

# Abra Success Story



## ACWA/JPIA is Thrilled with Sage Abra HR and Payroll

### ACWA/JPIA

The Association of California Water Agencies/Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA) is a not-for-profit organization formed in 1979 by the water agencies of the state of California. It provides risk-sharing pools as a cost-effective form of risk management to meet the needs of its members for property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverage. It also provides training and other resources to its member agencies.

In other words, ACWA/JPIA keeps California water agencies out of "hot water".

### "HOT WATER"

However, at payroll time, they were finding themselves in hot water of their own. Payroll processing was time consuming, inefficient, labor intensive, and stressful. Their archaic payroll system



was no longer functioning well. They needed a solution, and that solution was the Sage Abra Payroll system.

### SAGE ABRA

"We are very happy with Sage Abra Payroll," says Dianna Sutton, Accounting Manager, "It has made our lives so much easier. Everything is done automatically, and it saves so much manual entry. What used to take a full day to complete, and then part of another day to correct, now takes only two hours at most, and we only have 35 employees, I cannot imagine how larger companies manage their payroll without a system like Sage Abra," she comments.

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**CHALLENGE:**  
Outdated, inefficient processing methods

**SOLUTIONS:**  
Sage Abra Payroll

**RESULTS:**  
Smooth, stress-free payrolls, plus a whole lot more!

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**“With Abra and Crystal Reports® I can now produce a report with a click of a button!”**

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Sutton is most impressed with how easy it is to generate reports. “With Sage Abra and Crystal Reports® I can now produce a report with a click of a button. This process would have easily taken several days before.”

## **CHALLENGES**

ACWA/JPIA had been using a home-grown customized Access database for payroll. This was adequate while the database creator was still with the organization. However, after losing its creator to retirement, the database became increasingly difficult to use. As a tool for processing payroll, it had become troublesome, at best.

ACWA/JPIA then switched to an outside service bureau, which only complicated their problems. “This product was not a good fit for our company,” Sutton stated. They used this service for only one payroll, and then they returned to their Access database and began searching for yet another payroll solution.

In addition to all of these challenges there was the issue of communication. Because HR and Payroll were set up as individual islands in relation to each other there was much repetition of tasks, especially when it came to data entry.

## **SOLUTIONS**

Nancy Stangel, Director of Administration, suggested Sage Abra Payroll. “I had been using Sage Abra HRMS for several years and found it to be outstanding,” she said. So they decided to give Sage Abra Payroll a try. “It was so easy to implement,” Sutton said, “payroll came out without any errors the first time. It made things like direct deposit, even if one check is going to multiple accounts, a piece of cake. Now there is no more duplication of effort, and when you have a small amount of people to do the job this helps so much.”

## **THE RESULT**

The improvements in efficiency and processing time have benefited the entire team. The headache of doing payroll has been eliminated and the HR and Payroll departments are now seamlessly interfaced. Team members are able to communicate needs between departments with ease, producing results with just the click of a mouse that previously would have been tedious and redundant. It really does make a difference when everyone is on the same page.

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