



May 1 and 2, 2025

**Water Quality**  
**Coordinating Committee**  
California Water Boards

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# Agenda

## Day 1 – Thursday, May 1, 2025

<b>10:00 am</b>	Welcome
<b>10:15 am</b>	Governor's Office & CalEPA Leadership Updates
<b>11:00 am</b>	Harmful Algal Blooms
<b>12:30 pm</b>	Lunch
	Headshot Studio (CalEPA courtyard)
<b>1:45 pm</b>	Budget Update
	Legislative Update
<b>2:45 pm</b>	Regional Board Updates (Regions 1-4)
<b>3:30 pm</b>	Break
<b>3:45 pm</b>	Regional Board Member Expectations (OCC)
<b>4:15 pm</b>	Legal Update (OCC)
<b>5:00 pm</b>	Adjourn

## Day 2 – Friday, May 2, 2025

<b>9:30 am</b>	Tools and Approaches for Making Difficult Decisions
<b>11:00 am</b>	Regional Board Updates (Regions 5-9)
<b>12:00 pm</b>	Wastewater Needs Assessment & Regionalization
<b>1:00 pm</b>	Adjourn

# Speaker Biographies

Bianca Sievers

*Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom*

Bianca Sievers currently serves as Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Governor Newsom overseeing the water policy portfolio. In 2021, Bianca was appointed Deputy Director for Special Initiatives at the Department of Water Resources where she oversaw the Department's Strategic Plan, and managed the Racial Equity Office, Water Justice Office, and Office of Tribal Affairs. Previously, she served as Policy Advisor to the Director of the Department of Water Resources since 2018. She held multiple positions at the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development from 2014 to 2018, including Senior Business Development Specialist and California Competes Tax Credit Specialist. She was Legislative Assistant for the Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown from 2012 to 2014. She earned her Master of Business Administration from the University of California, Davis, Graduate School of Management and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Economics from University of California, Davis.



Megan Mekelburg

*Deputy Appointments Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom*

Megan Mekelburg is a Deputy Appointments Secretary in the Office of Governor Newsom where she manages many of the gubernatorial appointments to boards, commissions, and executive positions within the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency. Prior to working in the Governor's Office, she was a Senior Associate at Environmental and Energy Consulting where she engaged in legislative and regulatory issues on behalf of various clean transportation clients in California and Washington state. Megan also spent several years at the California State Senate where she served in numerous roles including Scheduler, Legislative Aide, Legislative Director, and interim Chief of Staff. Megan holds a Master of Public Policy and Administration from Sacramento State and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from University of California, Davis.



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.



# 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, designated by Governor Gavin Newsom as Chair in February 2019, and reappointed to the board by Governor Newsom in 2021. 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, Joaquin 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 and reappointed by Governor Newsom in February 2023. 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, as well as a variety of state policy advisory committees. She has partnered with universities to develop research and clinical programs to further the human right to water, and written articles and publications related to 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



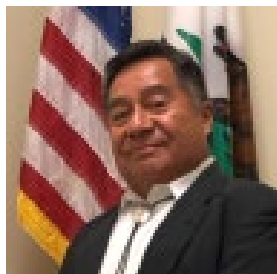
additional programs including the Lead in Child Care Centers, Fish Advisories, and Drinking Water and Wastewater Operator Certification programs.

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: Valerie Quinto



Hector  
Bedolla,  
Chair

Hector Bedolla, of Healdsburg, has been a Consulting Agronomist in the western United States and internationally since 1985. He was the Viticulturist at Chenoweth Vineyards from 2020 to 2022. He has been an Adjunct Professor in Viticulture at Santa Rosa Junior College since 2017. He was Vineyard Manager at Navarro Vineyards in 2018 and at North Pacific Vineyard Management from 2016 to 2018. Bedolla was Crop Advisor, Pest Control 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. Bedolla 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 first appointed to the Regional Board in 2016.



Alexandra  
Hart, Vice  
Chair

Alexandra Hart, of Montague, has been a Senior Appraiser with LandVest Real Estate since 2022. She was an Appraiser with Yosemite Farm Credit, ACA from 2015 to 2022. Hart has been a member of the Appraisal Institute since 2015 and a member of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers since 2022. Hart earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness Management and Food Marketing from the University of Kentucky. Ms. Hart was first appointed to the Regional Board in 2023.



Gregory  
Giusti

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.



