

## PARTICIPANTS

**Stephanie Anagnoson** is director of water and natural resources for Madera County, where she works on issues of groundwater sustainability, levee maintenance, and watershed health. She has worked in the water industry for 10 years as an analyst, conservation supervisor, and water resources planner focusing on the intersection between science and public policy. She also teaches part time online at College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita in the water systems technology department for water distribution and treatment education. She holds an MTS focusing on environmental ethics from Harvard Divinity School.

**Louise Bedsworth** is executive director of the Strategic Growth Council, a state agency that brings together multiple agencies and departments to support sustainable communities emphasizing strong economies, social equity, and environmental stewardship. Prior to joining the council, she was the deputy director of the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) under Governor Jerry Brown. At OPR she led climate change adaptation and resilience initiatives, including development of the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program and implementation of a \$70 million grant awarded to the state under the National Disaster Resilience Competition. Before joining OPR in 2011, she was a research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, where she focused on climate change and transportation. She has also held positions at the Union of Concerned Scientists, Redefining Progress, and the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis. She holds a PhD in energy and resources and an MS in environmental engineering, both from the University of California, Berkeley; and a BS from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Van Butsic** is a cooperative extension specialist at the University of California, Berkeley. He studies how people make land use decisions, how these decisions are impacted by policy, and ultimately, how these decisions change the environment. In California, he focuses on wildfires, forests, cannabis, and ecosystem services. He is a co-director of the Cannabis Research Center at UC Berkeley and a member of the California Department of Agricultural Industrial Hemp Advisory Board. He holds a PhD in forestry and an MA in agricultural and applied economics, both from the University of Wisconsin; and a BA in economics from Reed College.

**Jan Coppinger** is the administrator of Lake County Special Districts, a county department that manages six public water systems and six sanitation systems. Lake County is a rural, economically disadvantaged county that has been struck by multiple disastrous wildfires that burned more than 60% of the county, and two flooding events made more destructive to infrastructure due to runoff in the burn areas. Since 2014, the sole focus of the county and Special Districts has been recovering from these disasters and attempting to mitigate future damages. She holds a bachelor's in business administration focused on management information systems from Mesa State College.

**Wade Crowfoot** was appointed California Secretary for Natural Resources by Governor Gavin Newsom in January. He advises the governor on natural resource and environmental issues. He brings more than two decades of public policy and environmental leadership to the office, with expertise in water, fisheries, climate, and sustainability issues. He most recently served as chief executive officer of the Water Foundation, a non-profit philanthropy that builds shared water solutions for communities, economy, and the environment across the American West. Prior to joining the foundation, he served in Governor Jerry Brown's administration as deputy cabinet secretary and senior advisor. In that role he led the administration's drought response efforts and spearheaded several priority initiatives to build California's resilience to climate change. He holds a master's in public policy from the London School of Economics, and a BA in political science from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

**Andy Fecko** is director of strategic affairs for the Placer County Water Agency, where he manages the agency's strategic business partnerships and regulatory and government affairs. He has been with PCWA since 2006, and has 20 years' experience in water and energy, with a particular interest in water rights and water and energy management issues. He has worked on the Colorado River and Bay-Delta, as well as Sacramento and American River flow management negotiations from both the regulatory and utility perspectives. He is a graduate of University of California, Davis.

**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*. 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.

**Jelena Jezdimirovic** is a research associate at the PPIC Water Policy Center. Her research focuses on water marketing, water finance, groundwater management, and safe drinking water. During her undergraduate studies she served as a research intern at the National Priorities Project and spent summers working for the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. She holds a BA from Mount Holyoke College, where she majored in economics and critical social thought.

**Joone Lopez** is general manager of the Moulton Niguel Water District, which provides water, wastewater, and recycled water services to six cities in South Orange County. Previously, she served as the general manager of Calaveras County Water District in Northern California. She has also served as assistant general manager for the Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company and as the deputy general manager of the Central Basin Municipal Water District. She is a board member for the Association of California Water Agencies, California Water Reuse Association, Southern California Water Coalition, South Orange County Wastewater Authority, California Water Data Consortium, among others. She's also a founding member of the California Data Collaborative, a nonprofit that focuses on leveraging data and technology to enhance water management policies statewide. She holds a master's in public administration from California State University, Northridge, and a BA from the University of California, San Diego.

**Jeffrey Mount** is a senior fellow at the PPIC Water Policy Center. He is an emeritus professor at UC Davis in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and 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, 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.

**Jonathan Nelson** joined the Community Water Center in 2016 as policy director. He previously managed government affairs at a healthcare trade association, where he worked to expand access to healthcare for vulnerable populations; and at a Sacramento-based public affairs firm, where he worked on issues related to health access, clean transportation, and the digital economy. He holds a BA in political science from the University of California, Davis.

**Darrin Polhemus** is deputy director of the Division of Drinking Water for the State Water Board. The Division of Drinking Water administers the federal and state Safe Drinking Water Acts, regulating more than 7,400 public water systems throughout the state to assure the delivery of safe drinking water to all Californians. It also permits recycled water usage, manages the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, oversees the work of county health departments that have been delegated the authority to regulate small water systems, and develops regulations pertaining to drinking water. He holds a BS in agricultural engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

**Tim Ramirez** was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in 2012 to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. He currently works for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission as manager of the Natural Resources and Lands Management Division. Previously, he spent six years as the assistant secretary for water policy and science at the California Resources Agency and as senior policy advisor and deputy director for ecosystem restoration at the California Bay–Delta Authority. His responsibilities included serving as state coordinator for the CALFED Bay–Delta Program, with a focus on river systems and the intersection of water supply, ecosystem restoration, water quality, flood protection, and agricultural issues. Previously, he directed the Tuolumne River Preservation Trust’s Central Valley Program. He holds an MS in civil and environmental engineering and a MA in urban planning from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Karen Ross** is secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. In re-appointing Secretary Ross, Governor Gavin Newsom cited her leadership in agricultural issues nationally, internationally, and in California, in areas including environmental stewardship, climate change adaptation, and trade. Before joining the department in 2011, she was chief of staff for US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. She also served as president of the California Association of Winegrape Growers from 1996–2009, and as vice president of the Agricultural Council of California from 1989–96. 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.

**Michael Thompson** is assistant general manager for the Sonoma County Water Agency. He manages the business administration functions and maintenance of the agency’s water supply and transmission systems, flood protection channels, and wastewater collection and treatment systems. A registered civil engineer, he has been with Sonoma Water since 1995. He is also a trustee for the Marin-Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District. He holds an MS in civil engineering and administration from the University of California, Davis, and a BS in civil engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.