

URBAN WATER INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER



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Urban Water Institute's Virtual Conference • February 17-18, 2021

A Path Going Forward Virtual Lively Interactive Conference

Urban Water Institute's February 2021 Virtual Conference Program mixes water legislative and policy issues with boots-on-the-ground candid conversations with Utility General Managers and showcases the challenges to California's agriculture as SGMA is implemented.



Thank You To The Sponsors Of Our Program



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

Conference registration is \$195.

Sponsorship opportunities available!

This webinar conference will be made available by Zoom.

Registered guests will need to additionally obtain a free Zoom account and download all necessary technical components at <https://zoom.us/>.

UWI Virtual Conference - February 17, (Day One)

12:00 PM

Pre-Conference Tutorial - *How To Navigate The Virtual Conference Experience*, with Travis Watson.

*Pre-Conference sponsored Door Dash lunch by Woodard & Curran

1:00 PM Opening Remarks & Introduction

Ane Deister, Urban Water Institute, will welcome and introduce the State & Federal Legislative Report.

View From Washington DC – Federal Report



A view from Washington DC. Has anything changed? Are we on a path forward?

Eric Sapirstein, ENS Resources, Inc. After positions at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington-based consulting firms, Eric Sapirstein founded ENS Resources, Inc., in 1986. For almost 30 years, his firm has focused on legislative and regulatory affairs consulting for local and regional governments as well as private sector interests concerned with the protection of the environment and promotion of sustainable energy and water resources policy at the national and state levels of government.



What is happening in Sacramento in 2021?

Eric O'Donnell, Townsend Public Affairs Since joining the firm in 2015, Eric has worked with the state and federal legislature to successfully pass client-sponsored legislation or kill bills that harm local agencies and erode local control. Eric has also helped secure millions of dollars in funding for cities, water districts, and local public agencies to support their critical projects and initiatives.

1:50 PM Break #1

There will be 5 breaks during this 2-day event. Each break will include a Water Trivia Question. You must act quickly as the question is time sensitive. There is time remaining during the break for you to network with other participants and drill down into details about panel topics and presenters.

2:00 PM Is There Light At The End Of This Tunnel? Update On Delta Conveyance

Matt Stone, General Manager Santa Clarita Valley Agency and UWI Board member and former UWI Chairman will moderate this panel.

As California moves forward to address water supply resilience, is it an "either a tunnel or local projects" decision?



Jennifer Pierre,
General Manager
State Water Contractors, Inc.



Tom McCarthy,
General Manag
Kern County Water Agency



Steve Arakawa,
Manager Bay Area Delta Initiatives
Metropolitan Water District Of
Southern California



Karla Nemeth,
Director
California Water Resources Department

2:45 PM Break #2

Trivia Question #2 - Test your knowledge of water trivia.

UWI Virtual Conference - February 17, (Day One)

2:55 PM Utility General Managers - Managing In Uncertain Times

Moderator Craig Miller, General Manager Western Municipal Water District and UWI Board member will engage 3 top water utility managers in a thought-provoking, interactive dialogue about managing water utilities during a pandemic.

Three top utility managers engage in an open dialogue to discuss how the pandemic has affected their operations and the response of their customers.



Paul Cook,
General Manager
Irvine Ranch
Water District



Steve Welch,
General Manager
Contra Costa
Water District



Deven Upadhyay,
Assistant General Manager
Chief Operating Officer
Metropolitan Water District Of
Southern California

3:35 PM Break #3

Trivia Question #3 - The person with the most correct answers completed in the fastest time is the winner.

3:45 PM Water Leaders Looking Forward - Climate Change Adaptations

Cora Kammeyer, Pacific Institute, will moderate this panel.

The most recent class of the Water Education Foundation's Water Leaders program reports on their 'take' in dealing with Climate Change as a pathway forward.



Stan Ali,
Contra Costa
Water District



Dakan Barksdale,
City Of Vallejo



Liz DaBramo,
Woodard & Curran

4:25 PM Break #4

Trivia Question #4 - Amazon Gift Cards for the Top 3 Water Trivia Winners.

4:35 PM Not Out Of The Woods - Wildfires!