Ryan  
Sundberg

Ryan Sundberg, of McKinleyville, has been General Manager of Cher-Ae-Heights Casino since 2019. He was a Humboldt County District Supervisor from 2010 to 2018. Sundberg was Owner of Sundberg Insurance Agency from 2002 to 2009. He was a member of the Trinidad Rancheria Tribal Council from 1996 to 2010. Sundberg earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Humboldt State University. Mr. Sundberg was first appointed to the Regional Board in 2023.



Jake  
Mackenzie

Jake Mackenzie, of Rohnert Park, was a Council Member for the City of Rohnert Park from 1996 to 2020. He was Director of the Western Region in the Office of Pesticide Programs at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from 1990 to 2002. Mr. Mackenzie is a member of the Greenbelt Alliance Board of Directors. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Crop Science from the University of Edinburgh, a Master of Science degree in Pesticide Research and Development from Oregon State University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Pesticide Research and Development from Oregon State University. Mr. Mackenzie was first appointed to the board in 2024.

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

Executive Officer: Eileen White



Alexis  
Strauss-  
Hacker,  
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.



Donald  
Young,  
Vice Chair

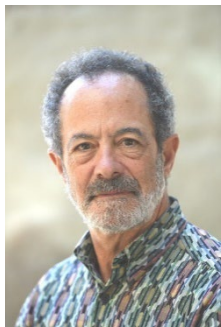
Donald Young is a Senior Vice President at Salas O'Brien. He's a CSU-Certified Construction Manager and heads the Construction Services Department, annually overseeing a variety of projects associated with sustainability, resiliency, clean energy, climate change, and innovation. He's a graduate of Leadership 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.



Jayne Battey

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).



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](http://www.andrewgunther.com).



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, of Oakland, 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.



Mark  
Ransom

Mark Ransom, of Walnut Creek, was a Partner at ERM West Inc. from 1990 to 2021. He was Manager of Environmental Affairs for the Southern Pacific Transportation Company from 1984 to 1990. Ransom worked at Ecology and Environment Inc. from 1980 to 1984 and worked for the State of California from 1978 to 1979. Ransom earned a Bachelor of Science

degree in Environmental Engineering from Humboldt State University. He is a registered Civil Engineer in California.



# Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 3)

Executive Officer: Ryan Lodge



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 Board Member of the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District, San Luis Obispo County Agriculture Liaison Advisory Board, Board member Cal Poly Center for Sustainability, Cal Poly College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science Dean's Advisory Board, United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency elected County Committee member. He served as Chair of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board from 2014 to 2022.





Alex  
Rodriguez

Mr. Alex Rodriguez is President & CEO of DCG Public Affairs and is a partner and CEO of Conduit Government Relations. His areas of professional expertise include Hispanic marketing, minority enterprise development, environmental justice, government relations and branding, public affairs, and strategic communications.

In November 2022, Alex was appointed to the Dean's Council of the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Alex currently serves as the president of the Santa Barbara County Finance Corporation's board of directors and the president of the La Cumbre Mutual Water Company's board of directors. Alex was appointed to the US EPA's National Drinking Water Advisory Council in December 2021 by the Biden Administration. Alex has also served on several non-profit boards with an emphasis on Hispanic and Latino services and representation.

Alex attended the University of California at Santa Barbara where he majored in Film Studies and holds a BA in Business Management from Antioch University. Alex holds ranks in multiple martial arts including a fifth-degree black belt (master) in Hapkido and was inducted into the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame in 2020. A native of Southern California, Alex resides in Santa Barbara with his wife and son.



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.

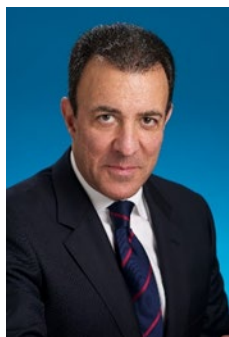


Anne  
Hoskins

Ms. Anne Hoskins, of San Luis Obispo, is the Senior Vice President of Policy and Market Development at Generac Power Systems, where she supports regulatory and legislative initiatives to accelerate distributed clean energy deployment, modernize the electric grid and improve energy resiliency and reliability. She has almost two decades of regulatory, policy and strategy experience across multiple venues in the energy and telecommunications industries, including serving as Chief Policy Officer of Sunrun, Commissioner on the Maryland Public Service Commission, Senior Vice President of Policy and Sustainability at Public Service Enterprise Group and Senior Counsel at Verizon Wireless. Earlier in her career Anne practiced law at the law firm of McCarter and English and at the United States Comptroller of the Currency and served as a policy advisor to the Governor of New Jersey. Anne has advanced regulatory innovation through her Board of Directors' roles on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) and the Solar Energy Industries Association. Anne served as the first visiting research scholar at the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment at Princeton University. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School, the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (MPA), and Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (BS, Applied Economics).

