



October 27 and 28, 2022

**Water Quality
Coordinating Committee**
California Water Boards

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Agenda

Accelerating Climate Change Action

Day 1 – Thursday, October 27, 2022

9:00 am	Welcome
9:10 am	A Conversation with Karla Nemeth & Joaquin Esquivel – CA Water Supply Strategy
10:00 am	GO/CalEPA Updates
10:45 am	Break
11:00 am	Denmark & California: A Partnership for Sustainability
12:00 pm	Regional Board Updates
12:30 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	Recycled Water, Desalination, Stormwater Discussion
4:00 pm	Regional Board Updates
5:00 pm	Adjourn

Day 2 – Friday, October 28, 2022

9:00 am	Water Conservation & Messaging
9:30 am	A Conversation with CalEPA Secretary Yana Garcia
10:00 am	Regional Board Updates
10:45 am	Break
11:00 am	Permit Streamlining: Accelerating Habitat Restoration and Wildfire Preparedness and Response
12:00 pm	Chief Counsel Legal Session
1:00 pm	Adjourn

Speaker Biographies

Karla Nemeth

Director, CA Department of Water Resources

Karla Nemeth was appointed Director of the California Department of Water Resources by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on January 10, 2018 and was reappointed by Governor Gavin Newsom on June 28, 2019.

Nemeth oversees the Department and its 4,000 employees whose mission it is to manage and protect California's water resources. In cooperation with other agencies, DWR manages California's water resources to benefit the state's people, and to protect, restore, and enhance the natural and human environments. Nemeth focuses on preparing the Department and state to adapt to more extreme weather as a result of climate change – investing in aging and green infrastructure, better management of groundwater supplies, and various programs to improve local water resilience. Nemeth is committed to ensuring a workplace that reflects the values of diversity, equity and inclusion and one that provides programs and services that meet the needs of California's diverse population.



Prior to joining DWR, Nemeth worked at the California Natural Resources Agency as Governor Brown's deputy secretary and senior advisor for water policy since 2014. She was the Bay Delta Conservation Plan project manager from 2009 to 2014.

Prior to her work in natural resources management, Nemeth lived, worked and traveled extensively in eastern Europe promoting the development of democratic institutions. In 2010 Nemeth traveled to the Philippines as an election monitor. She is passionate about good government and serving the public.

Nemeth received a bachelor's degree in political science and Latin American studies from the University of California at San Diego, and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Washington.

Nemeth grew up in San Diego, California where she learned to love baseball, the Pacific Ocean, and the eastern Sierra.

Morgan Carvajal

Chief Deputy Appointments Secretary, Governor's Office

In January 2020, Morgan Carvajal was appointed to the Governor's Office as the Chief Deputy Appointments Secretary. Prior to serving in the Newsom Administration, Morgan was a legislative advocate in Sacramento. She started her advocacy career with the Hernandez Strategy Group in 2013, advocating on behalf of non-profit organizations, labor unions and consumer groups, including; the Consumer Federation of California, the Communications Workers of America and The Utility Reform Network (TURN). In 2018 she became the lead advocate for public health policy at the California Medical Association. From 2010-2013 she served as a Legislative Aide to Senator Fran Pavley.



Anna Naimark

Deputy Secretary & Special Counsel for Water Policy, CalEPA

Prior to being appointed to Deputy Secretary and Special Counsel for Water at the California Environmental Protection Agency in January of 2022, Anna Naimark has been Tribal Negotiations Advisor to Governor Newsom since 2019. She was a Senior Program Examiner at the White House Office of Management and Budget from 2014 to 2018, Human Rights Expert and Political Officer at the United States Mission to the U.N. Human Rights Council in 2016 and Research Fellow for the Open Society Foundations in 2014. Naimark was an International Business and Human Rights Fellow at Human Rights First in 2013, Legal and Policy Fellow in 2012 and a Program Assistant from 2009 to 2010 at the ACLU of Northern California and a Legal Fellow at the Center for Human Rights and the Environment in 2011. Naimark earned a Juris Doctor degree from the American University Washington College of Law and a Master of Arts degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from the School of International Service at American University.

Henrik Dissing

Program Manager, Business and Innovation, Danish Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Environment and Food, Denmark

Henrik Dissing is Program Manager at the Danish Environment Protection Agency's Water Resources Division, where he undertakes technology development tasks at national level, as well as international co-operation activities. At the national level, he has recently been responsible for the "Digitization in the Water Sector" project and the "Feasibility Study on Sensor Technologies" project. At the international level, he is responsible for the Danish EPAs co-operation with Spain/Portugal, USA, China and Eastern Africa. In Spain/Portugal and USA, he particularly focuses on Sustainable Water Resources Management in areas with severe Water Scarcity, as well as reduction of carbon footprint in the water sector. Regarding China, he is Program Manager of the China Europe Water Platform Business &



Innovation Program, and in this position responsible for CEWP Activities reg Circular Economy, Economic Instruments, Business Promotion as well as Optimization of use of Water-related Resources. Formerly, during 2009-2012 he was the Manager of the Cleantech Program at the Confederation of Danish Industries, and in 2006-2009, Program Manager, City of Copenhagen Climate Change Program and Business Policy Program.

Jesper Christensen

Head of Distribution Planning, HOFOR/Greater Copenhagen Utility

Jesper Christensen is head of Distribution Planning at HOFOR / Greater Copenhagen Utility. Jesper has a master of science in civil engineering from Technical University of Denmark and has more than 30 years of experience in the water sector. Jesper has been working with groundwater protection, remediation, well fields for drinking water, water treatment and water distribution. He has been working at Greater Copenhagen Utility since 2008. From 2018-2020 he joined the Danish Water Technology Alliance in California to share knowledge about Danish water technology.



Michael Rosenberg Pedersen

Senior Technical Advisor, Danish Water Technology Alliance

Michael Rosenberg Pedersen is Senior Technical Advisor at the Danish Water Technology Alliance for Water Distribution located at the Danish Consulate General in Silicon Valley. In this role he works to bring together Danish and American stakeholders to overcome challenges facing the water sector.

Michael is focusing on the collaborative agreement (MoU) between California and the kingdom of Denmark. Since 2015 Danish water utilities have stationed senior managers in California to share knowledge and experiences cross the Atlantic. Michael is hydrogeologist of background and on leave from his job as head of operations at the second largest water utility in Denmark, Aarhus Water.



Shereen D'Souza

Deputy Secretary for Climate Policy and Intergovernmental Relations, CalEPA

Shereen D'Souza was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom in June 2021 to serve as CalEPA's Deputy Secretary for Climate Policy and Intergovernmental Relations.

Prior to joining CalEPA, Shereen worked for U.S. EPA Region 9, focusing on Pacific Islands environmental management and environmental justice issues. She has worked as a consultant and project manager on numerous environmental projects, including local climate resilience and sustainability plans and research on climate-smart agriculture for UN agencies. Shereen spent over four years at the U.S. State Department as a negotiator for the U.S. in the UNFCCC, helping to deliver the Paris Agreement. During this time, she led the Department's adaptation and loss and damage team. Shereen also spent six years working on food justice issues at the grassroots level in California and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras, focusing on agriculture.



Shereen holds a Master of Environmental Science and a Graduate Certificate of Concentration in International Development from Yale University, as well as a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Georgetown University.

Jennifer West

Managing Director, WateReuse

Since 2014 Jennifer has been the Managing Director of WateReuse California -- the largest state section of the national WateReuse Association. As director and spokesperson for reuse in California, Jennifer has spearheaded numerous successful regulatory, legislative and funding efforts. Jennifer's 25-year experience with water public policy in California also includes serving as the Director for Water for the California Municipal Utilities Association from 2010 to 2014. Before this she was a contract legislative and regulatory advocate for numerous water districts and landowners. Jennifer was born in Sacramento and continues to live and work in the capitol city with her family.



