

URBAN WATER INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER



Term: Summer | Issue 28 | Date: August 1, 2022

In Focus: Urban Water Institute Annual Water Conference

1,200 Year Megadrought Report Will Kick Off The UWI Annual Conference In San Diego August 24-26, 2022.

UCLA researcher, Park Williams, on August 24, 2022 will keynote the opening of the UWI Annual Conference in San Diego, August 24-26, 2022.

Williams is the lead author of a study of the current megadrought in the southwestern US region. The study was a collaboration among researchers from UCLA, NASA, and the Columbia Climate School. Among the findings is that it is the region's driest in at least 1,200 years. Another key finding is that climate change is a significant factor.



Park Williams, UCLA Professor

The conference theme is "Getting to the Heart of the Matter" and Williams' report will set the stage, providing information that will relate to this year's 3 day event being held at the San Diego Mission Bay Resort.

The conference program is provided in the following pages.



You may still register for the event by contacting UWI at: (949) 679-9676. For more details, conference registration, and other details, please visit UWI's website at UrbanWater.com.



Urban Water Institute's 26th Annual Conference • August 24-26, 2022 San Diego Mission Bay Resort • San Diego • California

Water Policy: Getting to the Heart of the Matter

Wednesday, August 24, 2022: Drought, Fire, Laws

12:00 p.m. - Registration & Networking (Sorrento Foyer)

1:00 p.m. - Opening Remarks & Introduction

- Andree Johnson, Woodard & Curran

1:10 p.m. - Welcome to San Diego

- Mayor Todd Gloria of San Diego

1:25 p.m. - Opening Keynote: As drought lingers, larger and more destructive wild fires pose new threats to water supply.

UCLA researchers report of a Megadrought in Southwestern North America that is the region's driest in at least 1,200 years. They have determined that increasing forest fire activity is "unhinging" western U.S. stream flow from its historical predictability. In areas where more than a fifth of the forest had burned, stream flow increased by an average of 30% for six years after the fire. On its surface, increased stream flow - the rate at which water is carried by rivers and streams - could be seen as a boon for the drought - stricken region. But too much water comes with hazards, including increased erosion, flooding and debris flows.

- Park Williams, Assoc. Professor of Geography, UCLA, Report Major Contributor, from UCLA's HyFiVes Research Group
- Co-Moderators: Andree Johnson & Lisa Ohlund

2:20 p.m. - Droughts and Fire: Unintended Consequences of Fire on Water Supply

Update on the science of fire-fighting techniques that affect water quality, and loss of storage (quantity impacts) due to watershed devastation. Beginning with an update of the most recent year of fire fighting in California. Panelists describe the water quality and water quantity impacts utilities must manage as a result.

- Dave Pedersen, General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- Julie (Jaime) Uyehara Ph.D., Natural Resources Planning Officer, Forest Service
- Tony Firenzi, Director of Strategic Affairs, PCWA
- Co-Moderators: Andree Johnson & Lisa Ohlund

3:30 p.m. - Networking Break - Sponsored by Western Municipal Water District

3:50 p.m. - Climate Change and California Water Laws

What's at the 'Heart of the Matter' regarding Climate Change Adaptations that may result in water law changes? The Planning and Conservation League report on Updating California Water Laws in the Face of Droughts/Climate Change may provide insights.

- Scott Slater, Shareholder, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
- Felicia Marcus, Fellow, Stanford University
- Richard Frank, Professor of Environmental Practice, UC Davis School of Law
- Moderator: Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 pm - Welcome Reception/ Awards Recognition - Sponsored by Woodard & Curran

Thursday, August 25, 2022: Regulations and Resources

7:45 a.m. Registration, Networking & Continental Breakfast—Sponsored By Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

8:45 a.m. - Intro and Summary from Day 1 Dave Pedersen, General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

9:00 a.m. - Colorado River Update: The Changing Colorado River

The flow of the Colorado River has dropped 20 percent since the 1900s. Roughly half of that decline is due to climate change, which has fueled a 20-year megadrought across Colorado and the West. Lake Mead is the largest reservoir in the United States and part of a system that supplies water to at least 40 million people across seven states and northern Mexico. It stands today at its lowest level since Franklin Delano Roosevelt was president. This means less water will be portioned out to seven states and Mexico in the 2022 and 2023 water years. Our panel of experts on the Colorado river will discuss its current condition and changes that have occurred since our last conference in February 2022.

- Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Michael Bernardo, Deputy Chief, US Bureau of Reclamation
- Ted Cooke, General Manager, Central Arizona Project
- Moderator: John Thornton, Partner, Hunt Thornton Resource Strategies



10:15 a.m. - Organizational Resiliency After Covid: Employees Are Always at the Heart of the Matter

During the COVID shutdowns, the phases of in-person, remote, and hybrid working formats has had an impact on hiring, managing, and retaining employees. This panel will discuss some of the ways agencies and consultants have adjusted their most basic human resource practices, especially to attract, retain and manage employees

- Ashley Kite, Director of Human Resources, San Diego County Water Authority
- Courtney Reid, Senior HR Director, Jacobs
- Emanuela Tala, Attorney, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
- Moderator: Fernando Paludi, General Manager, Trabuco Canyon Water District

11:20 a.m. - A Balancing Act to Develop New Drinking Water Standards

A February 2022 white paper from the Southern California Water Coalition's Water Quality Task Force aims to help identify new and better ways for the state to use data and science in the development of state drinking water standards. This is important in light of California's Human Right to Water Act (HRTWA), which challenges public water systems to deliver water that is safe, clean and affordable for all customers, regardless of prevailing conditions and system limitations.

- Sean Maguire, Board Member, State Water Resources Control Board
- Dan Ferons, General Manager, Santa Margarita Water District
- Moderator: David Pedersen, General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

12:15 p.m. Lunch - Sponsored by Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

12:45 p.m. - What is at the Heart of the Matter for Utilities in Considering whether to Provide Conservation Subsidies to their Customers

A discussion of the benefits of investing in conservation.

- Andree Johnson to introduce
- Newsha Ajami, Chief Development Officer for Research for Lawrence Berkeley, National Lab Earth and Environmental Sciences Area and Commissioner, SFPUC

1:20 p.m. - PFAS - Conflicts, Regulations and Compliance

In January 2022, EPA announced the addition of four PFAS compounds to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), issued updated Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS on June 15th, and is planning on releasing a PFAS National Drinking Water Regulation in Fall 2022. Federal, state and local perspectives are presented by the panel.

- Darrin Polhemus, Deputy Director, Division of Drinking Water
- Valerie Pryor, General Manager, Zone 7 Water Agency
- Eric Sapirstein, President, ENS Resources
- Moderator: Lisa Ohlund, Principal, Ohlund Management & Technical Services

2:25 p.m. - Emerging Conservation Regulations and Ways to Cope

This panel focuses on the Science of advanced conservation technologies and Human Behavioral Modifications, featuring new regulations and coping strategies.

- Eric Oppenheimer, Chief Deputy Director, California State Water Resources Control Board *(invited)*
- Amy Talbot, Water Efficiency Program Manager, Regional Water Authority, Sacramento
- Fiona Sanchez, Director of Water Resources, Irvine Ranch Water District
- Moderator: Andree Johnson, Woodard & Curran

3:35 p.m. - Networking Break—Sponsored By HDR

3:55 p.m. - Bridging the Trust Gap: Personal Approaches to Conflict Resolution

This panel will focus on personal experiences and lessons learned in building collaboration among skeptical communities, competitive water agencies, and beleaguered regulators. As the water industry faces greater uncertainty, and threats to both water supply and infrastructure, are there ways to create room for collaborative partnerships among distrustful interests and individuals? Can combative advocacy be channeled into creative teamwork, transforming our swords into plowshares?

- Jill Duerig, General Manager, Zone 7 Water Agency (Retired); Former Board Chair, State and Federal Contractors Agency; Former Interim Executive Director, Delta Conveyance Design & Construction Authority
- Marsi Steirer, Deputy Director, City of San Diego Public Utilities Department (Retired)
- Felicia Marcus, William C. Landreth Visiting Fellow, Stanford University
- Moderator: Paul Brown, President, Paul Redvers Brown Inc.



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5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Chairman's Reception
Sponsored by DUDEK

Friday, August 26, 2022: Leadership Dialogues

7:45 a.m. - Registration, Networking & Buffet Breakfast

Chairman's Drawing: Don't miss out on your opportunity to win an Apple Watch. Please pick up your ticket at the registration desk.

8:45 a.m. - Welcome and Conference Review
Jason Phillips, CEO, Friant Water Authority

9:00 a.m. - Board of Directors Roundtable
Board of directors of water agencies engage in a dynamic interaction of the things they are 'juggling' today. What is at the heart of the matter for them?

