

# BJ ATKINS - AB 1234 REPORTS

ITEM NO.  
11.4

July 22, through July 30, 2020

Meeting Attended:	<b>Attend Virtual ACWA Spring Conference</b>
Dates of Meeting:	<b>July 29 &amp; 30, 2020</b>
Board Mtg. Presented:	August 4, 2020
# Attendees & Location:	Reported to be several hundred via remote teleconference
Points of Interest:	Opening and Closing Keynote Addresses Several Breakout Sessions including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. PFAS Updates on the Regulatory Landscape</li><li>2. The Roadmap Forward: A Discussion on the First Groundwater Sustainability Plans</li><li>3. Adapting to Flood, Fire &amp; Drought: A Case Study of the American River Basin</li><li>4. Safe Affordable Drinking Water: Overcoming Challenges &amp; Creating a New Partnership Approach</li></ol>
	The keynotes were great, full of information, as were the breakout sessions. Really enjoyed the session on Flood, Fire and Drought. Was very pleased to see the SCV Water logo displayed prominently several times during the conference, but especially during the final keynote closing remarks – right above ACWA President Steve LeMar. Well done team!

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Points of Interest:	

DIRECTOR AB1234 REPORT

Director Name: Jerry Gladbach

Meeting Attended: ACWA Conference

Date of Meeting: July 29 and 30, 2020

Date of Meeting to be Presented at: August 18, 2020

Points of Interest:

Dave Eggerton gave a report on the status of ACWA regarding the financial and work at home.

Ca. Lt. Governor Kounalakis spoke on the importance of water and the challenges of drought, floods, storage, desal, recycling, and the need to build infrastructure

Choosing Our Delta Destiny:

The State Water Resources Control Board must adopt a water quality control plan for the Central Valley. It will be a very comprehensive plan considering water rights, native fish. Healthy rivers support ag, urban, recreation and the environment. The Voluntary Agreement has been worked on for years. And a voluntary agreement will be much more effective than regulations. All must be committed to make it work. Water agencies have been very creative in finding ways to get more water or conserving, perhaps the Fish and Game should be equally creative. An example of great success from cooperation is the results of cooperation on improving the habitat for the Pacific Flyway.

The Roadmap Forward: A Discussion on the First GSPs:

21 critically overdrafted basins have submitted their plans. There is 2.5 million acre-feet of overdraft in the San Joaquin Valley. There is a 12 drop in the Friant-Kern Canal which supplies the east side of the Valley and this drop restricts the flow. New supplies of water is needed, or up to 1,000,000 acres of farmland will have to be fallowed, if more water is not available. It is important for GSAs to

work together to solve problems.

#### Emergency Response and Engagement in the Age of Climate Change:

Regarding emergencies: relationships with local police, fire and medical are key. One way is to invite staff come these organizations to water agency employee lunch bar-b-ques. It is important to be part of the Emergency Operations Center and any planning for emergencies with its members. It is important also to invest in staff and equipment in advance.

#### Maximum Contaminant Level Economic Feasibility:

The compliance period for chrome 6 was far too short to get in compliance for many agencies. The compliance period is critical and must consider many different issues. The financial impact for small agencies can result in non-compliance and the elimination of an agency.

The Virtual Reception was very entertaining.

Brenda Burman, Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation reminded us that the Agency is 118 years old (the first project was east of Reno). She pointed out that the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project are critical to the well being of the State, and more storage is critical. The Bureau is reviewing or planning the raising of Shasta, Los Vaqueros, and San Luis reservoirs.

Regarding San Luis, they have to improve it for safety purposes and at the same time could raise it 10 feet which would store another 150,000 acre-feet of water.

Regarding the Delta, they released the new biological opinion last year. It is based on 10 more years of research and was signed off by all of the Federal agencies. Last year saw the highest fish flow in the Sacramento River than in many years. She complimented the agencies of California that get Colorado River water for working with the other states and reaching agreement on the drought plans. The Colorado River provides water to 40,000,000 people and much ag.

