

ASPA National Blog Entries By Lisa Beutler (2011-12)



Citizens and Science

<http://aspanational.wordpress.com/2012/04/19/just-the-facts-maam/>

<http://aspanational.wordpress.com/2012/07/10/five-questions-for-fact-building/>

Civility

<http://aspanational.wordpress.com/2012/03/21/top-10-wwwd-what-would-washington-do>

Collaboration/ Conflict Resolution

<http://aspanational.wordpress.com/2012/10/16/new-skills-for-complex-times/>

<http://aspanational.wordpress.com/2011/11/15/when-government-cant-get-along>

<http://aspanational.wordpress.com/2012/04/19/just-the-facts-maam/>

<http://aspanational.wordpress.com/2012/07/10/five-questions-for-fact-building/>

Budget

(Disasters) <http://aspanational.wordpress.com/2011/09/20/budget-cuts-emergency-response>

Water

(Governance) <http://aspanational.wordpress.com/2011/08/18/1249>

(Clean Water) <http://aspanational.wordpress.com/2011/10/19/happy-birthday-clean-water-act>

(Riker Act) <http://aspanational.wordpress.com/2011/12/22/a-damned-national-park>

(Salton Sea) <http://aspanational.wordpress.com/2012/01/31/can-this-sea-be-saved>

(Delta Tunnels) <http://aspanational.wordpress.com/2012/02/21/the-tale-of-two-tunnels/>

Clips

[Can this Sea be Saved?](#)

California, awash in red ink, may axe a Council that has never met in its 16-month existence. Called the Salton Sea Restoration Council, it was to jump start restoration efforts at California's largest lake and one of the world's most storied bodies of water.

Following events at the Salton Sea is a little like reading an overblown paperback novel where the writer should have shown restraint and ended the story after the first chapter. [Continue reading ...](#)

[New Skills for Complex Times](#)

By: Lisa Beutler The current round of Presidential debates has reignited an evaluation of government leadership. While we hear occasional nods to "working across the aisle," for the most part leadership is still portrayed as an individual pointing troops in ... [Continue reading ...→](#)

[A Damned National Park](#)

By Lisa Beutler This week marks the 98th anniversary of President Woodrow Wilson signing the controversial Raker Act. This Act allowed a dam to be built in Yosemite National Park and flood a less used section of the Park. Called ... [Continue reading ...→](#)

[When Government Can't Get Along](#)

By Lisa Beutler This week the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) moved to join federal litigation challenging an Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) policy on the removal of vegetation on flood control levees. Streams and river banks are ... [Continue reading ...→](#)

[Happy Birthday Clean Water Act](#)

By Lisa Beutler The Clean Water Act (CWA), a federal law designed to keep America's waterways safe and clean, just turned 39. Enacted on October 18, 1972, the CWA places restrictions on pollution levels and creates water quality standards for ... [Continue reading ...→](#)

[Budget Cuts & Emergency Response](#)

By Lisa Beutler Water –it's never where you want it when you want it. My last post was about the Texas drought. Dramatically book-ending that story are the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers gone wild, and the eastern seaboard hammered by ... [Continue reading ... →](#)

[Water: A Test in Governance](#)

By Lisa Beutler Mark Twain is oft credited with the phrase “Whiskey is for drinking; water is for fighting over” and many futurists predict future wars will be over water. For some of the ASPA members scattered across the globe, ... [Continue reading ...→](#)

[Just the Facts, Maam](#)

In a recent public planning workshop, one participant questioned the use of one scientific study over another. A different person questioned the validity of the alternative study. Sides were picked and positions hardened. Both speakers made logical arguments. The opposing studies both had acknowledged limitations. - [Continue reading ...](#)

[Five Questions For Fact Building](#)

More and more, public administrators must address polarizing issues daily.

At the same time, combatants question the traditional tools of analysis and fact finding. In a recent [post](#) (just the facts m'aam) I shared how an agency faced with some difficult decisions was pressed on its use of science. [Continue reading ...](#)

Top 10 WWWD (What Would Washington Do?)

Nearly daily a political figure or commentator demands a return to the principles of America's founding fathers. For a few of these speakers, incorporating colonial ideas on civility & decent behavior in company and conversation, might be very worthwhile. [Continue reading...](#)

The Tale of Two Tunnels

Worlds apart, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and a major California newspaper, spent last Sunday polishing headline stories on proposals to move water from north to south.

In California these stories typically pre-sage the next battle in the on-going Water Wars. The United Kingdom may not be far behind. Much of south and eastern England is in an official drought. The BBC story, tied to this week's Drought Summit, led with London Mayor Boris Johnson professing, "The rain it raineth on the just and the unjust, says the Bible, but frankly it raineth a lot more in Scotland and Wales than it doth in England." [Continue reading ...](#)