

Director name: Gary Martin

Meetings attended: Urban Water Institute Board Meeting and Conference

Dates of meetings: August 24, 25 and 26, 2022

Location: San Diego, CA

SCV Water Board meeting to be presented at: September 6, 2022

On August 24-26, 2022, I attended the Urban Water Institute (UWI) Board of Directors meeting and Annual Water Conference held at the San Diego Mission Bay Resort. The agendas for the board meeting and conference are attached hereto. Points of interest are as follows:

#### 8/24/2022 UWI Board of Directors Meeting

- Welcome and introductions by Board Chair Andree Johnson and Executive Director Ane Deister.
- The minutes of the February 16, 2022 board meeting were approved.
- Financial report was presented by John Thornton and then accepted and filed by vote of the board. Note: The UWI's financial position is strong following the extended COVID shutdown period. Net income change year-over-year was +\$41k.
- New members were approved by the board.
- An update was provided on the conference registrations and sponsors; 156 registered and 30 sponsors.
- An update was provided on COVID measures being taken at the conference.
- The February 2023 conference will be held 2/22 – 2/24 in Palm Springs.
- Andre Johnson provided the Chair's report.
- Ane Deister provided the Executive Director's report.
- The board held an open discussion and topics for the February 2023 conference.

#### 8/24/2022 UWI Conference Day 1

1:00 PM; opening remarks and introduction by UWI Board Chair Andree Johnson

1:10 PM; Welcome to San Diego by Mayor Todd Gloria

1:25 PM; Opening Keynote Address: "As drought lingers, larger and more destructive wild fires pose new threats to water supply." Presented by Ben Liveh, PhD, Civil Engineering, Director of Western Water

Assessment, Associate Professor, University of Colorado.

- Provided a summary comparison of western water 2001 – present.
- Discussed fall of Central Valley water levels.
- Soil moisture data shows fall during the last 20 years.
- Stated that "mega-droughts" can occur naturally.
- Tree rings show indications of 16<sup>th</sup> century mega drought, and is amazingly accurate.
- 2000-2022 driest 23 year period in the last 1,200 years.
- Human-caused climate change responsible for 40% of soil moisture deficit.
- Models show soil moisture deficit even without climate change.
- Wildfires are the most visible way people see effects of drought.
- Vapor pressure deficit and warming account for the increase in wildfire area burned.
- Main ingredients of wildfire are fuel, dryness and ignition. A century of suppression has caused fuel to be more abundant in many forests.
- Wildfire effects on water supplies; often, springs emerge after woods are cut down.
- Streamflow is 58% greater than expected after wildfire.
- Observed streamflow in 29 heavily burned basins is greater than estimated by climate.

- Climate change is increasing the chance of mega-flood.
- Wildfire is “unhinging” historical data from what we see.

2:20 PM; Droughts and Fire: Unintended Consequences of Fire on Water Supply” See attached agenda for panel information. Points of interest:

- Sediment flow is a significant issue and costs to de-silt reservoirs is high.
- Ecological forest management is important. Trees per acre are lower in managed vs, unmanaged forests, reducing fuel levels.
- Challenge of forest management is workforce, working conditions and wood.
- Lessons learned from Walsey fire were discussed; need emergency backup powers, activate early response, personnel are first responders – safety of staff, request mutual aid before you need it, document from start for FEMA aid, test emergency generators under load periodically, send representative to incident command post.
- Opportunities: reducing fire contributing species in riparian areas, reducing ignitions if municipal corridors, maintain capacity of debris basins.

3:50 PM; Climate Change and California Water Laws. See agenda for panel information. Points of interest: Problem: 21<sup>st</sup> century water crisis, 20<sup>th</sup> century water infrastructure, 19<sup>th</sup> century water laws.

- Planning and Conservation League team of experts met for a year and came up with recommendations.
- Amend water code to bring in tribes.
- Incorporate environmental justice issues.
- Require mitigation of groundwater pumping and domestic water wells.
- Update and reform statutory water rights adjudications by SWRCB.
- Improve the SWRCB’s verification of surface water rights claims.
- Allow the SWRCB to structure relief orders to approximate circumstances.
- Utilize real-time diversion and water use monitoring.
- Compel the SWRCB’s completion of the Bay-Delta WQ Control Plan update.
- Account for the effects of climate change on CA hydrology.

### 8/25/2022 UWI Conference Day 2

9:00 AM; Colorado River Update: The Changing Colorado River. See attached agenda for panel information.

