

The Quote

Richard Brady & Associates

IT'S NOT JUST A LINE

On December 11, 2001, the San Diego Business Journal and the San Diego Workforce Partnership designated Richard Brady & Associates (RBA) as one of the best companies to work for in San Diego. Though winning the award was a great honor, it didn't come as much of a surprise to the employees who nominated their company and leader for the award.

"Most companies only want to know what their employees can do for them, but here it's a give and take situation," said Sean Manning, a Project Manager with RBA. "Each person in this office plays an important role and we're all aware of it. We're a team."

Ask anyone who works for RBA and they will tell you the same thing. During a time when unethical business practices are spotlighted daily on the nightly news and a blindfolded public is constantly taking the hit for some hidden scandal, honesty and mutual respect are the key priorities for Rick Brady and his team. It is a philosophy that RBA stood behind yesterday and will stand behind tomorrow.



FARFETCHED OR CREATIVE?

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This might pique your interest. As we all know, southern California's water comes from only two places: the Colorado river and the State Water Project. Unless we turn our time and money towards the ocean for expensive desalination technology, this is what we're left with. Right?

Not so claims Alaskan bulk water entrepreneur Ric Davidge, who has placed an interesting proposal on the laps of the Coastal Commission and the State Water Resources Control

Board. The plan: draw 6.6 billion gallons of water from the Albion and Gualala rivers in northern California, pump it to an offshore station where it can be stored in massive poly-fiber bags the length of a navy warship, and then tow it to San Diego via a tug boat.

Outrageous or creative; this is the question. Davidge admits that his proposal will raise a few eyebrows, but contends that it is responsible both ecologically and financially. However, while some are simply puzzled by the (Continued on page 3.)

DESIGN: THEN & NOW

Question: Can you name one new invention to make an appearance after 1980? Smaller. Faster. Cheaper. Sure. But, completely new and something that has never been thought of before. That is a little more difficult.

I'm not so old that I don't remember the good old days of putting original mylar in the flat file. I've always been much more concerned with figuring out which CADD file was most current or how the drawing was layered. But, I have heard the stories. A time when there was only one drawing to worry about and the layer was ink or pencil. Care to make a copy of a drawing? The smell of blueline in the morning is as good as ten cups of coffee, for the whole office.

Perhaps it's not too much of a stretch to say, as silly as it may sound, but everything that can be designed has been designed. I still refer to college textbooks on my shelf. Designs still use standard details created decades ago. Treatment plant design is still about loading rates and detention times, all solved with concrete and steel. Most reservoirs are still circular.

I'm not advocating a return to pencil and mylar. However, a person skilled at operating a computer does not necessarily make a good designer. The defining characteristic, rather, is the service that goes with that circular pipe or tank. This is what we're about at Richard Brady & Associates ... the traditions, skills, and personal service of the designers who paved the way before us.

-The Editor



Richard Brady & Associates
Civil Engineers and Construction Managers

FARFETCHED OR CREATIVE?

idea, others are genuinely concerned and worried.

"They've come to the wrong place," said Bernie Macdonald, Mendocino County's Green Party secretary. "We're prepared to go as far as we have to go."

This sort of sentiment has found a home with many vocal Mendocino county residents, a contingent made up of "latter-day hippies, environmentally minded urban refugees and nature-loving merchants of tourism," said Eric Bailey, a staff writer for the Los Angeles Times. "They are a battle tested bunch. In the 1960s, North Coast activists beat back a nuclear power plant. They defeated offshore oil in the 1980s and fought to save the redwoods in the 1990s."

In many ways, making this proposal a reality is the golden key for Davidge and his partners. Though, doing so means winning over the hearts and minds of politicians, regulators, and a grumbling northern California public.

"We're not" serious about the proposal, said City of San Diego Water Department spokesman Kurt Kidman. Not only will Davidge have to maintain the current \$444 per acre-foot price tag that San Diego now pays for water, but he'll also have to do it without inciting a water war between northern and southern California residents. It truly is a tall order. "We're not out to steal anyone's water," said Kidman.

The Details.

So, how exactly does Davidge plan to pull off this proposal? Well, Davidge wants to bury a 24-inch pipeline beneath the bed of each river, so that the water would actually come from the underflow of the alluvial layer. In doing so, Davidge contends that there would be minimal impact done to the river flow or fish migration and spawning, once the pipes are laid.

In addition, when questioned about his

decision to choose the Albion and Gualala rivers, his answers are clear cut. After studying 15 different coastal tributaries, Davidge concluded that because the waters in each of these rivers are unpolluted or host an ecological reserve, they are ideal by most standards.

