

# 2002 In Hindsight

- Early Identification of unacceptable outcomes
- Focus on maintaining effective working relationships
- Better use of science to support decisions
- Early Warning, Early Warning, Early Warning



## **ABSTRACT**

Eric Kuhn

The 2002 drought required the implementation of extraordinary measures to meet the needs of water users throughout the District

The winter of 2002 began as a dry winter, but not unusually dry. A dry and warm spring turned 2002 into a record dry year.

To meet water demands, District water users had to carefully manage existing storage, arrange for alternative supplies, reduce demands to minimum critical levels and develop new partnerships.

The efforts of the District and its water users were successful, maybe too successful. Despite the severity of the 2002 drought, with the exception of the agricultural sector, most District residents were not inconvenienced. Questions remain as to whether or not the District is better prepared to live through the next severe drought.

## **ERIC KUHN**

General Manager of the Colorado River Water Conservation District.

Eric earned his Bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of New Mexico and a Masters degree in Business Administration from Pepperdine University in California.

Prior to working for the River District, he served as an engineer officer aboard nuclear submarines in the U.S. Navy and worked as a nuclear start-up engineer for Bechtel Power Corporation.

Eric started employment with the River District in 1981 as Assistant Secretary-Engineer. His responsibilities since then have included technical management of River District activities such as Taylor Draw Dam and Reservoir, Wolford Mountain Reservoir, water marketing, interstate water issues, and integrated project operations. He has served on the Engineering Advisory Committee of the Upper Colorado River Compact Commission since 1981.

In July 1996 Eric assumed his current duties as General Manager of the Colorado River Water Conservation District. From 1994 through 2001, Eric served on the Colorado Water Conservation Board representing the Colorado River mainstem. In 2006, Eric was appointed by Governor Owens as an at-large representative on the Colorado Interbasin Compact Committee.