ACWA Regions 6&7 in collaboration with the ACWA Agricultural Committee: The Economic Impacts of SGMA in the San Joaquin Valley

There are 4,400,000 acres being farmed in the SJ Valley and with the overdraft unless they obtain more water or other means of increased water supply 22% will have to be fallowed and then what happens with the fallowed land. The revenue from ag in the SJV is \$7.2billion, with reduced acreage the lost revenue will be \$1.9billion, resulting in a loss of \$580million to local and state and \$ 780million to US in taxes and a loss of 42,000jobs, mostly impacting low income families and disadvantaged communities.

In Westlands Water District 100,000 acres have already been fallowed and it has resulted in the closure of several schools. I have seen the devastation of many small towns as a result of fallowing farm land.

Avoiding the Brain Drain

Work is much different now than it was a year ago and it will be a lot more different in 5 years. In 2019 there was a 45% turnover, 20% in government.

Employees have a treasure of knowledge and it is imperative to capture it before they leave. Agencies think of assets such as treatment plants, offices, vehicles, pipes etc. but oftentimes forget about staff, as a major asset. Like any asset, what is the cost of capturing their knowledge and what is the risk of not doing it. Make sure what is in an employee's head is captured before they leave.

It was an AWESOME Conference.

Staff did a terrific job in putting it together.

I hope to hear your thoughts on the Conference.

# RESILIENCE RISING

ACWA 2020 Summer Virtual Conference

## AGENDA



### Wednesday - July 29, 2020

8:30 AM

#### CONFERENCE OPENING

**Opening Remarks**  
Steve LaMar, ACWA President  
Dave Eggerton, ACWA Executive Director

**Opening Keynote**  
California Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis

**Opening Video**

**Sponsor Remarks**

**Awards**

9:45 AM

ACWA 101 Presentation

10:15 AM

BREAK

10:30 AM

Panel 1: Resilient Infrastructure  
Panel 2: Resilient Communities  
Panel 3: Resilient Workplaces

11:30 AM

#### CHAT ROOMS



ACWA 101  
Policy Issues  
Coping with COVID-19



#### VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL

Learn about innovative products and services!

12:00 PM

Panel 1

Panel 2

Panel 3

12:30 PM

Panel 4

Panel 5

Panel 6



Schedule is subject to change.

# RESILIENCE RISING

ACWA 2020 Summer Virtual Conference

## AGENDA



Wednesday - July 29, 2020 (CONTINUED)

1:00 PM

### AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California Natural Resources Agency

1:30 PM

Panel discussion with three speakers: [Speaker Name], [Speaker Name], and [Speaker Name]. The panel will discuss the challenges of water scarcity and the role of technology in water management.

2:30 PM

### BREAK

2:45 PM

Panel discussion with three speakers: [Speaker Name], [Speaker Name], and [Speaker Name]. The panel will discuss the challenges of water scarcity and the role of technology in water management.

3:45 PM

### CHAT ROOMS



Gen Jam  
Program Follow-up  
Attendee's Choice



### VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL

Learn about innovative products and services!

4:15 PM

Panel discussion with three speakers: [Speaker Name], [Speaker Name], and [Speaker Name]. The panel will discuss the challenges of water scarcity and the role of technology in water management.

5:30 PM

VIRTUAL RECEPTION



Schedule is subject to change.

# RESILIENCE RISING

ACWA 2020 Summer Virtual Conference

## AGENDA



### Thursday – July 30, 2020

7:45 AM

**WELCOME AND REGISTRATION**  
Join your peers, our sponsors and present for a special thank you session!

8:15 AM

#### DAY 2 OPENING

##### Opening Remarks

Pam Tobin, ACWA Vice President

##### Keynote

Commissioner Brenda Burman, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

9:00 AM

**SESSION 1: WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**  
E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board  
Director Karla Nemeth, California Department of Water Resources  
Panelists: [Faded text]

10:00 AM

**SESSION 2: WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**  
E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board  
Director Karla Nemeth, California Department of Water Resources  
Panelists: [Faded text]

11:00 AM

#### BREAK

11:15 AM

#### CONFERENCE CLOSING

##### Closing Keynotes

E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board  
Director Karla Nemeth, California Department of Water Resources

##### Closing Remarks

Steve LaMar, ACWA President



*Schedule is subject to change.*

Director name: Gary Martin  
Meeting attended: ACWA 2020 Summer Virtual Conference & Exhibition  
Date of meeting: July 29 - 30, 2020  
Location: ACWA Virtual Platform  
SCV Water Board meeting to be presented at: August 4, 2020

On July 29 & 30, 2020 I attended the ACWA 2020 Summer Virtual Conference & Exhibition. Listed below are the keynote presentations and breakout sessions attended and key points of interest.

