

**Urban Water Institute Panel
First Draft Questions**

Title: *Making the Impossible, Possible: Rethinking Institutional and Regulatory Challenges to Drive Success*

Mike Markus: The “One Water” approach we hear so much about today really didn’t exist as an industry goal when GWRS was initially implemented. How important and unique was the partnership between Orange County Water District and Orange County Sanitation District – two separate agencies – in getting GWRS launched?

Matt Stone: In my career, I have had the opportunity to be involved in agency consolidations; all between a single smaller agency and a larger “host” agency. The SCV Water consolidation involved a collection of agencies with widely varying needs and interests, as well as some trust issues. How did your agency navigate these disparate interests in a collaborative manner that made all participants feel equally represented under the SCV Water umbrella?

David Petersen: As you mentioned in your presentation, the Triunfo JPA Potable reuse initiative was driven by uncompromising pressure from regulators. Sometimes, agencies choose a path of litigation to address these issues – particularly if the solution more costly and disproportionately burdensome. What made you and your Board move from challenging regulators and toward implementing this project?

Joe Mouawad: Taking on a failing water system can result in an agency incurring liability and potential financial risk. When EMWD considered its consolidation with the County Water Company of Riverside – a system in financial receivership with a contaminated water supply, no fire-fighting capabilities and active water leaks – what did EMWD do to protect its existing customers from financial, legal and operational liability?