putah Creek.
- 1994-1995 a Water Reclamation Treatment Facility was built and provides reclaimed water to the Hidden Valley Lake Golf Course, saving 30% of drinking water.
- The installation of the Water Reclamation Treatment Plant included an expansion of the existing sewer system in the Hidden Valley Lake subdivision, lifting the building moratorium and expanding it to over 1,600 properties.
- 2001 the District helped Coyote Valley Elementary School build a baseball field.
- Secured \$250,000 in labor grants to cleanup Coyote Creek, Gallagher Creek and drainage ditches throughout the subdivision.
- Secured \$302,000 for the Flood Control Levee Study and \$100,000 for the Master Storm Drainage Plan.
- New Well went online in June 2003.
- 2004 completed a \$3 million Water Infrastructure Improvement Project that expanded the District's water storage capacity to 2.25 million gallons of water, replaced pressure regulator valves throughout the water system, replaced booster stations and improvements to the SCADA system.

Along with Mel's many accomplishments he has represented small rural utilities on several legislative committees through various water industry organizations such as the American Water Works Association, Association of California Water Agencies, California Rural Water Association and National Rural Water Association. He has authored several water industry documents and participated on several steering committees:

- Authored two papers "Reclamation Balances Resources in an Adjudicated Basin & "Land Use Planning and Relationship to Recycled Water " .
- On American Water Works Associations Project Steering Committee to prepare chlorine manual for "Disinfectant Practices in a Security Conscious Environment.
- Member of the California Department of Water Resources Drought Preparedness Committee Representing Small Rural Systems.
- National Rural Water Association's Executive Director and National Representative for California Rural Water Association.

Mel was awarded "Manager of the Year" by the Wine Country Water Works Association.