Morgan Shimabuku

Senior Researcher, Pacific Institute

Morgan Shimabuku has been at the Pacific Institute since 2018. She conducts research on a wide range of water management issues, including solutions to water equity and access challenges, benefits and tradeoffs of water management strategies, and water resilience, and more.



Prior to joining the Pacific Institute, Morgan was a senior program manager at an environmental nonprofit in Colorado where she ran residential and commercial water conservation program operations in partnership with municipal water providers. Previously, she worked as a scientist

at a water resource consulting firm and supported the PacFish/InFish Biological Opinion Effectiveness Monitoring Program (PIBO) of the US Forest Service as a stream technician.

Morgan received a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Geology from Whitman College and a Master's degree from the Department of Geography at the University of Colorado Boulder, where she studied climate change, hydrochemical cycling, and snow hydrology at the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research.

Jayne Joy

Executive Officer, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

I began my career with the Santa Ana Water Board in 2017 as the Assistant Executive Officer. As of August 2021, I now serve as the Executive Officer. The Santa Ana Water Board is comprised of three divisions: Surface Water and Agriculture, Planning, and Groundwater Protection. Before moving to the Santa Ana Water Board and for 17 years, I was the Director for Eastern Municipal Water District's Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Department. The department ensured compliance with all environmental regulations associated with potable water and wastewater treatment systems. I began my career at the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, and for 14 years managed their environmental compliance programs. I am a registered professional civil engineer with a bachelor's degree from University of California, San Diego in Chemical Engineering.



Yana Garcia

California Secretary for Environmental Protection

Yana Garcia was appointed California Secretary for Environmental Protection by Governor Gavin Newsom in August 2022. As Secretary, Yana oversees the state's efforts to fight climate change, protect air and water quality, regulate pesticides and toxic substances, achieve the state's recycling and waste reduction goals, and advance environmental justice. As a member of the Governor's cabinet, she advises the Governor on environmental policy.

Yana is nationally recognized as a groundbreaking environmental leader who has worked hard to uplift the voices of those from disadvantaged communities.



Since 2021, Garcia has served as Special Assistant Attorney General advising California Attorney General Rob Bonta on the California Department of Justice's legal and policy matters pertaining to the environment, land law and natural resources including climate, transportation, energy, and housing.

She was Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice, Tribal Affairs and Border Relations at CalEPA from 2019 to 2021 and had been CalEPA's Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs from 2017 to 2019. During her tenure at CalEPA, Garcia led three Environmental Justice Task Force Initiatives in the communities of Pomona, Imperial County and Stockton. She also led the program that delivered more than \$1 million in

Environmental Justice Small Grants to 28 organizations to combat pollution, improve health outcomes and increase public engagement in some of California's most pollution-burdened communities.

Prior to her state service, Garcia litigated environmental cases on behalf of several client groups across the state and across the country, as an attorney at Earthjustice in the California regional office in San Francisco. Garcia was also a staff attorney at Communities for a Better Environment, serving in Huntington Park and Oakland. Her legal practice areas have focused on environmental justice issues, civil rights, land use, toxics and chemical disclosure, oil and gas extraction, and crude transport. Between 2011 and 2012, Garcia served as a legal research attorney at the San Francisco Superior Court's Civil Division, Office of the Presiding Judge. Prior to practicing law, Yana worked on various environmental justice and civil rights projects aimed at achieving equitable access to clean air, clean water, and sustainable food and energy systems in the states of Texas, New Mexico and Massachusetts.

Garcia holds a degree in politics from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a law degree from Northeastern University School of Law.

Legislative Update – Selected Bills

Administrative

SB 1219 (Hurtado) 21st century water laws and agencies: committee.

This bill would require the Secretary for Environmental Protection and Secretary for Natural Resources to convene a committee with specified membership to develop a strategic vision, proposed statutes, and recommendations for a modern 21st century set of water laws and regulations and state and local water agencies for the state. The document would be required to be submitted to the Governor and Legislature by December 31, 2024.

***HELD BY AUTHOR, 06/09/22**

Bay-Delta

AB 2639 (Quirk) Water quality control plans and water rights permits.

This bill would require the State Water Board to adopt a final update to the Bay-Delta Plan by December 31, 2023 and adopt implementation measures for the San Joaquin River/Southern Delta portion of the update by the same date. The Board would be prohibited, until the Bay Delta Plan update is adopted, from approving new water right permits in the Delta watershed if they would result in new or increased diversion to storage.

***FAILED PASSAGE ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR, 05/26/22**

Drinking Water

AB 1931 (Rivas, Luz) Community water systems: lead pipes.

This bill would require the State Water Board to provide federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to Community Water Systems to fund the replacement or removal of lead service lines, among other related uses. Community water systems that serve disadvantaged communities would be prioritized for funding. The bill would mandate that Community Water Systems take certain measures before they replace a lead service line or a service line of unknown materials-- such as determining the materials on the private side of the line—and certain measures after they replace a lead service line—such as providing customers with educational materials, instructions on flushing, and pitcher filters. The bill would provide for certain exemptions in the case of emergency repairs. Finally, this bill would sunset on the earlier of two dates: (1) January 1, 2025, or (2) when the State Water Board issues regulations conforming with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions.

***HELD IN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, 08/11/22**

SB 222 (Dodd) Water Rate Assistance Program.

This bill would, upon appropriation, establish the Water Rate Assistance Fund and the Water Rate Assistance Program, to be administered by the State Water Board. The program would provide water and wastewater bill assistance to low-income residential ratepayers. Within 270 days of an appropriation, the State Water Board would be required to consult with relevant agencies and an advisory group to adopt program guidelines. This bill would also require, within 365 days of an appropriation, the Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to establish a mechanism for electrical corporations and gas corporations to regularly share data for the program. This bill would require all community water systems and wastewater systems to participate in the program, while it would be optional for tribal water and wastewater systems.

***VETOED BY GOVERNOR, 09/28/22 (Link to Veto Message [HERE](#))**

SB 230 (Portantino) State Water Resources Control Board: Constituents of Emerging Concern in Drinking Water Program.

This bill would require the State Water Board to build upon its existing work related to Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) in water and to improve its knowledge of CECs in drinking water. The bill would authorize the State Water Board to create a dedicated program and science advisory panel for CECs in drinking water, require the State Water Board to provide opportunities for public participation, and create a “CEC Action Fund” to fund these activities. Finally, the bill authorizes the State Water Board to provide financial assistance to community water systems both directly and through technical assistance providers.

***CHAPTERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE. CHAPTER 676, STATUTES OF 2022.**

SB 1254 (Hertzberg) Drinking water: administrator: managerial and other services.

This bill would provide liability protection to water system administrators appointed by the State Water Board for good faith efforts taken to improve a failing drinking water system. The bill would clarify that it neither creates any new liability for the State Water Board, nor does it remove liability from the State Water Board in any other context.

Finally, this bill would authorize the State Water Board to appoint administrators to drinking water systems which are at-risk of failure.

NOTE: This is an administration sponsored bill.

***CHAPTERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE. CHAPTER 681, STATUTES OF 2022.**

Enforcement

AB 1879 (Mathis) California regional water quality control boards: investigations.

This bill would authorize the Regional Water Boards to develop plans or policies to address unfounded or frivolous complaints.

***VETOED BY GOVERNOR, 9/13/22, (Link to Veto Message [HERE](#))**

AB 2421 (Rubio, Blanca) Water: unlicensed cannabis cultivation.