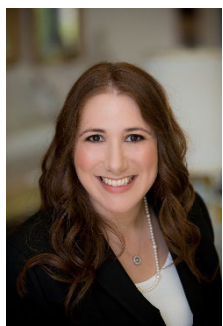
# Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 4)

Executive Officer: Susana Arredondo



David Nahai,  
Chair

David Nahai is President of David Nahai Associates, Inc., a law firm specializing in real estate and sustainability transactional matters. He is also President of David Nahai Consulting Services, Inc., which specializes in the renewable energy, energy efficiency, and water sectors. Mr. Nahai previously served as the General Manager and Commission President of the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power. Mr. Nahai is also the former Chair of the L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board, and former Senior Advisor to the Clinton Climate Initiative. He was reappointed to the Water Board by Governor Newsom in 2021 and is currently its Chair. Additionally, he serves as Chair of the Los Angeles Business Council, and as a Board Member of the UCLA Luskin Center, Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator, Climate Resolve and LAANE. Mr. Nahai holds graduate and postgraduate degrees from the London School of Economics and UC Berkeley.



Sabrina  
Ashjian, Vice  
Chair

Sabrina Ashjian is a clinical supervising attorney in the Environmental Law Clinic at UC Berkeley School of Law, where she lectures on the topics of environmental law, environmental justice, and legislative advocacy. Her work focuses on sustainability, climate mitigation and adaptation solutions, just energy transition, and equitable green infrastructure development. Ms. Ashjian has nearly 15 years of legal experience during which she has handled environmental crimes both civilly and criminally, including assuring access to safe, clean and affordable drinking water. Ms. Ashjian received her JD/MBA from Pepperdine University, her M.A. in Journalism from University of Southern California, and her B.B.A. from George Washington University. She is licensed to practice law in California, New York, and in the United States Supreme Court.



Norma  
Camacho

Norma J. Camacho is currently serving as an external member of the Board of Directors for Stillwater Sciences, a consulting services firm striving to balance beneficial uses of water and watersheds using science-based natural resource management and habitat restoration. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Watershed Solutions Network, a non-profit network of leaders committed to integrated, equitable, and resilient water management solutions. Ms. Camacho retired as CEO of the Santa Clara Valley Water District in 2021 and from the County of Ventura where she served for over 20 years. She received a BS in Civil Engineering from Stanford University.



Dr. Michael  
Méndez

Dr. Michael Méndez is an assistant professor of environmental policy and planning at the University of California, Irvine, an Andrew Carnegie Fellow, and Visiting Scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (through a National Science Foundation Early Faculty Career Award). He previously was the Pinchot Faculty Fellow in Sustainability Studies at the Yale School of the Environment. Michael 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.



Marissa  
Christiansen

Marissa Christiansen is the former President & CEO of Friends of the Los Angeles River and Director of the Water Table with the Water Foundation. Christiansen is a career advocate on a mission for a sustainable future for the next generation.

# Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 5)

Executive Officer: Patrick Pulupa



Nicholas Avdis,  
Chair

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).



Elena Lee Reader,  
Vice Chair

Elena Lee Reeder was appointed by Governor Newsom to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board where she has served as a Board Member since March 2022. She serves on the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) sub committee. Elena has lived in the Sacramento region for more than 16 years. After graduating from the University of California, Davis, she worked in the Governor's office, a top tier government advocacy firm and the California State Legislature. In 2017, Elena started her own public affairs firm. In addition to serving on the CVRWQCB, Elena was elected to the Reclamation District 1000 board in November 2019 and is the current Board President. Elena made history in December 2022 when she was elected as the first woman and the first API board member to serve in this role. She was Vice-President for two years and was the Chair of the Urbanization Committee for four years. In 2022, Elena was appointed as a Director at the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), and she currently serves as an alternate member. While a legislative staffer, Elena was a policy aide and communications director to numerous legislators. She has extensive experience communicating policy topics with the press and the public, and branding legislation, programs, and other issue areas. She worked regularly with experts to craft and pass

legislation, and make recommendations to legislators regarding votes on a variety of policy areas including housing and water.

Under Elena's leadership, the Reclamation District brought home a National and a Statewide award, the NAFSMA 2023 Excellence in Communications Award (National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies) and the 2023 CSDA Exceptional Public Outreach & Advocacy Award (Small District Category). In 2024, Elena received the Community Champion award at the Honoring Women Who Ignite change event hosted by the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA). Elena and her husband live in Sacramento with their daughter and a rescue cat, Mr. Weasley.



