

PARTICIPANTS

Eric Averett is general manager of the Rosedale–Rio Bravo Water Storage District. He has been involved in evaluating and resolving water supply and quality challenges facing Kern County since 1991. He also serves as chair of the Kern River Watershed Coalition and as manager of the Kern Groundwater Authority; both organizations were formed to help Kern County’s water interests address regulatory challenges related to water supply reliability and water quality.

Thaddeus L. Bettner is general manager of the Glenn–Colusa Irrigation District. He has 25 years of experience with irrigation and water agencies in the planning, design, operation, and management of water delivery systems at the local, state, and federal levels. He has worked for water agencies in the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Imperial valleys. He is actively engaged with the Northern California Water Association. He is on the board of the Association of California Water Agencies—where he currently chairs the Water Management Committee—as well as the Power and Water Resources Pooling Authority and the US Committee on Irrigation and Drainage. He is involved in the development of Sites Reservoir and plays a key role with the Sites Joint Powers Authority. He is a registered civil engineer in the state of California. He holds a BS in agricultural engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Jennifer Burke is the deputy director of water and engineering resources at the City of Santa Rosa Water Department. She oversees the department’s work in water-use efficiency, water resources planning, energy and sustainability, asset management, and water engineering services. She has worked in the environmental field for 17 years. She holds an MBA from San Jose State University and a BA in environmental studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Wade Crowfoot directs the Water Foundation and will lead its transition into an independent organization in early 2017. He has more than 20 years of public policy and environmental experience, including expertise in water, climate, and sustainability issues. He came to the Water Foundation after serving for nearly five years in Governor Jerry Brown’s administration, most recently leading the administration’s drought response efforts as deputy cabinet secretary and senior advisor to the governor. Before joining the Brown administration, he was west coast regional director for the Environmental Defense Fund and a senior environmental advisor to San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom. He holds an MS in public policy and environmental policy from the London School of Economics, and a BA in political science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Lance Eckhart is the director of basin management and resource planning for the Mojave Water Agency (MWA). His responsibilities include leading a team of scientists, engineers, data analysts, technicians, and planners to manage the water resources for an approximately 5,000-square-mile region of the southern California high desert. He has more than 20 years of public and private sector experience in resource management. Recent major works include project management of the urban water management plan, the integrated regional water management plan, salt and nutrient management plan, groundwater management plans, basin conceptual models and direct input regarding water policies for the region. He is a licensed professional geologist and certified hydrogeologist in the state of California. He holds an MS in environmental science and a BS in geology from California State University, Fullerton.

Laurel Firestone cofounded and codirects the Community Water Center (CWC). Previously, she was director of the Rural Poverty Water Project at the Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment in Delano, California, under a 2004–06 Equal Justice Works Fellowship. She served on the Tulare County Water Commission from 2007 to 2012 and co-chaired the Governor’s Drinking Water Stakeholder Group. In 2009, she authored the comprehensive Guide to Community Drinking Water Advocacy. She was awarded the Gary Bellow Public Service Award by the Harvard Law School in 2013, and she and her co-executive director, Susana De Anda, received the Carla Bard Advocacy Award from Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform (POWER) in 2010. She holds a JD from Harvard Law School and a BA from Brown University, where she majored in environmental studies.

PARTICIPANTS

Brian Gray is a senior fellow at the PPIC Water Policy Center and professor emeritus at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. He has published numerous articles on environmental and water resources law and coauthored a variety of PPIC reports, including the 2011 interdisciplinary book on California water policy, *Managing California's Water*. He has argued before the California Supreme Court and the US Court of Appeals in cases involving wild and scenic rivers, water pricing reform, takings, and water rights and environmental quality. He is a recipient of the William Rutter Award for Excellence in Teaching and the UC Hastings Outstanding Professor Award. He holds a JD from the University of California, Berkeley, and a BA in economics from Pomona College.

Ellen Hanak is director of the PPIC Water Policy Center and a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. Under her leadership, the center has become a critical source of information and guidance for natural resource management in California. She has authored dozens of reports, articles, and books on water policy, including *Managing California's Water*. Her research is frequently profiled in the national media, and she participates in briefings, conferences, and interviews throughout the nation and around the world. Her other areas of expertise include climate change and infrastructure finance. Previously, she served as research director at PPIC. Before joining PPIC, she held positions with the French agricultural research system, the President's Council of Economic Advisers, and the World Bank. She holds a PhD in economics from the University of Maryland.

