

URBAN WATER INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER



Term: Winter | Issue 22 | Date: February 1, 2022

February 16-17, 2022: Virtual Spring Water Conference

Art and Science of Water UWI All Virtual Spring Conference February 16 & 17, 2022

We have learned that water issues are not just about the engineering or science of things. Some of our most challenging issues have been due to differences in interorganizational and interpersonal perspectives.

The February 16-17 conference will feature some different views of the facts or the science side of a water topic and something on the art side which may involve the people aspects, such as conflict resolution, cooperation, partnerships, negotiations and other people-related matters.

We originally planned the conference as an in-person experience, but due to the uncertainties associated with recent COVID surges and participants' and speakers' travel constraints, the event has been converted to an all-virtual one.

As a result, we have made some changes to the program, which is featured in this edition of the newsletter.



Day One - February 16, 2022: 12:00pm-12:45pm Hosted Delivered Lunch

Woodard and Curran will provide complimentary lunches to be delivered to you.

You will be provided with a link to sign in for the complimentary lunch that you may share with others, on screen, just before the conference begins at 1:00pm.



Day One - February 16, 2022: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

The City View Panel

Balancing regulatory requirements to operational & budgetary realities, with innovative actions for the effective delivery of public water utility services, in today's highly challenging governmental environment. Representatives from 3 areas of city government will share their views on operating, managing and funding water programs.



Jennifer Perez, Former Mayor of Norwalk will discuss balancing voter expectations.



Jose Renoso, City Manager, Sierra Madre will discuss City administration and budgetary challenges.



Adriana Figueroa, Director of Public Works, City of Paramount, will discuss the challenges of an enterprise entity in city government.



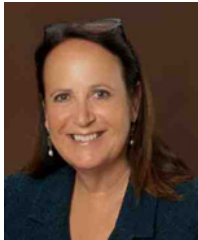
Steve Bucknam, PE, President Bucknam & Associates, Former Chair UWI, will moderate this panel.

The Future View: The art and science of the Black Swan - Is there one in our water future?

A "Black Swan" is an unpredictable event, beyond what is normally expected of a situation and has potentially severe consequences. Black Swan events are characterized by their extreme rarity, severe impact, and the widespread insistence they were obvious in hindsight. Are we in for a Black Swan in water in California or the West? This panel, simulating an informal after-dinner conversation among enlightened and stimulating friends, explores what a Black Swan might look like and how we prepare for it.



Tom Kennedy, General Manager, Rainbow Municipal Water District will share the utility management perspective of how black swan events can disrupt this essential service.



Felicia Marcus is the William C. Landreth Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's Water in the West Program. She previously served as Chair of the SWRCB, EPA Region 9 Administrator and Chair of the Public Works Commission. She will share her multi-jurisdictional views.



Jeff Kightlinger, former General Manager and former General Counsel, Metropolitan Water District will shed light on how a black swan event could impact regional water.



Pat Mulroy is Senior Fellow, University of Nevada Boyd School of Law. She previously served as General Manager, LVVWD and SNWA. She will share her Western Water views.



Dr. Greg Quist, former Chair UWI, Vice President Board of Directors Rincon del Diablo Water District, will moderate this panel.

Day One - February 16, 2022: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

The State Water Contract View: Is there any magic in the art and science of managing the State Water Contract?

The cat is out of the bag. A low allocation has been announced. What does this mean for water users in 2022?



Dave Pedersen, General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District will describe the impacts of a zero allocation to the operations, planning, fiscal and management aspects of the utility.



John Yarbrough is the Assistant Deputy Director for the CA Department of Water Resources. He has been with the department for many years and will represent the department's voice on this important topic.



Bill Diedtrich, California Farm Water Coalition, ACWA Agriculture Committee will discuss the realities of such an allocation to the California farming industry.



John Rossi, UWI Board Chair, Senior Vice President Rancho California Water Board, will moderate this panel.

Keynote speaker: Mark Pestrella



Mark Pestrella, Director LA County Public Works will close the first day reflecting on the scientific and artful considerations of leading complex water-related organizations in California. He will share his strategic view on social equity and workforce changes driving LA County's future.

Thank You Sponsors!



Day Two - February 17, 2022: 8:45am - 1:00pm

The View from the Colorado River: The art and science of managing the Colorado River

Update on the status of the supplies, negotiations, allocations and impacts on California and the Western Water needs. Top officials actively engaged in managing this important resource will share the science or data side of things along with the artful handling of the people side of managing the Colorado River resource.