Points of interest:

- The Colorado River operates on “law of the river.” 16.5 million acre-feet allocated annually. 60 million acre-feet of storage. Produces 4,200 MW of power. Water allocated 70% to agriculture. 40% of water exported.
- Lower Colorado operates on “Water Master” management objectives.
- Driest 23-year period on record.
- Lake Powell and Lake Mead at 26%-27% capacity.
- On August 16<sup>th</sup>, administrative actions were taken to prevent water levels in Lake Mead from dropping below critical levels.
- The Central Arizona Project was discussed and the 2023 annual operation plan.
- MWD efforts to reduce demand on Colorado River have been significant / successful.

10:15 AM; Organizational Resiliency after COVID. See attached agenda for panel information. Points of interest:

- Is it temporary or transformational?
- Acknowledgement that we have not returned to “normal” pre-pandemic practices.
- Answer: transformational.

- Agencies and consultant groups face a whole new set of challenges going forward.
- Issues of “fairness” are of concern, Some are allowed to work remotely or in a hybrid program and some do not have that option.

11:20 PM; A Balancing Act to Develop New Drinking Water Standards. See attached agenda for panel information. Points of interest:

- HRTWA: Human Right to Water Act.
- 98% of Californians have safe water.
- How water standards are created: Identify contaminants; create monitoring list; understand toxicology and epidemiology; determine notification and response levels, determine public health goals, determine aspirational targets which are unrealistic to achieve.
- Safe to drink is complicated.
- It’s a balancing act on a 3-legged stool – quantity, quality, cost.
- How do we prioritize various contaminants?
- Problem with legislative action is responding to local constituents in district.

1:20 PM; PFAS – Conflicts, Regulations, and Compliance. See attached agenda for panel information. Points of interest:

- Health effects are wide ranging.
- Occurrence of PFAS Being gathered.
- Statewide investigative orders have provided information of locations, such as airports.
- A map showing drinking water wells with high levels (exceeding notification and response levels) was presented and the problem is heavy in SoCal.
- State and EPA actions are coming – 2025 state MCL.
- Valerie Pryor presented on the impact to Zone 7.
- A presentation on Federal PFAS policy was received.

2:25 PM; Emerging Conservation Regulations and Ways to Cope. See attached agenda for panel information. Points of interest:

- Water agency use objectives, supplier compliance, various criteria presented.
- Current standards: 2020 55 gpd, 2025 52.5 gpd, 2030 50 gpd.
- Proposed standards: 2020 55 gpd, 2025 47 gpd, 2030 42 gpd.
- A roundtable discussion about proposed indoor and outdoor water use targets. The discussion was scattered no key points resulted other than generalities about costs to comply and public cooperation.

3:55 PM; Bridging the Trust Gap: Personal Approaches to Conflict Resolution. See the attached agenda for panel information. Points of interest:

- Quote cited: “There’s no such thing as trust in water.”
- Panel discussion on how to build trust followed.

### 8/26/2022 UWI Conference Day 3

9:00 AM; Board Directors Roundtable. See agenda for panel information. Points of interest:

- I was a panelist and the general theme was discussion of “what are you *juggling* today.”
- I covered all the typical issues, such as COVID, PFAS, Drought, as well as board transitioning to 9 directors and vacancies on our board this year.

10:20 AM; Regional Collaboration in CA North, Central and South. See attached agenda for panel information.

Points of interest:

- This was a roundtable discussion by various general managers on the benefits of working collaboratively with each other across the state for our mutual benefit.

The conference was very interesting and informative and I appreciate being able to attend.



**Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**  
**August 24, 2022, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**  
**San Diego Mission Bay Resort (Monte Carlo Room)**

- I. Welcome and introductions – Andree Johnson**
  - a) Roll call Minimum quorum 30% of active board members or 13 board members of the 46 active Board members. Declare a quorum
  - b) Overview of February Webinar Conference
  - c) Accept, modify agenda, and approve agenda
  
- II. Minutes – Andree Johnson, Stacy Davis, Jason Phillips & Board**
  - a) Review, modify as needed, approve minutes from February 16, 2022, Board Meeting
  
- III. Financial report – John Thornton & Stacy Davis**
  - a) Discuss midyear financials
  - b) Accept and file financial report – action item
  - c) Update on Memberships and Sponsorships
  