This bill would allow city attorneys and county counsel to bring civil actions alleging violations involving the unauthorized deposits of specified substances into water and for unauthorized water diversions, due to unlicensed cannabis cultivation. Funds from the fish and wildlife propagation fund of any county, or by appropriation from the Legislature from the Water Rights Fund, would be used to reimburse the Attorney General, city attorney, or county counsel for the costs of bringing such actions. This bill would also remove an affirmative defense to civil actions for discharges into water if it resulted from unlicensed cannabis cultivation. City attorneys and county counsel would be required notify the State Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Board) (collectively referred to as the Water Boards) of the intent to file an unauthorized diversion action at least 15 days prior to commencing the action.

***HELD IN SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER COMMITTEE, 07/5/22
(This bill was incorporated into [AB 195](#), the Committee on Budget, Cannabis trailer bill)**

Funding/Bonds/Fees

AB 2113 (Rivas, Robert) State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account: annual proceed transfers.

This bill would create four new subaccounts within the Waste Discharge Permit Fund (WDPF) account and would redirect funds from the Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) into the new subaccounts for expenditure on specified purposes.

***HELD IN ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, 05/19/22**

AB 2877 (Garcia, Eduardo) Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund: tribes.

This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board to make diligent efforts to ensure that tribes receive Safe and Affordable Drinking Water (SADW) Fund monies, including identifying potential solutions to funding barriers in the State Water Board's annual SADW Fund Expenditure Plan and publicly posting data about tribal funding, as specified. This bill would also require the State Water Board's tribal liaison or specific designees to participate in all discussions with tribes about SADW funding, including negotiations over limited waivers of sovereign immunity, which must be narrowly drafted.

***CHAPTERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE, CHAPTER 481, STATUTES OF 2022**

SB 1188 (Laird) Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: financial assistance.

This bill would allow the State Water Board to provide grants, principal forgiveness funding, and zero percent financing from the state's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to the full extent that such funding is authorized by federal law. These changes would allow the State Water Board to provide funding to small, non-disadvantaged communities for consolidation projects, drinking water projects benefiting public health, and for larger non-disadvantaged communities to encourage consolidation with smaller water systems.

***CHAPTERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE. CHAPTER 680, STATUTES OF 2022.**

Water Conservation

SB 1157 (Hertzberg) Urban water use objectives: indoor residential water use.

This bill would update current statute to reflect the indoor residential water use standards that were recommended to the Legislature in November 2021 by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in coordination with the State Water Board, pursuant to the requirements created by water conservation legislation enacted in 2018. This bill also requires DWR, in coordination with the State Water Board, to submit two reports to the legislature on: (a) the economic impacts and benefits of the 2030 indoor residential water use standards on water, wastewater, and recycled water systems; and (b) on the progress of urban retail water suppliers towards achieving urban water use objectives.

***CHAPTERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE, CHAPTER 679, STATUTES OF 2022
(Governor's Signing Message [HERE](#))**

Water Quality

AB 2106 (Rivas, Robert) Water quality: permits.

This bill would require, on or before December 31, 2024, the State Water Board to modernize its stormwater data collection systems through specified actions. This bill would require the State Water Board to establish a state-wide permit for Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional stormwater as specified, and would require the State Water Board to initiate a series of hearings to evaluate the state's stormwater program and progress towards attainment of beneficial uses.

***VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR, 09/28/22 (Link to Veto Message [HERE](#))**

AB 2108 (Rivas, Robert) Water policy: environmental justice: disadvantaged and tribal community representation.

This bill would require the State Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) (collectively referred to as the Water Boards) to make a finding of environmental justice impacts when issuing waste discharge requirements (WDRs) or waivers of WDRs and plans or policies for water quality control. This bill would require the State Water Board to engage in equitable, culturally relevant community outreach throughout its planning, policy, and permitting processes. This bill

would require the State Water Board's development of a set of other related programs contingent upon an appropriation.

***CHAPTERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE, CHAPTER 347, STATUTES OF 2022**

AB 2140 (Muratsuchi) Once-through cooling policy: powerplants.

This bill would prohibit the State Water Board from granting any time extension to powerplants to comply with once-through cooling policy requirements if a local government with jurisdiction formally adopts a resolution objecting to an extension and an advisory committee determines that an extension is not necessary to ensure electricity reliability.

***HELD IN ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, 05/19/22**

AB 2163 (Rubio, Blanca) San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority Act.

This bill would extend the sunset date for the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority by 20 years from July 1, 2030, to July 1, 2050.

***CHAPTERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE - CHAPTER 234, STATUTES OF 2022.**

AB 2248 (Garcia, Eduardo) Water quality: California-Mexico cross-border rivers.

This bill would make \$100 million available, upon appropriation, to the State Water Board to address water quality problems in the New River and the Tijuana River watersheds at the California-Mexico border.

***VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR, 09/18/2022 (Link to Veto Message [HERE](#))**

AB 2362 (Mullin) Ecosystem restoration and climate adaptation projects: permitting.

This bill would require the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), in cooperation with the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), to convene an Interagency Working Group and associated stakeholder panel to coordinate efficient regulatory review and permitting mechanisms for habitat restoration projects. The bill would also authorize the State Water Board, until January 1, 2028, to accept donations, grants, contributions, or contract funds, for planning, permitting, or providing technical support for projects of public benefit.

***MOVED TO INACTIVE FILE, 08/22/22**

AB 2447 (Quirk) Oil and gas wastewater: unlined ponds: prohibition.

This bill would prohibit the construction of new unlined ponds, the disposal of produced wastewater into unlined ponds, and the issuance or renewal of permits for those activities. The bill would exclude from these prohibitions the discharge of produced wastewater into unlined ponds if: 1) the water meets the water quality objectives of the regional water quality control plan, 2) the discharge is permitted by the State Water Board or a Regional Water Board, and 3) the discharged water is put to a beneficial use, including groundwater recharge and excluding for oil and gas extraction.

***MOVED TO INACTIVE FILE AT THE REQUEST OF THE AUTHOR, 05/26/22**

AB 2668 (Grayson) Planning and zoning.

This bill would add parameters for determining a housing project's compliance with the streamlined, ministerial process created by SB 35 (Wiener, Chapter 366, Statutes of 2017). This bill would authorize a development to be located on a hazardous waste site that is listed on the Cortese List pursuant to existing law if it is an underground storage tank (UST) site for which a uniform closure letter has been issued based on criteria for residential use or residential mixed uses, or the site has otherwise been cleared for residential use or residential mixed uses by the State Water Board, the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), or by a local agency.

***CHAPTERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE - CHAPTER 658, STATUTES OF 2022.**

AB 2758 (O'Donnell) Southern Los Angeles Ocean Chemical Waste Community Oversight Council.

This bill would require the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), beginning March 31, 2023, to hold 4 public meetings per year to provide the public with current information on efforts to study and mitigate DDT and other chemical waste dumped off the coast of Los Angeles, and to report to the legislature by June 30, 2025 with recommendations on how to further mitigate impacts from chemicals at the dumpsite.

***HELD IN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 08/12/22**

SB 905 (Caballero & Skinner) Carbon sequestration: Carbon Capture, Removal, Utilization, and Storage Program

This bill would require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to establish a Carbon Capture, Removal, Utilization, and Storage Program to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and viability of carbon capture, utilization, or storage (CCUS) technologies and carbon dioxide removal (CDR) technologies and facilitate the capture and sequestration of carbon dioxide with those technologies.

***CHAPTERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE, CHAPTER 359, STATUTES OF 2022**

SB 1137 (Gonzalez & Limon) Oil and gas: operations: location restrictions: notice of intention: health protection zone: sensitive receptors.

