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## *Yuba County Water Agency Accepts State's Highest Environmental Award*

Supervisors Roger Abe and John Nicoletti bookended Governor Schwarzenegger as he presented the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) with the 2009 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award for the "Lower Yuba River Accord" September 30 in Los Angeles. Conservation groups who assisted in completing the Accord, including The Bay Institute and Trout Unlimited, were also congratulated.

"This honor recognizes YCWA's commitment to the Lower Yuba River's salmon and steelhead and to our community's economic needs," said YCWA Chairman Sid Muck. "We're honored to be recognized by the Governor for our work."

The Yuba Accord established a new operational program for YCWA's facilities, including the new Bullard's Bar Dam and Reservoir, allowing the Agency to increase in-stream flows

along 24 miles of the Lower Yuba River.

"The Lower Yuba is one of California's signature salmon streams," noted YCWA Director John Nicoletti. "The Yuba Accord's fisheries provisions, including higher flows and a \$6 million monitoring and evaluation program, will benefit the lower Yuba's fisheries."

Seventeen organizations worked on the Accord to protect fish, farmers and the local economy.

### **Yuba Highlights:**

- Governor awards top environmental prize to Yuba County Water Agency and partners
- Big Lem's Bar-B-Q opens new location
- Yuba County celebrates levee ribbon-cutting; encourages flood insurance coverage
- County resident Cotton Rosser inducted into Cowboy Hall of Fame
- In memoriam of Don Peterson and Steve Brammer

*New Restaurant Opening*

*“After 19 years in other areas, I am applying the same successful menu items and barbecued specialties here in Yuba County.”*

Lemuel Blackshire  
Owner & Manager  
Big Lem's Bar-B-Q  
1632 North Beale Road



## *New Business Spotlight: Big Lem's Bar-B-Q*

There's a new barbecue in town and it's fired up and operated by the Blackshire's, a husband and wife culinary team. The mouth-watering seafood, southern-fried catfish and meat combinations are being served up at 1623 North Beale Road in Linda.

Big Lem's Bar-B-Q and Soul Food opened for

business December 8, 2009, but the Louisiana-style lunch and dinner specials have been perfected over nearly two decades by the Blackshire couple.

The new restaurant features dine-in, take-out, or catering for all occasions. Hours are 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday.



## *Don Peterson: Yuba County Loses an Icon*

More Yuba County, California information online at:

[www.yuba.org](http://www.yuba.org)  
[www.chooseyuba.com](http://www.chooseyuba.com)

### **Yuba County Board of Supervisors:**

**Andy Vasquez,  
Supervisor, District 1**

**John Nicoletti,  
Chairman, District 2**

**Mary Jane Griego,  
Vice Chair, District 3**

**Roger Abe, Supervisor,  
District 4**

**Hal Stocker, Supervisor,  
District 5**

**Yuba County  
Government Center  
915 8th Street  
Marysville, CA 95901  
530.749.7575**

Yuba County turned to Don Peterson and his company, Peterson Consulting, Inc., in 1994 to act as an advocate for issues that rose to the state level. Besides Yuba County, Peterson Consulting and Don's partnership in Strategic Local Government Services served 22 California counties and other agencies, including the Yuba County Water Agency and Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority.

Sadly, Don Peterson, a Loma Rica resident, passed away December 11 following a prolonged battle with pancreatic cancer.

“When Don passed

away, we really lost a gem in Yuba County,” said County Administrator Robert Bendorf. “The things that he accomplished on our behalf will have benefits that our region will enjoy for many decades to come. We were fortunate to have him on our side, and he will be greatly missed.”

Don was instrumental in numerous county projects and cost savings, including the buyout of trial court funding costs and the widening of Highway 70 in the south region. More recently, he was instrumental in researching and negotiating on behalf of Yuba County to help secure much of the \$400

million in levee improvements.

Don consistently made himself directly available to all Yuba County management, department heads and elected officials who relied upon his knowledge and deep access to State leadership, and his ability to carry the concerns and messages of rural California counties.





