

Records Gazette - New water district building sprouts in Cabazon



Photo by Steve Moore for the Cabazon Water District

Water District

Calvin Louie, left, general manager of the Cabazon Water District, Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley and R.D. Cash, former board president of the water district, share a laugh after a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Cabazon Water District headquarters.

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by [Kelsey Waters](#)

With a cowboy hat and a humble smile, R.D. Cash, former president of the Cabazon Water District, spoke eloquently about ushering in a new age for the Cabazon Water District and celebrating the new 3,300 square foot building that now stands on Broadway beside the community center, child care facility and park area.

“Now, some of you may know the story about how Cabazon Water operated for decades out of an old fruit stand,” Cash said. “My uncle ran that 800-square-foot stand, which still sits along Main Street. Boy, we put that old headquarters to good use! Since 1954, the Cabazon Water District has upheld its solemn duty, delivering high-quality water to families, businesses and industry. And on this day, with a new era dawning, let’s take a moment to look back and see how far we’ve come.”

The new Cabazon Water District headquarters was dedicated Jan. 9, with key speakers Robert Field, an assistant county executive officer of the Economic Development Agency; Marion Ashley of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors; general manager of the Cabazon Water District Calvin Louie; and former board president R.D. Cash. The Palm Springs High School, Jr. Air force ROTC attended to present the colors, accompanied by the National Anthem, sung by LaWanda Butler of the Economic Development Agency.

The new headquarters has a kitchenette, board room, fire-proof file cabinet, a shower for field staff, drought resistant desert plants, low energy lighting and use of natural lighting and recycled building materials. Natural lighting and the use of native plants set an example of taking advantage of the resources and opportunities the desert terrain provides for its residents. The building was funded through the help of the Economic Development Agency, planned by architect Harvey Ellis Devereaux, built with construction consultant Rancho Mirage-based Holt Architects, Inc., and contracted by Doug Wall Construction, Inc.

“It’s wonderful to see that this is the final piece of the puzzle, for our civic center area in Cabazon,” said Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley. “There are other projects throughout the community, such as the Mt .San Jacinto Aquatics Center, which is also underway. This is a remarkable final piece of the puzzle. The whole old building would fit inside the board meeting of this new building.”

Supervisor Ashley spoke about Cabazon’s future saying, “Cabazon has the potential to be a main economic drive and job producer for Riverside County. There will be a lot generated from businesses that choose to relocate here.”

He added, “What they need is water, and we’ve got water now, and sewer. We’ll be working closely with the Cabazon Morongo Mission Indians to make it all a reality. The future looks bright—we have the potential to become a great center of job production. We can all look at our cups as half full now, and filling up. Enjoy these new beautiful facilities.”

Cabazon Water General Manager Calvin Louie said he is “ecstatic about the new facility.”

“When I first took up the helm of this board, our staff had to remember to turn off the electricity and our computers when we wanted to use the microwave, in that little fruit stand,” Louie said. “There was a threat in the Cabazon community of losing the water district, but it is, thanks to the community, this great community support, for people choosing to do what’s right over politics. This is what has made it possible for us to celebrate this milestone.”

The ceremony was made official with the snipping of a red ribbon with a giant pair of scissors, and tours of the new building.