- IV. Update on current Board Members – Andree Johnson & Stacy Davis**
  - 1) Justin Caporusso- Mountain Counties Water Resources Associations
  - 2) Gregory Reed- West Basin Municipal Water District
  - 3) Tom Francis- BAWSCA
  - 4) Others
    - ii) Organizations no longer represented
  
- V. Update on August Annual Conference**
  - a) Registrations: 156: \$65,625
  - b) Sponsors: 30 Sponsors: Pledging: \$63,250 Cash to Date: \$46,750
  - c) Twitter Followers have surpassed 700
  
- VI. Update on Covid Measures**
  - a) A wristband system to notify others about their physical contact/social distancing comfortability
    - i) Red: Not comfortable with physical contact- 6 feet social distancing
    - ii) Yellow: COVID Cautious- Ask before physical contact
    - iii) Green: Physical contact ok- No social distancing required

**VII. New Business – Ane Deister, Andree Johnson & John Thornton**

- a) Discuss February 2023 Conference
  - i) Palm Springs dates are February 22 - 24
  - ii) Seek input from Board members regarding theme(s), general topics, and speakers
    - (a) Set date for first planning meeting

**VIII. Chair's Report – Andree Johnson**

- a) Chairman's general remarks.
- b) Recognitions
- c) Newsletters

**IX. Executive Director's Report**

**X. Open Topics from the Board**

**XI. Set Next Board Meeting**

- a) February 22, 2023, in Palm Springs at 10:00 am

**XII. Meeting adjourns**

Water Policy: Getting to the Heart of the Matter

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# Urban Water Institute's 29th Annual Conference • August 24-26, 2022 San Diego Mission Bay Resort • San Diego • California

## Water Policy: Getting to the Heart of the Matter

### Wednesday, August 24, 2022: Drought, Fire, Laws

#### **12:00 p.m. - Registration & Networking (Sorrento Foyer)**

#### **1:00 p.m. - Opening Remarks & Introduction**

- Andree Johnson, Woodard & Curran

#### **1:10 p.m. - Welcome to San Diego**

- Mayor Todd Gloria of San Diego

#### **1:25 p.m. - Opening Keynote: As drought lingers, larger and more destructive wild fires pose new threats to water supply.**

*UCLA researchers report of a Megadrought in Southwestern North America that is the region's driest in at least 1,200 years. They have determined that increasing forest fire activity is "unhinging" western U.S. stream flow from its historical predictability. In areas where more than a fifth of the forest had burned, stream flow increased by an average of 30% for six years after the fire. On its surface, increased stream flow - the rate at which water is carried by rivers and streams - could be seen as a boon for the drought - stricken region. But too much water comes with hazards, including increased erosion, flooding and debris flows.*

- Park Williams, Assoc. Professor of Geography, UCLA, Report Major Contributor, from UCLA's HyFiVES Research Group
- Co-Moderators: Andree Johnson & Lisa Ohlund

#### **2:20 p.m. - Droughts and Fire: Unintended Consequences of Fire on Water Supply**

*Update on the science of fire-fighting techniques that affect water quality, and loss of storage (quantity impacts) due to watershed devastation. Beginning with an update of the most recent year of fire fighting in California. Panelists describe the water quality and water quantity impacts utilities must manage as a result.*

- Dave Pedersen, General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- Julie (Jamie) Uyehara Ph.D., Natural Resources Planning Officer, Forest Service
- Tony Firenzi, Director of Strategic Affairs, PCWA
- Co-Moderators: Andree Johnson & Lisa Ohlund

#### **3:30 p.m. - Networking Break - Sponsored by Western Municipal Water District**

#### **3:50 p.m. - Climate Change and California Water Laws**

*What's at the 'Heart of the Matter' regarding Climate Change Adaptations that may result in water law changes? The Planning and Conservation League report on Updating California Water Laws in the Face of Droughts/Climate Change may provide insights.*

- Scott Slater, Shareholder, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
- Felicia Marcus, Fellow, Stanford University
- Richard Frank, Professor of Environmental Practice, UC Davis School of Law
- Moderator: Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

#### **5:30 p.m. - 7:00 pm - Welcome Reception/ Awards Recognition - Sponsored by Woodard & Curran (Bayside Terrace)**

### Thursday, August 25, 2022: Regulations and Resources

#### **7:45 a.m. Registration, Networking & Continental Breakfast—Sponsored By Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency**

#### **8:45 a.m. - Intro and Summary from Day 1 Dave Pedersen, General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District**

