

Director name: Gary Martin

Meetings attended: Urban Water Institute Board Meeting & Spring Water Conference

Date of meetings: February 16 & 17, 2022

Location: Virtual – Zoom

SCV Water Board meeting to be presented at: February 1, 2022

On February 16, 2022 I attended the Urban Water Institute (UWI) Board of Directors meeting and the 2022 UWI Spring Water Conference. The board agenda and conference program are attached.

UWI Board of Directors Meeting (please refer to the attached agenda)

Points of interest:

- Board Chair John Rossi tested positive for COVID19 and could not attend. UWI Executive Director Ane Deister chaired the meeting in John’s absence.
- Treasurer John Thornton was recovering from surgery and could not attend.
- Ane Deister called the meeting to order and a roll call was taken. A quorum was present.
- The minutes from the September 8, 2021 board meeting were approved without change.
- The financial report was discussed, accepted and filed. The 2022 budget was adopted.
- A closed session was held to discuss compensation and other related topics.
- Election of 2022 officers was held with the following results: Chair: Andree Johnson, 1st Vice Chair: Dave Pedersen, 2nd Vice Chair: Rich Nagel, Secretary: Jason Phillips, Treasurer: John Thornton.
- The 2022 summer conference is tentatively scheduled for August 24-26 in San Diego and will be in-person.
- The board provided possible subjects for the August conference.
- The next board meeting will be August 24, 2022 at 10:00 am in San Diego.

UWI Conference Day 1

1:00 PM Conference Opening: Ane Desiter, UWI Executive Director

1:10 PM: The City View (see attached agenda for panel and description)

Points of interest:

- Jennifer Perez, Mayor of Norwalk, CA presented an overview of Norwalk’s water system and challenges meeting customer service demands and voted expectations. The key to success is good planning and getting customer buy-in on necessary investments in system maintenance and upgrades. “The longer you wait, the more it costs...”
- Jose Reynoso. City Manager, City of Sierra Madre discussed the challenges of aging infrastructure and lack of resources, keeping elected officials informed, and developing an effective new rate structure to address critical issued.
- Adriana Figueroa, Director of Public Works, City of Paramount, provided an overview of the City of Paramount and the duties and responsibilities of the Department of Public Works. In addition, Ms. Figueroa described the challenges of municipal systems, such as funding system improvements and meeting regulatory requirements. She also discussed the importance of community / stakeholder support systems.

2:10 PM: The Future View: The Art and Science of the Black Swan – Is There One in Our Water Future? (See attached agenda for panel and description) Intro: A “Black Swan” is an unpredictable event, beyond what is normally expected of a situation and has potentially severe consequences.

This panel was intended to simulate an informal after-dinner conversation among enlightened and stimulating friends and explores what a Black Swan might look like and how we prepare for it.

Panelist's comments and points of interest:

- Greg Quist (Moderator): A black swan is an outlier, and unusual event that changes everything. Have we had black swans in our water history?
- Jeff Kightlinger described "known unknowns and unknown unknowns"
- Felicia Marcus: "When droughts hit, we think of them as a black swan, when we should have known they could happen. We need a mindset change."
- Pat Mulroy: "We've come close, but we haven't really had a black swan, and we probably aren't ready for it."
- Tom Kennedy: "The signals are there for us to read; we're just not doing a good job of it."
- Jeff K: "We can't always prepare for the worst."
- Pat M: Need to do more risk assessment and take the necessary action. One day we might be saying "that tunnel underneath the delta saved us." Risk assessment is key!
- Jeff K: "pre-event and post-event planning is critical; example: Met's machine shop and the ability to roll their own steel / pipe."
- Greg Quist question for the panel: "What would you see 2122 as opposed to 2022?"
- Pat M: "Desalination, evaporative cooling in Nevada goes away (uses 28% of all water)."
- Tom K: "Desalination but less power intensive and water rights issues."
- Felicia M: "Crisis precipitates action."
- Pat M: "We are suffering from leadership paralysis."
- Jeff K: "We debate things to death because usually issues are 50-50 for and against."

(My note: This was a great panel, but all are "doers," with no representation from groups that just want to stop everything and will never agree on anything.)

