



CFEE SEMINAR

Ready or Not: The Next Great California Drought is Upon Us...What Now?

Friday, June 4
11:00am - 12:15pm

Our distinguished guest speakers:

- ***Karla Nemeth***, Director, California Department of Water Resources
- ***Jeff Kightlinger***, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- ***Tom Birmingham***, General Manager, Westlands Water District
- ***Pablo Ortiz***, Climate and Water Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists

AGENDA

Ready or Not: The Next Great California Drought is Upon Us... What Now?

Following successive years of disappointing snowpack and rainfall gave way to a paltry spring runoff in 2021, a new and evolving drought has descended across California and much of the West. In response, the state and several counties have issued emergency drought declarations, prioritizing resources and enabling swift action for this deteriorating situation. What's the state of play as the machinery of our government and our complex water system brace for a supply shortfall?

- What resources and authorities have been unlocked following the Governor's emergency drought declaration?
- What is the strategy for sustaining sensitive ecosystems as rivers and streams run low?
- How will existing challenges in our disadvantaged communities be exacerbated?
- Why wasn't mandatory conservation included in the declaration? Is it only a matter of time - if so, when?
- What are water agencies doing in response to dry conditions? How long are agencies prepared to withstand supply shortages?
- What does the science tell us about when this drought will end?
- Have our aquifers recovered from our last drought? How much pumping can they reasonably support if surface waters remain scarce?
- Do we know how agricultural output will be affected by the drought in the short and medium term?

This CFEE Seminar is an invitation-only event focusing on our traditional audience of State Legislators, Legislative staff, and the Foundation's broad coalition of labor, environmental, business, and local government leaders. After speakers deliver their brief remarks, CFEE President Jay Hansen will facilitate a Q&A between speakers and you, our registered Seminar participants. If you have questions about the Seminar please email Wyatt Lundy at wyatt@cfee.net.

Seminar Guidelines

- **Name:** Please input your full name and organization when you join by clicking on the three dots in the upper right hand corner. Our guests and other participants appreciate knowing who you are.
- **Submitting Questions:** 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.
- **Video and Audio:** As you enter the Seminar, your audio will be turned off and the video on. As you are called on to ask a question the audio can be turned on. You may choose to turn off your video feature if you would like.
- **Chatham House Rule - Cyber Edition:** Those of you familiar with CFEE conferences are aware of the time-honored "Chatham House Rule" by which the Foundation operates. This means specific comments are not to be attributed to any one person in the goal of promoting a more candid exchange of knowledge and insights. 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 long and respected tradition. While we may make changes at subsequent Seminars, this Seminar will not be recorded. Accordingly we ask you not to record the Seminar in any fashion or to share specific remarks. We appreciate you respecting and supporting the Chatham House Rule.

