

## Director AB1234 Report

**Director Name:** Beth Braunstein

**Meeting Attended:** AWA Water information Virtual Series; Delta Conveyance Project Briefing

**Date of Meeting:** May 20th, 2021

**Meeting to be Presented At:** June 1, 2021

Guest speaker: Carrie Buckman, Environmental Program Manager for the DWR

- DWR is currently working on multiple EIR and considering other pathways for the tunnel to help avoid or reduce negative effects.
- DWR is aware that the communities in the Delta oppose this project and don't want to see it happen.
- DWR will not consider other options that might create more local water resilience (like investing in communities and helping promote recycled water) because that does not align with their goals of supplying water through the State Water Project.

[This page intentionally left blank.]

Director name: Gary Martin

Meetings attended: SCV Chamber Event – The “New Normal” Work Practices: Rules, Regulations & Protocols

Date of meeting: May 26, 2021

Location: Virtual

SCV Water Board meeting to be presented at: June 1, 2021

On May 26, 2021, I attended the SCV Chamber of Commerce event The “New Normal” Work Practices: Rules, Regulations & Protocols. The presenters were Dr. Vivek Bhatt of UCLA Health and Brian Koegle of Poole Shaffery.

Peter Warda of the SCV Chamber introduced the meeting and the speakers. The discussion was on workplace procedures related to COVID-19 as we move forward into perhaps state-wide reopening of businesses.

Points of interest from each presenter:

Dr. Bhatt

- Recommends a lot of the same precautions in the “new normal,” including temperature checks, symptom checks, 6-foot distancing and continued mask wearing.
- Suggests that physical barriers would be “helpful” where possible.
- Frequent hand-washing and hand sanitizers available – yes.
- Suggests fresh air circulation with open windows where possible.
- Need creative planning to keep people apart.
- According to Dr. Bhatt, not very much will change.

Mr. Koegle

- Provided links for Federal and State vaccination regulations.
- Good common sense precautions should continue.
- CDC guidance is NOT the rule/law.
- Federal and State regulations ARE the rule/law.
- CALOSHA has 17 new regulations for California businesses.
- Non-vaccinated are required to wear N95 face masks.
- Can employers mandate vaccines? Yes, with exceptions.
- Notice for testing if an employee tests positive.
- Shot(s) plus 2 weeks = vaccinated.
- Vaccinated not required to wear masks.
- Employers have the right to mandate masks.
- CALOSHA regulation says that if the employer encourages vaccinations and an employee then has an illness that is related to the vaccination, the illness must be reported as employment-related.
- Employers who declare “essential employees” can be liable in a wrongful death lawsuit.
- Discussed “reasonable accommodations” requirements.
- Discussed COVID-19 leave requirements and California SPSL.
- Whatever policy employers put in place must be in writing.
- Employers must treat all employees equally.
- Must have record keeping protocols for positive cases.
- Employers need to update policies regularly as government guidance changes.

I found the program to be interesting and informative, and I appreciate being able to attend.

[This page intentionally left blank.]

Lynne Plambeck

AB1234 Report

IRWPM Summit - *Watershed Health & People Experiencing Homelessness: Spotlight on the Central Coast and Ventura Counties, and Statewide Impacts*

5-5-21, 8:30AM to 12noon, virtual webinar

This webinar was aimed at bringing Resource Managers, Shelter agencies and enforcement agencies together to discuss the impacts and solutions to homeless encampments in the rivers. This is a statewide problem being experienced on most rivers.

Key Note Speaker: Senator John Laird – Natural Resources v. homelessness. The debate should be where people can go verses where they can't. How can we provide shelter, and yes, we must also enforce resource law.

Panel #1 – State and Federal Agency Perspectives and Opportunities *Panelists: Max Gomberg, SWRCB; Carmel Kinsella Brown, DWR; and Helene Schneider, USICH – (US Interagency Council on Homelessness); Lindsey Hart, Caltrans*

Encampments in the river are a public health hazard due to lack of restrooms. Does providing portable restrooms encourage illegal camping? We cannot ignore the water quality risks caused, in part, by the homeless population living near and around sensitive water bodies.