3:20 PM: Is there any magic in the Art and Science of managing the State Water Contract? (See attached agenda for panel and description) Intro: The cat is out of the bag. A low allocation has been announced. What does this mean for water users in 2022?

Panelist's comments and points of interest:

- John Yarbrough: "Dry conditions = low runoff, 2021 ended with record low storage"
- John Y: "Water supply planning must consider more extreme scenarios"
- Bill Dietrich: "Groundwater will be reduced and thus replenishment water will be needed."
- Dave Pedersen: "LVMWD declared local drought emergency last November – December, but December rains helped to avoid this."
- Dave P: "Must look to local sources going forward."

4:30 PM: Keynote Speaker Mark Pestrella, Director, LA County DPW

Statements and Points of interest:

- Mr. Pestrella presented an overview of LA County size, organizational makeup (population, number of independent cities and unincorporated communities).
- LA County population is 73% people of color.
- LA County has a long history of discriminatory practices.
- Governance drives water inequalities.
- LA County is drafting an equity and climate change "lens" for public works services.

UWI Conference, Day 2

9:00 AM: The Art and Science of managing the Colorado River (See attached agenda for panel and description)

Points of interest:

- Michael Bernardo gave a presentation on “Reclamation Updates on the Colorado River Basin.
- Michael B presentation included basin hydrology, lower basin system conditions, water year precipitation and snow pack, drought response efforts, and collaborative solutions.
- Ted Cooke provided a presentation on the Central Arizona Project
- Bill Hasencamp provided a presentation on MWD’s efforts to manage the Colorado River
- Bill H statement: Millennium Mega-drought is hitting the entire western US
- Bill H quote on Colorado River: “Conditions are getting worse due to climate change.”

10:10 AM: SGMA – Reflection in 2022 (See attached agenda for panel and description) was SGMA artfully crafted to reflect the scientific realities of managing California’s groundwater basins?

Excerpts of panelist’s presentations and points of interest:

- Dr. David Sunding provided a presentation on “Potential Impact of Implementing SGMA in the San Joaquin Valley.
- Dr. Sunding: “Agriculture is a major part of the SJV economy, and irrigation drives economic results”
- Dr. Sunding: “All sources of water (imported, local surface, and groundwater) are expected to decline in the coming decades.”
- Dr. Sunding: “Most groundwater basins in the SJV are classified as critically over-drafted.”
- Dr. Sunding: “Total water use by SJV farmers will need to go down by roughly 22%”
- Dr. Sunding: “More than 1 acre in 5 will have to come out of production by 2040.”
- Jack Rice: “There will be less water and it will be more expensive.”
- Jack Rice: “It will put a huge strain on smaller family farms.”
- Jason Phillips provided a presentation on the impacts of groundwater overdraft and SGMA implementation on the San Joaquin Valley.

11:10 AM: The Art and Science of water infrastructure funding and cost considerations (See attached agenda for panel and description)

The panel discussed the difference between financing and funding:

- Financing = the debt that needs to be paid back
- Funding = money used to repay financing

The panel discussed examples of major infrastructure projects in California and their respective financing and funding.

The panel further discussed funding by other than rates and charges.

Michael Dean, USBR, gave a presentation on the State Revolving Fund.

12:05 PM: The scientific and artful factors influencing workforce development planning (See attached agenda for panel and description)

The panel gave a presentation that focused heavily on the theme of diversity, equity and inclusion in workforce planning.

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



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

February 16, 2022

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89578526845?pwd=NHhhYUFIUHpBQmJMMzh0cFAwdHM2UT09>