This bill would prohibit the Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) in the Department of Conservation from approving any notice of intention (NOI) within a 3,200-foot health protection zone, except for under specified circumstances. The bill would require all oil or gas production facilities or wells with a wellhead within a health protection zone to comply with health, safety, and environmental requirements and comply with specified community communication and water sampling requirements.

***CHAPTERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE, CHAPTER 365, STATUTES OF 2022**

Water Rights

AB 2451 (Wood) State Water Resources Control Board: drought planning.

This bill would require the Division of Water Rights to establish a drought section. The State Water Board would be required to adopt principles and guidelines for the diversion

and use of water in coastal watersheds during times of water shortage by March 31, 2024.

***HELD IN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, 08/12/22**

AB 2895 (Arambula) Water: permits and licenses: temporary changes: water or water rights transfers.

This bill would streamline the State Water Board's annual processing of temporary water rights transfers. The Board would generate and distribute a list of water right holders who notify the Board by January that they are considering a transfer in that year. Those right holders would then receive expedited processing, as specified.

***CHAPTERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE, CHAPTER 675, STATUTES OF 2022**

SB 1205 (Allen) Water rights: appropriation.

This bill would require the State Water Board to adopt regulations to govern consideration of climate change effects in water availability analyses used in the State Water Board's review of water rights permit applications. This bill would require the regulations to consider the effects of drought extremes, floods, and groundwater-surface water interactions.

***CHAPTERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE - CHAPTER 369, STATUTES OF 2022**

Budget Highlights

[Media Release: Year in Review: State Water Board delivers \\$3.3 billion to California communities to boost drought resilience and increase water supplies](#)

*Water recycling and drinking water infrastructure among top funding priorities
Community drought assistance funding has quadrupled in just two years*

[The California Blueprint: Water Resilience and Drought Response \(September 2022\)](#)

The Budget includes an additional \$3.6 billion one-time General Fund over multiple years to support drought resilience and response. This builds on the historic three-year, \$5.2 billion investment in California water systems enacted in 2021-22. Of the \$3.6 billion, \$1.3 billion was enacted on June 30 and the remainder on September 16.

This budget is tailored to meet immediate drought emergency needs for communities and fish and wildlife while deepening and expanding state investments to climate-proof water systems around the state.

Board Member Biographies

State Water Board



Joaquin Esquivel,
Chair

E. Joaquin Esquivel was appointed to the State Water Resources Control Board by Governor Jerry Brown in March 2017 and designated by Governor Gavin Newsom as Chair in February 2019. Previously, he served as Assistant Secretary for federal water policy at the California Natural Resources Agency in the Governor's Washington, D.C. office, where he facilitated the development of policy priorities between the agency, the Governor's Office, the California Congressional delegation, and federal stakeholder agencies.

For more than eight years prior to that he worked for U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, most recently as her legislative assistant covering the agriculture, Native American, water, oceans, and nutrition portfolios, in addition to being the director of information and technology.

He was born and raised in California's Coachella Valley. He holds a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara in English.



Dorene D'Adamo,
Vice Chair

Dorene D'Adamo was appointed to State Water Resources Control Board by Governor Brown in 2013 and reappointed in 2018. She serves as the Vice-Chair and also as the agriculture member of the board. Ms. D'Adamo is on the Board of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and on the Board of the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council, and she also served on the Governor's Drought Task Force. She was a member of the California Air Resources Board from 1999-2013 under the Brown, Schwarzenegger and Davis Administrations, where she was instrumental in the board's air quality and climate change programs and regulations.

Ms. D'Adamo served in various capacities for Members of Congress from the San Joaquin Valley over a 20-year period, working primarily on environmental, water and agricultural legislative policy.

Ms. D'Adamo earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California at Davis and a Juris Doctor from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.



Sean Maguire

Sean Maguire was appointed to the State Water Resources Control Board in December 2018 by Governor Brown and is a registered civil engineer. Mr. Maguire has had a diverse career both in both public service and as an engineering consultant, which provides a valuable perspective of the administrative challenges facing a government agency and needs of a broad array of water interests.

From 2015-2018, Mr. Maguire worked for the State Water Resources Control Board as a manager of the Storm Water Grant Program in the Division of Financial Assistance, and later as a manager in the Division of Water Rights where he oversaw administration of water right change petitions, licensing, and cannabis cultivation permitting. Prior to joining the Board, from 2003-2015, he worked for an engineering consulting firm serving a variety of municipalities and water agencies throughout the state, focused on water resources planning, drinking water, and wastewater infrastructure projects. Much of his work revolved around integrated water management and developing long term water supply solutions to meet the needs of both water users and the environment.

Mr. Maguire has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from California State University, Sacramento.



Laurel Firestone

Laurel Firestone was appointed to the State Water Resources Control Board by Governor Gavin Newsom in February 2019. Prior to joining the Board, Laurel co-founded and co-directed, from 2006-2019, the Community Water Center (CWC), a statewide non-profit environmental justice organization. Based in California's Central Valley and Central Coast, the CWC helps disadvantaged communities gain access to safe, clean, and affordable drinking water and build civic engagement and leadership to achieve the human right to water.

Laurel has received a variety of awards and recognitions, including the James Irvine Foundation's Leadership Award in 2018, and the Gary Bellow Public Service Award by the Harvard Law School in 2013. She

also received an Equal Justice Works fellowship to start the Rural Poverty Water Project in the Central Valley in 2004-06 as part of the Center for Race, Poverty and the Environment.

Laurel served on the Tulare County Water Commission from 2007-2012 and co-chaired the Governor's Drinking Water Stakeholder Group from 2012-2014. She served on a variety of state policy advisory committees and partnered with universities to develop research and clinical programs to ensure the human right to water. In 2009, Laurel authored the comprehensive *Guide to Community Drinking Water Advocacy* and has written a variety of articles relating to safe drinking water and the environment.

Laurel graduated with honors from Harvard Law School and holds a B.A. *magna cum laude* in Environmental Studies from Brown University.



Nichole Morgan

Nichole Morgan was appointed as the civil engineer to the State Water Resources Control Board by Governor Gavin Newsom in June 2021. Ms. Morgan most recently served as an Assistant Deputy Director in the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Financial Assistance, where she worked on projects providing funding for drinking water, wastewater, storm water and groundwater infrastructure improvements. During this time Ms. Morgan also managed a variety of additional programs including the Lead in Child Care Centers, Fish Advisories, and Drinking Water and Wastewater Operator Certification programs.

From 1999 to 2009 Ms. Morgan worked for public agencies and engineering consulting firms. Her responsibilities included planning, designing, and overseeing the construction of drinking water, wastewater and recycled water treatment and conveyance facilities throughout California. Ms. Morgan joined the State Water Resources Control Board in 2009 where she worked as staff in the Division of Financial Assistance, Delta Water Master's Office, and the Division of Water Rights. Ms. Morgan worked as a manager at the Central Valley Regional Water Board from 2012 to 2018, where she managed the region's NPDES program. She returned to the State Water Board in 2018 as the head of the Office of Sustainable Water Solutions and was promoted in 2019 to an Assistant Deputy Director with the Division of Financial Assistance.

Ms. Morgan has a bachelor's in science in Civil Engineering from California State University, Sacramento.

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 1)

Executive Officer: Matthias St. John



Gregory Giusti,
Chair

Gregory Giusti, of Kelseyville, has been an advisor and director of forest and wildlands ecology at the University of California Cooperative Extension since 1985. He was an agricultural biologist at the San Mateo County Department of Agriculture from 1981 to 1985 and chief biologist at the Marine Ecological Institute from 1979 to 1981. He earned a Master of Arts degree in ecology and population biology from California State University, San Francisco. Mr. Giusti was appointed to the Regional Water Board on November 25, 2013. His term expires September 30, 2025.



