

A G E N D A

CFEE Roundtable Conference on California Water

Grow with the Flow: Building a System for the 21st Century

December 6-7, 2018

The Lodge at Torrey Pines, San Diego

California’s long-term social, environmental and economic outlook is bound by its ability to smartly manage its limited water resources. This already difficult task will be further complicated as population growth, climate impacts and ever-increasing public expectations stress our water agencies and infrastructure which were borne of a different era.

Whether we appreciate it or not, the next big lift is upon us. To build an optimized system for the 21st century, we must adopt the mindset that California is a “developing nation” in need of new investments in infrastructure and human capital, a commitment to sustainable and balanced growth, and the thoughtful alignment of institutions and rules. This conference will feature focused dialogue on topics that are ready for policymaker action.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

Maurice Braun Ballroom

11:30 – 1:00 pm	Arrivals & Check-In – Buffet Lunch – The Arroyo Terrace
1:00 – 1:15 pm	Welcome – Conference Overview and Roundtable Introductions

- Brief recap of 2017 conference - *California Leaders' Guide to Weather Extremes: Are We Ready for the "New Normal?"*
- Preview of 2018 conference topics, speakers, and goals

Jay Hansen, President & CEO, CFEE

1:15 – 2:30 pm	Session 1: Big Picture Update
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Changing precipitation patterns, warming air temperatures, and a growing population (among other factors) all challenge the long-term viability of California’s water resources.

- What’s the status of the water supply in the West and what are the trends in coming decades? What are the projected business and population forecasts?
- What are the major policy accomplishments of the past decade?
- What’s happening with big system investments like WaterFix and Prop. 1 projects?
- How will recent ballot measures and regulatory decisions affect water policy?
- How might the new administration approach California’s water challenges?

John Laird, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency (10-12 min)

Patricia Mulroy, Senior Fellow, Climate Adaptation & Environmental Policy, UNLV and Former General Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority (10-12 min)

Roundtable Discussion

2:30 – 3:45 pm

Session 2: A Pretty Penny: The Real Cost of Water Delivery

Delivering on-demand, potable water to California’s nearly 40 million residents and our state’s businesses is not cheap. It requires constant multi-million and multi-billion dollar investments in new and updated facilities followed by the often-overlooked costs of operation and maintenance. Though not a sexy topic, understanding how water managers finance the hard infrastructure of storage, treatment, and distribution facilities is essential to developing world-class systems for all of our communities.

- Generally speaking, where do water supplies originate and how does it get to end users? Who is paying for the management of water?
- How are the revenues for private water utilities determined?
- What do utilities (public and private) do when expenses exceed revenues?
- Are there programs that help low-income customers pay for their water bills? Are they sufficient?

John Sheldon, Managing Director, Morgan Stanley (5-7 min)

Richard Svindland, President, California and Hawaii, California American Water (5-7 min)

Rami Kahlon, Director of Water Division, California Public Utilities Commission (5-7 min)

Roundtable Discussion

3:45 – 4:00 pm

Break

4:00 – 5:30 pm

Session 3: Serving the Underserved: Tools for Fixing Poor Water Quality

More than one million Californians are exposed to unsafe drinking water each year. The vast majority of which live in low-income communities that lack the financial and political resources to fix the problem. While dedicated funding is part of the solution, questions remain about how best to structure any aid. There also exist complementary, yet underutilized or unused, tools that could help these communities and households.

- What is the scope of the problem? Where should limited resources be prioritized?
- What are the funding options under consideration and are any of them sufficient to guarantee a reliable supply of potable water? Where are the gaps?
- Beyond funding, what other tools could be used? Since last year’s CFEE conference, what progress has been made in enabling system consolidation?
- Should California implement a performance-based approach that holds all utilities – small and large, public and private – to the same standard?

Darrin Polhemus, Deputy Director, Division of Drinking Water, State Water Resources Control Board (5-7 min)

Adán Ortega, Executive Director, California Association of Mutual Water Companies (5-7 min)

Paul Townsley, VP of Regulatory Matters & Corporate Relations, California Water Service Group (5-7 min)

Susana De Anda, Co-Founder and Co-Director, Community Water Center (5-7 min)

Roundtable Discussion

6:30 pm	Meet in Lobby of Torrey Pines Lodge for Transport
7:00 pm	Reception and Dinner at Evans Garage

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7**Maurice Braun Ballroom**

7:30 – 8:30 am	Continental Breakfast – Maurice Brown Ballroom
8:30 – 9:45 am	Session 4: Good to the Last Drop: Local Actions for Water Savings

The balkanized nature of water delivery in California means that much of the water sector's progress and innovation happens at the local level. In response to uncertainty about the availability of imported water, local agencies are now exploring ways to more prudently manage their limited supplies. This includes efforts to comply with (or exceed) efficiency and conservation standards as well as invest in stormwater capture, reuse, and multi-benefit projects.

- What is the potential for greater stormwater capture? Are there barriers to fully realizing this potential?
- What is the difference between direct and indirect potable reuse? What are state regulations regarding reuse projects and should we consider changing them?
- What more can be done to advance conservation in the ag and urban sectors?
- Where are multi-benefit projects happening across the state? How do they support water supply sustainability, and how do we move the dial to deliver more projects?

Jay Ziegler, Director of External Affairs and Policy, The Nature Conservancy
(5-7 min)

Jennifer West, Managing Director California, WateReuse Association (5-7 min)

Alvin Papa, Assistant City Engineer, City of Long Beach (5-7 min)

Roundtable Discussion

9:45 – 11:15 am	Session 5: Bedeviled by the Details: SGMA Implementation Woes
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Passed in 2014, the landmark Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) regulates the use of California aquifers. As is not uncommon for complex legislation, SGMA implementation is marked by confusion as existing water authorities and newly-formed groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA's) navigate overlapping laws and jurisdictions. Importantly, there is the still the question of how to integrate and optimize the management of surface water and groundwater.

- What challenges may thwart a successful implementation?
- How are farming communities and other areas reliant on groundwater adapting to the new rules?

- What opportunities exist for integrating groundwater and surface water management?
- How can legislators smooth SGMA's implementation?

Taryn Ravazzini, Deputy Director, Special Initiatives, Department of Water Resources (5-7 min)

Ellen Hanak, Senior Fellow and Center Director, Water Policy Center, Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) (5-7 min)

Jeff Pratt, Executive Officer, Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (5-7 min)

Eric Averett, General Manager, Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District (5-7 min)

Roundtable Discussion

11:15 – 12:15 pm

Session 6: The Labor Drought

As Baby Boomers retire, California's water sector (like all other industries) will be challenged to fill skilled positions. At a time when expertise is needed more than ever, this paucity of qualified workers could seriously impair efforts to develop and manage a water system free from interruption. Further, the agricultural industry is currently experiencing its own worker shortages as a recent survey revealed that 55 percent of farmers are having issues hiring workers.

- What is the projected workforce shortage? What types of jobs will be needed?
- What programs are in place to help train the skilled workforce of tomorrow? What more can be done?
- How can we also improve racial, gender and economic workforce diversity?

Steve Ritchie, Assistant General Manager for Water Enterprise, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) (5-7 min)

Jeremy Smith, Deputy Legislative Director, State Building & Construction Trades Council (5-7 min)

Kurt Richter, Farm Manager, Richter AG (5-7 min)

Roundtable Discussion

12:15 – 12:30 pm **Summary and Adjournment**

- Summary of roundtable discussion
- Consideration of next steps

Jay Hansen, President & CEO, CFEE