#### July 29

##### 8:30 AM Opening Session

Welcome and opening remarks by ACWA President Steve LaMar and Executive Director, Dave Eggerton.  
Keynote address by CA Lt. Governor, Eleni Kounalakis.

##### Points of Interest:

Mr. Eggerton mentioned specific areas of ACWA focus as outline in the Strategic Plan. The top 4 were as follows:

- Implementation of the safe drinking water fund program.
- SGMA support
- Voluntary agreements amongst the Delta interests. Mention the ongoing litigation problems that are diverting resources. Also stated that there is no viable alternative to voluntary agreements.
- Federal funding efforts in Washington, DC.

Ms. Kounalakis made a point in her presentation to mention the following areas of focus at the Governor's level and in response to audience Q&A:

- Mobilization of efforts to address COVID-19
- Importance of water to California
- Development of new sources and efficiency efforts
- Delta conveyance and general delta issues
- Safe and affordable drinking water
- Infrastructure investments and focus on shoring up existing infrastructure
- Mega fires reality and solutions
- Desalination as a tool in the water supply toolbox that we need to use and advance technology for
- Most important issue at the moment is COVID-19 and CA's economic recovery

Jerry Gladbach, ACWA JPIA Board President and Any Sells, ACWA JPIA Executive Director made brief update presentations on ACWA JPIA. These were covered in the ACWA JPIA Board of Directors' meeting on July 27 and a summary of them can be found in my AB 1234 report for that meeting.

##### 10:30 AM Breakout Session - Attorney's Program: PFAS, Updates on the Regulatory Landscape

After having long been considered "emerging chemicals," the PFAS family of chemicals has moved into focus at both the Federal and State levels. The panel discussed Federal actions and EPA's progress towards regulating PFAS with a focus on PFOA and PFOS, and the State's current status in setting Public Health Goals and a maximum contaminant level (MCL).



Points of interest:

- March 2020, EPA proposed preliminary regulatory determination
- August 2020, CERCLA (superfund) listing anticipated
- Notification levels set at level that can be reliably detected
- Notification levels lowered in February 2020
- PFOA and PFOS Public Health Goals by late Summer, early Fall 2020
- PFOA and PFOS MCL's by Fall 2023
- Challenges: lack of toxicological studies
- PFOA and PFOS found almost everywhere

1:00 PM

Keynote Speaker; Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California Natural Resources Agency

Secretary Crowfoot began his talk saying that "one thing in California we can take for granted is clean drinking water at our tap." This was stated in recognition of the good work done by water agencies in California, but he quickly pointed out that this should never be taken for granted and that too many people in disadvantaged areas in California do not have access to clean and affordable drinking water.

Secretary Crowfoot announced the release of the final version of Governor Newsom's Water Resiliency Portfolio (Executive Order N-10-19), which contains the following priorities:

- Implementing the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Act of 2019
- Supporting local communities to successfully implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014
- Achieving voluntary agreements to increase flows and improve conditions for native fish in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and its watersheds
- Modernizing the Delta water conveyance system to protect long-term functionality of the State Water Project
- Updating regulations to expand water recycling
- Accelerating permitting of new smart water storage
- Expanding seasonal floodplains for fish and flood benefits
- Improving conditions at the Salton Sea
- Removing dams from the Klamath River
- Better leveraging of information and data to improve water management

1:30 PM Breakout Session – The Roadmap Forward: A Discussion on the First Groundwater Sustainability Plans

The moderator for this session was John Woodling, Chair of the ACWA Groundwater Committee

The panel included:

Johnny Amaral, Chief of External Affairs, Friant Water Authority

Ellen Hamak, VP & Director, Public Policy Institute of California Water Policy Center

Trevor Joseph, Hydrogeologist, City of Roseville

Taryn Ravazzini, Deputy Director of Statewide Groundwater Management CA DWR

Points of interest:

- SGMA Timeline: 2015 – 2022; GSP development, 2022 – 2040 Adaptive management phase, 2040+ Achieving and Maintaining Sustainability
- DWR plays a regulatory and support role
- Flexibility is the key to managing farm water demand
- Adverse impact least for valley-wide trading and new supplies
- Plans emphasize recharge 1<sup>st</sup>, shifting water use 2<sup>nd</sup>, and managing demands 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Many plans do not protect domestic wells

- Many plans allow for significant subsidence to continue
- Take aways: Need to consider regional, not just local; Do more to address undesirable results; Be more creative and smarter.