Ted Cook, General Manager, Central Arizona Project (CAP). The CAP is Arizona's largest renewable water supply, transporting and delivering approximately one-half of Arizona's Colorado River apportionment to the interior of the state.



Michael Bernardo, Deputy Chief of the USBR River Operations Group, which manages the delivery of Colorado River water, working with other Reclamation offices, agencies, and interested organizations to develop long- and short-range plans to guide and control water operations and develop seasonal and annual operating plans.



Bill Hasencamp is the manager of Colorado River Resources for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, where he develops and manages water supply programs to augment Metropolitan's Colorado River supplies.



John Thornton is Treasurer of UWI, and Partner in Hunt Thornton Resource Strategies. He will moderate this panel.

The Groundwater Management View: SGMA – Reflection in 2022

Was SGMA artfully crafted to reflect the scientific realities of managing California's groundwater basins? Status of SGMA implementation, scientific and organizational realities.



Dr. David Sunding is the Thomas J. Graff Professor in the College of Natural Resources at UC Berkeley. From 2013 to 2019, he served as the chair of Berkeley's Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Based on his extensive research he will share his assessment of SGMA.



Jason Phillips is Friant Water Authority's CEO. He previously served with the Mid-Pacific Region of the USBR. He will share his views from working with a spectrum of practitioners involved with SGMA today.



Jack Rice, Davis, is a Madera County farmer. He has an agribusiness degree from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo with an agribusiness degree, and a law degree from UC Davis. He will share his thoughts on SGMA from a practicing farmer view.



John Thornton is Treasurer of UWI, and Partner in Hunt Thornton Resource Strategies. He will moderate this panel.

Day Two - February 17, 2022: 8:45am - 1:00pm

The Money View: The art and science of water infrastructure funding and cost-considerations panel

The presentation will begin with a virtual survey for all participants. The panel will continue by comparing the costs of infrastructure in the US and other countries and how to be successful with WIFIA and other funding opportunities.



Devon Mathis, California Assemblymember, 26th District, representing Inyo County – Bishop, Kern County – Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Lindsay, Porterville, Tulare, Visalia, Woodlake.

He will share his legislative view on infrastructure costs.



Brian Thomas served as Assistant General Manager and Chief Financial Officer for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, for almost 11 years. He served as managing director for PFM in their LA office, overseeing an impressive portfolio of public clients. He also previously served as the Chief Financial Officer for the Las Vegas Valley Water District/Southern Nevada Water Authority and now is Executive Director of Delta Conveyance Financing Authority.

He will share his robust view of financing public infrastructure in the west.



Michael Deane, former associate administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Water, in March 2020 returned to the agency to lead the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. As a result, he has direct, timely knowledge about the federal funding programs to share.



Bob Siemak, Founder, Principal Consultant RCS Consulting, UWI Board member, will moderate this panel.

Additional Sponsorships Available

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- Company logo will be on our conference landing page
- Company logo will be displayed on Urban Water Institute registration page
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Day Two - February 17, 2022: 8:45am - 1:00pm

The workforce view: The scientific and artful factors influencing workforce planning.

This is envisioned to be a continuation of the dialogue started in Costa Mesa about DEI. Three presentations – case studies of their organizational approach to understanding the degree of the change occurring (scientific, numbers) and artful applications to embracing the change in generational leadership, while enhancing and embracing diversity in the workplace.



Acuanetta Warren is Mayor of Fontana. Warren is in her 3rd mayoral term, and has focused her administrations on bolstering economic development, creating educational opportunities, improving public safety, and advocating for a healthier community.

She will share her perspective from a local elected official view point.



Katano Kasaine, AGM/CFO, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. She is responsible for directing all aspects of Metropolitan's financial activities.

She will share her experience and insights on implementing the recommendation of an independent review of EEO issues at the nation's largest wholesale water agency.



Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration, LVMWD, is responsible for the management of the District's finances, investments, budgets, human resources and information technology systems.

Don will share his experience in overseeing workforce planning practices in a progressive, local agency in LA county.



Dave Pedersen, General Manager, LVMWD, and UWI board member will moderate this panel.

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The Urban Water Institute, Inc., was incorporated as a nonprofit public education organization in the State of California in 1993.

The Urban Water Institute, Inc.'s mission is to provide non-partisan information of timely and pertinent interest to the water resource industry, including public agencies and private firms, with particular emphasis on water economics, management and resource policies as they affect consumers and the general economy.

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