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 <p>SCV WATER</p>	 <p>Valley Water</p>	 <p>Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley</p>

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITIES
<p>12:00 - 1:00PM</p>	<p>REGISTRATION, NETWORKING & EXHIBITS <i>El Dorado Room</i></p>
<p>1:00 - 1:45PM</p>  <p>Jacobs</p>	<p>OPENING KEYNOTE: WILDFIRES, WATER SUPPLY & WORST-CASE SCENARIOS</p> <p><i>The devastating Los Angeles fires have shone a spotlight on the critical link between wildfires and water supply. As an author of UCLA's Wildfire & Water Supply Report, Dr. Pierce is an expert in the field. His pioneering research explores the myriad challenges and potential solutions to the crippling effects of wildfire on water supply.</i></p> <p>Dr. Gregory Pierce, Co-Director, UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation</p> <p>Moderator: Andree Lee, UWI Board President; Vice President of Environment and Water, EKI Environment & Water</p> <p>10 minute Audience Q&A / 5 minute Meet the Speaker</p>
<p>1:50 - 3:00PM</p>  	<p>WATER: WET WATER, PAPER WATER, VIRTUAL WATER</p> <p><i>A recent report released by NRDC found that more than 1,100 counties—one-third of all counties in the lower 48—will face higher risks of water shortages by mid-century as the result of global warming. More than 400 of these counties will face extremely high risks of water shortages. The speakers will focus on California's water situation.</i></p> <p>Tom Philp, Journalist, The Sacramento Bee</p> <p>Edward Ring, Director of Water & Energy Policy, California Policy Center</p> <p>Dr. Jay Lund, Vice Director, UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences</p> <p>Moderator: Jason Phillips, UWI Board Secretary; CEO, Friant Water Authority</p> <p>10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers</p>
<p>3:00 - 3:10PM</p>	<p>BREAK <i>Conference Center Foyer</i></p> 



WIFI LOGIN INFORMATION:

Password: SitelogIQ

TIME	ACTIVITIES
<p data-bbox="175 583 376 613">3:10 - 4:15PM</p>  	<p data-bbox="496 583 1214 613">PFAS: NOT ONLY DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER</p> <p data-bbox="496 625 1455 726"><i>Where do we stand on PFAS regulations? Will there be a political tug of war between the past Executive branch administration and the incoming chair of the US Senate Environmental Committee on PFAS regulations?</i></p> <p data-bbox="496 772 1390 873">Dr. Anna Reade, Director of PFAS Advocacy, Environmental Health Major General R. Mark Toy, USACE Ret., General Manager, Yorba Linda Water District</p> <p data-bbox="496 898 1442 961"><i>Moderator: Greg Newmark, UWI Board of Directors; Principal, Los Angeles Office Leader, Meyers Nave</i></p> <p data-bbox="496 1003 1393 1033">10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers</p>
<p data-bbox="175 1140 376 1169">4:20 - 5:30PM</p>  	<p data-bbox="496 1140 1341 1211">GOING TO THE WELL TOO OFTEN – EVENTUALLY IT RUNS DRY</p> <p data-bbox="496 1224 1487 1325"><i>An insightful discussion regarding the critical issues surrounding the Colorado River's water supplies and demands. This session will feature conversations on the current state of the river, and the challenges of balancing water resources.</i></p> <p data-bbox="496 1371 1422 1434">Jessica Neuwerth, Acting Executive Director the Colorado River Board of California Bart Leeflang, Assistant General Manager, Central Utah Water Conservancy District Patrick Dent, Assistant General Manager, Central Arizona Project</p> <p data-bbox="496 1585 1455 1648"><i>Moderator: Craig Miller, UWI Board of Directors; General Manager, Western Municipal Water District</i></p> <p data-bbox="496 1690 1393 1719">10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers</p>

