

## PARTICIPANTS

**Alexander R. Coate** was appointed to serve as the 10th general manager of the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) in January 2011. In this role, he oversees the delivery of high-quality drinking water to 1.4 million residents and businesses in 20 cities and 15 unincorporated communities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, and he supervises wastewater treatment for 685,000 of those same customers. He balances the continued demands of maintaining critical infrastructure and financial stability with innovation in sustainability and long-term water and wastewater planning. He started at EBMUD in 1993 as an associate engineer in the Wastewater Office of Reclamation and subsequently managed the offices of environmental compliance and regulatory compliance, as well as the Water Supply Improvements Division. In 2007, he was appointed director of water and natural resources. He was the architect of the district's 30-year long-term water supply plan and had a key role in the development of the Freeport Regional Water Project, which allows the district to access water from the Sacramento River during dry years to supplement its main source of water, the Mokelumne River. He currently serves on the boards of the California Urban Water Agencies, WaterReuse California, and the Water Research Foundation. He holds a BA in neurobiology and an MS in civil/environmental engineering, both from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Peter Drekmeier** joined the Tuolumne River Trust (TRT) in 2007. At TRT, he led a campaign to convince the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to drop a plan diverting an additional 25 million gallons of water per day from the Tuolumne River and instead to focus on water conservation and recycling. He also established the Silicon Valley Water Conservation Awards, launched a Bay Area environmental education program (called "That's the Tuolumne in My Tap"), and is working to improve river conditions through State Water Board and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission proceedings. He has coordinated several successful land-use initiatives, including the Devil's Slide Tunnel Campaign, a campaign to protect the Stanford foothills from development, and a campaign to retire Palo Alto's sewage sludge incinerator. In 2005, he was elected to the Palo Alto City Council, where he served for four years, including a term as mayor. He helped lead efforts on the city's climate protection plan, green building ordinance, Zero Waste initiative, and single-use plastic bag ban. He represented Palo Alto on the Santa Clara Valley Water Commission, Santa Clara County Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Lower Peninsula Flood Advisory Committee, and San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority. He was raised in Palo Alto on Hetch Hetchy water and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in political science.

**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.

**Ken Jenkins** is director of drought management and conservation at the California Water Service, a regulated public water utility serving 2 million people in more than 80 California communities. He is responsible for ensuring the company's 24 service areas meet state requirements and long-term sustainability needs. Additionally, he is responsible for planning, creating, and managing the company's industry-leading conservation program, which includes a robust portfolio of rebates, devices, outreach, and customer-specific water-use efficiency tools. He also serves as a board member of the California Water Efficiency Partnership. He graduated from Beloit College with BAs in economics and management as well as political science.

**John Marchand** was elected mayor of Livermore in November 2011. He previously served on the Livermore City Council, including four terms as vice mayor. Before his election to the city council, he worked for 15 years on the community's behalf as an elected representative on the Zone 7 Water Agency board of directors. In addition, he was a founding member of the Livermore Cultural Arts Commission and served on Livermore's

## PARTICIPANTS

General Plan Review Committee. He worked for over 30 years in the water industry. He retired from his job as the senior water quality chemist for the Alameda County Water District in order to dedicate his full attention to Livermore. He is active in the American Water Works Association and is the coauthor of three books on water quality. He was born in the Bay Area and has lived in Livermore for over 25 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from California State University, Hayward, recently renamed Cal State East Bay.

**Steven Ritchie** is assistant general manager for water at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). He oversees water system operations and planning and the management of lands and natural resources. Before he assumed his current position in 2009, he managed the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, a multi-agency effort to restore 15,100 acres of valuable habitat in South San Francisco Bay while providing for flood risk management and public access. He was SFPUC's manager of planning from 1995 to 1998 and has worked in management positions at URS consultants, the CalFed Bay-Delta Program, and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. He holds a BS and MS in civil engineering from Stanford University.

**Lauren Sommer** covers environment, water, and energy for KQED, the National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate based in San Francisco, California. As part of her day job, she has scaled Sierra Nevada peaks, run from charging elephant seals, and desperately tried to get her sea legs—all in pursuit of good radio. She has been recognized by the Society of Environmental Journalists and the national Edward R. Murrow Awards. She is a recipient of the Harold Gilliam Award for Excellence in Environmental Reporting. Her work has appeared on Marketplace, Living on Earth, Science Friday, and Public Radio International's The World. She is also a regular contributor to NPR's Morning Edition and All Things Considered.