

URBAN WATER INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER



Term: Fall | Issue 17 | Date: September 1, 2021

Urban Water Institute's Annual Conference

Urban Water Institute Annual Conference *"Message From A Bottle - An S.O.S. For Western Utilities"*

A Message From Urban Water Institute, Chair John Rossi

"In September we will reset the way we gather in-person to enhance existing relationships, meet new leaders, and listen to a diversity of voices addressing issues for today, tomorrow and beyond. Our basic theme is: "Message From A Bottle- An S.O.S. For Western Utilities."

Specifically, our SOS features: Sources, Organizations & Sustainability. Please join us for this insightful conference and conversation."



Chair John Rossi

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



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

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Wednesday, September 8, 2021

1:00 p.m. Opening Remarks & Introduction

- John Rossi, Chairman, Urban Water Institute

1:05 p.m. Colorado River—Is it Running Dry?

The Colorado River basin is in a severe drought. This panel will discuss the current Colorado River drought, projected near-term reservoir operations, and the implications of a Lower Basin shortage condition and the river operations in 2022. Also, to be discussed are the uncertainty of predictions and of related research efforts and the impacts of climate and drought on streamflow, and longer term outlook for reservoir conditions and how all this will impact the water supply to Southern California.

- Michael Bernardo, River Operations, United States Bureau of Reclamation & Manager, Lower Colorado Basin Region
- Rebecca Smith, Ph.D., Hydrologic Engineer, United States Bureau of Reclamation
- Bill Hasencamp, Manager of Colorado River Resources, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- John Thornton, Partner, Water Resource Consultant, Hunt Thornton Resource Strategies, Moderator

1:55 p.m. Weathering the Drought— Local Perspectives

Hear from two perspectives - Central Valley agriculture and Bay Area urban - on how each is being impacted by the current drought, how they're applying lessons learned from past ones, and what's being done to prepare for another potential dry year.

- William Bordeau, Executive Vice President, Harris Ranch
- Ben Horenstein, General Manager, Marin Municipal Water District
- Andree Hunt-Johnson, Project Manager, Woodard & Curran, Moderator

2:40 p.m. Statewide Drought Proofing

Sites is a viable option for agencies to mitigate the challenges of drought - throughout the state. The project is designed to augment supplies, provide storage, meet environmental compliance, manage with an innovative governance structure, to create flexible, enhanced water management opportunities for agricultural and urban users. If the Sites reservoir was already built we would have had 1 MAF in storage to lessen the drought impacts for 2021. Brown and Davis will update us on this unique and timely project that is needed now more than ever.

- Jerry Brown, Executive Director, Sites Project Authority
- Jeff Davis, Chairman, Reservoir Committee, Sites Reservoir
- John Rossi, Chairman, Urban Water Institute, Moderator

3:15 p.m. Networking Break (Costa Mesa) — Sponsored by Mesa Water District

3:30 p.m. Road to Achieving Cybersecurity in Water Agencies

The Cybersecurity Panel will address current mythologies to thwart system hacking and ransomware attacks in a Public Agency and Private Firms.

- Frank Ury, Board Member, Santa Margarita Water District
- Raluca Constantinescu, PE, PMP, Associate Vice President, Arcadis U.S.
- Steve Bucknam, President, Bucknam & Associates, Inc., Moderator

4:30 p.m. Post COVID — Returning Operations to Normality or Hybrid?

A discussion of alternative organizational forms Post COVID, for a Public Water Agency and a Consulting firm serving the water utility business, will be presented by our panel.

- Ron Williams, Senior Vice President, Jacobs
- Shana Epstein, Director of Public Works, City of Beverly Hills
- Steve Bucknam, President, Bucknam & Associates, Inc., Moderator

5:15 p.m. Us Too - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Water Industry

After a year in which COVID-19 had us acknowledging that we are "all in this together," how do we translate that awareness into diversity, equity and inclusion in our workplaces? Please join panelists Rick Callender, and Joone Lopez in a conversation highlighting their successful DEI effort and how to incorporate them industry-wide.

- Joone Lopez, General Manager, Moulton Nigel Water District
- Rick Callender, Chief Executive Officer, Valley Water (Santa Clara Valley Water District)
- Lisa Ohlund, Principal, Ohlund Management & Technical Services, Moderator

6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Welcome Reception (Lido and Waterfall Terrace) — Sponsored by Dudek



Don't miss out on your opportunity to win an Apple watch! Please pick up your raffle ticket at the registration desk!