- I. Welcome and introductions – John Rossi**
 - a) Roll call Minimum quorum 30% of active board members or 13 board members of the 42 active Board members. Declare a quorum
 - b) Introduce New Board Members
 - c) Overview of February Conference
 - d) Accept, modify agenda and approve agenda
- II. Minutes – Andree Johnson, Stacy Davis and Board**
 - a) Review and approve minutes from September 8, 2021 Board Meeting
- III. Financial report – John Thornton & Stacy Davis**
 - a) Discuss current and past financials
 - b) Budget – ACTION ITEM – adopt budget
 - c) Accept and file financial report
 - d) Update on Memberships and Sponsorships
- IV. Closed Session – Discuss compensation and other related topics**
- V. Election of officers – ACTION ITEM**
 - a) Consider New Officers for 2022 to 2023
 - i) Chair
 - ii) 1st Vice Chair
 - iii) 2nd Vice Chair
 - iv) Treasurer
 - v) Secretary
- VI. Update on current Board Members – John Thornton & Stacy Davis**
 - a) Review board member list:
 - i) Consider changes to agency representatives as needed – ACTION ITEM
 - ii) Consider new members – ACTION ITEM
 - iii) Consider removal if needed– ACTION ITEM
 - iv) Other information

VII. New Business – Ane Deister, John Rossi, John Thornton, Joyce Gwidt

- a) Discuss August 2022 Conference
 - i) Tentative San Diego dates are August 24th-26th
 - (1) Contract status regarding San Diego hotel
 - (2) Confirm Awards
 - ii) Seek input from Board members regarding theme(s), general topics and speakers
 - (1) Set date for first planning meeting
- b) Consider collaborative conference with UWI and Mountain Counties

VIII. Chairman's Report – John Rossi

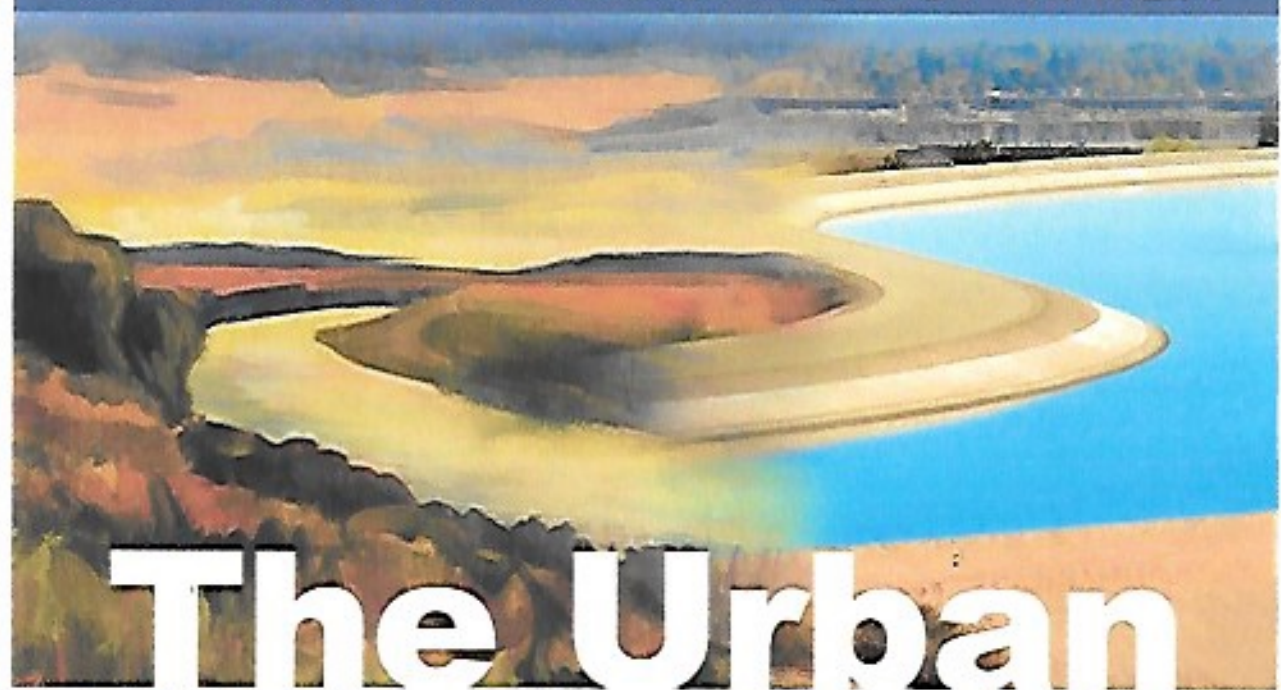
- a) Chairman's general remarks.
- b) Recognitions
- c) Discuss Newsletters

