

URBAN WATER INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER



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Urban Water Institute's Annual Conference: Drought Leads Conference Topic

Urban Water Institute Annual Conference

"Message From A Bottle - An S.O.S. For Western Utilities"

You are cordially invited to attend Urban Water Institute's Annual Water Conference on September 8-9, 2021 at The Westin South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa.

The theme is: "Message From A Bottle - An S.O.S. For Western Utilities." Specifically, our SOS features: Sources, Organizations & Sustainability.

The Westin South Coast Plaza is located at 686 Anton Boulevard, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

UWI has a special conference rate of \$120 per night plus tax. To make your room reservations, call The Westin South Coast Plaza directly at 714-540-2500 and reference Urban Water Institute. Please note the cut-off date for the group rate is August 27, 2021. You may also call Marriott Reservations at 1-888-236-2427 and mention you are attending the Urban Water Institute conference to make your reservation.

Daily parking is available on site for \$10 per day. Overnight parking is \$39.

Registration for this conference is \$325 Regular Member Registration (must be a UWI member with annual dues paid in full) and \$375 for Non-Members of UWI.

After September 1, 2021 registrations will be accepted at the door on a space available basis, with an additional \$25 administrative charge.



SAVE THE DATE: September 8-9, 2021 @ The Westin South Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa.

**\$290 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL Urban Water Member
Registration Fee for Conference (Deadline: August 12,
2021). Register at www.UrbanWater.com.**

**For more information about the UWI
Annual Conference, please contact
Stacy Davis at Urban Water Institute
at (949) 679-9676.**

Day 1 - September 8, 2021: Sources

The Western U.S. and California are in the throes of a Mega-Drought! Key officials from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, along with General Managers from three California Utilities open the conference with an up-to-date reality check on the drought and adaptations.

Reclamation's Drought Assessment



Michael Bernardo, USBR,
River Operations Manager,
Lower Colorado Basin Region

Mr. Bernardo will discuss the current Colorado River drought, projected near-term reservoir operations, and the implications of a Lower Basin shortage conditions and the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) on operations in 2022.



Rebecca Smith, Ph.D., USBR,
Civil Engineer, Lower Colorado
Basin Region's Research &
Modeling Team, University of
Colorado, Boulder

Dr. Smith will discuss uncertainty and related research efforts, the impacts of climate and drought on streamflow, and a longer-term outlook for reservoir conditions.



John Thornton, Partner, Water Resource Consultant, Hunt Thornton Resource Strategies, LLC & Treasurer, Urban Water Institute

Thornton will moderate the opening panel.

Thank You Sponsors!



Day 1 - September 8, 2021: Sources (continued)

California Water Agencies Plan, Act, Survive

Southern California



Bill Hasencamp, Manager For Colorado River Resources, Metropolitan Water District

Mr. Hasencamp will discuss Metropolitan's assessments, plans, and responses to the Colorado River drought conditions, to provide water to Southern California users.

California's Central Valley



Cannon Michael, President, CEO, Bowles Farming Company

What does the drought mean to the agricultural community? Cannon Michael will share his boots on the ground experience, insight and commentary.

Northern California



Ben Horenstein, General Manager, Marin Municipal Water District

MMWD is Marin County's largest provider of drinking water, serving a population of 190,300 in a 147-square-mile area of South and Central Marin County. The district owns and manages 21,600 acres of watershed land on Mt. Tamalpais and in West Marin. The primary source of water supply is rainfall captured in seven reservoirs, providing 75 percent of the water consumed each year. The remaining 25 percent is imported annually from the Russian River through an agreement with the Sonoma County Water Agency. Ben Horenstein will tell how MMWD is coping with the drought.

Sites: Promise, Partnerships and Drought Proofing



Jerry Brown, Executive Director, Sites Reservoir Project Authority

Mr. Brown will reveal how the Sites Project can be a key part in drought proofing the entire state.



Jeff Davis, Former Chairman, San Geronio Pass Water Agency & Member, Sites Reservoir Committee



John Rossi, Chair, Urban Water Institute & Member, Rancho California Water District Board

Chair Rossi will moderate the Sites panel.

Become A Sponsor For The Conference

All sponsorship opportunities include the display of your company logo prominently visible in programs, presentation screens, posters, registration area and on the UWI website. For more information on how to sponsor the annual conference, please contact: 949-679-9676.

Day 1 - September 8, 2021: Organizations

Water utilities found ways to adapt to the challenges of the pandemic in terms of treatment operations, customer service, financial management, rate payer communications, governance and all aspects of utility management. As we emerge from the strict lock down requirements we will discuss some of these adaptations and whether they will become part of the new best practices. Experts and practitioners will share their messages from the bottle – focusing on observations and insights related to the utility business practices of the future.



Frank Ury, Director, Santa Margarita Water District

Director Ury will talk about the world of cybersecurity in SMWD. Has the pandemic heightened this risk? Are there new adaptations? A timely organizational dynamic topic for water professionals.



Raluca F. Constantinescu, PE, PMP, Principal I&C/Automation Engineer, Arcadis

Ms. Constantinescu is an expert on the nuts and bolts, electronics and impacts of cybersecurity. She will discuss risk management tactics for California's water utilities.