Panel #2 –How Local Jurisdictions Are Providing Leadership On the Front Lines

*Panelists: Donna Meyers, Mayor, City of Santa Cruz; Paula Perotte, Mayor, City of Goleta, Dawn Ortiz-Legg, 3rd District Supervisor, SLO County*

Mapping homeless encampments, encampment trash clean ups. Some City cleanups along rivers have removed as much as 120 tons of trash. Some cities working to encourage the homeless to bag their own trash.

Panel #3 – Community Impact – Under Served Communities

*Panelists: John Moreno-Ramirez, City of Watsonville Field Services Supervisor; Paz Padilla, Community Action Board, Housing Prevention and Intervention Services Director; Jen Codianne, Acting Deputy, Watershed Operations and Maintenance, Santa Clara Valley Water; Tara Carruth, Program Manager, Ventura County Continuum of Care* Need to create places for people to go, provide services to prevent homelessness.

Panel #4 – Water Quality and Watershed Health

*Panelists: Emily Koval, Program Supervisor, City Net; Christopher Clark, Code Enforcement Officer, City of Santa Barbara, Parks & Recreation; Rosemary Menard, City of Santa Cruz Water Director* Funding Overview – Successes and Opportunities

Planning for restoration of the creeks underway. In some areas, funding provided by Cities, Sewer Districts, etc. Prop 1, Water Quality funds, Some Cities have passed parcel tax to address homeless, using Federal stimulus funds, CARS Act. (I hae a list in Excel, if anyone wants it)

[This page intentionally left blank.]

Lynne Plambeck  
 AB1234  
 SoCal Water Dialogue  
 May 26, 2021 12:00 PM (Virtual Meeting)

**Moderator:** Meena Westford - Metropolitan Water District, Senior Policy Advisor, Colorado River  
**Panelists:** Mike Bernardo, P.E., PMP - Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region, River Operations Manager, Kristin Johnson, J.D. - Arizona Department of Water Resources, Manager, Colorado River Section, Shanti Rosset - Metropolitan Water District, Colorado River Program Manager

Severe drought conditions have returned to the Colorado River. Looking at trends over the past century, researchers examined recorded measurements from 1913-2017 and found the average temperature across the Upper Colorado River Basin increased by 2.5 and the river’s flow decreased by about 20%. They estimated that more than half of this lost flow was attributable to higher temperatures. That equates to a loss of roughly 1.5 million acre-feet of water per year, which is more than half of the annual water allotment for the entire state of Arizona.

System reservoir storage has fallen to its lowest level since Lake Powell was built in the 1960s. The forecast is grim. Lake Mead is expected to drop 35 more feet by the end of next year. In August,



Reclamation is anticipating declaring a first-ever shortage, which would cut the deliveries to the Central Arizona Project by a third next year. With these cuts looming, this summer, Reclamation will kick off multi-state and international negotiations that will shape the management of the Colorado River for decades to come. Representatives of the seven states in the Colorado River Basin signed the set of agreements known as the Drought Contingency Plan nearly three years ago. Under one of the agreements, Arizona and Nevada agreed to take the first cuts to help prop up

the level of Lake Mead, while California would participate at lower shortage levels if the reservoir continues to fall.

Arizona will serve as a testing ground for how seriously and how quickly the states and tribal nations in the upper and lower Colorado River basins can tackle the water crisis. This is because, as part of the deal that led to the creation of the Central Arizona Project, or CAP—the giant canal that runs from Phoenix to Tucson—Arizona agreed to be first in line when drought-induced water cuts were needed. And given the current status of the Lake Mead reservoir, where water levels have dipped below 40 percent capacity due to reduced snowpack upstream, those cuts will need to be in place

Arizona’s Department of Water Resources has produced a tentative timeline with the first half of 2022 consisting of engagement and consultation sessions with all stakeholders in the state, including tribal nations, state government leaders, municipal and local representatives, and Central Arizona farming groups. Then, by the final quarter of the year, around October, the agreed-upon mitigation efforts will actually be put into practice. The Met will depend more on its State Water project water and Banking supplies, possibly affecting our (SCVWA abilities to withdraw banked water?)

[This page intentionally left blank.]