

For SCVWD's 100th Birthday Commemoration for Sig Sanchez:

Sig was appointed to the Board of the Santa Clara Valley Water District in 1980, the same year that I started as a "junior engineer." Over the next 30 years, I grew up at the water district, watching Sig. It was my privilege to work closely with him on a number of water supply issues, negotiating agreements with other water districts, and State and federal agencies. We also served together on the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority Board. I watched how he dealt with difficult challenges, and learned how important it is to listen and understand the interests of others, to treat people with respect even if you don't agree with them, and try to build on common ground. It was clear that maintaining positive working relationships mattered.

He was a great mentor. I could count on Sig to give me good advice, even if it wasn't always what I wanted to hear. I can still remember him listening patiently as I described a potential water transfer, and at the end telling me politely but simply that the idea was "a loser." His long experience with people and public policy were invaluable in navigating the world of California water and securing a reliable water supply for Santa Clara County.

I am thankful to have known and worked with Sig for so many years. To this day, he is a great example of a life well-lived, a life full of family, friends and service to others. I wish him all the best for his 100th birthday (and years to come)!

Joan Maher

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