

PARTICIPANTS

Charles Ahlem is a founding owner of Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc.—one of the largest cheese and whey processing facilities in the world—and owner/operator of Charles Ahlem Ranch, a 6,000-cow dairy farm in Hilmar. He has served as a board member of numerous industry organizations, including the California Farm Bureau, California Animal Health and Food Safety Board, California Milk Advisory Board, California Dairy Research Foundation, and Sustainable Conservation. He currently serves as chair of both the Dairy Council of California and Dairy Cares. In 2004 he was appointed undersecretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. He is a past member of the USDA Agricultural Trade Policy Committee. In 2015, he was awarded the International Dairy Foods Association's Innovative Dairy Farmer Award and the California Fair Agriculturalist of the Year. A lifetime resident of the Central Valley, he lives in Turlock.

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. These organizations were formed to help Kern County's water interests address regulatory challenges related to water supply reliability and water quality.

Emmy Cattani is a fourth-generation member of her family's agricultural business in Kern County. Her family's crops include table grapes, wine grapes, almonds and oranges, as well as cattle raised on their ranch in the Tehachapi Mountains. The family is a partner in Famoso Nut Company, an almond processor, and invests in agricultural and urban real estate, primarily in California. She serves on the board of directors for the Tejon Ranch Conservancy and is on advisory committees for The Nature Conservancy and Sustainable Conservation. She previously served on the board of the Sequoia Riverlands Trust and on the Bureau of Land Management's Resource Advisory Council for Central California. Prior to joining her family business, she was a private equity investor with The Shansby Group and VMG Partners and worked as a management consultant at Bain & Co. She holds an MBA from Stanford University and a BA from Harvard University.

Randy Fiorini is chair of the Delta Stewardship Council. Since 1975, he has had managing partner responsibilities for Fiorini Ranch, his family's tree fruit and wine grape farm in Turlock. He has served as chair of the California Cannery and Growers and the California Cling Peach Advisory Board. He was appointed by two presidents to serve on the US Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Fruits and Vegetables. His public involvement with water issues began in 1992 when he was elected to the board of directors of the Turlock Irrigation District, where he served for 16 years. During that time he also served as president of the San Joaquin River Group Authority, the California Farm Water Coalition, and the Association of California Water Agencies. In 2010, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed him to the Delta Stewardship Council. In 2014 he was elected chair. He was reappointed to his position by Governor Jerry Brown in May 2016.

Michael Frantz is president of Frantz Wholesale Nursery, LLC, a position he took over from his father in 1998. His 600-acre family farm employs more than 200 people and is a supplier of containerized trees and shrubs to the landscape and retail nursery industry in the West. He is active on local, statewide, and national boards on issues ranging from the nursery industry to public power. He was elected in 2009 to the board of directors for Turlock Irrigation District. He also serves on the Nursery Growers Association Board, the Farm Bureau, AmericanHort, and the San Joaquin Valley Agriculture Advisory Board to Sustainable Conservation. In his capacity on the irrigation board, he is highly involved with stakeholder negotiations related to the State Water Resources Control Board's update of the Bay–Delta Water Quality Control Plan and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission dam relicensing.

Sarge Green is a water management specialist at the California Water Institute and Center for Irrigation Technology at California State University, Fresno. His main focus is water policy and integrated regional water management in the San Joaquin Valley. He is currently involved in rural water issues and groundwater management on behalf of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and the university. Previously, he served for 18 years as general manager of Tranquility Irrigation District in western Fresno County. He also served for 13 years at the Central Valley Region Water Quality Control Board.

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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.

Maria Herrera is the community development manager at Self-Help Enterprises (SHE), where she focuses on improving community participation in regional water planning, sustainable groundwater management, and policy development. She has worked with low-income rural water and wastewater systems throughout the San Joaquin Valley to help address drinking water and wastewater needs. She also helps disadvantaged rural communities who have lost or are at risk of losing their water supply to secure funding and resources for emergency relief. Previously, she worked at the Community Water Center where she focused on the development of community-driven water solutions and planning processes at regional and statewide levels. In 2015, she was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the California Water Commission. Prior to her appointment, she served as a voice for environmental justice communities on the Governor's Drinking Water Stakeholder Group, a multi-stakeholder task force that developed statewide recommendations to address drinking water challenges faced by disadvantaged communities. She grew up in a farmworker family living in rural communities with water challenges.

