

URBAN WATER INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER



Term: Winter | Issue 9 | Date: January 1, 2021

UWI Virtual Conference - February 17 and 18, 2021

Finally, 2021 is here! As we all take a deep breath and consider how 2021 might shape up one thing to put at the top of your list is the **UWI Virtual Conference - February 17 and 18, 2021**.

In past years we would have held the conference for three days in Palm Springs. But the uncertainties of COVID-related restrictions moved us into the virtual conference world.

We will begin at 1:00 pm on February 17th with speakers and panels, plus game questions that will appear throughout the conference.

The conference opens with a report from the United States Capitol – describing changes and expectations. The recent Water Education Foundation Water Leaders class is one of the panels featured on day 1 – where they will discuss climate change adaptations. Other presentations that day are led by utility General Managers reflecting on COVID impacts. We will end day 1 with a virtual reception with six UWI Board members sharing a favorite wine and telling a story about why it is their favorite. At the end participants will vote on whether these stories are true or a tall tale! You don't want to miss that!



HAPPY NEW YEAR



The second day begins at 9:00 am, concluding at noon. The final two panel presentations are linked – providing a deep dive into the SGMA impacts on California Central Valley farmers.

We have purposefully constructed the conference to reduce Zoom-fatigue and allow participants to create their own side meetings – virtually. We will send out techno-tips a few times before the conference explaining the innovative networking opportunities and ways to maneuver the conference site. Lots of bells and whistles will be revealed so the conference participants can make the most of the event!

Watch for announcements for the conference or check out the UWI website to register and get this conference on your calendar.

UWI Virtual Conference - February 17, (Day One)



Report From Capitol Hill

Eric Sapirstein and **Congressman Ken Calvert** will open the conference with a robust report from the Hill. February news will be timely and provide insights to early changes and other activities underway in Washington, DC. We will learn how the administration changes may affect California water agencies. We are looking forward to what promises to be a scintillating presentation.



Leading The Way With Climate Change Adaptions

Water Leaders Stepping into the Spotlight

On Day 1 the most recent class of the respected Water Education Foundation Water Leaders program will lead a presentation on Climate Change Adaptations – Moving Forward.

Cora Kammeyer from the Pacific Institute will moderate this panel featuring presentations by 3 of her classmates. They will discuss water infrastructure adaptations, regulatory flexibility needs, and data and technology compatibility. The best and the brightest are shining a light for the future of California water management.



Wildfires – Navigating Our New Normal

Following the climate change panel will be a panel on one of the most pressing and pertinent effects – wildfire.

Our panel of experts from CAL FIRE (**Thom Porter**), Sonoma Water Agency, and Cal EPA will be shedding light on the drivers behind the mega fires in the west, impacts on our water supplies, and what's needed to protect our resources and communities.

Virtual Wine Reception – With Some Deception

All conference participants are invited to attend the virtual wine reception. We suggest you have your favorite wine or other adult beverage at hand while several UWI board members share a story about their favorite wine.

We have heard that some of these stories may be more tall tale than factual accounts.

The participants will vote at the end on who is telling the truth and who is quite frankly telling a tale.



For More Information
www.urbanwater.com/webinar

UWI Virtual Conference - February 17, (Day Two)



COVID-Related Water Management

Long time UWI Board member and co-founder, **Kevin Hunt** kicks off the second day moderating a panel of newly appointed General Managers.

Eavesdrop on the conversation that Kevin will navigate with three top utility GMs who began a new position in the pandemic. Being a General Manager in California water is never easy, but COVID may have brought some truly unforeseen impacts. Listen as they share their experiences, adaptations, and vision going forward.



SGMA Realities – Unintended Consequences?

The conference concludes with back-to-back panels and roundtable discussions focused on SGMA. Now that the plans have been submitted and implementation is in the works, what are the realities? Listen to what the experts and media covering Central Valley happenings are saying and writing about.

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 others agricultural roles. The unemployment rate will increase by 4% for the region, which is already among the highest rates in the state and will 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).

Jason Phillips, CEO of Friant Water Authority and UWI Board member, will moderate these two sessions.



Winner-Winner Chicken Dinner!

Closing out the conference: don't miss Board Chair **John Rossi's** announcement of who won the Water Game.

Chairman Rossi will report on who received the most correct answers to the water related questions sprinkled throughout the conference.

There is a prize!

For more information about the UWI Virtual Conference "A New Way Forward," please contact Urban Water Institute at (949) 679-9676 or stacy@urbanwater.com.

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/>.