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 - Generates annual conference technical sessions and awards selection
 - Helps find maintenance trainers for local technical training
 - Increase your exposure and experience with CWEA Leadership
- ~~Technical Certification Program Executive Committee Vice Chair II~~
 - ~~3 year term, become Chair and Member of CWEA State Board in 3rd year of term~~

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CWEA Annual Conference 2011 • Ontario • April 12-15. Workshops, tours and training classes including engineering, operations, energy, water reuse, collection systems, laboratory, safety, biosolids and more. Plus the Sludge Trudge, golf, Awards Banquet and more! **View the brochure at www.cwea.org/conferences.**

California Water Environment Association’s LA Wrecking Crew Takes Second in Division 1 at 2010 Operations Challenge Competition in New Orleans

By Wendy Wert

On October 5, 2010 California Water Environment Association’s (CWEA) LA Wrecking Crew placed second in the first division of the Water Environment Federation’s (WEF) Operations Challenge competition held at the New Orleans Morial Convention Center. Coached by Dale Dollins and Captained by Jeff Valdes the LA Wrecking Crew: Mario Gomez, Jesus Garibay and Paul Johnson, competed against 37 teams from the United States, Canada, and Argentina during the fast-paced, two-day event.



Team Gets Ready (lt) CWEA Sign at the Safety Event (ctr) LA Wrecking Crew Competes (rt).

The full competition results include:

	Division 1	Division 2
First Place	Terminal Velocity, Virginia WEA	Team HRSD, Virginia WEA
Second Place	LA Wrecking Crew, California WEA	Dillo XXPress, WEA of Texas
Third Place	Seacoast Sewer Snakes, New England WEA	Liquid Force, WEA of South Carolina

The Operations Challenge is a friendly competition among wastewater treatment plant operators sponsored by CWEA and WEF each year at state and international conferences. Over the last several decades, the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts team (the LA Wrecking Crew) has won a number of CWEA state and WEF international competitions.



LA Wrecking Crew Competes at the 2010 Operations Challenge at the New Orleans Morial Convention Ctr

The competition is divided into five events, which include: collection systems, laboratory, process control, maintenance and safety. A cumulative score for each team is assessed based on overall performance and the conference title is presented to the team with the highest score in each division. This program was established as a way to bring industry professionals from varying applications and disciplines together in an interactive forum.



The LA Wrecking Crew Accepts the Second Place Division I Title at the 2010 WEF Operations Awards Ceremony (LA Wrecking Crew: Mario Gomez, Jesus Garibay; Paul Johnson, Captain; Jeff Valdes; Dale Dollins)

Now in its 23rd year, the Operations Challenge has grown from an original 22-team event to its current 37-team, two-division format. Winners are determined by a weighted point system for five events. The events are designed to test the diverse skills required for the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities, their collection systems and laboratories, which are all vital to the protection of public health and the environment.



LA Wrecking Crew Competes (lt) LA Wrecking Crew Takes the Second Place Division I Title (ctr) WEF President Jeanette Brown Celebrates Challenge (ctr rt) Only on Bourbon St... Jeff Valdes, LA Wrecking Crew Captain celebrates with Archie Manning, Father of Ind. Colts QB Peyton Manning and NY Giants QB Eli Manning (rt)

The Operations Challenge was presented in conjunction with WEFTEC 2010, the 83rd annual technical exhibition and conference, which ran from October 2-6, 2010 at the New Orleans Morial Convention Center. WEFTEC is the largest annual water quality conference and exhibition in the world, and this year's event drew thousands of water professionals and exhibitors from around the globe and showcased the latest in research, training, solutions and cutting-edge technologies. Plan to attend next year's WEFTEC 2011, which will be held at the Los Angeles Convention Center (1209 Figueroa Street) from October 15-19. Congratulations to the LA Wrecking Crew and good luck in the upcoming training season!

LABS Lunch Meeting featuring NRDC's Mr. David Beckman

By **Megan Patterson, P.E.**

On September 24, 2010 CWEA Los Angeles Basin Section (LABS) gathered at the World Cafe in Santa Monica for an open-air luncheon in the California sunshine. After lunch, LABS members heard Mr. David Beckman, Senior Attorney and Director of the Water Program at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), present "Entering an Era of Scarcity: Changing the Paradigm for Addressing U.S. Freshwater Challenges in the 21st Century."

Mr. Beckman, a graduate of Harvard Law School, has been with the NRDC for the past 15 years. In that time he has successfully worked on many high profile cases including one Central Valley case facilitating the restoration of the San Joaquin River. As Director of the NRDC's Water Program, Mr. Beckman advocates a safe water supply for people and the environment, which is becoming increasingly more critical given the escalating demand and finite supply – only 0.3% of the Earth's water supply is accessible to humanity and pollution further diminishes that supply. He stated that given the imbalance between supply and demand, we must begin to think about water resources in a broader sense by maximizing opportunities that integrate low impact development (LID), land use zoning, groundwater basins, stormwater, and wastewater treatment while also considering the impact of climate change, greenhouse gases, and other environmental concerns.



