



CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION  
ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
AND THE ECONOMY

## AGENDA CFEE Water Conference

### *The Era of Rising Temperatures and The Remaking of California's Water System*

December 8-9, 2022

*Rising global temperatures are upon us, and California's water supply is shrinking and shifting.*

*The Department of Water Resources forecasts, perhaps optimistically, a 10 percent supply decrease by 2040. Moreover, the loss of snowpack and its gradual melt combined with the intensification of both droughts and downpours pose new challenges that our infrastructure and management practices are not yet equipped to address.*

*This conference will explore the Newsom Administration's strategy to adapt to our evolving climatic conditions while surveying California's water system to identify opportunities to better manage and reconcile the competing needs of our diverse municipal, environmental, and agricultural communities.*

### Hybrid Conference Etiquette and Guidelines

---

**Name:** Please input your full name and organization by clicking the three dots in the upper right hand corner. Our guests and other participants appreciate knowing who you are. We also ask that, whenever possible, you activate your video feed to help simulate the sense of attentiveness and respect that permeates our traditional in-person gathering.

**Submitting Questions and Comments:** You may 1) type your questions into the chat window or 2) use the "raise your hand" function on Zoom to indicate you would like to ask your question directly and you will be called on. We will provide an opportunity for 2-3 questions and comments immediately following each presentation. We will still reserve time after all panelist remarks for our traditional roundtable conversation. Please limit your comments to two minutes.

**Chatham House Rule - Cyber Edition:** Those of you familiar with CFEE conferences are aware of our time-honored "Chatham House Rule." This means specific comments are not to be attributed to any one person with the goal of promoting a more candid exchange. At this time, video conferencing is an inherently less private forum and confidentiality is not guaranteed; however, we ask that you help us to uphold our longstanding and respected tradition. To that end, this conference will not be recorded, and we ask you not to record the discussions in any fashion or to share specific, attributable remarks. We appreciate you respecting and supporting the Chatham House Rule.

**Materials.** You have been emailed the final conference agenda, participant list, speaker biographies, and a water glossary. You may also access these materials on our website at [www.cfee.net/water](http://www.cfee.net/water)

---

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8****Crown Room**

11:30 – 12:45pm	<b>Arrival – Check-In and Lunch – Main Beach Deck</b>
12:45 – 1:00pm	<b>Welcome – Conference Overview and Roundtable Introductions</b>

Preview of conference topics, speakers, and goals

**Jay Hansen**, President & CEO, CFEE

1:00 – 2:15pm	<b>Session 1 The Administration’s “Water Supply Strategy” – Poring Over the Details</b>
---------------	---

In August 2022, the Newsom Administration unveiled a revamped strategy to build on its work – and that of the Legislature – to enhance California’s water supply. Our opening panel will examine what is new in the Governor’s Water Supply Strategy and preview what public funding, regulatory streamlining, and policy changes will be needed to effectuate the plan. We will also explore how the Strategy fits into other state priorities related to climate, land use, housing, and more.

- What is the science telling us about the future of our water supply? What does the “aridification” of the West functionally mean?
- What data is supporting the Department of Water Resources’s projection for a 10 percent reduction in supply? What is the best case scenario? Worst?
- What new investments will be needed to build additional storage, conveyance, recharge, desal, and reuse infrastructure? How will these costs be shared?
- What are the best opportunities to reinvest in existing infrastructure to enhance California's water supply reliability?
- What new regulatory streamlining is planned to expedite permitting and development of these complex, expensive projects?
- How should and might water rights be “modernized?”
- How does the Water Supply Strategy fit into the context of other state priorities like climate adaptation, land use planning, housing, and more? How can the state enable an all-of-government approach to advance water goals along with the broader spectrum of state priorities?
- How does the Administration envision partnering with the Legislature?

**Laurence Sanati**, Emergency Drought Coordinator, California Department of Water Resources (5-10 min)

**Newsha Ajami**, Chief Development Officer for Research, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (5-10 min)

**Doug Obegi**, Director, California River Restoration, Water Division, Nature Program, NRDC (5-10 min)

**Sam Assefa**, Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (5-10 min)

2:15 – 3:45pm

**Session 2**

**Goodbye Snowpack, Hello Rainfall – New Infrastructure for New Hydrology**

Our water system, which was largely designed for a slow-melting snowpack-fed supply, must be reengineered to take advantage of increasingly common extreme and sporadic rain events. Accordingly, the Newsom Administration has a goal to create an additional 4 million acre-feet of above ground and below ground storage to stockpile water from these big storms, making it the largest potential expansion of our water supplies ever. What will be needed to achieve this ambitious target?

- What progress has been made in retrofitting and building new facilities designed for extraordinary precipitation?
- Where can we expect new or expanded surface storage?
- What new infrastructure is needed to convey rainfall to ideal sub-basins where aquifer recharge can occur? Who is in charge of building and coordinating this infrastructure?
- How do Groundwater Sustainability Agencies responsible for groundwater sustainability plans access water from those with water rights?
- Do we also need to adopt new management practices to maximize the value of our storage, conveyance, and recharge projects?
- How does new storage relate to clean drinking water and restoration policies of the Newsom Administration?
- What do we have to do to get ready for so-called “megafloods,” which are increasingly probable and seem poised to overwhelm our flood defenses?

