

PARTICIPANTS

Session 1: Funding water systems while ensuring affordability and equity

Caitrin Chappelle is associate director at the [PPIC Water Policy Center](#), where she manages research and operations. Her own research focuses on natural resource management and California water policy. She has co-authored work on wastewater management, funding gaps in water management, and multiple ecosystem stressors in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta. Previously, she worked for the US Geological Survey. She holds an MPP from the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley and a BS in ecology from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Gloria Gray chairs the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors. She is the first African-American to lead the board and only the second woman to do so in the district's 90-year history. She is also the president of the West Basin Municipal Water District Board of Directors, where she has served for 14 years. Her career in water began in 2006, when she was elected to the West Basin Municipal Water District Board of Directors. Since that time, she has served on a water quality Community Task Force in Los Angeles; held a four-year term on the Delta Stewardship Council; is vice chair of the Association of California Water Agencies Region 8; and is on the ACWA Joint Powers Insurance Authority. She is a founding board member of the California African American Water Education Foundation representing Metropolitan. She is a strong supporter of Metropolitan's many education and training outreach activities, including the district's highly successful apprenticeship program. She holds a BS in business administration from the University of Redlands, and an MA in governance from the Special Districts Board Management Institute.

Greg Pierce is the associate director of the Luskin Center for Innovation and a faculty member in the Department of Urban Planning, both within the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. He leads the Luskin Center's water and environmental equity programs. Since joining the center in 2015, he has been instrumental in guiding its leadership to inform the Human Right to Water policy in California, as well as across the United States. He has authored 35 peer-reviewed journal articles and numerous major research reports, including many with California state and local agencies. His broader research interests lie at the intersection of public finance, infrastructure planning, and environmental justice. He holds a PhD in urban planning from UCLA.

Kathryn Sorensen served as the director for the City of Phoenix Water Services Department from 2013 until mid-October 2020. As director, she oversaw one of the largest potable water utilities in the US, which treats and delivers water to 1.7 million customers and also reclaims wastewater for 2.5 million residents. She served as a member of the Arizona Water Banking Authority Commission, on the Arizona Colorado River Reconsultation Committee, on the Board of Advisors of the Kyl Center for Water Policy at Morrison Institute, as a board member of the Water Resources Research Center, on the Board of Directors of the Water Research Foundation, on the board of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, and as a member of the Rates and Charges Subcommittee of the American Water Works Association. She holds a PhD in resource economics from Texas A&M and a BA in economics from the University of Michigan.

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Session 2: Collaborative approaches to foster groundwater sustainability

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 sits on the Board of Directors for the Water Association of Kern County, Association of California Water Agencies, and the California Water Data Consortium. These organizations were formed to educate, organize and unite regional water interests to more effectively address regulatory challenges related to water supply reliability and water quality.

Paul Gosselin joined Butte County as the director of Water and Resource Conservation in 2007. The department manages the county's State Water Project allocation, administers the Groundwater Conservation Ordinance, oversees the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and fosters regional partnerships. He is the administrator of the Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency and the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Prior to joining Butte County, he was chief deputy director for the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. From 1989 to 1993, he was the director of regulatory services for the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture. He holds an MS in chemistry and a BS in biochemistry from the University of Massachusetts.

Angela Islas is a community development specialist with Self Help Enterprises. As part of the Community Engagement and Planning team, she works to support community participation in regional water management and groundwater sustainability planning. She currently leads or supports a number of efforts at Self Help Enterprises, including its work on sustainable groundwater management, Integrated Regional Water Management in the San Joaquin River area, efforts related to the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) program, and training programs the team provides for community leadership and capacity building across the San Joaquin Valley. Before joining Self Help Enterprises, she worked for a Fresno-based nonprofit advocating for air quality and energy policies for low-income families. She holds a BS in public health from California State University, Fresno.

Sandi Matsumoto directs The Nature Conservancy's California Water Program. She leads a multi-disciplinary team focused on securing a sustainable and resilient water future for California. The program is working to secure the wintering grounds of the Pacific Flyway, revive healthy rivers to sustain salmon, and advance sustainable groundwater management that ensures drinking water for people and supports nature. During her 16 years with TNC, she has worked at the nexus of water and agriculture across the state, including by launching BirdReturns and TNC's efforts to implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. In 2017 she was appointed by Governor Brown to serve on the board of the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. She holds an MBA from UCLA and a BA from Yale University.

Jeffrey Mount is a senior fellow at the [PPIC Water Policy Center](#). He is an emeritus professor of earth and planetary sciences and founding director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at the University of California, Davis. 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.

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Session 3: Priorities for a water-resilient California

Joaquin Esquivel was appointed to the State Water Resources Control Board by Governor Jerry Brown in March 2017. Previously, he served as assistant secretary for federal water policy at the California Natural Resources Agency in the governor's Washington, DC 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 he worked for US 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 brings this experience to the [PPIC Water Policy Center Advisory Council](#). He was born and raised in California's Coachella Valley. He holds a BA in English from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Ellen Hanak is vice president and 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.

Matthew Muirragui serves as the majority staff director for the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife in the US House of Representatives. He manages staff work for Natural Resources Committee democrats on issues relating to water resource management, drought resilience, tribal water rights, river and ecosystem restoration, and hydropower issues. He regularly provides policy and strategic advice for democratic members of congress and helps develop and advance legislation within the jurisdiction of the Water, Oceans, and Wildlife subcommittee. In addition to his work on the subcommittee, he leads the Natural Resources Committee's staff work on environmental justice and environmental permitting issues. Prior to his work on Capitol Hill, he was a political campaign manager and fundraiser, which included a one-year stint living in California's San Joaquin Valley while working on a congressional campaign. He holds a BA from the College of William and Mary.

Karla Nemeth is director of the California Department of Water Resources. She oversees the department's 4,000 employees, whose mission it is to manage and protect California's water resources. In cooperation with other agencies, DWR manages California's water resources to benefit the state's people, and to protect, restore, and enhance the natural and human environments. She focuses on preparing the state's water resources to adapt to more extreme weather resulting from climate change, including by investing in aging and green infrastructure, better management of groundwater supplies, and various programs to improve local water resilience. Prior to joining DWR, she worked at the California Natural Resources Agency as Governor Jerry Brown's deputy secretary and senior advisor for water policy. She was the Bay Delta Conservation Plan project manager from 2009 to 2014. She holds an MA in public administration from the University of Washington and a BA in political science and Latin American studies from the University of California, San Diego.