CWEA LABS enjoying an outdoor lunch at World Cafe in Santa Monica

The presentation discussed how much of California's surface freshwater supply is imported (e.g., from the Colorado River) which is becoming more threatened as resources dwindle (US Climate Change Science Program). Additionally, an overall warming trend is anticipated to reduce the California snowpack which also provides freshwater in the spring through snowmelt (California Climate Change Center). Energy, water, and greenhouse gases are closely related in California and an evaluation of alternative water sources recently found reuse to require the least energy, followed by groundwater sources, surface water sources, and desalination (Bob Wilkinson). It was also noted that combining water quality and water supply through the use of LID and green solutions could reduce runoff and pollutants while simultaneously saving energy and reducing greenhouse gases.

Mr. Beckman concluded with a poignant message that nature is taking us in a direction requiring a different response than agencies have taken for the past 50-60 years. He stated that it is critical to recognize the connections we have not evaluated in the past in order to stay ahead of the curve in the future. Following the presentation, Mr. Beckman took several questions from audience members. Many thanks to Mr. Beckman, LABS officers, and those in attendance for the success of this event.



Audience members take notes (lt), speaker David Beckman (ctr), and interested parties ask questions upon conclusion (rt).



LABS Hosts A Luncheon Tour and Tacos Event at the Disney Concert Hall

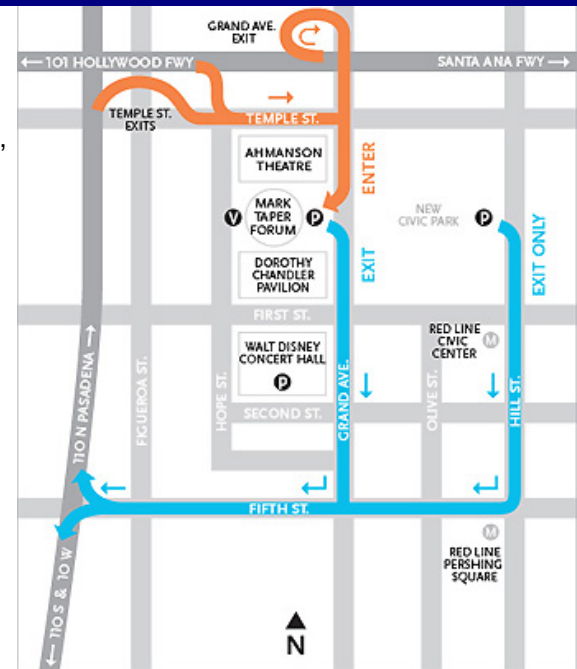


Thursday, February 17, 2011 Tour 11 am - noon, Tacos at noon



Join the Los Angeles Basin Section of CWEA for a **Tour and Tacos luncheon Event** featuring the **Walt Disney Concert Hall**, designed by architect **Frank Gehry**. The tour of Walt Disney Concert Hall is architectural in nature, focusing on the projects history from conception to completion as well as significant highlights of prominent interior and exterior areas of the building.

The interior spaces include viewing the Library of Congress/Ira Gershwin Gallery. Walt Disney Concert Hall is the only venue in which the Library of Congress has allowed artifacts from their facility to be displayed. The Gallery is changed every 6 – 8 months and focuses on a specific subject such as Music and Architecture. The exterior levels include the almost 1 acre Blue Ribbon Garden where the lovely Lillian Fountain is located and the 5th level Aerial Pathway which offers guests a wonderful view of downtown Los Angeles.



**Pay at the door: CWEA members \$25
non-members \$30 / students or retirees \$15**

LUNCH

After the tour enjoy authentic Mexican tacos at the gourmet taco stand on the Music Center plaza
Lunch includes:
choice of **3 Tacos** (beef, chicken, pork, or bean) any combo and drink.

RSVP

Respond by February 10th
wwert@lacs.org
email preferred
or phone Wendy Wert
562.908.4288 ext. 2128

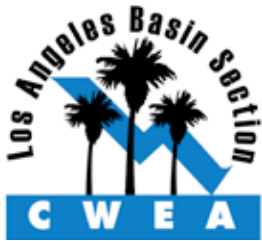
LOCATION

Disney Concert Hall
111 South Grand Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90012

www.labsforcwea.com



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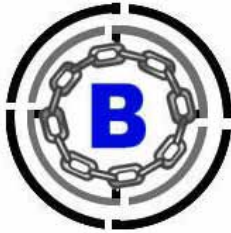
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April 12th-15th CWEA Annual
Conference; Ontario,
<http://www.labsofcwea.com/>

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