**Ellen Hanak**, Vice President and Director of the Water Policy Center, Public Policy Institute of California (5-10 min)

**Jennifer Pierre**, General Manager, State Water Contractors (5-10 min)

**Aaron Fukuda**, General Manager, Tulare Irrigation District (5-10 min)

**Jeremy Smith**, Deputy Legislative Director, State Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO (5-10 min)

3:45 – 4:00pm

Break

4:00 – 5:30pm

**Session 3****Think Local, Act Local – How Can the State Help?**

Home to more than 7,000 water systems and an array of watersheds, weather patterns, and local conditions, there can be no one-size-fits-all approach in California. Far from it, the intense provinciality of water management is likely to put regional and local efforts in the driver's seat for conservation, efficiency, reuse, and supply diversification initiatives. How can the state further empower regional and local actors to make progress on collaborative water resiliency objectives?

- How have communities responded to calls for conservation? What additional measures can be taken to encourage voluntary reductions in water use?
- What can the state do to help municipalities to develop local projects like stormwater capture, recycling, desal, and turf removal?
- After allocating \$8 billion for water projects in the past three years, what tangible progress has been made on water resiliency efforts? What other state funding is still needed?
- How can water agencies maintain affordability and public buy-in while making critical investments and calling for conservation?
- What more can be done to address ongoing concerns about water quality?

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

**Dave Eggerton**, Executive Director, Association of California Water Agencies (5-10 min)

**Paul Rowley**, Sr. Vice President – Regulated Water Utility, Golden State Water Agency (5-10 min)

**Mark Pestrella**, Director, Los Angeles County Public Works (5-10 min)

5:30pm

**Reception & Water Tech Showcase – Crown Room**

During our evening reception, wet your whistle while we showcase several innovative gadgets that can help reshape the future of water management.

**SHOWCASE PARTICIPANTS**

**Greyter Water Systems** – Canadian company providing on-site water reuse technology for homes and businesses

Represented by **Mark Sales, Co-Founder and CEO**

**Aquacycl** – Energy-neutral wastewater treatment technology, offering modular on-site systems to treat high-strength organic waste streams

Represented by **Orianna Bretschger, CEO & Founder**

---

**RainStick** – Recycling system that reuses shower water while you are showering

Represented by **Claire Xiao, Director of Operations**

---

**Aqva More** – Portuguese company that has a water heating solution to enhance water efficiency

Represented by **João Guerreiro, CEO**

---

**Ceres Imaging** – Farming and irrigation efficiency driven by advanced analytics and high-resolution aerial imagery

Represented by **Jenna Rodriguez, Director of Strategic Accounts - Northern CA**

---

**Grundfos** – This Danish company is the world’s largest pump manufacturer and is involved in enhanced treatment, efficiency, reuse, and irrigation practices

Represented by **Jeanette Smith, District Sales Manager, WU – Disinfection**

---

**UC San Diego Scripps Institution of Oceanography** – Atmospheric rivers and forecast-informed reservoir operations (FIRO)

Represented by **Marty Ralph, Director, Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes**

---

6:30pm	<b>Dinner – Coronet Room</b>
--------	------------------------------

---

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9****Crown Room**

7:30 – 9:00am	Breakfast – Crown Room
9:00 – 10:20am	<b>Session 4</b> <b>The Great Withering – How Do We Prepare for the Likely Future of the Colorado River?</b>

The Colorado River, one of the principal water supplies of the western United States, is experiencing a traumatic shrinking. With seven U.S. states, Mexico, and several tribal communities all relying on this rapidly depleting source, where do California and its western neighbors go from here?

- How much is the Colorado River forecast to decline in the coming months, years, and decades?
- What are the current and future consequences to drinking water, irrigated farmland, ecosystems, and hydropower?
- What is the status of negotiations between Colorado River basin states?
- The MET and IID have “senior” water rights on the Colorado River – what does that practically mean when the federal government makes allocation cuts? What does it mean going forward as the river bears less and less supply to go around?
- Is there a scenario when the federal government more aggressively curtails allocations?
- What potential compromises would help to better manage this diminishing resource? What political realities stand in the way, and how will California be affected by looming tradeoffs?

**Tanya Trujillo**, Assistant Secretary for Water And Science, U.S. Department of Interior (5-10 min)

**Henry Martinez**, General Manager, Imperial Irrigation District (5-10 min)

**Adel Hagekhalil**, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (5-10 min)

**Jay Weiner**, Of Counsel, Rosette Law (5-10 min)

10:20 – 10:30am	Break
10:30 – 12:00pm	<b>Session 5</b> <b>Farming our Future – Can Environmentalism and Agriculture Co-Exist?</b>

California’s \$50 billion agriculture industry has a tough row to hoe. As water scarcity worsens, changing weather threatens crop viability, and new groundwater management practices come into effect, the future of farming in California ranges

from uncertain to imperiled. What is the game plan for supporting California ag as times get tougher? Can new environmental management techniques alleviate tensions over water competition?

- How might ecosystem – as opposed to species-focused – management strategies affect farming communities?
- What are “multi-benefit” projects, and what is their potential for delivering win-win-win solutions for ag, environmental, and other priorities?
- On our current trajectory, how many thousands (or millions) of acres of farmland will be retired due to a lack of water? What crops/commodities might the state cease to produce?
- Should we do more to incent growing certain crops in certain areas to better align with hydrological realities? What countervailing commercial forces will we have to acknowledge?
- How can we help communities, often already designated as “disadvantaged,” if significant segments of their local farming economy decline? Do we have a plan for emerging air quality challenges arising from unmanaged, former farmland?
- What would a comprehensive land use strategy for fallowed farmland look like?
- How can agricultural-urban alliances share the burdens of scarce supplies?

**Karen Ross**, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture (5-10 min)

**Sam Sandoval Solis**, Professor, Land, Air and Water Resources, UC Davis  
(5-10 min)

**Julie Renter**, President, River Partners (5-10 min)

**Jim Houston**, Administrator & GAD Director, California Farm Bureau (5-10 min)

12:00pm

**Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

**Jay Hansen**, President & CEO, CFEE