Hector Bedolla,
Vice Chair

Hector Bedolla, of Healdsburg, has been Manager in General at Chenoweth Vineyards since January of 2020. He was adjunct Professor of Viticulture for the Santa Rose Junior College in 2019. He was vineyard manager at North Pacific Vineyard Management from 2016 to 2018. He was a crop advisor and agronomist at Crop Production Services from 2013 to 2016 and vineyard and ranch manager at Stuhlmuller Vineyards from 2011 to 2013. He was a consulting viticulturist at Windsor Oaks Vineyards in 2011 and an agricultural biologist in the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office in 2010. He was a vineyard manager at Kendall-Jackson Wine Estates from 2000 to 2010 and at Stag's Leap Wine Cellars from 1999 to 2000. He was vice president of vineyard operations at Hambrecht Vineyards from 1995 to 1999. He was vineyard manager at Hambrecht and Peterson Vineyards from 1988 to 1995 and at Iron Horse Vineyards from 1983 to 1988. Mr. Bedolla was appointed to the Regional Water Board on December 2, 2016. His term expires September 30, 2026.



Shaunna McCovey

Shaunna O. McCovey, of McKinleyville, has been the Director of Natural Resources and Governmental Affairs at Resighini Rancheria since 2020. McCovey has worked for Tribal Governments, environmental non-profits and the Federal Government, including Trinidad Rancheria, where she was the Deputy CEO, the Department of the Interior,

Indian Affairs, Office of Self-Governance, where she negotiated compacts with Tribal nations, she worked in marine planning and tribal affairs while at the Portland, OR based non-profit, Ecotrust, and as a Policy Manager for Marine Spatial Planning at Ocean Conservancy in Washington, DC. She held multiple positions for the Yurok Tribe including acting Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Self-Governance Officer and staff attorney. McCovey has also been an associate professor at Humboldt State University. She earned a Juris Doctorate and a Master of Studies in Environmental Law degree from Vermont Law School and a Master of Social Work degree from Arizona State University.



William "Bill" Matsubu

Dr. William Matsubu, Ph.D., has been a Fisheries Biologist for the Wiyot Tribe since 2021. He was a Skilled Laborer for Matsubu Construction Inc. from 2020 to 2021, a Postdoctoral Researcher with the National Research Council from 2019 to 2020, a Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant at the University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences from 2013 to 2019, and a Natural Resources Program Assistant at Sonoma Water from 2011 to 2013. He earned his Ph.D. in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences from the University of Washington and a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries Biology from Cal Poly Humboldt.



Crystal Robinson

Crystal Robinson, 45, of Forks of Salmon, has been appointed to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Robinson has been Environmental Director at Quartz Valley Indian Reservation since 2014 and held that position from 2006 to 2010. She was Water Resources Program Coordinator for the Karuk Tribe from 2010 to 2014 and Scientific Field Technician at the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District from 2003 to 2006, where she was Watershed Education Coordinator from 2004 to 2005. Robinson was a Fisheries Biological Technician for the U.S. Forest Service Saimon/Scott Ranger District in 2005, a Scientific Aide for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2004, a Scientific Field Technician for the Northern California Resource Center in 2004 and a Watershed Steward for the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project from 2001 to 2003. She is a member of the Scott River Watershed Council, serves on the Salmon River Restoration Council Board and Scott Groundwater Advisory Committee. Robinson is secretary of the California ERA Tribal Advisory Committee, chairperson of the Klamath Basin Monitoring Program and Northern California representative on the U.S. EPA Regional Tribal Operations Committee.

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 2)

Executive Officer: Eileen White



Jayne Battey,
Chair

Jayne Battey is the owner and founder of Miramar Farms on the San Mateo Coast near Half Moon Bay. Using the farm as a uniquely restorative backdrop, Ms. Battey provides a combination of senior leadership coaching and program facilitation for organizations working on environmental, health, housing, education and other critical societal issues. She currently serves on the board of American Leadership Forum-Silicon Valley, and previously served on the boards of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Youth Outside, and Cabrillo Education Foundation.

Prior to starting Miramar Farms in 2013, Ms. Battey held executive positions in a number of environmental organizations, including Essex Environmental, Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council, and Pacific Gas & Electric Company. She has extensive experience in environmental planning and compliance management for large-scale infrastructure projects, as well as expertise in a wide-range of state and federal natural resource protection regulations. Ms. Battey holds a bachelor's degree from Boston College and a master's degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is a senior fellow of American Leadership Forum - Silicon Valley (Class XXIV).



Alexis
Strauss-
Hacker,
Vice Chair

Alexis Strauss Hacker, Piedmont, held several leadership roles at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from 1979 to 2019, including acting regional administrator, deputy regional administrator, water division director, and manager of Superfund enforcement programs. She has been recognized with several leadership and management awards in her federal career. She earned a Master of Arts degree in urban planning and a Bachelor of Arts in geography from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Andrew
Gunther
Ph.D.

Dr. Gunther received his Ph.D. in Energy and Resources from the University of California at Berkeley in 1987, and he has worked at the intersection of environmental science and policy since 1979. He has extensive experience in applying science to the development of air, water, and endangered species policy, including in the Bay Area.

In 1986 he was hired as the first staff scientist for the San Francisco Estuary Institute, where he completed landmarks studies of estuarine water quality for the State of California and the U.S. EPA. He was the first manager of the State of California's program that monitors for toxic substances in San Francisco Bay, and served as Assistant Chief Scientist for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Program. From 2001-2006 he was the coordinator of the Clean Estuary Partnership, where he developed and managed a joint research and analysis program for the Regional Board, the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies, and the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association. From 2011-2017 Dr. Gunther served as executive coordinator of the Bay Area Ecosystems Climate Change Consortium, assisting this interagency group develop and implement initiatives to build resiliency to climate change in the Bay Area.

In 2017, Andy became the ninth person to win Jean Auer Environmental Award from the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, which honors his "significant contribution toward improving environmental quality in the Bay-Delta Estuary." More about Dr. Gunther's career and activities is available at www.andrewgunther.com.



Donald
Young

Donald Young is a Senior Vice President at Salas O'Brien. He's a CSU-Certified Construction Manager and heads the Construction Services Department, annually overseeing a variety of projects associated with sustainability, resiliency, clean energy, climate change, and innovation. He's a graduate of Leadership San Jose 2009 and a former member of the San Jose Evergreen Community College District Foundation, serving from 2010 – 2020 with two (2) terms as Board Chair. He also served on the City of Campbell Planning Commission from 2014 – 2017. He is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara with a Bachelor of Science in Biopsychology.



William
Kissinger

William Kissinger of Marin County is a partner at the law firm of Morgan Lewis and Bockius. Before that he was a partner at Bingham McCutchen from 2003 to 2014, and an associate and then a partner at the legacy McCutchen Doyle Brown and Enersen firm from 1989 to 1997. He was senior deputy legal affairs secretary at the Office of Governor Gray Davis from 2001 to 2003. Kissinger served as senior advisor for international economic policy for the National Economic Council at the White House from 2000 to 2001 and was special assistant to the Legal Adviser at the U.S. Department of State from 1997 to 2000. He was staff attorney for the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals from 1987 to 1988. Kissinger earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, and a B.A. in Politics/American Studies *cum laude* from Princeton University.



Letty Belin

Letty Belin, 70, of Oakland, has been appointed to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. Belin has been Principal of Alletta Belin Consulting LLC since 2017. She was a Landreth Visiting Fellow for Stanford Water in the West in 2018, Senior Counselor to the Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of the Interior from 2009 to 2017 and Founder and Partner of Belin & Sugarman Law Office from 2000 to 2009. Belin was Director of the Environment, Energy and Telecommunications Division at the New Mexico Attorney General's Office from 1993 to 1999. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa and with distinction and honors in anthropology from Stanford University and earned a Juris Doctor degree from Stanford Law School.