#### 2:45 PM Breakout Session Water Industry Trends Emergency Response

This session discussed the need for a greater effort for adaptation and preparation for extreme weather events and catastrophic wildfires, flooding, extreme mudflows and pandemics. Emergency preparation and communication is more important than ever before. The panel discussed how agencies can engage in the emergency planning process and be prepared when a disaster strikes.

#### 4:15 PM Breakout Session Maximum Contaminant Level Economic Feasibility

The panel discussed the need for a consistent framework for assessing the economic feasibility when developing and implementing maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for drinking water.

Points of interest;

- State Board must consider economic feasibility
- Agencies need an achievable compliance period
- Statutory language: "As close as possible to the public health goal considering technical and economic feasibility."
- Two key questions: Do the MCLs provide public health benefits that justify the cost? And Is the MCL affordable?
- Framework should include screen-level analysis, benefit-cost ratio, affordability assessment.

#### July 30

#### 8:15 AM Opening Session

Welcome and opening remarks by ACWA Vice President Pam Tobin.

Keynote address by Brenda Burman, Commissioner U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Points of Interests:

Ms. Burman made the following points among others:

- Proud to be at the conference to support water supply reliability for California!
- Spoke of the water heroes during the COVID19 pandemic
- Spoke of President Trump's commitment to modernization of operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP), including investing \$1.5 billion over 10 years to protect fish
- Discussed issues involving the State lawsuit, Klamath Basin, American River operations, Feather River, the WIIN Act, and drought contingency planning for the Colorado River.
- Raising the Shasta dam

#### 9:00 AM Statewide Issues Forum – State and Federal Infrastructure Funding: Investing in Resilience

The is panel was co-moderated by Dave Reynolds, ACWA Director of Federal Relations and Adam Quinonez, ACWA Director of State Relations. The panel consisted of the following:

Doug LaMalfa, United States Congressman

Harley Rouda, United States Congressman

Henry Stern, California State Senator

Michael Quigley, Executive Director, California Alliance for Jobs

Points of interest:

Dave Reynolds went over Federal programs that will benefit California

- Mr. LaMalfa advocated for more storage capacity / projects, WRDA, WOTUS, Delta issues
- Mr. Rouda advocated for working across the aisle, HR 2, Clean Water SRF, WRDA 2020, \$\$ for water projects in COVID19 recovery legislation, PFAS support
- Mr. Stern discussed climate change resilience, the drought cycle, storm water capture, the need for a water bond on 2022 ballot, the need for a Federal COVID19 economic recovery measure that includes water projects

10:00 AM Statewide Issues Forum – Once Upon a Time in Water: What Worked and What Didn't

Using the priorities as identified in a recent focus group of a new generation of water leaders, the panel discussed how past lessons learned might shape opportunities to meet today's water challenges.

The panel was composed of the following:

Dave Eggerton, Executive Director of ACWA, Moderator

Greg Gartrell, Consulting Engineer, Contra Costa water

Jennifer Persike, Retired ACWA

Jason Peltier, Retired ACWA

Tim Quinn, Retired ACWA

The focus group referred to above developed 9 themes:

- Deep concerns around status quo
- Building relationships and trust
- Learning from past success and failures
- Succession planning / growing diversity
- Economic challenges
- Data and technology
- Regulatory and policy implementation
- Public engagement and education
- Conflict within the water agency

Key points made by panel:

- Lack of effective communication
- Strong belief that lawsuits = progress
- Lack of coherent policy
- Refusal to take risks
- Collaborative leadership is more effective than "warrior" leadership where defeating your opponent is the objective
- Success factors = facilitative leadership, engaged stakeholders, open and transparent, big tents

11:15 AM Closing Session Keynote Speakers:

E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, California State Water Resources Control Board

Karla Nemeth, Director, California Department of Water Resources

Mr. Esquivel and Ms. Nemeth provided the goals, objectives and priorities for their respective organizations going forward, and entertained questions from the attendees.

