

June 18, 2016

Dedication of Highway Road Signs – Cool, California

John Kingsbury, Executive Director,
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

Thank you for this opportunity and it's a privilege to be here today in honor of Gene Chappie. Supervisor Ranelle, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, Senator Ted Gaines, and Assembly Member Frank Bigelow, and former Supervisor Briggs. thank you for making this happen.

While I never had the opportunity to meet Mr. Chappie, I have lived here in El Dorado County since 1979, worked at EID in the late 80's and 90's and truly appreciate the vision of an El Dorado icon, like Gene Chappie.

Several decades ago Gene Chappie had a vision to look to the future to develop and protect our natural resources in California, this region and El Dorado County.

One of those natural resources is water.

Water for domestic purposes, hydropower, agriculture, recreation, tourism, the environment and our economy.

As a founder of Mountain Counties WRA, Gene's leadership and vision helped prepare the region and the county for the water issues we are dealing with in present day.

The recent laws in 2009 set the stage for multiple policy and operational change implications for the mountain counties region, which, if not carefully monitored and strategically influenced, will significantly erode the water rights protections and local water use currently enjoyed by all of us here today.

Today, Mountain Counties WRA has taken the leadership role for the region by the horns and advocates for the water interests of its members in all or a portion of 16 mountain counties from the southern tip of Lassen to Fresno.

John F Kennedy said at the ground breaking of San Luis Reservoir in 1962, "Things don't just happen, he said, they are made to happen".

So our thanks to the Honorable Gene Chappie for is vision and will to help make Mountain Counties WRA happen.