Mark  
Bradford

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

Denise Kadara serves on the board of the Tulare Basin Watershed Partnership Network 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 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 was appointed to serve on the Integrated Climate Adaptation Resiliency Program Technical Advisory Council in 2023.



Sean J.  
Yang

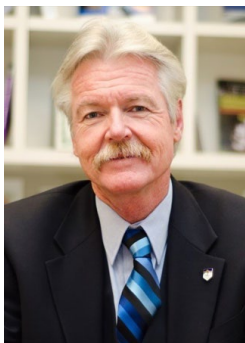
Sean J. Yang, a longtime resident of Sacramento, boasts a rich connection to the Central Valley, where he has resided for over three decades. Currently, he holds the position of Medical Imaging Specialist at Kaiser Permanente Hospital, bringing over 20 years of experience in the medical field, garnered through his tenure with four esteemed companies.

Notably, Sean's roots extend to agriculture, as he was formerly engaged in farming in the Central Valley, a heritage that continues to resonate through his extensive network of friends and family entrenched in the farming community. Embracing a spirit of altruism, Sean actively contributes to his community as a volunteer food delivery driver for the Elk Grove Food Bank, extending support to those in need. Additionally, he serves as the Regional Chair for the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association, leveraging his leadership to advocate for diverse communities.

Sean's dedication to education and civic engagement is further underscored by his role as a school board member of the Elk Grove Unified School District, where he strives to enhance educational opportunities and foster an inclusive learning environment.

In terms of his academic achievements, Sean holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electronics Engineering Technology from DeVry University, complemented by a Master of Business Administration degree from Fresno State University.

Sean is happily married to Ka Bao Yang, and together, they nurture a family of two girls and two boys, embodying a commitment to both professional excellence and familial bonds.



Arthur G.  
Baggett, Jr.

Arthur G. Baggett, Jr. has lived in El Portal/Yosemite for over 50 years. From 1986-94 he served as a Mariposa County Supervisor. Art served 12 years as the attorney member and chair of the California State Water Resources Control Board for Governor's Davis and Schwarzenegger and is past president of the Association of Clean Water Administrators and member of Dividing the Waters (a project of judges that focuses on adjudication of water rights). As a scientist and teacher, Art has guided for the Yosemite Mountaineering School, been on the faculty of the Yosemite Institute and the University of California's Sierra Institute, as well as served as adjunct faculty for Fresno State University's Department of Chemistry. Art continues to teach Environmental and Water Rights Law as adjunct faculty at San Joaquin College of Law. Art has also been a building designer and a licensed general, electrical, and plumbing contractor. Currently, Art enjoys playing guitar and banjo with his family and friends and is a certified cross country ski instructor who enjoys spending a lot of time skiing in the backcountry with his wife, son, daughter, and grandchildren.



# Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 6)

Acting Executive Officer: Ben Letton



Essra  
Mostafavi,  
Chair

Essra Mostafavi of Bishop, was appointed to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2021. A specialist in strategic policy analysis and sustainability planning, Essra is the Founder & CEO of Geōde Environmental, where she leads environmental and land-use initiatives at the nexus of science and policy. She holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations-Environmental Policy from UC Davis and a Master's degree in International Environmental Policy from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, where she specialized in water policy.



Robert  
Pearce,  
Vice  
Chair

Robert Pearce, of Chalfant, has been appointed to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. Pearce held several roles at the Natural Resources Conservation Service from 2003 to 2022, including District Conservationist and Acting State Rangeland Management Specialist. He was a Plant Ecologist at Pacifica Services Inc. from 2001 to 2002. Pearce was an Ecologist at Resource Concepts Inc. from 1998 to 2001. He earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Rangeland Ecosystem Science from Colorado State University, a Master of Science degree in Rangeland Science from Texas A&M University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Management from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.



Amy Horne,  
Ph.D.

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.



Rick  
Dever

Rick Dever, of Crestline has been a General Manager of the Crestline Sanitation District since 2017. He was Operations Manager at Crestline Sanitation District from 2013-2017. Dever was Operations Foreman at the Lake Arrowhead Community Services District from 1986 to 2013.



