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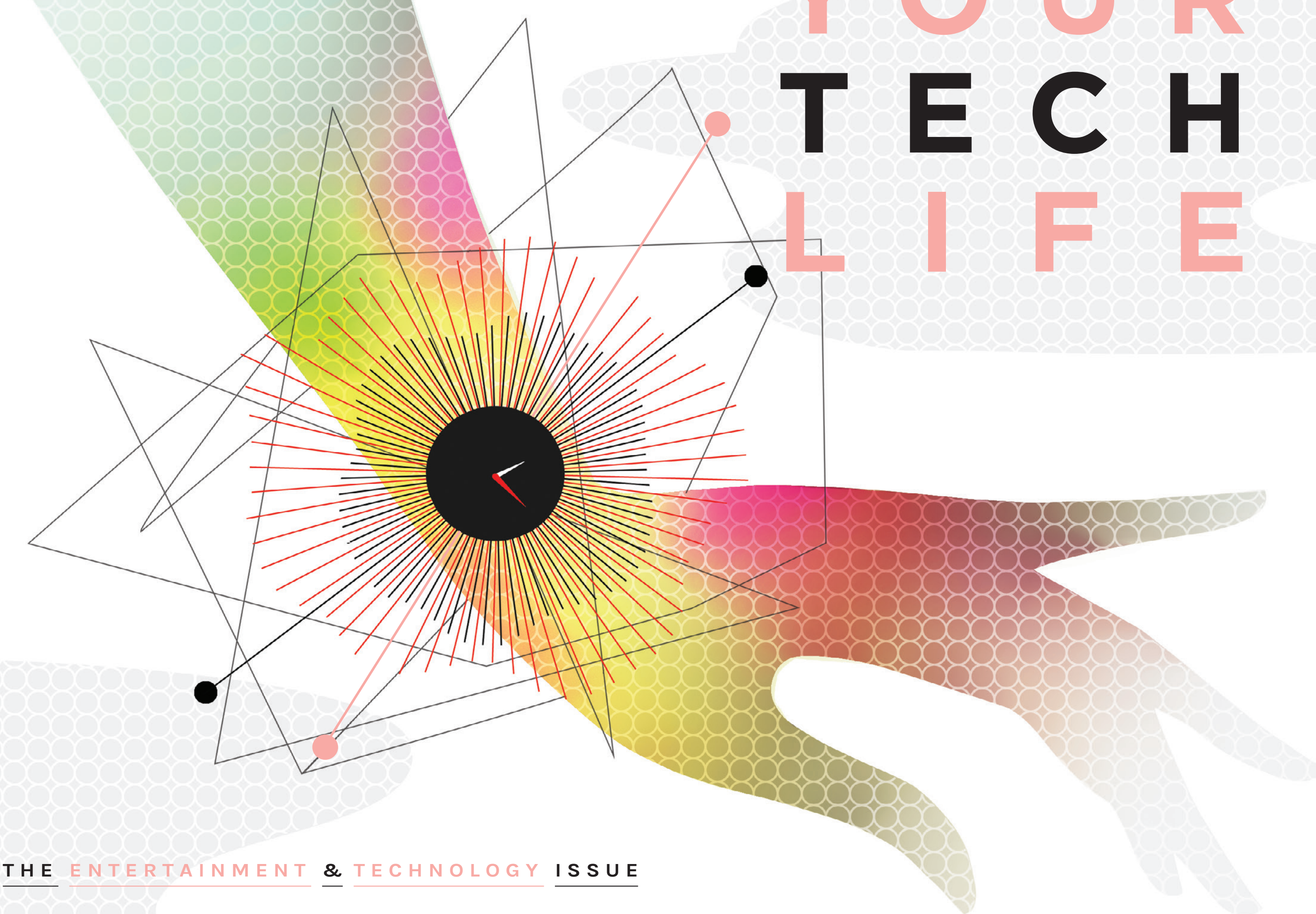

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Signature Estate & Investment Advisors LLC
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“The ‘H_2Opportunity’: Could water and infrastructure be the next wave of investing?”

By Gary K. Liska

Concerns are deepening over California's crippling drought as mandatory statewide restrictions are imposed and nontraditional solutions are sought out and explored with more vigor than ever before. Those solutions range from conservation to desalination, from water recycling to water importation via rail. Meanwhile, back East, congressional hearings continue to lambast Amtrak officials over delayed implementation of positive and safer train control technology.

It seems as though our nightly newscasts are becoming dominated by a steady stream of “crumbling infrastructure” stories, a concern that's more than justified; our nation's infrastructure not only fuels our economy, it serves as a principal source of job growth.