IX. Set Next Board Meeting

- a) Tentative date: August 24th 10:00 am

X. Adjourn meeting

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



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

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 Cooke, 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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Jim Atkinson – *Mesa Water District*
Richard Bell – *East Orange County Water District*
Alan Boyce – *Materra Farming Company*
Steve Bucknam – *Bucknam & Associates*
Darcy Burke – *Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District*
Shivaji Deshmukh – *Inland Empire Utilities Agency*
Larry Dick – *Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*
Randy Duncan – *Mission Springs Water District*
Michael Engelbrecht – *Wells Fargo*
Sean Fitzgerald – *Agendum Ventures*
Kathleen Hedberg – *Helix Water District*
Kevin Hunt – *Urban Water Institute*
Rob Katherman – *Water Replenishment District of Southern California*
Art Levine – *Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners*
Gary Martin – *Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency*
Mary Aileen Matheis – *Urban Water Institute*
Malissa McKeith – *Citizens United for Resources & the Environment*
Craig Miller – *Western Municipal Water District*
Greg Newmark – *Meyers Nave*
Jim Noyes – *Urban Water Institute*
Lisa Ohlund – *Ohlund Management & Technical Services*
Fernando Paludi – *Trabuco Canyon Water District*
David Pedersen – *Las Virgenes Municipal Water District*
Mark Pestrella – *Los Angeles Department of Public Works*
David Pettijohn – *Los Angeles Department of Water & Power*
Jason Phillips – *Friant Water Authority*
Tina Shields – *Imperial Irrigation District*
Bob Siemak – *RCS Management Group*
Shelley Sorsabal – *Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency*
Matt Stone – *Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency*
Ray Tremblay – *Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County*
Charles Trevino – *Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District*
Julie Wilcox – *Southern Nevada Water Authority*
Adam Zacheis – *Brown & Caldwell*

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.

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Director of Administration
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DIRECTOR AB 1234 REPORT

Director Name: Kathy Armitage

Meeting Attended: AWA Water Information Series ~ Operation NEXT: LA's Next Major Water Source

Date of Meeting: February 17, 2022

Location: Virtual

Board Meeting to Be Presented At: March 15, 2022

Points of Interest:

Presenters:

- Chris Repp, PE, MSCE - LA Dept. of Water & Power, Water Resources Division
- Rafael Villegas, Civil Engineer - LA Dept. of Water & Power, Program Manager for Operation NEXT

Key points:

- The Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP) is in the planning stages of its largest program for the purpose of maximizing the use of recycled water
- The project is called Operation NEXT, and the **goal is to provide up to one-third of the city's water supply with recycled water** upon completion
- They understand that imported water supplies (from the State Water Project and the Colorado River) will become less reliable over time and there is a need to develop ways to maximize local supplies
- They have a multitiered approach:
 - Groundwater replenishment via injection wells
 - Use the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant to recycle water
- This will require a large investment in infrastructure
 - The Hyperion Plant is near the ocean, so the water will have to move through a 1,200 foot grade difference up to the city
 - May need system improvements in areas with older infrastructure
- Where will the recycled water go?
 - West Coast Groundwater Basin (120,000 AF storage potential)
 - Central Basin (330,000 AF storage potential)
 - San Fernando Basin (550,000 AF storage potential)
- Challenges
 - Reverse osmosis needs a steady flow rate
 - They are working on figuring out how much water they can take for recycling (in relation to how much needs to stay in the environment)
 - LA River has a lot of competing needs
 - Land acquirement

- Working on plan for what to do with the brine
- Aggressive timeline
- Large expense
- Public outreach
 - All city council districts and neighborhood councils have been briefed
 - Working to educate the public about the quality of treated recycled water and changing perceptions about it
 - “Showers to Flowers”
- Regulations
 - The regulations around direct potable reuse are still being worked out
 - They are awaiting information that will be released in 2023 to see what additional treatment processes will be required
- Collaboration
 - Metropolitan Water District is planning their own regional recycled water plant
 - They are talking about potentially connecting their two recycled water systems
 - They already trade water with Metropolitan Water District
 - LADWP is open to the idea of nearby water agencies collaborating with them on this project since there is a lot of opportunity to build in collaboration and cost-sharing