Jeff Loux

Jeff Loux of the town of Truckee, was Town Manager of the Town of Truckee from 2017 to 2021. He held several roles at the University of California, Davis from 2000 to 2016, including Associate Dean and Department Chair in the School of Continuing and Professional Education and Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Design. Loux was a Mediator of water resources disputes at the Center for Collaborative Policy at California State University, Sacramento from 2000 to 2009. He was a Consultant with MIG Inc. from 1998 to 2000. Mr. Loux earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Environmental Planning from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master of Science degree in Geography from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies and Geography from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

# Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 7)

Executive Officer: Michael Placencia



Vivian  
Perez,  
Chair

Vivian Perez, of Holtville, 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.



Beatriz  
Gonzalez,  
Vice Chair

Beatriz Gonzalez, of Indio, 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.



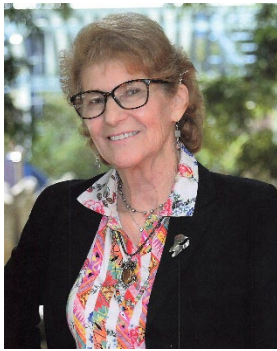
Peter  
Satin

Peter 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.



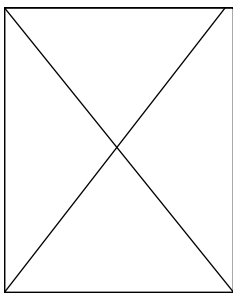
Edward  
Muzik

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 served on the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board since 2012, and served from 2000 to 2007. Wright has been co-owner of a General Contracting Company with her husband, since 1977. Wright was co-owner of the Wright Window Company from 1994 to 2014, vice-president of Pete Wright General Contractor, Inc. from 1997 to 2016, and served as a Commissioner of the Riverside County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), from 2012 to 2022. Wright also served on the Coachella Valley Associations of Government (CVAG), Energy and Environmental Resources Committee and the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC), from 2012 to 2022, and was a 34-year member of the Mission Springs Water District Board of Directors from 1988 to 2022.



Azucena  
Beltran-  
Serrano

Azucena R. Beltran-Serrano, of Thermal, has been a Project Manager at the University of California, Santa Cruz since 2022. She was Assistant Project Manager at the University of California, Santa Cruz from 2021 to 2022. She was a Laboratory Technician in the Rolshausen Lab at the University of California, Riverside in 2021, and a Field Technician in the Eskalen Lab at University of California, Davis from 2020 to 2021. She was also a Civic Engagement Associate at the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability in 2020, Community Aide for the City of Indio in 2019, and a Program Manager for the Kounkuey Design Initiative in 2018. She earned a

Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies  
from the University of California, Santa Cruz.



# 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.



John  
Scandura,  
Vice Chair

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.



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.



William Ruh

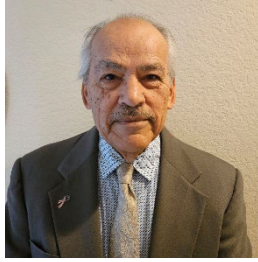
William Ruh of Montclair, CA, was appointed to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2002. Mr. Ruh also has served on the Citrus Valley Association of Realtors as director of governmental affairs since 2001 as a consultant for the State Assembly Select Committee on the Alameda Corridor 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.



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.





Sixto (Al)  
Lopez

Sixto (Al) Lopez of Corona, was appointed to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2023. Mr. Lopez served as a Member of the Western Municipal Water District Board of Directors from 2001 to 2020. He was Founder of Inland Empire Infill Homes from 2017 to 2020. Mr. Lopez was Community Relations Manager for Continental East Development Inc. from 2018 to 2020. He was a Member of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board of Directors from 2005 to 2007. Additionally, Mr. Lopez was a recipient of the 2005 and 2020 "Congressional Record Tribute" for community service in Riverside County. He has served on several local and regional water and wastewater recycling agencies over the past several years. Mr. Lopez also has over 40 years of community involvement in education, employment, transportation, environment, and public/civic groups in the Inland Empire area. Mr. Lopez holds a California Real Estate License and is a USMC veteran.

# San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 9)

Executive Officer: David Gibson



Gary  
Strawn,  
Chair

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.



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.



Celeste  
Cantú

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.



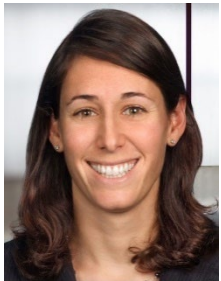
Yen Tu

Yen Tu, of San Diego, has been President of Yen Tu Consulting since 2000. She was Community Relations Manager for Viejas Enterprises from 2005 to 2009. Tu was Executive Director of the San Diego Asian Business Association from 1998 to 2005. She is a member of the San Diego Diplomacy Council and the California Board of Accountancy. Tu earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chinese Studies from the University of California, San Diego.



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.



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.