## *Celebrating Enhanced Flood Protection and Promoting Flood Awareness in Yuba County*

More than 200 people celebrated the completion of the Feather River Levee Improvements — a project designed to provide 200-year flood protection to 40,000 residents in south Yuba County — during an October 26, 2009 ribbon-cutting ceremony,

“The Upper Yuba River work is all that stands between us and the strongest flood protection in Northern California,” said Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority Board Chair Mary Jane Griego. “This is a significant achievement of our community, and we appreciate the State’s continuing support for our program.”

The Feather River

Levee improvements, part of the TRLIA’s \$405 million levee improvement program, includes the state’s longest setback levee at six miles in length. The 13 miles of new and improved levees along the Feather River also provide regional flood protection and environmental benefits. The State is covering nearly half of the cost of the overall program.

By 2011 TRLIA should have completed the final levee improvement phase along the Yuba River to the north-east of the Feather River setback levee.

For more information, visit [www.trlia.org](http://www.trlia.org).

Despite the significant work that has been completed, there is always some risk of flooding. Homeowner’s policies do not cover flood damage, leaving many residents potentially at risk.

Yuba County strongly recommends flood insurance. The National Flood Insurance Program provides low-cost flood insurance policies starting at \$119 per year.

“It’s Flood Season. Get Covered” will be seen on billboards, transit shelters, County vehicles and direct mailers and also be featured on KUBA radio.

For more information, visit [www.yuba.org/floodinsurance](http://www.yuba.org/floodinsurance).

### *Feather River Levee Setback*

#### **Quick Points**

- A new levee along the Feather River is “set-back” further from the river to allow greater water flow
- Its six-mile length represents the largest set-back levee system in California
- A ribbon-cutting ceremony October 26, 2009 celebrated greater protection



### **TRLIA**

#### **Address:**

1114 Yuba Street, 218  
Marysville, CA 95901

#### **Contact:**

[www.trlia.org](http://www.trlia.org)  
Phone: 530.749.7841  
Fax: 530.749.6990

#### **Hours:**

Open: Monday through  
Friday  
8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.



**County of Yuba  
Strategic Plan**

We are committed to providing responsive, innovative and sustainable services that enhance the quality of life and uphold the public trust and interest.



Supervisor Mary Jane Griego poses with producers of "No Parking," a film shot partially at Duke's Diner in Olivehurst, CA

The Yuba County E-Note is published quarterly. Questions and comments can be addressed to:

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*Yuba County is Cotton Rosser Country  
Rodeo Hall of Fame Induction*

In 1952 Cotton Rosser set up a ranch and eventually a rodeo production company in Yuba County. The Flying U Rodeo Company and Ranch gained a little more notoriety when Cotton was inducted into the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum Rodeo Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City October 25, 2009.

"I got into the rodeo business in 1956 and have been going ever since," said Cotton. "It's provided for my whole family. I didn't get rich,



but I've lived rich and I've got to live my dream. It's been a great life."

Cotton opened Cotton's Cowboy Corral, a western-style store, in 1956 in downtown Marysville.

John Nicoletti, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, presented Cotton with a County resolution at the ceremony. Cotton has also been inducted into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in 1995.

*Steve Brammer: In Memory of a Regional  
Economic Development Champion*

Stephen W. Brammer was the President and Chief Operating Officer of the Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corporation (EDC) since January, 2007. He began his employment with the EDC eleven years ago as its Loan Administrator.

He was a member of the Boards of Directors for the Yuba-Sutter Economic Development

Corporation, Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce, California Innovation Center, Inc., International Credit Association, Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Sacramento, Credit Grantors of the Sacramento Valley, the Sacramento YMCA, and he was past Chairman of the Yuba City Planning Commission.



Steve passed away November 3, 2009 and will be missed for his local leadership, regional optimism, and outstanding volunteerism, particularly with Veteran's groups.