

Fontana HERALD NEWS

[Print Page](#)

News

Fontana Water Company holds groundbreaking for new headquarters

By **BOB OTTO**

When General Manager Mike McGraw started with the Fontana Water Company in 1945, he was one of three employees. Fontana was a small agrarian community then, and the water company was a fledgling operation. But times have changed.

Fontana has grown rapidly, becoming one of the fastest growing cities in the state and country. And as Fontana has grown, so has the water company -- grown to the point of needing much more space to handle its day-to-day operations that serve more than 44,000 customers.

And that space will soon come about as the Water Company held a groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 18 for its new headquarters at 15966 Arrow Route, about a mile from its sprawling operation that lines the south side of Spring Street between Sierra and Juniper avenues.

McGraw said construction of the new headquarters is scheduled to be finished in the fall of 2008. The headquarters will sit on five acres and comprise a 26,000 square foot office building and a 14,000 square foot warehouse and garaging facility.

"We've got about 90 employees who currently park up and down Spring Street," said McGraw (pictured above), describing how the company has outgrown its current location. "The headquarters will accommodate all of our needs. It will be a source of pride for us, the city and its residents."

And it will also be energy efficient, meeting the standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council, meaning that the design and construction of the building addresses issues such as energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable site selection, water usage, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality.

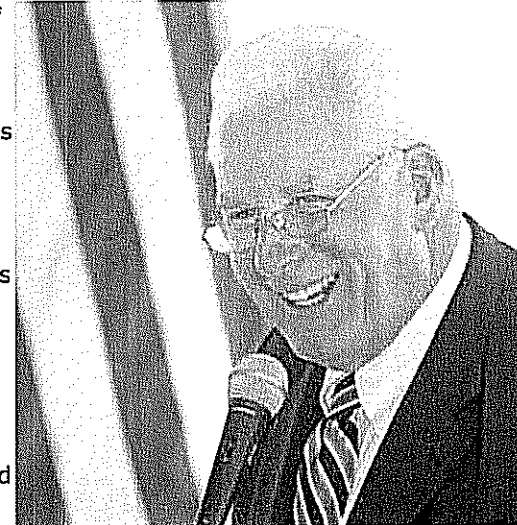
Guests at the groundbreaking included area politicians or their field representatives.

State Sen. Gloria Negrete McLeod talked about water problems affecting the state. She said that 30 percent of southern California's water comes from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. But a judge's ruling in early September has dried up that source.

"Water is a top issue," she said. "It's on everybody's lips. Water issues affect southern and northern California. It is a precious, precious resource."

Field Representative Amos Young represented Assembly Member Wilmer Amina Carter of the 62nd District. Young presented certificates of recognition to McGraw and Michael Whitehead, president of the water company, for their years of service to Fontana families. Certificates were also presented to company employees Terry McReynolds, Jacob Gonzales, and Chip Wideen as "Employees of Distinction."

"This is a fast-growing city and the water company has continued to serve the city well," said Young.



Raphael Trujillo, representing Congressman Joe Baca, commended the water company for its charity work during the holiday season and for building an energy efficient facility.

Whitehead said that the water company will continue to meet the needs of Fontana residents, providing a safe and reliable source of water.

"Fontana has emerged out of an agrarian economy," he said. "Today we have a growing, vibrant economy. We remain committed to serving the community."

[Print this story](#)

[Email this story](#)

Copyright © 2007 Fontana Herald News

[Top of Page](#)

Tel: (909)822-2231