Director Plambeck AB 1234 Report

10:30 AM 7-29

PFAS in the Regulatory Climate

Nossaman Associate Attorney **Tara Paul Moderator**

Discussed only PFAS and PFOA

In 2019 EPA said they would take action and steps towards developing an MCL Comment period closed June 10<sup>th</sup>. Will publish a proposed MCL first, then additional processes. Interim regulations released last year focused on drinking water. Established Preliminary heal goal. June 22 announced an additional 172 chemicals they will be looking at.

**Darrin Polhemus**

**Deputy Director of Division of Drinking Water State Water Resources Control Board**

Have looked at airports and landfills for testing. Nitrification levels 5.1 and 6.1. Have set lower notification Levels. Found it in somewhat high levels in places the expected to find it. State Board will be issuing the new order in Aug implementing AB756. Order will clarify levels Found PFAS at 100% of airports and almost all landfills MCLS coming in the Fall 2023

**Allan Hirsch Chief Deputy Director, California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment Cal EPA**

PFAs and PFO added to the carcinogenic list in 2017. Were requested to do assessments of PFAS by the Water Board. Levels are associated with a 1 in 1 million cancer rate. PHG does not take remediation cost or clean up ability into consideration – only looking at health.

- State Water Board in February 2020 asked OEHHA to develop recommended NLs for seven PFAS compounds:
  - Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)
  - Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)
  - Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)
  - Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)
  - Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)
  - Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)
  - 4,8-dioxia-3H-perfluorononanoic acid (ADONA)
- Request based on sampling results in response to 2019 DDW order.
- OEHHA also asked to consider whether some PFAS should be grouped together for regulatory purposes.

PFAS is persistent in the environment. They have also been doing biomonitoring and found it in 95% of the people tested.

**Patrick Versluis**

**Director of Water Quality Orange County Water District**

They are in charge of managing the Orange County groundwater. Provide water to 19 agencies and 2.5 million people. They have an in-house certified lab to process the sampling. Have 38 wells shut down. May increase costs due to having to buy imported water. Agreement with producers that OC will take the clean up lead. Using activated granulated carbon, but testing others. Discussed how Orange County is handling their PFAS pollution, carbon v. ion exchange – site size may be a determining factor.

1PM Keynote – Wade Crowfoot

Discussed the water resilience Plan – added 14 new actions and removed 5, mostly based on the new fiscal reality. Providing for dryer dries and wetter wets. Can download the final from the Gov's press release  
Priorities -Restore multi benefit flood plans, Get storage going, Remove obsolete dams, better utilize data

1:30PM

**Energy/Water Industry Trends: “Wildfire: How Electric Utilities are Leveraging Technology and Partnering with the Water Community to Prepare for Fire Season”**

Catastrophic wildfire in California is the new reality, and technology can and should play an important role in planning and response. An important partner in the state's efforts to adapt are the investor owned electric utilities, who have been building out their technology in preparation for this year's fire season. Join the three major electric utilities as they discuss the next steps to better climate resilience and adaptation for wildfire through the use of technology and how they are partnering with the water community.

#### **SPEAKERS:**

**Steve LaMar (MODERATOR), ACWA Board President Irvine Ranch Water District**

**Brian D'Agostino**

**Director, Fire Science and Climate Adaptation San Diego Gas & Electric**

Showed the mountain cameras that can identify and triangulate a fire's location and gave a demonstration of their fire simulation system which, using weather, wind direction and dryness of vegetation to predict direction and rapidity of fire growth

**Tom Brady**

**Senior Manager – Wildfire/PSPS Response Southern California Edison**

Talked about what they are doing to harden their lines, including line separations, fast shut off sectionalizing, steel lines and towers and prevent fires, and went through the steps they take to get to a PSPS

**Dave Canny**

**Director, Business Energy Solutions Pacific Gas & Electric**

Provided a map showing how much wildfires have increased in just the last five years. They are making similar changes as the other agencies. They see a need to continue calling PSPS in wildfire situations. Talked about mitigations they are taking to avoid shut offs by creating micro grids and sub stations. Have increased their ability to inspect lines more quickly so that re-energization can take place sooner.