#### **9:00 a.m. - Colorado River Update: The Changing Colorado River**

*The flow of the Colorado River has dropped 20 percent since the 1900s. Roughly half of that decline is due to climate change, which has fueled a 20-year megadrought across Colorado and the West. Lake Mead is the largest reservoir in the United States and part of a system that supplies water to at least 40 million people across seven states and northern Mexico. It stands today at its lowest level since Franklin Delano Roosevelt was president. This means less water will be portioned out to seven states and Mexico in the 2022 and 2023 water years. Our panel of experts on the Colorado river will discuss its current condition and changes that have occurred since our last conference in February 2022.*

- Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Michael Bernardo, Deputy Chief, US Bureau of Reclamation
- Ted Cooke, General Manager, Central Arizona Project
- Moderator: John Thornton, Partner, Hunt Thornton Resource Strategies



**10:15 a.m. - Organizational Resiliency After Covid: Employees Are Always at the Heart of the Matter**

*During the COVID shutdowns, the phases of in-person, remote, and hybrid working formats has had an impact on hiring, managing, and retaining employees. This panel will discuss some of the ways agencies and consultants have adjusted their most basic human resource practices, especially to attract, retain and manage employees*

- Ashley Kite, Director of Human Resources, San Diego County Water Authority
- Courtney Reid, Senior HR Director, Jacobs
- Emanuela Tala, Attorney, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
- Moderator: Fernando Paludi, General Manager, Trabuco Canyon Water District

**11:20 a.m. - A Balancing Act to Develop New Drinking Water Standards**

*A February 2022 white paper from the Southern California Water Coalition's Water Quality Task Force aims to help identify new and better ways for the state to use data and science in the development of state drinking water standards. This is important in light of California's Human Right to Water Act (HRTWA), which challenges public water systems to deliver water that is safe, clean and affordable for all customers, regardless of prevailing conditions and system limitations.*

- Sean Maguire, Board Member, State Water Resources Control Board
- Dan Ferons, General Manager, Santa Margarita Water District
- Moderator: Dave Pedersen, General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

**12:15 p.m. Lunch - Sponsored by Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Rivera Ballroom)**

**12:45 p.m. - What is at the Heart of the Matter for Utilities in Considering whether to Provide Conservation Subsidies to their Customers**

*A discussion of the benefits of investing in conservation.*

- Andree Johnson to introduce
- Newsha Ajami, Chief Development Officer for Research for Lawrence Berkeley, National Lab Earth and Environmental Sciences Area and Commissioner, SFPUC

**1:20 p.m. - PFAS - Conflicts, Regulations and Compliance**

*In January 2022, EPA announced the addition of four PFAS compounds to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), issued updated Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS on June 15th, and is planning on releasing a PFAS National Drinking Water Regulation in Fall 2022. Federal, state and local perspectives are presented by the panel.*

- Darrin Polhemus, Deputy Director, Division of Drinking Water
- Valerie Pryor, General Manager, Zone 7 Water Agency
- Eric Sapirstein, President, ENS Resources
- Moderator: Lisa Ohlund, Principal, Ohlund Management & Technical Services

**2:25 p.m. - Emerging Conservation Regulations and Ways to Cope**

*This panel focuses on the Science of advanced conservation technologies and Human Behavioral Modifications, featuring new regulations and coping strategies.*

- Newsha Ajami, Chief Development Officer for Research for Lawrence Berkeley, National Lab Earth and Environmental Sciences Area and Commissioner, SFPUC
- Amy Talbot, Water Efficiency Program Manager, Regional Water Authority, Sacramento
- Fiona Sanchez, Director of Water Resources, Irvine Ranch Water District
- Moderator: Andree Johnson, Woodard & Curran

**3:35 p.m. - Networking Break—Sponsored By HDR**

**3:55 p.m. - Bridging the Trust Gap: Personal Approaches to Conflict Resolution**

*This panel will focus on personal experiences and lessons learned in building collaboration among skeptical communities, competitive water agencies, and beleaguered regulators. As the water industry faces greater uncertainty, and threats to both water supply and infrastructure, are there ways to create room for collaborative partnerships among distrustful interests and individuals? Can combative advocacy be channeled into creative teamwork, transforming our swords into plowshares?*

- Jill Duerig, General Manager, Zone 7 Water Agency (Retired); Former Board Chair, State and Federal Contractors Agency; Former Interim Executive Director, Delta Conveyance Design & Construction Authority
- Marsi Steirer, Deputy Director, City of San Diego Public Utilities Department (Retired)
- Felicia Marcus, William C. Landreth Visiting Fellow, Stanford University
- Moderator: Paul Brown, President, Paul Redvers Brown Inc.