5:45 - 7:00PM

OPENING RECEPTION

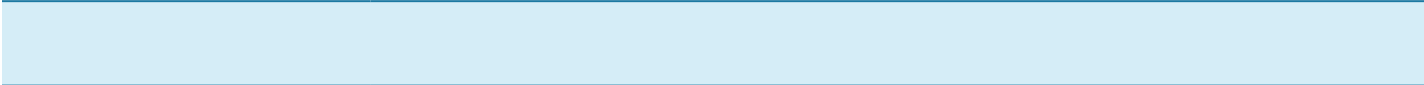
Crosby Ballroom Patio



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 27, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITIES
<p>8:00 - 8:45AM</p>	<p>BREAKFAST Conference Center Foyer</p> 
<p>8:45 - 9:55AM</p>  	<p>CENTRAL VALLEY UPDATE <i>Uncertain supplies, groundwater depletion, rising temperatures, reduced snowpack – What could possibly go wrong? Farming demands, climate impacts... We ain't seen nothin' yet.</i></p> <p>Dr. David Sunding, Professor Emeritus, UC Berkeley College of Natural Resources Aaron Fukuda, Interim General Manager, Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency; General Manager, Tulare Irrigation District Chris Tantau, Chair, Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency; Vice President, Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Jason Phillips, UWI Board Secretary; CEO, Friant Water Authority</p> <p>10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers</p>
<p>10:00 - 11:10AM</p>  	<p>LA IS ALL-IN ON RECYCLING <i>Hear the story of how the City of Los Angeles overcame the dreaded "toilet-to-tap" moniker and a campaign for succession of the San Fernando Valley to break ground on the L.A. Groundwater Replenishment Project, the City's first and largest potable reuse project.</i></p> <p>Intro by Janisse Quiñones, CEO and Chief Engineer, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power Jesus Gonzalez, Manager of Groundwater & Recycled Water, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power Ryan Thiha, Sr. Environmental Engineer and Program Manager, LA Sanitation and Environment</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> David Pedersen, UWI 1st Vice Chair; General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District</p> <p>10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers</p>



TIME	ACTIVITIES
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11:15AM - 12:25PM



SILOS IN SGMA


California is 10 years into the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and most agree there have been fits, starts, success and failure. The work to stand up Groundwater Sustainability Agencies has been tough. Earning the stamp of approval by the California Department of Water Resources and in some cases the State Water Resources Control Board has been tougher still. The mixed bag outcome is revealing the deficiencies in the implementation of SGMA and the critical resources and tools needed to meet the complex requirements. SGMA, without TMF implementation support, has become the land of the haves and the have-nots. This panel will help to unpack what is needed now on the road to full implementation.

Dusty Ference, Executive Director, Kings County Farm Bureau
 Allison Febbo, General Manager, Westlands Water District
 Lacey McBride, Water Resources Manager, Merced County



Moderator: Jennifer Persike, UWI Board of Directors; Founder/President, Jennifer Persike & Company

10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers

<p>12:30 - 1:30PM</p>	<p>LUNCH <i>Taylor Garden</i></p> 
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1:30 - 2:10PM



COMMUNICATING THE VALUE OF WATER

Short presentation on Denver Water's outside-the-box communications and outreach campaigns that have caught the eyes of audiences worldwide.

Steve Snyder, Executive Communications Manager, Denver Water

Moderator: Darcy Burke, UWI Board Planning Chair; Director, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