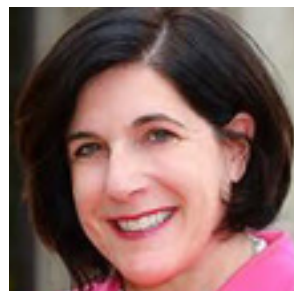
Steve Bucknam, President, Bucknam & Associates, Inc. & Board Member & Past Chair, Urban Water Institute UWI

Mr. Bucknum will moderate the first two panels on organizational dynamics.



Ron Williams, Senior VP, Jacobs

Mr. Williams will share his knowledge of how the pandemic has impacted the water utility business. What changes will be kept, what changes will be released, how will business be defined?



Shana Epstein, Director of Public Works, City of Beverly Hills

How did the pandemic impact operations in the City of Beverly Hills? The City of Beverly Hills is located in the middle of Los Angeles County, surrounded by the cities of Los Angeles, West Hollywood, Santa Monica and Culver City. Within its 5.7 square mile radius, Beverly Hills has approximately 34,000 residents with a business and commercial base that ranks next to cities with a population of several hundred thousand. The daytime population is estimated to be 150,000 to 200,000. As a full-service community, police, fire, water treatment, refuse collection and building inspections, among other services, are provided directly by the City. Beverly Hills has its own school district with a reputation for some of the best schools in the nation.

Join In The Fun, Hospitality & Networking



Urban Water Institute will be hosting a private outdoor reception for all registered guests and panelists.

Come enjoy the camaraderie, network with other water leaders and renew friendships within the industry.

This will be a special opportunity you will not want to miss.

Day 1 - September 8, 2021: Organizations (*continued*)

Water Utilities Dialogue: Us Too!

How and why utilities are creating environments that are diverse, welcoming new views and perspectives, designing utilities for the future.



Joone Lopez, General Manager, Moulton Niguel Water District

The MNWD provides water, wastewater and recycled water services to six cities in South Orange County. Prior to joining MNWD she served as GM of Calaveras County Water District and before that she was a police officer for the City of Pasadena where she received the Silver Medal of Courage.

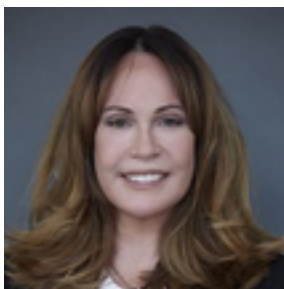
Ms. Lopez will share how a well-managed, pro-active water utility creates a healthy working environment that values all employees, respects diverse views to effectively serve their customers.



Rick Callender, CEO, Valley Water District

Mr. Callender, a longtime advocate for racial equality, established a new unit within Valley Water, the Office of Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. This office will ensure effective diversity and inclusion practices are in place internally and also within the communities Valley Water serves.

“I believe having these conversations around racial equity and taking a look at increasing our diversity and inclusion efforts will result in Valley Water transforming to an organization in which no one feels marginalized,” said Callender. “Programs like Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection are an opportunity to make sure everyone has a voice in the public safety and life sustaining services we provide.”



Lisa Ohlund, former General Manager, East Orange County Water District & Past Chair & Board Member, Urban Water Institute

With 38 years in the water industry, Mrs. Ohlund will moderate the panel on ‘Us Too’-workable organizational diversity activities.

Day 2 - September 9, 2021: Sustainability



Day 2 features Keynote Address by the newly appointed Metropolitan Water District General Manager, Legislative Updates, and Drought Proofing – San Diego Style!

Keynote Address

Introduced by UWI Chair John Rossi, our Keynote speaker, Metropolitan Water District General Manager Adel Hagekhalil (*at left*).

Mr. Hagekhalil will lead off on Day 2 of our conference.

Day 2 - September 9, 2021: Sustainability (*continued*)

Legislative Update



Eric Sapirstein, Owner, ENS Resources

After leadership positions at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington-based consulting firms, Eric Sapirstein founded ENS Resources, Inc., in 1986. For more than 20 years, his firm has focused on legislative and regulatory affairs consulting for local and regional governments as well as national organizations that serve the public's interests.

Mr. Sapirstein will report on the Infrastructure bill and other hot DC topics.



Cori Takkinen, Townsend Public Affairs

Since joining Townsend in 2011, Cori has successfully advanced their client's legislative priorities in Sacramento and Washington DC and secured over \$90 million in competitive local, state, and federal grants and legislative funding for our clients.

Ms. Takkinen will cover state legislative matters affecting water utilities.

Drought Proofing – San Diego Style

We start the conference addressing drought and will end the conference learning first-hand from the San Diego County Water Authority about their drought proofing approach.



Sandra L. Kerl, General Manager, San Diego County Water Authority

Ms. Kerl will describe current projects and programs underway at SDCWA.

Drought planning and mitigation have long been a cornerstone of the authority's board and executive staff priorities.

Today is no exception.



Dr. Greg Quist, Vice President Rincon del Diablo Water District
Past Chair, Urban Water Institute

Dr. Quist will introduce Ms. Kerl.

Don't Forget To Register For This Conference

DON'T FORGET

All guests at the Urban Water Institute's Annual Water Conference must be pre-registered to attend.

You can register online at www.UrbanWater.com and find out more information. Additionally, you may contact UWI at 949-679-9676.