Thomas Harter is the Robert M. Hagan Endowed Chair for Water Resources Management and Policy at the Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources at the University of California, Davis. He spent the first six years of his career with UC Davis at the Kearney Agricultural Research Center in Fresno County, where he became familiar with San Joaquin Valley groundwater issues and established his research program in agricultural groundwater hydrology—a program he has continued to develop over the past 15 years at UC Davis. His research group emphasizes the nexus between groundwater and agriculture, with a focus on nonpoint-source groundwater pollution, sustainable management, modeling, groundwater–surface water interaction, and other topics. He also serves on the board of the Groundwater Resources Association and of the Water Education Foundation. He holds a PhD in hydrology from the University of Arizona, and a BS and MS in hydrology from the Universities of Freiburg and Stuttgart, Germany.

Phil Isenberg previously served as chair and vice chair of the Delta Stewardship Council. His long career in state and local government includes serving as a Sacramento city council member (1971–74), mayor of Sacramento (1975–82), and a member of the California Assembly, representing portions of Sacramento, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin Counties (1982–96). As an elected official, he focused on land use planning, water and resource issues, state budget and fiscal matters, redevelopment reform, and health care issues. More recently, he has served as chair of the California Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force (2004–06) and as chair of the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force (2007–08). The recommendations of the Delta Vision Task Force provided much of the structure for the major changes in water and Delta policy enacted in 2009. Isenberg has also run his own private law practice and served as president of Isenberg-O'Haren Government Relations (2004–10). He holds a BA in social science and government from California State University, Sacramento, and a JD from the University of California, Berkeley.

Jeffrey Mount is a senior fellow at the PPIC Water Policy Center. He is an emeritus professor at the University of California, Davis, in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and a founding director of the Center for Watershed Sciences. A geomorphologist who specializes in the study of rivers, streams, and wetlands, his research focuses on integrated water resource management, flood management, and improving aquatic ecosystem health. He has served on many state and federal boards and commissions that address water resource management issues in the West. He has published more than a hundred articles, books, and other publications,

PARTICIPANTS

including the seminal book *California Rivers and Streams* (UC Press). He holds a PhD and MS in earth sciences from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Darrin Polhemus is a deputy director for the State Water Board in charge of the Division of Financial Assistance. The division administers local assistance funding programs that provide funding for a wide array of project types, including infrastructure funding for wastewater, recycled water, and drinking water systems; addressing storm water and beach water quality; and groundwater cleanup and remediation projects. He also leads technical teams on special assignment—most recently he led a cross-organization, multidisciplinary team that developed the water quality control policy for siting, design, operation, and maintenance of onsite wastewater treatment systems. He is currently working on several assignments related to nitrates in groundwater and regulation of irrigated lands. He is a licensed civil engineer in the state of California and holds a BS in agricultural engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Kate Poole has been an attorney for the water program at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) for 12 years. In that time she served as lead counsel in important cases such as *NRDC v. Kempthorne* and *PCFFA v. Gutierrez*, both of which helped reduce the impact of public-works projects on threatened and endangered species in California. Currently, she is working to restore the San Joaquin River and ensure that contracts for the use of California's rivers comply with environmental laws. Before coming to NRDC, she was a partner in a law firm and counsel to the Seattle office of the Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund. She holds a JD and a BA from the University of Michigan.

Karen Ross is Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Appointed by Governor Brown in 2011, she has extensive leadership experience in agricultural issues at the state, national, and international level. From 2009 to 2011 she was chief of staff for US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. Before that, she was president of the California Association of Winegrape Growers (1996–2009) and vice president of the Agricultural Council of California (1989–1996). Earlier in her career, she served as director of Government Relations for the Nebraska Rural Electric Association and as a field representative for US senator Edward Zorinsky. She has served on boards and committees of many agricultural, wine industry, and academic institutions. She holds a BA from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and is a graduate of the Nebraska Ag Leadership Program.

Fiona Sanchez is director of water resources for the Irvine Ranch Water District. She directs the district's programs for water resources, water efficiency, regulatory compliance, and environmental compliance. She was instrumental in implementing major revisions to IRWD's water budget-based rate structure which has been in place since 1991. Previously at IRWD she was responsible for the management of the district's water conservation and efficiency program, policy development and implementation for the Natural Treatment System (NTS) and other watershed initiatives, as well as other special projects. She has more than 24 years of experience in water use efficiency, and is active in local, regional, and state-wide water resource policy issues. She holds an MBA from the University of California, Irvine, and undergraduate degrees in economics and history from the University of California, Riverside.

Barton "Buzz" Thompson is the Robert E. Paradise Professor in Natural Resources Law at Stanford Law School and was the founding Perry L. McCarty Director of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment. He also serves as Special Master for the United States Supreme Court in *Montana v. Wyoming*. His research focuses on the role of law, institutions, and markets in effective water management, as well as the law of regulatory takings and biodiversity protection. A former member of the Science Advisory Board for the US Environmental Protection Agency, he is the author of numerous books on water and the environment, including *Legal Control of Water Resources* (5th ed., 2013). He holds a JD from the Stanford Law School, an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business, and a BA from Stanford University.