DIRECTOR AB 1234 REPORT

Director Name: Kathy Armitage

Meeting Attended: Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Water Quality Committee meeting

Date of Meeting: February 17, 2022

Location: Virtual

Board Meeting to Be Presented At: March 15, 2022

Points of Interest:

Host:

- Committee Chair, Edgar Dymally (Metropolitan Water District)

Key points:

- Mr. Dymally thanked former Vice Chair, Sarah Palmer (Zone 7 Water Agency), for her involvement and position for the past year and welcomed the new Vice Chair, Pam Jeane (Sonoma Water)
- Committee orientation by Nick Blair (ACWA Regulator Advocate II)
 - Terms of committee positions: 2 years (Jan 2022 - end of December 2023)
 - Meetings are quarterly
 - Next one: May 3rd before Spring ACWA Conference
 - Need to register in advance to attend
 - One after that will be done as part of quarterly committee forum
 - July 26 & 27
 - One after that will be Nov. 29th before the Fall ACWA Conference
 - Unlimited committee
 - Any member can be added at any time through Regional Representatives
 - Most work is done in subcommittees and workgroups
 - Reach out to Mr. Dymally, Ms. Jeane, or Mr. Blair to get connected to committee
 - Current committees
 - Drinking water
 - Clean water & Aquatics
 - Staff Reports
 - Cindy Tuck (ACWA Deputy Executive Director of Government Relations)
 - ACWA Virtual Legislative Symposium: March 10th
 - Topics: water use efficiency and state infrastructure funding
 - Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program
 - Federal funding available from American Rescue Plan to Dept. of Community Services & Development (part of Department of Health & Human Services)
 - It took a while to establish the program and it may launch next week

- ACWA is working on an advisory about it now
- \$87 million available to help with arrearages for low-income households
 - Agencies that applied for funds through the Water Board can still apply for these funds as well
- No calendar restrictions
- One-time funding
- Max benefit is \$2,000
- Federal update by Madeline Voitier (ACWA Federal Relations Representative)
 - Regulatory
 - ACWA submitted comments on the proposed revision of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) definition on Feb. 7th
 - ACWA is working on exemption language to submit in response to the notice from EPA regarding intent to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act
 - The DC conference has been postponed to July
- Subcommittee Updates
 - PFAS Committee
 - Public Health Goals (PHGs) for California were proposed last year by the California Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and they took public comment
 - Waiting for them to release newly proposed PHGs
 - Could mean additional monitoring for state and agencies
 - Federal EPA is pushing a strategic roadmap for PFAS
 - Quick timeframe for releasing maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS in the fall
 - Recent announcements to have PFAS identified as hazardous waste under Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
 - Still discussing regulation as a group
 - There are funding sources available for treatment
 - Microplastics Committee
 - Findings from the Health Effects Expert Panel in September 2021
 - There are data gaps
 - Impact to humans still unknown
 - We don't know enough to set regulations
 - Two measurement methods for evaluation were released for review
 - Division of Drinking Water released the "Draft Microplastics in Drinking Water Policy Handbook" for input
 - ACWA provided comments
 - Clean Water Committee
 - Presentation on "Source Water Protection: What Can Be Done on a Watershed Basis" by Jason Dadakis (Orange County Water District) and Jeff Mosher (Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority)
 - Eleven of 19 public water agencies in Orange County have been impacted by PFAS and are facing significant costs for treatment
 - They are trying to track source of PFAS