- Darcy Burke, Director, Member of the Board, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
- Kathleen Coates Hedberg, President of the Board, Helix Water District
- Rob Katherman, Director, Member of the Board, Water Replenishment District
- Gary Martin, Director, Member of the Board, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
- Larry Dick, Director, Member of the Board, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Randy Duncan, Director, Member of the Board, Mission Springs Water District *(invited)*
- Marco Tule, Director, Member of the Board, Inland Empire Utilities Agency
- Moderator: Ane Deister, Urban Water Institute

10:20 a.m. - Regional Collaboration in CA North, Central, South

For several decades UWI has facilitated interactive dialogs with water representatives located in Northern California and in Southern California. This panel adds the Central Valley as a third voice in the regional cooperation and collaboration dialog.

- Adel Hagekhalil, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District
- Justin Caporusso, Executive Director, Mountain Counties Water Resources Association *(invited)*
- Jason Phillips, CEO, Friant Water Authority
- Moderator: Jim Atkinson, Vice Chairman, Mesa Water District

11:40 a.m. - Chairman's Raffle, First Vice President Dave Pedersen, General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

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

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PATRON & SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Patron: Lola 24 • Mesa Water District • Metropolitan Water District of Southern California • Santa Clara Valley Water District

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URBAN WATER INSTITUTE'S ANNUAL WATER CONFERENCE AUGUST 24-26, 2022 | REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____
ORGANIZATION: _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
PHONE WORK: _____ MOBILE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

Registration fees include handouts,
breakfasts, luncheon, breaks and receptions.

Note: Self parking for hotel guests is complimentary

_____ \$575 Urban Water Member Registration Fee for Conference August 24-26, 2022

(Must be a member of the Urban Water Institute with 2022 dues paid in full, for more information on memberships please contact the Urban Water Institute at (949) 679-9676 or stacy@urbanwater.com)

_____ \$675 Non-Member Registration Fee for Conference August 24-26, 2022

_____ \$100 Spouse Registration - Includes breakfasts, luncheon, breaks and receptions.

Spouse Name For Nametag:

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

LOCATION

The 29th Annual Water Conference will be conducted at the San Diego Mission Bay Resort located at:
1775 E Mission Bay Dr, San Diego, CA 92109

WILL YOU STAY AT THE SAN DIEGO MISSION BAY RESORT?

Please contact the hotel directly to reserve your room, we have a special conference rate of **\$221 per night plus tax**. To make your room reservations, call the San Diego Mission Bay Resort directly at **1-(877) 313-6645** and reference **Urban Water Institute**. Please note the cut-off date for the group rate is **July 20, 2022**. Reservations can also be made online at www.hilton.com.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION *(All Registrations Should Be Made In Advance)*

To pay by credit card visit our website www.urbanwater.com. You can register online and pay with a Visa, MasterCard or American Express. 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 **August 19, 2022** registrations will be accepted at the door on a space available basis, with an additional \$25 administrative charge.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations must be received in writing by **July 24, 2022**. Faxes are accepted at **(949) 305-9919**. Registration fee will be refunded, less a \$50 administrative charge if received by **July 24, 2022**. Substitutes are accepted. **No refunds after July 24, 2022**. The Institute reserves the right to substitute announced speakers and assumes no responsibility for personal expenses.

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

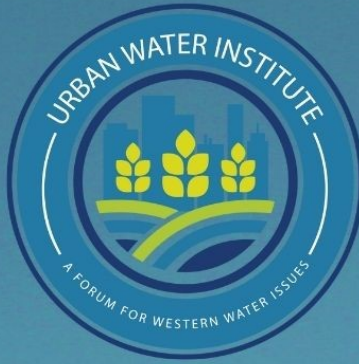
Information on sponsoring may be obtained by calling (949) 679-9676 or can be found on the Urban Water Institute Website www.urbanwater.com.

MAIL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

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

Tax ID # 33-0578523

**For More Information Contact the Urban Water Institute
at (949) 679-9676 or stacy@urbanwater.com**



Save the Date!

**Urban Water Institute's
Spring Water Conference**

February 22-24, 2023

Palm Springs Hilton

400 E Tahquitz Canyon Way

Palm Springs, CA 92262

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



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Charles Trevino – Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

Julie Wilcox – Southern Nevada Water Authority

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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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Annual Water Conference: August 24-26, 2022



You are cordially invited to Urban Water Institute's Annual Water Conference - *Getting To The Heart Of The Matter.*

This three day, in person gathering will be held at San Diego Mission Bay Resort on August 24-26, 2022 in San Diego, CA.

For more details, conference registration, and other details, please visit UWI's website at UrbanWater.com.

For additional information, you may also contact us at: (949) 679-9676.

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