

E. Kendell Davis

No services will be held for former Sacramento Municipal Utility District general manager E. Kendell Davis, who died Monday in a Sacramento hospital following a heart attack he suffered March 25. He was 78.

Mr. Davis joined SMUD in 1956, first serving as director of power economics and then — from 1957 through 1971 — as chief counsel. He helped the customer-owned utility obtain power from other agencies and utilities before SMUD developed its own power plants and was instrumental in developing the 1970 contract between SMUD and Pacific Gas and Electric Co. over financing and operation of SMUD's Rancho Seco nuclear plant.

He also served as assistant treasurer, and then six months as assistant general manager before being appointed general manager in June 1971. During his term as SMUD's chief, the district moved into the nuclear age and more than doubled its power-generating capacity. He retired in late 1975, and later joined a Sacramento law firm, Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard, specializing in water and power law.

Born and raised in Iowa City, Iowa, Mr. Davis obtained a business administration degree in 1929 and a law degree in 1932 from the University of Iowa. He was the Illinois state director of the Federal Theater Project in the late 1930s and joined the solicitor's office of the Depart-

ment of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

After serving in the Navy during World War II, he briefly returned to Washington before accepting the position as assistant regional counsel in the Sacramento office of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Ten years later, he joined SMUD.

Mr. Davis was associated with numerous professional organizations over the course of his career and served on legislative committees for the California Municipal Utility Association and American Public Power Association.

He is survived by stepchildren, Philip Robinson of Simi Valley, Ventura County, and Esther Robinson of San Francisco; a sister, Gwendolyn Welsh of Iowa City; brothers, Richard Davis of Iowa City and William Davis of Colorado; and a friend, Kathryn Pike of Sacramento.