

In Memoriam – Director R. M. “Cook” Barela



Director R. M. “Cook” Barela passed away on April 22, 2010 after a long struggle with cancer. Director Barela lived in Jurupa since 1984, most recently in the Indian Hills area. He served on the JCSD Board since late 2005. He was a very active Board member, working on water and sewer issues, and initiating the graffiti-removal committee. He also served as a Board member on the ACWA Groundwater Committee, the Chino Desalter Authority and Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Authority. He was elected to the Jurupa Unified School District Board in 1985. Director Barela was a retired Los Angeles Police Department officer and a veteran of the Vietnam War, having served with the Marines. He had recently published a book about his time in Vietnam. Upon his retirement from the police force, he obtained his Master’s degree in Christian Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. Director Barela is survived by his wife Mary Lou, two sons, five daughters and four grandchildren.