10 minute Audience Q&A / 5 minute Meet the Speakers




PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 27, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITIES
<p data-bbox="175 552 375 579">2:15 - 3:30PM</p> <div data-bbox="196 638 363 781">  </div> <div data-bbox="212 963 339 1092">  </div>	<p data-bbox="493 552 1097 579">SQUEEZING BLOOD OUT OF A ROCK</p> <p data-bbox="493 594 1468 735"><i>New water conservation mandates have put into place increasingly stringent water use targets and penalties. California has conserved a tremendous amount of water to-date. Additional water savings have been mandated, but are they attainable or are water providers being asked to squeeze blood out of a rock?</i></p> <p data-bbox="493 777 1338 844">Tia Fleming, Executive Director of External Affairs, California Water Efficiency Partnership</p> <p data-bbox="493 863 1419 930">Kendra Olmos, Water Efficiency Senior Project Manager, EKI Environment & Water</p> <p data-bbox="493 949 1333 1016">Elizabeth Lovsted, Water Resources Manager at San Diego County Water Authority</p> <p data-bbox="493 1035 1468 1102"><i>Moderator: Andree Lee, UWI Board President; Vice President of Environment and Water, EKI Environment & Water</i></p> <p data-bbox="493 1142 1390 1169">10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers</p>
<p data-bbox="175 1224 375 1251">3:30 - 4:00PM</p>	<p data-bbox="493 1224 800 1251">ICE CREAM BREAK</p> <p data-bbox="493 1266 779 1293"><i>Conference Center Foyer</i></p> <div data-bbox="1354 1205 1468 1299">  </div>
<p data-bbox="175 1341 375 1369">4:00 - 5:00PM</p> <div data-bbox="193 1419 360 1560">  </div> <div data-bbox="217 1644 334 1759">  </div>	<p data-bbox="493 1341 1446 1409">THE FUTURE ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE – PLANNING FOR TOMORROW</p> <p data-bbox="493 1423 1484 1633"><i>The Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA or Alliance) is a coalition of water, energy, and education leaders working together to build and bolster career pathways to water and energy jobs for all California students. The Alliance is a collection of more than 200 professional organizations statewide, including water and energy agencies, departments of education, school districts, colleges, technical trade schools, and more. WEEA is administered and led by the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC).</i></p> <p data-bbox="493 1675 1398 1743">Tiffany Baca, Public Affairs Manager, Municipal Water District of Orange County; Executive Director, Water Energy Education Alliance</p> <p data-bbox="493 1761 1495 1789"><i>Moderator: Paul Brown, UWI Board of Directors; President, Paul Redvers Brown</i></p>
<p data-bbox="175 1845 375 1873">5:15 - 6:30PM</p>	<p data-bbox="493 1845 954 1873">BOARD CHAIR'S RECEPTION</p> <p data-bbox="493 1887 1211 1955"><i>Introduction of the new Board Chair's Circle Founding Members Crosby Ballroom Patio</i></p> <div data-bbox="1292 1860 1484 1927">  </div>



Friday, February 28, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITIES
8:30 - 9:15AM	BREAKFAST <i>Conference Center Foyer</i> 
9:15 - 10:45AM  	CALIFORNIA AT THE CROSSROADS: PEOPLE, POLITICS & POWER IN 2025 <i>How will the results of the 2024 elections impact the water industry? Find out from state and federal experts what we can expect in 2025.</i> Eric Sapirstein, President, ENS Resources Eric O'Donnell, Director, Townsend Public Affairs Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board <i>Moderator:</i> Fernando Paludi, UWI Policy Chair, General Manager of Trabuco Canyon Water District 10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers

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SPEAKER BIOS



TIFFANY BACA

Tiffany Baca is the Executive Director of the Water Energy Education Alliance and Public Affairs Manager for the Municipal Water District of Orange County, where she leads communications and workforce development initiatives. Previously, she contributed to the California Environmental Literacy Initiative Leadership Council and was named the California Association of Public Information Officials Communicator of the Year in 2020. Ms. Baca works with over 250 organizations to create career pathways in the water and energy sectors, ensuring access to education, training and job opportunities for students.



PAUL BROWN

Paul Brown is the President of Paul Redvers Brown Inc., where he focuses on helping utilities and public agencies achieve water management goals. He is an expert in water resources planning, strategic planning, decision science and urban sustainability. Mr. Brown holds an MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, an MA in English from the University of Rochester and a BA in English from Tufts University.



DARCY BURKE

Darcy M. Burke serves on the Board of Directors of the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District serving Division One. She serves on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Local Government Advisory Committee where she serves on the Water Subcommittee, PFAS Risk Communication Subcommittee and the Climate Adaptation Subcommittee. She also serves as the President and CEO of Watermark Associates, a comprehensive business consulting firm. Ms. Burke holds a bachelor's degree in International Economics and Marketing and an MBA from Mount St. Mary's University.



PATRICK DENT

Patrick Dent is the Assistant General Manager of Water Policy at Central Arizona Project, where he oversees long-range planning, policy analysis and program implementation for the CAP service area, the Colorado River and the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District. He is an expert in water resources engineering and policy. Previously, he worked in CAP's Water Operations group and is a registered Professional Engineer in Arizona. Mr. Dent holds a master's degree in Water Resources Engineering from Utah State University.



JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL

Joaquin Esquivel is the Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board. In 2021, he was appointed to the Western States Water Council, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council, and the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum. He has expertise in federal water policy and state water management. Previously, Esquivel served as Assistant Secretary for federal water policy at the California Natural Resources Agency in the Governor's Washington, D.C. office and has worked for U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer as a legislative assistant, covering portfolios such as agriculture, water and oceans. Mr. Esquivel holds a BA in English from UC Santa Barbara.



