Water Utility Science Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2021

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. WATER UTILITY SCIENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

* Three Associate’s Degree/Certificate of Achievement/Certificate of Proficiency programs in Water Treatment, Water Distribution, and Wastewater
* Six Certificates of Proficiency, three in the same areas as the AS/COAs, plus Water Conservation, Water Equipment O&M, and Water Utility Management
* Upcoming Automation (Electronic Technology” Certificates
* We have ~1000 enrollees per school year (many of our students are counted multiple times)

1. Update since last advisory meeting

* Online course enrollment is up over the previous school year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, over ~75% of all Water students
* All seven courses for Certificate of Achievement in Water Treatment are offered online each year
* Working with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California’s Apprenticeship Program for Water Treatment course enrollment
* Revisions to most Certificate and A.S. degree programs to include more elective courses
* California Water Service Company providing scholarships and pursuing apprenticeship program student enrollment.
* Offering courses in hybrid format this semester, plus more 8-week courses
* Revisions to most Certificate and A.S. degree programs to include more elective courses
* Three new courses approved by SCC Curriculum and Instruction Counsel:
  + Water 060 – Utility Maintenance and Construction
  + Water 074 – Water Quality Laboratory Analysis
  + Water 080 – Introduction to Wastewater Treatment

1. current plans for the coming year

* Continue the development and advancement of a four-course program in Automation (“Electronic Technology”)
* Work with Public Administration, Code Enforcement, and Water Utility Management to have more “Stackable Certificates”
* Continue to work with local high schools and Veterans’ office on campus

1. Community/Industry Update & Employment Needs

* Effort to Expand Internships:
  + Job Developer is Caroline Fortuno
  + On-going Apprenticeship program with Metropolitan Water District of So. Cal.
  + On-going Internship programs:
    - Orange County Sanitation District
    - East Orange County Water District
    - Rowland Water District
  + Cal Water Apprenticeship Program
* Water Utility and Public Works Career Resource Fair on campus
  + In lieu of the on-campus Career Resource Fair each semester, we held a Career Webinar Series over 2 days featuring Inland Empire Utilities Agency, City of Newport Beach, City of San Juan Capistrano, and Moulton Niguel Water District. Agency representatives discussed current and future opportunities and provided information on the organization.
  + Next Career Webinar Series is scheduled for the week of May 3rd.
* Other Community/Industry Discussion items?
  + How can we ensure the material is relevant and valuable?
  + What current and future industry trends may affect what is being taught in the classroom?
  + What curriculum adjustments, if any, need to be made to ensure the needs of the field are being met?
  + Does the curriculum focus on the required job skills necessary to be successful in this career?
  + What state of the art equipment do we need to incorporate into the curriculum?
  + Will you hire someone with the skills learned in this program?
  + What does the job market look like in the next 1-5 years in the water industry?

V. Program Improvement Discussion

* Recruitment strategies
  + Working with OUSD to offer Introduction to Water Science classes at local high schools.
  + Advertising in CA-NV AWWA Source magazine and web site
  + Advertising in CWEA web site