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 3)

Executive Officer: Matt Keeling



Jane Gray, Chair

Ms. Jane Gray, of Goleta, is a regional planner and project manager who has been working in a private sector environmental and engineering firm since 2006 and previously worked as a planner with Santa Barbara County and County of Fresno. Ms. Gray has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and led refugee resettlement programming in New York and Arizona, taught English as a Second Language teacher for public agencies, public schools and

private language schools in the US and Germany. She earned a Master's degree in regional planning and management from the Technische Universität Dortmund, Germany and spent time in Ghana, West Africa studying and documenting resource issues and governance as part of her masters program. Ms. Gray served as Vice Chair of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board from 2019 to 2022.



Jean-Pierre Wolff, Ph.D.,
Vice Chair

Dr. Wolff, Ph.D., of San Luis Obispo, has been the owner and vintner of Wolff Vineyards since 1999. He was an independent consultant providing technical consulting services for privately held corporations from 2000 to 2002, senior vice president for Global Energy Services, a division of Emerson Electric from 1998 to 2000 and Vice President and corporate officer for Electro-Test from 1981 to 1998. He is a member of the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District and the Agriculture Liaison Advisory Board, Cal Poly Center for Sustainability, Cal Poly College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science, Dean's Executive Advisory Board, Central Coast Salmon Enhancement, San Luis Obispo Vintners Association and the Central Coast Wine Growers Association. He served as Chair of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board from 2014 to 2022.



Monica Hunter,
Ph.D.

Dr. Hunter, Ph.D., of Los Osos, was formerly the central coast Senior Program Advisor for the Planning and Conservation League Foundation (PCLF) and since 2004 has conducted numerous stakeholder processes in support of sustainable coastal watershed resource management. Since 2014 she has served as a Board Trustee of the PCL Foundation. Dr. Hunter was a consultant to the Morro Bay National Estuary Program in 2001, and a former member of the Executive Committee, serving on the Education and Stewardship Committee. She was a regional liaison to California Sea Grant focused on central coast marine resource stakeholder engagement from 2000 to 2003. She is currently an emeritus board member of the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy and was also a founding member of the Carmel River Task Force. In 2012 and 2013, she served on the Governor's Drinking Water Stakeholder Group. She served as Vice Chair of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board from 2014 to 2018.



Stephanie Harlan

Ms. Stephanie Harlan, of Capitola, previously served on the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board from 2018 to 2019 and was reappointed in 2021. Ms. Harlan was a Member of the Capitola City Council from 2010 to 2018, from 1994 to 2006 and 1984 to 1992. She was a Registered Nurse at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital from 1996 to 2015, at Watsonville Community Hospital from 1984 to 1996 and at Santa Cruz Community Hospital from 1983 to 1984. She is a member of the Santa Cruz County League of Women Voters and Friends of the Capitola Library.

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 4)

Executive Officer: Renee Purdy



James Stahl,
Acting Chair

James Stahl is a Registered Professional Engineer in California, a Board-Certified Environmental Engineer of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists and a Member of the National Academy of Engineering. He is President of JFS Environmental Engineering and the former Chief Engineer & General Manager of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. Jim has extensive experience in the planning, design, operation and management of cost effective and environmentally sound wastewater collection and treatment, water reuse and solid waste systems. He has a BS in Civil Engineering from Loyola Marymount University and a MS in Environmental Engineering from Stanford.



Norma Camacho

Norma Camacho is a member of the Stillwater Sciences Board of Directors and the former Chief Executive Officer of Valley Water, which provides safe, clean water for Silicon Valley. Prior to that she held several positions at the Ventura County Public Works Agency. Her passion is developing creative and collaborative solutions within watersheds to benefit the environment and communities. Ms. Camacho holds a degree in Civil Engineering from Stanford University.



Marissa Christiansen

Marissa Christiansen is the current President and CEO of Friends of the Los Angeles River, a non-profit organization building capacity for communities, students, and future leaders to advocate for nature, climate, and equity on the LA River. Christiansen is a career advocate on a mission for a safe, habitable future for the girls who will lead it.



David Nahai

David Nahai is the President of David Nahai Consulting Services, Inc., and a Partner at the law firm of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP. In both capacities, Mr. Nahai focuses on real estate, water, renewable energy, and environmental matters. Mr. Nahai previously served on the Los Angeles Regional Board for 10 years (1997-2007) and was its Chair for four terms. He is also the former General Manager and Commission President of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and served as Senior Advisor to the Clinton Climate Initiative. Mr. Nahai holds graduate and post-graduate degrees in law from the London School of Economics and the University of California at Berkeley and was a Visiting Scholar at UC Berkeley.



Irma Muñoz

Irma Muñoz is CEO and founder of Mujeres de la Tierra, an environmental equity organization that teaches women and their children to take ownership and leadership of neighborhood issues and challenges.



Dr. Michael Méndez

Dr. Michael Méndez is an assistant professor of environmental policy and planning at the University of California, Irvine. He previously was the inaugural James and Mary Pinchot Faculty Fellow in Sustainability Studies at the Yale School of the Environment. Dr. Méndez has more than a decade of senior-level experience in the public and private sectors, where he consulted and actively engaged in the policymaking process on environmental and health issues. Most recently, he was appointed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to the Board on Environmental Change and Society (BECS). Dr. Méndez holds three degrees in environmental planning and policy, including a

PhD from UC Berkeley's Department of City and Regional Planning, and a graduate degree from MIT.

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 5)

Executive Officer: Patrick Pulupa



Mark
Bradford,
Chair

Mr. Bradford graduated from U.C. Davis with a B.S. degree in Renewable Natural Resources. He served as a Program Director for Ecology & Environment, Inc. in San Francisco from 1979 - 1992, and as a Principal at ERM-West, Inc. (ERM), in Sacramento from 1992 - 2016. His consulting experience in Northern California involved managing large, complex site investigation/ remediation programs, as well as projects addressing compliance, permitting, and environmental management systems for a wide range of government and private sector clients. These services involved complex multidisciplinary teams including Geologists, Hydrogeologists, Engineers, Toxicologists and a variety of other scientific disciplines. Regulatory agency coordination and negotiation was a key component of these programs. Mr. Bradford has extensive expertise in program organization, budgeting, cost control and contract negotiations.

As a Principal at ERM, he managed the Sacramento office and participated in strategic senior management discussions for 24 years during a period of strong growth. He was also the partner in charge of coordinating ERM's US government sector sales and delivery.



Denise
Kadara, Vice
Chair

Denise Kadara currently serves on the board of the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners and president of the Allensworth Progressive Association, a non-profit organization serving community needs. Her career spans over 25 years of public service from entry level positions to senior planner, senior management analyst, and consultant for cities in Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Mateo counties in California. Her expertise includes housing, economic and community planning, policy development and program implementation. She received her education in urban/regional planning and public administration from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and University of La Verne, La Verne, CA respectively. She is retired and moved to Allensworth in May 2010 with her husband where they now devote their time toward

improving the quality of life of residents in the community and other disadvantaged communities. Since 2010, she and her husband have focused on community issues pertaining to water quality, distressed housing, infrastructure, youth/leadership development, environmental justice and economic development. She recently served as a member of the Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study -Stakeholders Oversight Advisory Committee (SOAC).



