

Director name: Gary Martin
Meeting attended: Urban Water Institute 2021 Virtual Spring Conference
Date of meeting: February 17 and 18, 2021
Location: Virtual
SCV Water Board meeting to be presented at: March 2, 2021

On February 17 and 18, 2021, I attended the Urban Water Institute 2021 Virtual Spring Conference. The sessions I attended and selected points of interest were as follows:

2/17, 1:00 PM Session; Capital / DC Report

Anne Deister, UWI Executive Director, Introductory remarks
Eric Sapperstien, ENS Resources, Washington DC Report
Eric O'Donnell, Townsend Public Affairs, Sacramento Report

Points of Interest:

- First 100 days in DC, the focus is on COVID19, economy, executive orders, nominations / organization
- Beyond April 30 in DC, the focus on economic recovery, infrastructure, environmental justice, taxes
- In Sacramento, this is the first year of the next two-year session
- Sacramento priorities: COVID 19 response, wildfire prevention, climate change, broadband infrastructure, public safety, social justice, housing
- Democrats have a super majority in both house in Sacramento, and thus do not need any Republican votes to pass their agenda.

2/17, 2:00 PM Session; Update on Delta Conveyance

Matt Stone, GM SCVWA, moderator
Karla Nemeth, Director, DWR
Jennifer Pierre, SWC Executive Director
Steve Arakawa, MWD
Tom McCarthy, GM KCoWA

This was an excellent panel, and Mr. Stone did an excellent job moderating.

- Karla Nemeth provided a detailed update on the status of the project in multiple areas and emphasized the benefits when considering climate change and when the needs of SGMA are considered. The changes in the Feral Administration will be supportive.
- Jennifer Pierre provided an overview of the SWP Contractors and a regional overview. Ms. Pierre presented a "Value Proposition," showing that support for Delta Conveyance = support for the SWC and its benefits.
- Steve Arakawa and Tom McCarthy made persuasive arguments in support of Delta Conveyance for MWD and KCoWA.

2/17, 2:55 PM Session; Utility General Managers Managing in Uncertain Times

Craig Miller, GM WMWD, moderator
Paul Cook, GM IRWD
Deven Upadhyay, MWD
Steve Welch, GM Costra Co WD

The panel shared their experiences and lessons learned managing through the COVID19 pandemic.

2/17, 3:45 PM Session; Water Leaders Looking Forward – Climate Change Adaptation
Cora Kammeyer, Stan Ali, Dakari Barksdale, and Liz DaBramo of The Water Education Foundation Water Leaders program provided their thoughts and opinions on the impact of climate change and their recommendations to address it:

- Develop and maintain an integrated system of water infrastructure
- Update regulations and statutes to allow greater flexibility in managing changing conditions
- Improve the collection, sharing and use of data

2/17, 4:35 PM Session; Not out of the Woods Yet – Wildfires

Andree Johnson, moderator

Thom Porter, Cal Fire Chief

Jay Jasperse, Chief Engineer, Sonoma Water

Bill Todd, State Senator

Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary CalEPA

This was an excellent panel discussing steps that need to be taken to prepare for and minimize future impacts of the inevitable wildfires in California. The panel basically advocated for an “all of the above” approach to addressing these issues.

2/18, 9:00 AM Session; General Manager’s Town Hall – Surprises and Challenges as a New GM

Kevin Hunt, moderator

Sandy Kerl, GM San Diego Co Water Authority

Rick Callender, GM Santa Clara Valley WD

Larry McKinney, GM Amador County Water

The panel was asked to comment on the following Questions:

- What were your greatest surprises and challenges as a new GM?
- What legacy do you want to leave?
- Additional thoughts on COVID19 effects?

2/18, 10:00 AM Session; Potential Impacts of Implementing SGMA in the San Joaquin Valley and Adaptations to Preserve California Agriculture. This was a two-part panel to discuss impacts and options.

Jason Phillips, CEO Friant Water, moderator

Panelists:

David Sunding, UC Berkely

Bill Diedrich

Jason Gianquinto

Scott Hamilton

Eric Evertt

Steve Etchegaray

Panel 1: Define the problem and impact of doing nothing

Panel 1: How do we adapt; what do we do?

Important quotes:

“The quality of life in California is totally dependent on water supply”

“Central Valley farming is unique, and the idea of fallowing is alarming”

“Uncaptured water in Delta = 10 million af/year”

I found the conference interesting and informative and I appreciate the opportunity to attend.