- Surface water monitoring
 - Looking at potential source(s) in upper watershed
 - Found PFAS in their treated wastewater discharges
 - Also looked at stormwater
- They are attempting to work on the issue regionally since they are all part of the watershed
 - Stakeholders: water agencies, cities, regulatory and environmental agencies
- They have a history of collaboration from work they did on a taskforce on emerging contaminants
- Phases of their work
 - Step 1: data collection and model analysis
 - Step 2: model enhancement for PFAS
 - Step 3: assess approaches to mitigate, reduce, or eliminate PFAS in publicly-owned treatment works discharges or other sites
- Updates from Adam Quinonez (ACWA Director of State Legislative and Regulatory Relations)
 - Advocacy continues for funding for PFAS remediation
 - More information about Chromium 6 may be coming in the next week or so that will include a compliance period that has stages/milestones to it
 - Meeting regarding efforts to protect Steelhead Trout
 - ACWA formed a workgroup on this issue because there were concerns about the petition to protect Steelhead Trout
 - Requested that the item be held until next commission meeting in April
 - California Department of Fish & Wildlife is being directed to work with water agencies and impacted projects to develop guidelines/regulations
 - Next steps will be discussed in the workgroup
 - They welcome participation in the workgroup
 - It is believed that there are still gaps in the data
- Closing by Nick Blair
 - Working on the 2022/2023 work plan now
 - It's accessible on the ACWA Water Quality Committee webpage
 - Similar to version from two years ago with some updates
 - Microplastics
 - Headwaters
 - Thinking about how to better elevate people to lead additional workgroups for additional topics of interest
 - Comments welcome by March 18th
 - Looking for panel topics for Spring ACWA Conference
 - One idea: panel on Chromium 6
 - If anyone has ideas, send to Mr. Blair
 - Accepting applications for Excellence in Innovation Award for Spring conference
 - Applications due March 1st

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Lynne Plambeck
AB1234 Report
Planning and Conservation League Assembly
2-24-22
Virtual Conference

Part 4 – Session 1 “Adapting to Climate Change with Innovative Landuse/Water Strategies”
This panel focused on work to increase ground water recharge to help with SIGMA compliance. The Panel consisted of Moderator Roger Dickensen – co-author of SIGMA

Judy Corbett - Founded the Local Government Commission, and served as its Executive Director — for 35 years helping local elected officials implement forward-thinking transportation, land use, water, air quality, solid waste, public health, economic, and equity programs and policies in their communities. She has authored or co-authored three books on sustainable development and written or edited multiple guidebooks and fact sheets for local governments on sustainability issues. Her leadership toward the creation of the nationally-recognized Ahwahnee Principles foresaw the development of the Smart Growth movement. She spoke about possible funding sources.



Julie Rentner is President of River Partners. This nonprofit organization has, for over 20 years, successfully worked with farmers and other partners to restore 18,000 acres of flood plains in order to prevent flooding, rebuild natural habitat, store carbon, increase groundwater recharge, and support productive farmland. She received her Bachelor of Science in forestry from UC Berkeley in 2002 and a Master’s Degree in Natural Resources and Environmental

Management from the University of Hawaii in 2005. She joined River Partners in 2008 as the Central Valley Regional Director, working at the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge near Modesto. She spoke about preserving and restoring floodplains to increase water recharge and provide habitat. You can view her floodplain work on the Dos Rios Ranch here: <https://riverpartners.org/project/dos-rios-ranch/> (it’s pretty amazing).

Paul Gosselin - joined the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as the Deputy Director for Sustainable Groundwater Management in July 2021 where he oversees the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This is the same person that presents on SIGMA at the ACWA Groundwater committee. He discussed the 20 plans that had already been reviewed, that 12 had deficiencies because they were really not addressing the overdraft issue. He explained the SIGMA process.

Rosemary Knight - She received her Doctorate from Stanford University in 1985. She is now a Professor of Geophysics at Stanford University and has been a senior fellow at the Stanford Institute for the

Environment from 2005 - present. She and her Environmental Geophysics Research Group have worked for more than 30 years on the challenge of using geophysical methods for groundwater science and management. In 2008, Knight founded the Center for Groundwater Evaluation Management (GEM Center), with the vision of advancing and promoting the use of geophysical methods through the development of partnerships with water agencies.



Over the past five years, Knight's research group has collaborated with others in the academic, public, and private sectors to advance the adoption of the airborne Electromagnetic (EM) method and a ground-level, towed EM system for obtaining the information needed to support the sustainable management of groundwater in California. Her work has helped determine the depth to groundwater and soil composition to find the best areas for recharge. Her work has informed DWR's FloodMar project, almond farmers that worry a clay layer may cause their tree roots to rot and the best areas for floodplain restoration that will ensure groundwater re-charge as well as other floodplain benefits.