ALLISON FEBBO

Allison Febbo is the General Manager of Westlands Water District, the largest agricultural water district in the US, overseeing its operations and managing relations with the public, legislative bodies and government agencies. Prior to her role at Westlands, she served as the General Manager for the Mojave Water Agency and worked on major California water projects, including the Delta Conveyance Project. Ms. Febbo holds a bachelor's degree in Earth and Atmospheric Science from Georgia Institute of Technology and a master's degree in Hydraulic Science from UC Davis.



DUSTY FERENCE

Dusty Ference is the Executive Director of the Kings County Farm Bureau and General Manager of the Excelsior/Kings River Resource Conservation District. He is an expert in agricultural policy, resource management and farm operations. Previously, he worked as a citrus farmer and has experience lobbying for agriculture at the state and national levels. Mr. Ference also serves as Chair of the Kings County Ag Advisory Committee, Vice President of the Kings Economic Development Corporation and a member of the Lemoore College Ag Advisory Committee and Hanford Rotary Club.



TIA FLEMING

Tia Fleming is the Co-Executive Director of the California Water Efficiency Partnership, where she leads external affairs and advocacy efforts for over 225 urban water suppliers statewide. Previously, she worked with Imagine H2O and WaterNow Alliance to promote innovative water solutions. She has over 15 years of experience in water-focused municipal organizations and nonprofits, focusing on integrating science, technology and policy to address climate challenges. Ms. Fleming holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz.



AARON FUKUDA

Aaron Fukuda is the General Manager of the Tulare Irrigation District and Interim General Manager of the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency, where he oversees water management operations and regulatory compliance. He has expertise in agricultural hydraulic design, water resource management and groundwater sustainability planning. Mr. Fukuda holds a BS in Civil Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and an MPA from California State University Fresno and is a registered PE in California.



JESUS GONZALEZ

Jesus Gonzalez is the Manager of Groundwater and Recycled Water at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, overseeing efforts to expand and protect LA's groundwater rights and increase the city's use of recycled water. He has over 20 years of experience in the water industry and is a Civil Engineer. Mr. Gonzalez holds a bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from UCLA.

SPEAKER BIOS



ANDREE LEE

Andree Johnson Lee is a Vice President and One Water Practice Leader for EKI Environment & Water. She has over sixteen years of public and private sector experience performing and managing water resources projects. Her specialty is facilitating collaborative solutions to complex water management challenges among agencies and stakeholders. She has led regional and countywide water planning and water supply development efforts for public and private sector clients across the western US. Ms. Lee holds a BA in Geography/Environmental Studies from UCLA.



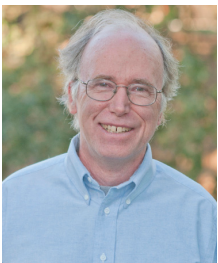
BART LEEFLANG

Bart Leeflang is the Assistant General Manager at the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, where he oversees the Colorado River Program, water rights and conservation teams. He has extensive experience overseeing design, dam safety and construction projects. Previously, he worked for the Bureau of Reclamation in various capacities including serving as the Field Engineering Division Manager, managing construction at Reclamation facilities in Utah. Mr. Leeflang is a professional engineer.



ELIZABETH LOVSTED

Elizabeth Lovsted is a Water Resources Manager at the San Diego County Water Authority, overseeing regulatory policy, integrated regional water management and conservation. She is an expert in water resources planning and conservation with 21 years of experience. She is the past chair of the Water Use Efficiency Subcommittee for the Association of California Water Agencies and served as the Steering Committee chair for the California Data Collaborative. Ms. Lovsted is a registered Civil Engineer with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from San Diego State University.



DR. JAY LUND

Dr. Jay Lund is the Vice Director of the Center for Watershed Sciences and a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UC Davis. Previously, he served as Chair of California's Delta Independent Science Board, Convenor of the California Water and Environment Modeling Forum and Advisory Committee member for the California Water Plan Updates. He is a lead author of several books on California water supply management. Dr. Lund holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations and Regional Planning, a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, a master's degree in Geography, and PhD in Civil Engineering from the University of Washington.



LACEY MCBRIDE

Lacey McBride is the Water Resources Manager for Merced County, overseeing the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act across four groundwater basins. Previously, she was the Director of Federal Governmental Relations at UC Merced, where she facilitated advocacy efforts with Congressional representatives and federal research agencies. Ms. McBride holds a BS in Business Administration from CSU Stanislaus and an MBA from George Washington University.