In a sense, this has become Davidge's mantra. Whether it's in an answer to an angry e-mail, in an interview with a skeptical reporter, or at a speaking engagement at a town meeting, Davidge consistently states that his proposal will not do any harm. And if it did, Davidge says that he would cut his company off from the water source.

The Issues.

In spite of the fact that this proposal seems to have come from nowhere, it is actually a plan that has already been put to use between Turkey and Cyprus. There have been problems, however.

A lost bag off the stormy Cyprus coast, for one. It was later recovered unharmed, but other bags have been torn in the past, causing them to lose their cargo.

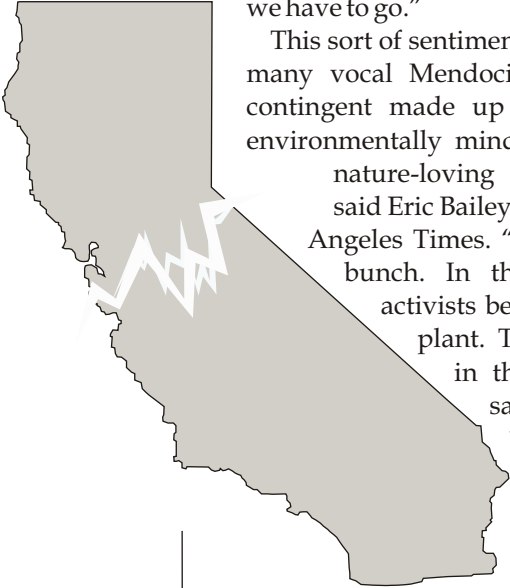
"There's the potential for these bags breaking loose, entangling in habitat. How do you get them out?" said Peter Douglas, executive director of the Coastal Commission. "There's just a whole range of issues raised by this proposal that are very serious."

What's to Come.

Currently Ric Davidge's proposal is undergoing a standard review process, which includes public review and comment. In the meantime, southern California's reliance on imported water is growing faster than supply permits, residents of northern California are pondering sabotage, and Davidge is stoking the fire in hopes of pushing his deal through.

Anderson, Glenda. "Alaska Firm Goes After County's Water." The Ukiah Daily Journal. January 31, 2002.

Bailey, Eric. "Plan to Bag Rivers May Not Float." The Los Angeles Times. March 2, 2002. pg. A1.





OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Joel Reyes has over twenty-four years of experience in CADD design, drafting, management, and systems administration for both the architectural and civil engineering industries. With of Joel's extensive experience and proficiency in Microstation , RBA is using him to help with the City of San Diego's Morena, Barrett, and Lower Otay Outlet Tower Improvements Project.

Bernard Cook has twenty-three years worth of experience in QA/QC, construction, and project management for new constructions, alterations, modernizations, and structural seismic retro-fit projects. In addition, Bernard has spent sixteen years teaching courses regarding construction management and inspection certification at both San Diego State University and Southwestern College. Currently, Bernard is an Inspector for the Torrey Pines Road and Sewer Improvements Project for the City of San Diego.

Sara Carnett received two BA degrees, one in Advertising and a second in Psychology, from the University of North Texas in May of 2000. After graduation, Sara has worked for DDB Needham, a world-wide advertising agency, and as a freelance graphic designer. In September of 2001, Sara took on the position of Marketing Coordinator at Richard Brady & Associates.

Steve Sharp has over thirty-five years of experience as a designer and drafter, with a particular emphasis in civil, water and wastewater, mechanical, piping, facilities, and environmental engineering projects in the southern California area. Currently, Steve is spending the bulk of his time completing the design and drafting work on the Overmyer Reservoirs for the City of Huntington Beach.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

What kind of traits would one have to possess in order to be thought of as, not only a good employee but, one of the best employees that a company has seen in a year's time?

Talented. Efficient. Smart. Determined. Sure, all of these adjectives are certainly a must. But, is hard working really the defining characteristic of a solid worker; one of the sort to earn the title of employee of the year? No. Words such as interesting, calm, and funny also come to mind. It's a difficult

task to meet someone who is able to marry these two descriptions into some sort of seamless balance. Or so one might think.

Allow us to introduce Sean Manning, P.E., our Employee of the Year. Good natured to a fault, Sean is just as likely to be the first person in the office on any given day as he is to shoot a rubber band at you on his way to a meeting. We would like to say congratulations and thank you to our Employee of the Year.