Raji Brar

Raji Brar is owner and operator at Countryside Market & Restaurants. She has previously served as a City Council Member for the City of Arvin, Vice-Chair for the Arvin Redevelopment Agency and as a Governing Board Member for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Brar obtained her Bachelor of Science in Biology and Masters of Science in Health Care Administration from Cal State University Bakersfield. She has previously worked as a Chemist for BC Laboratories and as an Executive Assistant at ClinicaSierra Vista. She was appointed by Governor Brown to serve on the 15th District Agricultural Association Governing Board. Brar also serves on the Governing Board of Kern Health Systems. She also co-founded and is Director of the Bakersfield Sikh Women's Association. The Sikh Women's Association is a non-profit which gives out needs based scholarships to deserving students throughout Bakersfield and partners with the Bakersfield Homeless Center.



Nicholas Avdis

Nicholas Avdis is a partner with Avdis & Cucchi, LLP in Sacramento, specializing in land use and general real estate matters. He is also a third generation cattle rancher in Sacramento County. His commitment to public service includes serving on the boards of the Capitol Area Development Authority, Reclamation District 1000, and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. Mr. Avdis has a B.A. in History from the University of California, Davis and received his J.D. from the UC Davis School of Law (King Hall).



Sean J.
Yang

Sean J. Yang lives in Sacramento and has been a Central Valley resident for over 30 years. He works as a Medical Imaging Specialist for Kaiser Permanente Hospital, where he has been employed since 2016. Yang has been in the medical field for 20 years with four different companies. Yang is a former farmer in the Central Valley who has many friends and family members who farm. As a volunteer, Yang serves as a food delivery driver for Elk Grove Food Bank and is Regional Chair for the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association. Yang is also a school board member of the Elk Grove Unified School District.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Electronics Engineering Technology from DeVry University, and a Master Business of Administration degree from Fresno State University. Yang is married to Ka Bao Yang, and they have two girls and two boys.



Elena Lee
Reeder

Elena Lee Reeder of Sacramento, has been appointed to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Lee Reeder has been a Trustee of Reclamation District 1000 since 2019, where she has been Vice President since 2020. She was appointed as an Alternate to the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency in 2019 and as a Sitting Member in 2022. She was a Partner at Leeder Strategies LLC from 2017 to 2020, Press Secretary for the Office of State Assemblymember David Chiu from 2016 to 2017 and Press Secretary and Legislative Aide in the Office of State Assemblymember Cristina Garcia from 2013 to 2016. Lee Reeder was Scheduler and Legislative Aide for the Office of State Senator Leland Yee from 2010 to 2013.

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 6)

Executive Officer: Mike Plaziak



Peter C.
Pumphrey,
Chair

Peter Pumphrey lives near Bishop, California. He is a retired attorney, most recently having been a Deputy District Attorney in the Environmental Prosecutions unit of the San Joaquin County Office of the District Attorney. He is currently the chair of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. He is an advisor to the Executive Committee of the Environmental Law Section of the State Bar of California. He serves as the conservation chair of the Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, participates in the Bi-state sage grouse working group and is a member of the Lands Committee of the Eastern Sierra Land Trust. He has worked as a volunteer docent with the Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education. He enjoys being retired and living in the Eastern Sierra where he works in his garden and on art projects and hikes, skis and backpacks in the Sierra backcountry.



Amy Horne,
Ph.D., Vice
Chair

Dr. Amy Horne, Ph.D., J.D., of Truckee, has been a Board Member of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board since 2003. She recently earned a Juris Doctor degree at the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. While in law school, Horne interned for Senator Harry Reid in Washington, DC, for the Natural Resources Defense Council in San Francisco, and the Delta Water Master at the State Water Resources Control Board. Dr. Horne has worked more than 30 years on issues of natural resource management and policy, emphasizing water, forestry, sustainable development and dispute resolution. As Research Director at the Sierra Business Council from 1998 to 2005, Horne published an innovative guide to sustainable rural economic development. While a Research Forester at the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station from 1993 to 1997, Horne earned awards for the many articles she published about ecosystem management. Horne earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in forestry and a Master of Forest Science degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a Master of Public Administration degree in natural resource policy and management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Kimberly
Cox, DPA

Ms. Kimberly Cox, of Helendale, has been a resident of the High Desert (San Bernardino County) since 1985 and was appointed to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board in July 2013. Dr. Cox is a Board member at the Mojave Water Agency, has been a State Water Contractor since 2003, and is known as an expert in water management. Currently, Dr. Cox serves as the General Manager for the Helendale Community Services District, a position she has held since 2007. She previously worked in city and federal government and is adjunct faculty at a university. Additionally, Dr. Cox has served on the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) representing special districts since 2004. She also represents special districts serving on the San Bernardino County Solid Waste Task Force. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and a master's degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Water Resource Management and a Doctorate in Public Administration



Keith Dyas

Keith Dyas, of Rosamond, has been an environmental and civil engineer at Edwards Air Force Base for 20 years. Previously, he was an engineer at Occidental Petroleum Corp. He has served on many local boards including the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency and the Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District. Mr. Dyas served as a director of the Rosamond Town Council. Mr. Dyas earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Cal Poly, Pomona and a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Fresno State University.



Essra
Mostafavi

Ms. Mostafavi is an environmental and urban planner. She is Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Geode Environmental Inc., which she established in 2017. Essra was the Chair of the City of Bishop's Water Commission from 2017 to 2020. She earned a Master of Arts degree in international environmental policy at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies where she specialized in water policy. Prior to environmental and urban planning, Essra served as Acting Country Director in Nigeria for the US Agency for International Development (USAID), overseeing their sustainability projects.

Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 7)

Executive Officer: Paula Rasmussen



Jayne Powell,
Chair

Jayne Powell has been appointed to the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board. Powell has been an environmental and aggregate resources manager at Granite Construction Inc. since 2007. She was owner and environmental consultant at Resource Recovery Inc. from 2003 to 2006 and an environmental safety and quality manager at Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation from 1997 to 2003. Powell was an environmental engineering group manager at Dames and Moore from 1990 to 1997 and an environmental manager at the Atlas Powder Company from 1988 to 1990. She is a member of the California Stormwater Quality Association. Powell earned a Master of Science degree in biology from Murray State University.



Edward Muzik,
Vice Chair

Edward Muzik has been reappointed to the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board, where he has served since 2007. Muzik has been general manager of the Hi-Desert Water District of Yucca Valley since 2007, where he was chief financial officer from 2002 to 2006. He was director of operations and finance at Vicom Systems Inc. from 1993 to 2002 and a controller at Ashford Development from 1990 to 1993 and at Cobble Knoll from 1985 to 1990. Muzik was accounting supervisor at Motorola from 1984 to 1985 and at S and C Electric from 1978 to 1984.



Nancy Wright

Nancy Wright has been reappointed to the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board, where she has served since 2012 and served from 2000 to 2007. Wright is co-owner of a family owned General Contracting company, since 1977. Wright was vice-president of Pete Wright General Contractor, Inc. from 1997 to 2016 and co-owner of the Wright Window Company from 1994 to 2014. Wright is a Commissioner and past Chair, of the Riverside County Local Agency Formation Commission and a 29 year member of the Mission Spring Water District Board of Directors.



Peter Satin

Peter Satin, has been appointed to the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board. Satin has held several positions at the Mojave Desert Land Trust since 2017, including director of land management and land stewardship supervisor. He was a wildlife technician at the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station in 2016, a community health educator for the Peace Corps in Cambodia from 2012 to 2014 and an HIV/AIDS prevention and child survival health extension agent for the Peace Corps in Honduras from 2011 to 2012. Satin earned a Master of Environmental Management degree in ecosystem science and conservation from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University.