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**5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Chairman's Reception**  
Sponsored by DUDEK (Bayside Terrace)

**Friday, August 26, 2022: Leadership Dialogues**

**7:45 a.m. - Registration, Networking & Buffet Breakfast- Sponsored by Rancho Water (Sorrento Ballroom)**

***Chairman's Drawing: Don't miss out on your opportunity to win an Apple Watch. Please pick up your ticket at the registration desk.***

**8:45 a.m. - Welcome and Conference Review**  
Jason Phillips, CEO, Friant Water Authority

**9:00 a.m. - Board of Directors Roundtable**  
*Board of directors of water agencies engage in a dynamic interaction of the things they are 'juggling' today. What is at the heart of the matter for them?*

- Darcy Burke, Director, Member of the Board, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
- Kathleen Coates Hedberg, President of the Board, Helix Water District
- Rob Katherman, Director, Member of the Board, Water Replenishment District
- Gary Martin, Director, Member of the Board, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
- Larry Dick, Director, Member of the Board, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Randy Duncan, Director, Member of the Board, Mission Springs Water District
- Marco Tule, Director, Member of the Board, Inland Empire Utilities Agency
- Moderator: Ane Deister, Urban Water Institute

**10:20 a.m. - Regional Collaboration in CA North, Central, South**

*For several decades UWI has facilitated interactive dialogs with water representatives located in Northern California and in Southern California. This panel adds the Central Valley as a third voice in the regional cooperation and collaboration dialog.*

- Adel Hagekhalil, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District
- Justin Caporusso, Executive Director, Mountain Counties Water Resources Association
- Jason Phillips, CEO, Friant Water Authority
- Moderator: Jim Atkinson, Vice Chairman, Mesa Water District

**11:40 a.m. - Chairman's Raffle, First Vice President Dave Pedersen, General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District**

**Conference Adjourns  
Thank You For Joining Us!**

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[stacy@urbanwater.com](mailto:stacy@urbanwater.com)



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**Board 2nd Vice Chair: Rich Nagel, Jacobs**

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**Founder: Wayne Clark, Urban Water Institute (1928-2018)**

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**Richard Bell**– East Orange County Water District

**Alan Boyce** – Materra Farming Company

**Steve Bucknam** – Bucknam & Associates

**Darcy Burke**– Watermark Associates

**Justin Caporusso**– Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

**Rob Carlson** – Discovery Science Foundation

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**Shivaji Deshmukh** – Inland Empire Utilities Agency

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**Sean Fitzgerald** – Vox Civic Communications

**Kathleen Hedberg** – Helix Water District

**Kevin Hunt** – Urban Water Institute

**Rob Katherman** – Water Replenishment District

**Art Levine** – Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners

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**Mary Aileen Matheis** – Urban Water Institute

**Malissa McKeith** – Citizens United for Resources & the Environment

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**Greg Quist**– Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District

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**Ray Tremblay** – Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

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**The Urban Water Institute is governed by a volunteer board of directors drawn from hands-on policy makers, elected officials & industry leaders who are active in the water resources industry.**

**Ane Deister**

**Executive Director**

**[ane.deister@yahoo.com](mailto:ane.deister@yahoo.com)**

**Joyce Gwidt**

**Conference Arrangements Director**

**[gwidt@cox.net](mailto:gwidt@cox.net)**

**Stacy Davis**

**Director of Administration**

**[stacy@urbanwater.com](mailto:stacy@urbanwater.com)**

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Director name: Gary Martin

Meetings attended: SCV Chamber of Commerce 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Congressional Forum

Dates of meetings: August 31, 2022

Location: College of the Canyons University Center, Santa Clarita

SCV Water Board meeting to be presented at: September 6, 2022

On August 31, 2022, I attended the SCV Chamber of Commerce 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Congressional Forum, featuring Congressman Mike Garcia, at the COC University Center in Santa Clarita. The program consisted of Congressman Garcia speaking to the group on important issues in Washington, DC and his position on these issues. Following the Congressman's presentation, he entertained questions from attendees.

It was a well-attended and informative event and provided an opportunity to interact with other members of the SCV Water community. It is important for our elected representatives to attend events such as this and I appreciate being able to attend.