Thursday, September 9, 2021

8:30 a.m. Buffet Breakfast (Costa Mesa) — Sponsored by Western Municipal Water District

9:00 a.m. Keynote Speaker: Adel Hagekhalil, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

- Introduction by John Rossi, Chairman, Urban Water Institute

9:30 a.m. Washington Legislative Report

Report from Capitol Hill/ Funding from Washington DC is linked with programs and projects for sustainability in the water industry. Eric will report on the legislative programs, policies and funding that may affect California and Western United States water operations.

- Eric Sapirstein, ENS, Washington DC
- Introduction by John Rossi, Chairman, Urban Water Institute

10:00 a.m. Sacramento Legislative Report

The Sacramento Report/The California legislature is committed to pro-actively addressing climate change. Cori and Eric will share the latest bills, funding proposals including bond measures that will shed light on the opportunities for water utilities going forward.

- Cori Takkinen, Vice President, Townsend Public Affairs
- Eric O'Donnell, Senior Associate, Townsend Public Affairs
- Introduction by John Rossi, Chairman, Urban Water Institute

10:30 a.m. Drought Preparedness, San Diego Style

San Diego County Water Authority General Manager Sandy Kerl closes out our 2021 conference with a discussion on the steps the San Diego region has taken over the past 30 years to confront what seems to be the "new normal" - repeated, extended, and deep droughts in California and the West. Situated in a water cul-de-sac, the region has aggressively pursued desalination, wastewater recycling, and storage, among other solutions to dry conditions. But when a region implements these solutions, what does that mean for broad drought restrictions? Sandy will share the story of San Diego's pursuit of a drought-safe water portfolio and offer a glimpse into our one water future.

- Sandy Kerl, General Manager, San Diego County Water Authority
- Introduction by Dr. Greg Quist, Board Vice President, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District

Chairman's Raffle Drawing!

**Conference Adjourns
Thank You For Joining Us!**



URBAN WATER INSTITUTE 28th ANNUAL WATER CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2021 | REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____
ORGANIZATION: _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____
TEL: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

Registration fees include handouts, breakfast, breaks and reception.

- _____ \$325 Urban Water Member Registration Fee for Conference September 8-9, 2021
- _____ \$375 Non-Member Registration Fee for Conference September 8-9, 2021

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

LOCATION:

The Annual Water Conference will be conducted in Costa Mesa at the Westin located at:
686 Anton Blvd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626

WILL YOU STAY AT THE WESTIN COSTA MESA?

To make your room reservations, call Marriot Reservations at **1-888-236-2427**. The cut-off date for the group rate was **August 27, 2021**.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: (All Registrations Should Be Made in Advance)

To pay by credit card visit our website www.urbanwater.com. You can register online via PayPal, you may be prompted to create a PayPal account. You may pay with a Visa, MasterCard or American Express. If you prefer to pay by credit card and NOT create a PayPal log in, please fill out the registration form and return to Stacy Davis at stacy@urbanwater.com or fax to (949) 305-9919.

To pay by check, please complete the Registration Form and send it along with a check made payable to:

Urban Water Institute: 24651 Evereve Circle, Suite 1, Lake Forest, CA 92630.

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

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Cancellations must be received in writing by **August 25, 2021**. Faxes are accepted at **(949) 305-9919**. Registration fee will be refunded, less a \$50 administrative charge if received by **August 25, 2021**. Substitutes are accepted. **No refunds after August 25, 2021**. The Institute reserves the right to substitute announced speakers and assumes no responsibility for personal expenses.

EXHIBITOR & SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION:

Information on exhibiting and sponsoring may be obtained by calling (949) 679-9676 or can be found on the Urban Water Institute Website www.urbanwater.com.

IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD:

- Visa MasterCard American Express

Name on Card: _____
Card Number: _____
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MAIL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Urban Water Institute: 24651 Evereve Circle, Suite 1 • Lake Forest, CA 92630
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For More Information Contact Urban Water Institute At (949) 679-9676 Or stacy@urbanwater.com



Save the Date!

**URBAN WATER INSTITUTE'S
SPRING WATER CONFERENCE**

**February
16-18, 2022**

**HILTON PALM SPRINGS HOTEL
400 East Tahquitz Canyon Way,
Palm Springs, CA 92262**

For more information, please contact the Urban Water Institute at (949) 679-9676 or stacy@urbanwater.com

Please visit our website www.urbanwater.com



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The Urban Water Institute is governed by a volunteer board of directors drawn from hands-on policy makers, elected officials & industry leaders who are active in the water resources industry.

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