Furthermore, as candidates hit the campaign trail for 2016, infrastructure will also likely be an increasingly significant agenda item. And wherever there's politics, there's money. It's a perfect storm that will position our nation's infrastructure—in particular, water—as a key investment consideration in the coming years.

An overlooked commodity: Water is the essence of human existence, our most precious commodity. Yet we rarely think about water from an investment perspective. Those of us in developed nations have been conditioned to see water as a limitless resource. But by 2030, at current rates of growth, demand for water will likely exceed supplies by 40 percent, and it's estimated that around 47 percent of the world's population will be living in areas deemed to be under “high water stress.” The United Nations estimates that total annual spending on water infrastructure by developing countries will need to more than double, from a current $75 billion to $180 billion by 2030.[1]

Clearly, there is significant growth potential and numerous ways to invest in this often-overlooked sector. A number of mutual funds and ETFs seek to focus their investments on the water industry, tracking indexes such as the S&P Global Water Index. But it's not just the developing world where water investment opportunities exist.

The American Water Works Association estimates that the United States will need to invest nearly $1 trillion over the next 25 years to replace aging or faulty pipes. On a global perspective, water-infrastructure spending needs may approach $11.7 trillion between now and 2030, according to Janney Montgomery Scott.

As is the case with water, there are ways to invest in water infrastructure, both domestically and internationally. In addition to stocks, mutual funds and ETFs, municipal bonds have the potential to deliver reasonable returns and tax advantages, while affording you the opportunity to invest back into your community.

The domino effect of drought: Like water itself, the economic effects of drought spread out like tributaries from the source. Looking at the current California water shortage, industries dependent on water (agriculture, paper, petrochemical, silicon chips, etc.) will, at some point, begin raising prices to offset costs, which in turn will lead to wage pressures and inflation concerns.

As investors considering the growing worldwide water shortage, we need to think about the long-term “trickle-down” economic ramifications—and position our portfolios accordingly. Like any challenge or problem, however, there are inevitably attendant investment opportunities. . .a chance to *do well while doing good.*

Now is the time to talk to your financial advisor about water investment opportunities. At the very least, you might want to stock your cellar with some extra bottles of Stag's Leap before wine prices begin creeping higher.

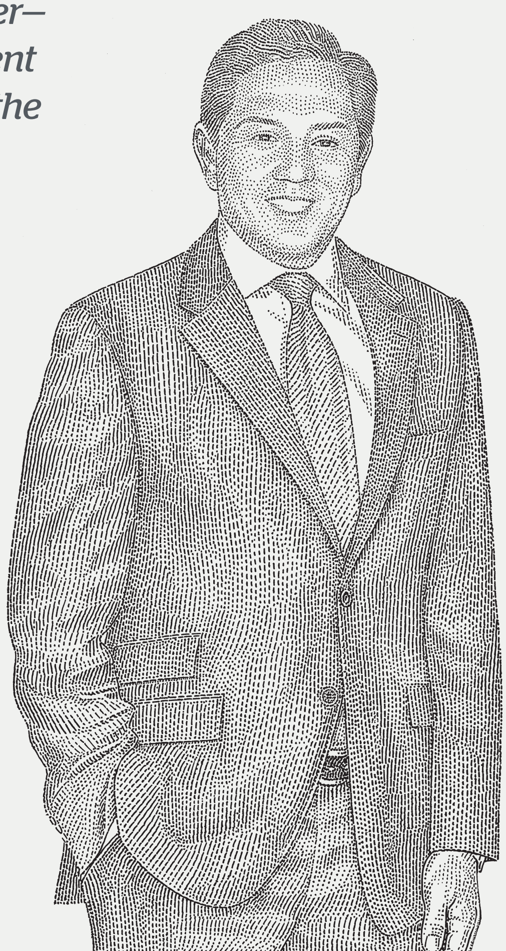
[1]Source: World Bank-sponsored 2030 Water Resources Group report.

"It's a perfect storm that will position our nation's infrastructure—in particular, water—as a key investment consideration in the coming years"

—Gary K. Liska

How to reach **Gary K. Liska**

Please call my office at 310.712.2331 *to schedule a meeting, either over the telephone or face to face.*



MY FAVORITE COACH…

John Wooden

I NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT…

Kissing my wife and two sons

MY GOALS FOR THIS YEAR INCLUDE…

Improving my culinary skills

About Gary K. Liska

Gary K. Liska has been in the financial services industry since 1994 and is a founding partner of SEIA. Less than 17 years after its inception, SEIA reached the milestone of $4 billion in assets under management. Mr. Liska is a certified financial planner and holds a master of science degree in financial services and is a core member of SEIA's investment committee. He specializes in comprehensive wealth management strategies for individuals, as well as corporations. Mr. Liska has completed the AIF (Accredited Investment Fiduciary) designation.

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ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN SPROULS

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