

A G E N D A

CFEE Conference on California Water

Sink or Swim: Rising to the Resiliency Challenge

November 21-22, 2019
Park Hyatt Aviara, Carlsbad

In the coming years, California leaders will be challenged to keep our water system afloat. A menacing climate, insufficient infrastructure, and an insatiable demand for a finite supply of water are threatening the enduring prosperity and health of our communities, ecosystems, and businesses. In response, we'll need continuous revamping and rethinking of our institutions, infrastructure, and behaviors to develop a durable and flexible system to meet California's diverse and growing water needs.

This conference will convene California legislators and regulators, regional and local water managers, and senior agricultural, environmental, industry, and labor leaders to discuss how we can rise to the challenge to develop and maintain a resilient water system statewide.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 Avalon Ballroom

11:30 – 12:45 pm	Arrivals & Check-In – Buffet Lunch – Location: Avalon Terrace
12:45 – 1:00 pm	Welcome – Conference Overview and Roundtable Introductions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preview of conference topics, speakers, and goals <p><i>Jay Hansen</i>, President & CEO, CFEE</p>
1:00 – 2:15 pm	Session 1 – Come Hell and Highwater: California's Climate Outlook

California has historically been a land of rainfall extremes, where both severe droughts and torrential downpours are familiar symptoms of the state's variable climate. This volatility is expected to intensify in the coming years as climate change further perturbs our atmospheric, oceanic, and land systems.

- What does the latest science say about California's climate future?
- What are the implications for our water supply? What are the consequences of a declining snowpack?
- Which regions, communities, industries, and ecosystems are most vulnerable to climate impacts?
- What new infrastructure and water management practices must be developed to capture, store, and convey rainfall when it does come?
- How does robust data collection and sharing enable the optimal management of our water system?
- How are federal and state dollars allocated to study climate patterns in California and the western United States? What more should be done?

Geeta Persad, Senior Climate Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists (5-10 min)

Marty Ralph, Director, Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes,
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego (5-10 min)

Deven Upadhyay, Assistant General Manager/Chief Operating Officer,
Metropolitan Water District (5-10 min)

Roundtable Discussion

2:15 – 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 – 4:00 pm	Session 2 – In Focus: Housing Development and Inverse Condemnation

In this session, we look at two topical issues that have been shaping California's policy conversation and consider how they each separately relate to our water system. First, we'll discuss how needed housing development and water supply planning are increasingly in conflict with one another. We'll then explore how inverse condemnation – the state's strict liability rules for utilities – not only applies to electric utilities, but also to the water agencies that deliver water to homes and businesses.

- What is the process for siting new housing development in water scarce communities? What challenges exist for homebuilding in the Wildland-Urban Interface?
- Governor Newsom is pushing to build 3.5 million new homes by 2025 to ameliorate the housing shortage, is this goal challenged by current planning requirements?
- How can we smartly support new development while also ensuring a sustainable supply of water and accounting for other environmental impacts?
- How do inverse condemnation rules affect water agencies?
- What can be done to support water agencies grappling with the legal ramifications of escalating fire risks?

Sat Tamaribuchi, Director, Division 5, Municipal Water District of Orange County (5-10 min)

Annie Notthoff, California Advocacy Director, Natural Resources Defense Council (5-10 min)

Paul Fuller, CEO, Allied Public Risk (5-10 min)

Marty Kropelnicki, President and CEO, California Water Service Company (5-10 min)

Roundtable Discussion

4:00 – 4:15 pm	Break
4:15 – 5:30 pm	Session 3 – Quality Water Time

Though progress has been made in securing reliable funding to address unsafe drinking water, the battle to capture, treat, deliver, and discharge adequately clean water is unending. Whether its micro-contaminants (i.e. arsenics, nitrates, PFAS) or macro-pollutants (i.e. solid waste, natural debris), our water supplies and coastal waters are relentlessly exposed to unwanted hitchhikers.

- What sort of contaminants are regularly found in our waterways?
- How much will it cost to treat for the new contaminants of concern, such as PFOA/PFOS, microplastics, and others?
- What will be the measurable health benefits of doing so?
- What’s happening along the California-Mexico border with “cross-border pollution?”
- How are federal, state, and local agencies mobilizing to partner with their Mexican counterparts to better manage shared natural resources?

Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board (5-10 min)

Tish Berge, General Manager, Sweetwater Authority (5-10 min)

Serge Dedina, Mayor, City of Imperial Beach (5-10 min)

Denise Ducheny, United States Border Representative, North American Development Bank (5-10 min)

Roundtable Discussion

6:00 pm	Reception and Dinner
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Reception begins at 6:00pm at the California Bistro.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Avalon Ballroom

8:00 – 8:30 am	Breakfast – Location: Avalon Foyer
8:30 – 10:00 am	Session 4 – Bay Delta Blues

Despite best efforts to resolve the complex set of political, environmental, and engineering challenges in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the state’s largest fresh water estuary remains a hotly contested battleground to secure California’s water future. What’s the latest with efforts to sustainably manage this critical water supply?

- How are California’s farming communities affected by pumping restrictions from the Delta? What about households and businesses that rely on Delta waters?
- What is the outlook for the Delta’s threatened and endangered species if the status quo persists?
- Will the Governor’s proposed single conveyance tunnel sufficiently deliver the co-equal goals of a reliable water supply and a protected, restored, and enhanced Delta ecosystem? What’s the timeline for breaking ground on the project?
- What happens if the co-equal goals of water reliability and ecosystem vitality are left unfulfilled?

Jeff Kightlinger, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (5-10 min)

Michael Frantz, President, Frantz Wholesale Nursery, LLC, and Board Member, Turlock Irrigation District (5-10 min)

Jay Ziegler, Director of External Affairs and Policy, The Nature Conservancy (5-10 min)

Roundtable Discussion

10:00 – 10:15 am	Break
10:15 – 12:00 pm	Session 5 – The Resiliency Portfolio

Governor Newsom has moved swiftly to shape state water policy by issuing an executive order directing key state agencies to develop a “Water Resiliency Portfolio.” How is leadership from the CA Natural Resources Agency, the CA Environmental Protection Agency, and the CA Department of Agriculture looking to implement the order?

- What are the goals for the Portfolio? How does the Portfolio build on the Brown Administration's Water Action Plan?
- What are the roadblocks that could complicate a successful implementation?
- How will the state partner with federal agencies in this process?
- What is Legislature's vision for the Portfolio?
- After the public voted down recent water bond measures, how much are Californians willing to spend on new initiatives?

Kris Tjernell, Deputy Director, Department of Water Resources (5-10 min)

Karen Ross, Secretary, Department of Agriculture (5-10 min)

Ernest Conant, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, Bureau of Reclamation
(5-10 min)

Roundtable Discussion

12:00 – 12:15pm

Summary, Next Steps, and Adjournment

Jay Hansen, President & CEO, CFEE