Andree Johnson with Woodard & Curran and UWI Secretary of the Board will moderate this panel. Wildfires in California and the impacts of climate change are linked requiring forestry managers, fire protection and water officials into a dynamic dialogue with California policy leaders.

"A house you can rebuild; a bridge you can restring; a washed-out road you can fill in. But there is nothing you can do about a tree but mourn." Louise Dickinson Rich



Chief Thom Porter,
Director
CAL FIRE



Jared Blumenfeld,
Secretary
California Environmental Protection Agency



Bill Dodd,
Senator
CA State Senate,
District 4



Jay Jasperse,
Chief Engineer & Director
of Groundwater Management
Sonoma County Water Agency

**In the event Chief Porter is unexpectedly not able to participate, Craig Tolmie will represent CAL FIRE.*

UWI Virtual Conference - February 17, (Day One)

5:35 PM Virtual Wine Tasting And Story Telling - UWI Reception

Join us as several UWI Board members share with us a favorite wine, with a story about why it is a favorite. Participants will vote at the end of the presentations – is it a true story or a tall tale!

Chairman Rossi will also provide status of the trivia game – letting us know how many participants are in the lead at the end of day 1.

UWI Virtual Conference - February 18, (Day Two)

9:00 AM Utility General Managers – Town Hall

Kevin Hunt, Urban Water Institute Co-Founder will moderate this panel. Meet some General Managers recently appointed. Interactive discussion about being a new GM in the California utility world today.



Larry McKenney,
General Manager
Amador County
Water District



Sandy Kerl,
General Manager
SDCWA



Rick Callender,
General Manager
Valley Water

9:50 AM Break – Last (#5) Trivia Question

10:00 AM Potential Impact Of implementing SGMA In The San Joaquin Valley

Jason Phillips, CEO Friant Water Authority, and UWI board member will moderate this series of presentations related to the nexus of California agriculture and implementation of SGMA.

Up to 1 million acres of productive farmland could be retired. That is up from the 750,000 acres projected in 2019 as the more likely scenario by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). Up to 85,000 jobs will be lost each year, with 45,000 of those being farmers, farmworkers and other ag roles. The unemployment rate will increase by 4% for the region, which is already among the highest rates in the state, and rise to as much as 12%. Wages will take a \$2 billion hit.

Annual farm revenue losses will be \$7.1 billion. The valley's lowest-income communities will take a disproportionately large share of these impacts,...and the worst part is that this will happen every year into perpetuity (reported in the AgriPulse December 2, 2020).

SGMA Impact On California Agriculture - To Continue Farming Or Not

Studies reveal an alarming number of acres at Risk of going out of production due to SGMA Compliance.



David Sunding Ph.D, UC Berkeley What is the problem and how bad is it? Dr. Sunding reports up to 1 million acres of productive farmland will be retired as a result of SGMA impacts.



Bill Diedrich,
Farmer, Chair, San Luis Water District
ACWA Ag Committee Chair



Jason Gianquinto,
General Manager
Semitropic Water Storage District

UWI Virtual Conference - February 18, (Day Two)

10:55 AM Adaptations To Preserve California Agriculture - *How To Survive SGMA And Continue Farming*

The California Ag industry isn't sitting back waiting for the world to change—again. Real Farmers weigh into the discussion.



Scott Hamilton, Ph.D.
Hamilton Economic Resources
San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint



Eric Averett,
Rosedale Rio Bravo Water Storage District
SGMA Management Strategies For the Kern Fan



Steve Etchegaray,
Owner Etchegaray Farm & President, Eastern Tule White Area Growers, Inc.
Potential Impacts And Solutions Fom A Farmer

12:00 NOON – Conference Wrap Up, Trivia Game Prize Award Winners

Chair John Rossi, Urban Water Institute

(Winners Must Be Present To Win)

Save The Date - 27th Annual Water Conference, August 18-20, 2021



Urban Water Institute
Presents The
27th Annual Water Conference

August 18-20, 2021

Conference Location

Hilton San Diego Resort & Spa
1775 East Mission Bay Drive
San Diego, CA 92109



For more information, sponsorship opportunities and conference registration, please contact Urban Water Institute at (949) 679-9676 or stacy@urbanwater.com. Please continue to visit www.UrbanWater.com for future updates.