**2:45 PM | Wednesday, July 29, 2020**

**Water Industry Trends Program: "Emergency Response and Engagement in the Age of Climate Change"**

Weather events in California continue to be more extreme in the face of climate change, requiring greater effort for adaption and preparation. Between catastrophic wildfire, flooding, extreme mudflows, and pandemics, emergency preparation and communication is more important than ever before. Hear from experts around the state on how you can engage in the emergency planning process and be prepared when a disaster strikes.

#### **SPEAKERS:**

**Charles Wilson (MODERATOR), Chair, ACWA Energy Committee**

**Christina Curry, Chief Deputy Director, California Governor Office of Emergency Services**

State provides coordination and overall planning

**Brett Barbre, General Manager, Yorba Linda Water District**

WROC (a coalition of local water agencies) has team building events where they include Fire and sheriff personnel, have constructed a heli-hydrant to be accessed by helicopters

**Robert Bendorf, County Administrator, County of Yuba**, described actions they took during the Camp Fire and what they have done to prepare for fires in the future. They talked about how important it is to coordinate with all public agencies.

**Mark Pestrella, Director, Los Angeles County Public Works** – (I was not able to get his presentation for some reason)

**July 30th**

8:15AM

Keynote Speaker from Bureau of Reclamation, Commission Brenda Burman stated that the Bureau wants to work with the State to solve water issues.

9AM

**Water Industry Trends Program: “Adapting to Flood, Fire and Drought: A Case Study of the American River Basin”**

The Governor’s Water Resilience Portfolio Initiative underscores the need for communities to maintain and diversify water supplies and to protect and enhance natural environments to prepare for the impacts of climate change. This panel will describe the experience of the American River region in evaluating climate impacts on their watershed in a new cutting-edge study and the comprehensive suite of projects designed to address increasing threats from more frequent and intense floods, fires, and droughts.

**SPEAKERS:**

**James Peifer (MODERATOR) Executive Director Regional Water Authority**

**Gary Bardini**

**Director of Planning Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency**

Investing in flood protections such as widening the Yolo Bypass. Are trying to get the City of Sacramento to support a 300 year flood plain and ultimately would like a 500 year level of floodplain protection

**Tony Firenzi**

**Director of Strategic Affairs Placer County Water Agency**

Should be looking at the “whole” watershed for the American river – super watershed. Must invest in water resiliency in the face of climate change. Expecting to see decline in snowpack, more extremes of wet and dry. Looking at operating the Folsom Dam to enhance downstream recharge and flood control protection. Agencies must work together to get these new project ideas accomplished.

**Tom Gohring Executive Director Water Forum**

Talked about the history of collaborative efforts in the water forum including the collaborative agreement and its goals. Water Conservation has reduced water usage and they have enhanced .

**Eli Ilano**

**Forest Supervisor for Tahoe National Forest US Forest Service**

**Discussed Forest Service Mission statement**

About 2 million AF flows from the Tahoe National Forest into the America Watershed. Past fire regime were small fires that mostly burned understory. Expect to see much higher degree of fire danger. Service has developed high priority watersheds includes the American river watershed. First do thinning with large equipment, then hand thinning to remove selected trees and ground brush, then prescribed fire. Land acquisition – head waters acquisition – they acquired the headwaters of the Middle fork of the American river.

Panelists all agreed to that it is essential to involve NGOs early on, get them invested in the process by really listening and incorporating their ideas and be transparent.

**Noon closing keynote**

**E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair (KEYNOTE SPEAKER), State Water Resources Control Board**

Talked about the issue of getting safe and affordable drinking water to lower income communities, Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, covered many of the same issues as Wade Crowfoot covered, yesterday. Esquivel mentioned that he holds the “public” seat on the Water Board and that has caused him to look closely at equity and wants to make sure this issue is included in the conversation.

**Karla Nemeth, Director (KEYNOTE SPEAKER) California Department of Water Resources**  
Discussed AB1765, water date, and coordination.

Talked about the need for collaboration, then talked about what DWR is doing. Also talked about the 6 million people that DWR serves from Disadvantaged communities. Have included climate change forecasting in DWR reporting. This year did a standalone permit under the state endangered species act with the air that it will be more transparent and flexible than the federal permit. Allows carryover in week years and use them for our communities and the environment in dry years. Talked about new water transfers for long term transfers. Also includes better and more publicly accessible info for the public.