

2022 THE ART AND SCIENCE OF WATER



The Urban Water Institute's

spring water conference
February 16-17, 2022

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Urban Water Institute's Spring Conference • February 16-17, 2022 The Art and Science of Water • Virtual Interactive Conference

The conference in 2022 will feature some 'facts' or the science side of a water topic and something on the 'art' side which may involve the 'people' side of the equation, such as conflict resolution, cooperation, partnerships, negotiations and other people-related matters. This will be an all-virtual conference.

Day 1: February 16, 2022: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

1:00 pm **Conference Opening: John Rossi, UWI Chair**

1:10 pm **The City View**

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.

- Jennifer Perez, Mayor of Norwalk, City Elected Official: Balancing Voter Expectations
- Jose Reynoso, City Manager of Sierra Madre, City Administration: Organizational, budgetary and administrative challenges,
- Adriana Figueroa Director of Public Works City of Paramount, City Water Utility Leader: Challenges of an Enterprise Entity
- Steve Bucknam, Moderator, Past UWI Chair, President Bucknam & Assoc.

2:10 pm **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
- Jeff Kightlinger, Former General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District
- Pat Mulroy, Senior Fellow for Climate Adaptation and Environmental Policy; Practitioner in Residence for the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution at the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law
- Felicia Marcus, William C. Landreth Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's Water in the West Program
- Dr. Greg Quist, Moderator, Past UWI Chair, VP Rincon del Diablo Water Board



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3:20 pm 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?

- John Yarbrough, Assistant Deputy Director, CA Department of Water Resources
- Dave Pedersen, General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- Bill Dietrich, San Luis Water District Board, ACWA Agriculture Committee Chair
- John Rossi, Moderator, UWI Chair, Senior Vice President Rancho California Board of Directors

4:30 pm Keynote speaker: Mark Pestrella

Closes the first day of the conference reflecting on the scientific and artful considerations of leading complex water-related organizations in California. Expect he will address his strategic view of how 21st century infrastructure, social equity and workforce changes drive LA County's future.

5:00 pm Wrap up for Day 1 – John Rossi, UWI Chair

Day 2: February 17, 2022: 8:45 am – 1:00 pm

8:45 am Welcome John Rossi, UWI Chair

9:00 am 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
- Bill Hasencamp, MWD, Manager Colorado River Resources
- Michael Bernardo, Deputy Chief, Boulder Canyon Operations, USBR
- John Thornton, Moderator, UWI Treasurer, Partner Hunt Thornton Resource Strategies



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10:10 am 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, UC Berkley
- Jack Rice, Madera County Farmer
- Jason Phillips, CEO Friant Water Authority
- John Thornton, Moderator, UWI Treasurer, Partner Hunt Thornton Resource Strategies

11:10 am The Art and Science of water infrastructure funding and cost considerations

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.

- Brian Thomas, Ph.D., Executive Director of Delta Conveyance Financing Authority
- Devon Mathis, California Assemblyman
- Michael Deane, Clean Water State Revolving Fund EPA
- Bob Siemak, Moderator, UWI Board of Directors, Founder, Principal Consultant RCS Consulting

12:05 pm 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.

- Acquanetta Warren, Mayor of Fontana
- Katano Kasaine, MWD AGM/CFO
- Don Patterson, Director Finance and Administration, LVMWD
- Dave Pedersen, Moderator, UWI Board of Directors, General Manager LVMWD

1:00 pm Close the Conference and Announce New Urban Water Institute Chair

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