CRAIG MILLER

Craig Miller is the General Manager at Western Municipal Water District. With over 25 years of experience in water resource engineering and management, his expertise includes enhancing efficiencies and responsibly managing resources. Previously, he served as Assistant General Manager at Inland Empire Utilities Agency and Executive Director of Engineering and Planning at Orange County Water District. Mr. Miller is a registered Civil Engineer in California and holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from California State University, Long Beach.



JESSICA NEUWERTH

Jessica Neuwerth currently serves as the Acting Executive Director for the Colorado River Board of California, representing the interests of Californians in the water and power resources of the Colorado River. Jessica is a Wyoming native who joined the Colorado River Board in 2014, taking on the role of Deputy Director in 2020. She is an experienced environmental scientist with a strong background in natural resources, environmental awareness and water resource management. Ms. Neuwerth holds a BS in Biology from the University of Wyoming.



GREG NEWMARK

Greg Newmark is the Principal at Meyers Nave, where he leads the Los Angeles office and is a practicing attorney with a focus on environmental and land use matters. His expertise includes complex issues related to water quality, environmental contamination and land use laws, including the California Environmental Quality Act. Previously, he served as a Deputy Attorney General at the California Department of Justice, representing natural resources agencies in trial and appellate litigation. Mr. Newmark earned his law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law.



ERIC O'DONNELL

Eric O'Donnell is a Director at Townsend Public Affairs where he has successfully advanced over a dozen legislative items into law and secured over \$100 million in competitive local, state and federal funding for clients' legacy projects. His specialty is building coalitions, identifying synergies and leveraging all available opportunities to achieve funding success in areas of water and sanitation, local governance, infrastructure, parks and recreation and economic development. Mr. O'Donnell holds a BA from California State University and an MPA from Chapman University.



KENDRA OLMOS

Kendra Olmos is a Senior Project Manager at EKI Environment and Water where she supports public and private sector clients with water resources and efficiency projects. She has over 15 years of experience in engineering consulting and academic research focused on water efficiency and resource management. She spent 10 years at UC Davis advancing research and education in the water-energy-climate nexus within the urban, ag and commercial water and energy sectors. Ms. Olmos holds a master's and bachelor's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

SPEAKER BIOS



FERNANDO PALUDI

Fernando Paludi is the General Manager of Trabuco Canyon Water District. He has over thirty years of water industry experience in southern California. He has served as Associate General Manager for West Basic Municipal Water District where he oversaw finance, water resources planning, external affairs and customer agency relations. He also spent the first ten years of his career with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California as an engineer and planner. Mr. Paludi holds an MBA from Pepperdine University and a BS in Civil Engineering from UCLA.



DAVID PEDERSEN

David Pedersen is the General Manager of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Administering Agent for the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority. Previously, he served as the Executive Director of Operations for the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) in Orange County California. Mr. Pedersen holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from UC Irvine and an MBA from California State University, Long Beach. He also serves on the Boards of the Association of California Water Agencies, Southern California Water Coalition, Urban Water Institute and WateReuse California.



JENNIFER PERSIKE

Jennifer Persike is the Founder and President of Jennifer Persike & Company, which helps organizations improve leadership, optimize operations and integrate diversity, inclusion and equity into their values. Previously, she served as Executive Director of Leadership California and Deputy Executive Director for the Association of California Water Agencies. Ms. Persike holds a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Political Science from Chico State University, along with certifications in Facilitation, Mediation and Arbitration from UC Davis, and Diversity & Inclusion from Cornell University.



JASON PHILLIPS

Jason Phillips is the CEO of Friant Water Authority. He has over two decades of experience in water resource management and public service. He has fifteen years of experience with the Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region where he managed several complex programs including the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation and the San Luis Drainage Feature Re-evaluation. Mr. Phillips holds a BS in Civil Engineering from Portland State University.



TOM PHILP

Tom Philp is a Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial writer and columnist who returned to The Sacramento Bee in 2023 after working for Metropolitan Water District as Executive Strategic Director. Philp had previously written for The Bee from 1991 to 2007. He is a native Californian and a graduate of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.