Beatriz
Gonzalez

Beatriz Gonzalez, of Indio, has been appointed to the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board. Gonzalez has served as District Coordinator of Expanded Learning Programs at the Coachella Valley Unified School District since 2011 and has served in several positions there since 1995, including Para-Educator for Special Education, Program Specialist for Bright Futures and as a Community Liaison for Healthy Start. She is a member of the Desert Community College District Board of Trustees.



Vivian Perez

Vivian Perez, of Holtville, has been appointed to the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board. Perez has been Center Manager at Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest since 2016 and a Faculty Member at the University of Phoenix since 2010. She was a Provider Network Consultant at Fresenius Health Partners from 2016 to 2017. Perez was Operations Manager at Fresenius Medical Care North America from 2012 to 2014. She was a Commissioner for the Imperial Valley Housing Authority appointed by the City of Holtville from 1997 to 2013. Perez earned a Master of Public Administration degree from San Diego State University.

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 8)

Executive Officer: Jayne Joy



Kris Murray,
Chair

Kristine (Kris) Murray of Anaheim, was appointed to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2018. Ms. Murray is president and chief executive officer at KLM Strategies since 2018 and has more than 25 years of executive management experience, serving public agencies across Southern California. Ms. Murray began her career in Washington, D.C. as a senior legislative aide to U.S. Representative Steve Horn (CA-38). Most recently, Ms. Murray served as an at-large member of the Anaheim City Council serving more than 350,000 residents from 2010 - 2018. During her tenure, she chaired the Orange County Council of Governments Board of Directors, Southern California Water Committee Water Energy Task Force and served on the boards of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Association of California Cities–Orange County (ACC-OC), League of California Cities, and Transportation Corridor Agencies. Prior to her service on the city council, she was a member of the Anaheim Public Utilities Commission, serving as Vice-chair of the board.



William Ruh

William Ruh of Montclair, CA, was appointed to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2002. Mr. Ruh also has served on the Citrus Valley Association of Realtors as director of governmental affairs since 2001 as a consultant for the State Assembly Select Committee on the Alameda Corridor East since 1999 and has served on the Montclair City Council since 1998. Previously, he served on the Board of Directors for the Monte Vista Water District from 1991 to 1998 and the Planning Commission for the City of Montclair from 1988 to 1998.



Letitia
Clark

Letitia Clark of Tustin was appointed to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2020. Ms. Clark is currently District Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations at the South Orange County Community College District since 2018 and previously served as District Director of Public Affairs, Marketing and Government Relations at the Coast Community College District from 2015 to 2018. Ms. Clark has also served as Executive Director and Community Relations Director at the American Academy of Pediatrics, Orange County from 2013 to 2015 and has been a Member of the Tustin City Council since 2016. Ms. Clark earned a Master of Public Policy degree in emergency management from New England College. Ms. Clark's appointment is pending Senate confirmation.



Gloria
Alvarado

Gloria Alvarado of Santa Ana, was appointed to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2021. Ms. Alvarado has been Executive Director at the Orange County Labor Federation since 2017, where she has held several positions since 2010. She was National Immigration Coordinator at the AFL-CIO from 2015 to 2017. Ms. Alvarado has served as a civil servant in various roles at the City of Santa Ana, Parks, Recreation & Community Service Department from 1986 to 2010. Ms. Alvarado's appointment is pending Senate confirmation.



John
Scandura

John Scandura of Huntington Beach was appointed to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2021. He has been an environmental scientist for over 40 years holding positions in consulting firms and government. John retired from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control in 2019 after 33 years. As a DTSC branch chief he managed staff who oversaw hazardous waste site cleanups in Southern California. John is a Planning Commissioner for Huntington Beach and served previously on the City's Public Works Commission, Community Services Commission, and Environmental Board. He grew up in Ontario, California and has a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from U.C. Irvine and a master's degree in Environmental Science and Engineering from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. John has been married to Denise since 1993 and they have two adult children. Mr. Scandura's appointment is pending Senate confirmation.

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 9)

Executive Officer: David Gibson



Celeste
Cantú,
Chair

Celeste Cantú, of Temecula, was general manager of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority from 2006 to 2017. She was executive director of the California State Water Resources Control Board from 2001 to 2006, state director at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development from 1998 to 2001, executive director at the Imperial Valley Housing Authority from 1978 to 1998 and planning director at the City of Calexico from 1977 to 1978. Cantú currently serves on the Public Policy Institute of California's Water Policy Center Advisory Council, President, Water Education Foundation, Vice President, The Water Foundation, the UC Presidents Advisory Council for Agriculture & Natural Resources and is a UCCE Master Gardener, Riverside County. She is a partner and facilitator for the Water Solutions Network. She earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government and a BA at Yale University.



Betty
Olson,
Vice Chair

Betty H. Olson, of Trabuco Canyon, was appointed to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board in December 2014. Olson has been a professor at the University of California, Irvine Henry Samueli School of Engineering's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering since 2006. She was a professor at the University of California, Irvine School of Social Ecology from 1974 to 2006. Olson is president of the Santa Margarita Water District Board of Directors and a member of the Orange County Water Association and the Association of California Water Agencies. She earned Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Science degrees in environmental health science from the University of California, Berkeley.



Henry
Abarbanel

Henry Abarbanel, of Del Mar, was appointed to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board in November 2011. He has been a professor of physics at the University of California, San Diego and a research physicist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography since 1983. Mr. Abarbanel served on the Del Mar City Council from 1992 to 1996 and 2000 to 2008. He was chair of the San Diego Metro Wastewater Commission from 2005 to 2008. Mr. Abarbanel received his doctorate in physics at Princeton University.



Eric
Anderson

Eric Anderson, of Elfin Forest, is vice president of La Costa Flower Shop and Nursery, a horticulture business, which specializes in the production, harvest, breeding, and processing of ornamental seeds and seedlings. He is serving as director of the San Diego County Farm Bureau and was president from 1996-1998. He also has served on the County of San Diego Sunset Review Commission and on the Resource Protection Review Committee. Mr. Anderson has served on the Elfin Forrest Harmony Grove Town Council. He is a past President of the San Diego Flower and Plant Association and a member of the International Palm Society. Mr. Anderson earned a bachelor of science degree from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.



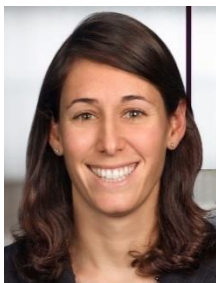
Megan Blair

Megan Blair, of San Diego, has been chief development officer at the San Diego Public Library Foundation since 2008. She was capital campaign and major gifts manager at Girl Scouts, San Diego – Imperial Council from 2007 to 2008, where she was a fund development associate from 2006 to 2007. Blair was a development associate and environmental analyst at Save the Harbor, Save the Bay from 2003 to 2005. She is a member of the United Way of San Diego Board of Directors, Women Give San Diego and the Junior League of San Diego.



Gary
Strawn

Gary Strawn, of Santee, is a retired aerospace program manager. He worked for Hamilton Sundstrand Power Systems in San Diego from 1988 to 2006, after serving as an officer in the U.S. Navy from 1968 to 1988. Mr. Strawn is a member of Trout Unlimited, San Diego Fly Fishers, San Diego River Park Foundation, San Diego Stream Team, California Golden Trout and Southern California Steelhead Recovery Projects and Friends of Santee River Park. Mr. Strawn has a bachelors degree from San Jose State University and a Master of Science degree from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School.



Stefanie
Warren

Stefanie Warren, of San Diego, was appointed to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board in July 2013. Warren has been an attorney at McKenna Long and Aldridge LLP since 2006. She was a law clerk for the Honorable Irma E. Gonzalez from 2005 to 2006. Warren earned a Juris Doctorate degree from Emory University, School of Law.