

PARTICIPANTS

Wade Crowfoot was appointed California Secretary for Natural Resources by Governor Gavin Newsom in January. He brings more than 20 years of public policy and environmental experience to the office, with expertise in water, climate and sustainability issues. He most recently served as chief executive officer of the Water Foundation and led its transition to an independent organization in 2017. Prior to joining the foundation, he served in Governor Brown's administration as deputy cabinet secretary and senior advisor, leading the administration's drought response efforts. He previously served as west coast regional director for the Environmental Defense Fund and a senior environmental advisor to then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom.

Sarge Green is currently the interim director of the Center for Irrigation Technology at Fresno State. He has been with the water programs at Fresno State since 2007. Prior to joining Fresno State, he was general manager of Tranquillity Irrigation District in western Fresno County for 18 years, and before that worked for 13 years at the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region.

Ellen Hanak is director of the PPIC Water Policy Center and a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, where she holds the Ellen Hanak Chair in Water Policy. 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*. She is a lead author on the center's three major reports on the San Joaquin Valley's water challenges. 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 Hedt is state resource conservationist for the California office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He leads the ecological sciences section, with responsibility for such diverse technical fields as agronomy, air quality, biology, environmental compliance, forestry, range management, and conservation planning. He has more than 30 years of experience with NRCS, working in four western states: Alaska, Arizona, California, and Washington. His experience has given him the opportunity to address resource issues through planning and design of systems related to dairy waste management, cropland erosion control, grazing land health, riparian restoration, salmon habitat, and farms on the urban/suburban fringe. He holds an MS in environmental policy and management from American Public University and BS degrees in soils and agronomy from Washington State University.

Karen Ross was re-appointed Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture in January by Governor Gavin Newsom. She was initially appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in 2011. During her tenure, the department has strengthened partnerships across government, academia and the non-profit sector in the drive to maintain and improve environmental stewardship and to develop adaptation strategies for the specific impacts of climate change. She has initiated programs to provide greater opportunities for farmers and ranchers to engage in sustainable environmental stewardship practices through water conservation, energy efficiency, nutrient management, and ecosystem services. She has also worked to provide greater access to farm-fresh foods at school cafeterias through CDFA's Farm to Fork Program. Before joining CDFA, she was chief of staff for US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, a position she accepted in 2009. Prior to that appointment, she served as president of the California Association of Winegrape Growers, and as vice president of the Agricultural Council of California. She has served on numerous boards and committees in California agriculture and with various academic institutions. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln and is a graduate of the Nebraska Ag Leadership Program.