DR. GREG PIERCE

Dr. Greg Pierce is the Co-Executive Director of the Luskin Center for Innovation, the Director of the Human Right to Water Solutions Lab and the Director of the UCLA Water Resources Group. He is an expert in water insecurity, green infrastructure, climate resilience and transportation access. He is an author or co-author of 50+ peer-reviewed articles, including many in the leading journals in urban studies, infrastructure planning and policy and environmental health, as well as 20+ major Luskin Center for Innovation reports. Dr. Pierce holds a PhD and MA in Urban Planning from UCLA.



JANISSE QUINONES

Janisse Quiñones is the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the nation's largest publicly owned water and power utility. She has over twenty-five years of leadership experience in utility and engineering industries overseeing electrical, natural gas and water operations. Her experience also includes serving in the US Coast Guard. Ms. Quiñones holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez Campus. She also holds an MBA and a Master of Advanced Studies in International Relations.



DR. ANNA READE

Dr. Anna Reade is the Director of PFAS Advocacy at Environmental Health, where she works at the intersection of science and policy to reduce and eliminate harmful exposures to toxic chemicals. As NRDC's lead scientist on PFAS, she conducts research and develops innovative scientific tools and resources to support wider understanding and communication of PFAS science. Previously, she served as a policy fellow with the California Council on Science and Technology in the California State Senate. Dr. Reade holds a PhD in Developmental Biology from UC San Francisco.



EDWARD RING

Edward Ring is the Director of Californians for Energy and Water Abundance, a project of the California Policy Center, where he focuses on public policy research related to water and energy resources. He co-founded the California Policy Center and served as its first president, and he led the "More Water Now" campaign which developed the Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022. He is the author of "The Abundance Choice: Our Fight for More Water in California," published last year. Mr. Ring holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from UC Davis and an MBA in Finance from USC.



ERIC SAPIRSTEIN

Eric Sapirstein is the Founder and CEO of ENS Resources, Inc., where he leads legislative and regulatory affairs consulting for local and regional governments and national organizations. He has expertise in environmental policy and government relations. Prior to founding ENS Resources, he held leadership positions at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington-based consulting firms. Mr. Sapirstein holds an MPA from The George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Boston University.

SPEAKER BIOS



STEVE SNYDER

Steve Snyder is the Executive Communications Manager at Denver Water, overseeing senior management's public outreach, speaking engagements and the speakers' bureau and tours program. Prior to Denver Water, he held senior communication roles at Denver International Airport, Frontier Airlines and Saint Joseph Hospital, and worked for 10 years as a television news journalist, winning awards such as the Edward R. Murrow Award for Journalistic Excellence. Mr. Snyder holds a bachelor's and master's degree in Communications from Baylor University.



DR. DAVID SUNDING

Dr. David Sunding is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at UC Berkeley and the Director of the Berkeley Water Center. Previously, he served as a senior economist on President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers and has advised corporations, utilities and government agencies on environmental litigation and water resource disputes. Dr. Sunding holds the Thomas J. Graff Chair in Natural Resource Economics at UC Berkeley and has received numerous research grants from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



CHRIS TANTAU

Chris Tantau is the Chairman of the Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Vice Chairman of the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District and Kaweah River Power Authority. He is a diversified farmer and the General Manager of Venida Packing Co. Previously, he served as General Manager of the Consolidated Peoples Ditch Company and has been a board member of the Friant Water Authority since 2015. Mr. Tantau holds a BS in Business Management from the University of Colorado, Boulder.



RYAN THIHA

Ryan Thiha is the Manager of the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Program at Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment, overseeing the procurement, design, construction and startup of the Advanced Water Purification Facility. He is an expert in regulatory compliance, planning, design and construction of stormwater and wastewater facilities. With over 20 years of experience, he has worked extensively in water infrastructure development. Mr. Thiha holds a bachelor's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Cal Poly Pomona and is a registered PE.



MARK TOY

Major General Mark Toy is the General Manager of the Yorba Linda Water District, where he leads a team of water professionals in managing the district's water and sewer services. Previously, he served in the US Army for over 35 years and as a 2-Star Major General in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, commanding large organizations and overseeing critical water resource projects. Mr. Toy holds a BS in Operations Research from the United States Military Academy at West Point, an MBA from Boston University, an MS in Environmental Engineering from UCLA, and an MS in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

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Director, Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California

David Drake
Director, Rincon del Diablo Municipal
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