Karl Longley is a researcher and project manager with the California Water Institute at California State University, Fresno. He has been actively engaged in developing solutions for the safe drinking water needs of small, economically disadvantaged communities. He has served more than 26 years as a member of the Central California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and has chaired the board for the past 12 years. He was a professor of civil engineering at CSU Fresno from 1982–2004, and dean of CSU Fresno's College of Engineering and Computer Science from 1996–2004. As a US Army officer, he worked as an environmental engineer from 1960–81. He has more 50 years of experience directly supervising or conducting studies of water quality, industrial waste control, hazardous waste management, and water and wastewater treatment plant design. He is a board-certified environmental engineer. He holds a PhD and MS from John Hopkins University, and a BS from the University of New Mexico.

Mas Masumoto is a third-generation farmer and the author of many books, including *Epitaph for a Peach*, *Changing Season*, and *Wisdom of the Last Farmer*, among others. He is currently a columnist for the *Fresno Bee* and the *Sacramento Bee*. He was a Kellogg Foundation Food and Society Policy Fellow from 2006 to 2008. His writing awards include the Commonwealth Club Silver Medal, the Julia Child Cookbook Award, and the James Clavell Literacy Award; he was a finalist for a James Beard Foundation Award. The National Resources Defense Council recognized *Wisdom of the Last Farmer* as the Best Environmental Writing in 2009. UC Davis honored him with an Award of Distinction in 2003, and he received the California Central Valley Excellence in Business Award in 2007. He was

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elected to PPIC's board of directors in 2009 and became board chair in 2016. In 2013, President Obama appointed him to the National Council on the Arts, which is the board for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Dennis Nef is vice provost and professor of agricultural economics at California State University, Fresno, where he has taught since 1983. He served as chair of the department from 1990–95 and was associate dean in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology from 1995–2003. A specialist in agricultural policy and resource economics, he has conducted research in the areas of water and land use policy. He has worked with water districts, utility companies, local, state and federal government agencies, and farm management firms on land, water, and energy problems. He has constructed computer based models to help farmers evaluate long term investments and select energy rates for irrigation pumping. He served as the co-chair of the President's Task Force on Water. A native of Idaho, he grew up milking cows on the family dairy farm. He lives in Clovis. He holds a PhD in agricultural economics from Iowa State University, an MS in agricultural economics from Utah State University, and a BS in business administration from Brigham Young University.

David Orth is a principal of New Current Water and Land, LLC, which offers strategic planning, program implementation and water resource development services. He is a member of the California Water Commission, appointed by Governor Brown in 2014. He served as general manager of the Kings River Conservation District from 2002–15 and as executive officer of Friant North Authority from 2015–16. He has more than 35 years of financial and water resource management experience, serving previously as vice president of resource management at California Valley Land Company Inc., the director of finance and general manager positions at Westlands Water District, and various positions with the Fresno County Auditor-Controller/Treasurer.

Michelle Selmon is a senior environmental scientist and regional climate change specialist with the California Department of Water Resources. She works with water managers and other natural resource managers to understand current and future impacts of climate change and to incorporate those considerations into their plans and projects. She currently leads the Tulare Basin Watershed Connections Workgroup, which is a collaborative of natural resource managers, disadvantaged community representatives, educators, and others working together to advance holistic watershed planning in the Tulare Basin for regional economic and ecological sustainability. She holds an MA and BS from California State University, Fresno.

Ashley Swearengin is president and CEO of the Central Valley Community Foundation, a charitable foundation serving six counties in Central California that has provided more than \$100 million in funding to more than 650 community benefit organizations over the past decade. Prior to joining the foundation, she served as mayor of Fresno from 2009–16. Before becoming mayor she led a number of economic development initiatives in the Fresno region, including the Central Valley Business Incubator, Fresno State's Office of Community and Economic Development, and the Regional Jobs Initiative. She holds an MBA and BS from California State University, Fresno.

Stuart Patrick Woolf is president and CEO of Woolf Farming & Processing, a family-owned operation whose primary business is the production and processing of agricultural commodities. He serves as the managing partner for two related entities: Harris Woolf California Almonds and Los Gatos Tomato Products. He has served as chairman of the California League of Food Processors, the Almond Board of California, and the UC President's Commission of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He currently serves on the board of Ruiz Food Products, Western Growers, and Sustainable Conservation. He holds an MBA from Boston College and a BA from the University of California, Berkeley.

David Zoldoske is the director of the Center for Irrigation Technology and executive director of water initiatives at California State University, Fresno, where he has been working on water use efficiency issues for more than 35 years. He is a senior fellow with the California Council on Science and Technology, and an honorary member of the American Society of Irrigation Consultants. He served as vice-chair of the California Department of Water Resources' strategic planning caucus for new water technology. He is also a past president of the Irrigation Association (2005) and the American Society of Agronomy–California chapter (2002), and the founding executive director for the Water Resources and Policy Initiative for the California State University system (2008–13).