

CFE Water Conference
Plumbing the Future...
Fulfilling Our Vision of a Resilient Water System
February 4-5, 2021

PANELISTS

Session 1

Checking the Meter – Surveying Our Political and Economic Waterscape

Jared Huffman

**Congressman, 2nd District of California, U.S. House of Representatives
Chair of the Water, Oceans, & Wildlife Subcommittee**



Jared Huffman represents California's 2nd Congressional District which spans the North Coast of the state, from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border, and includes Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte counties. He was first elected to Congress in November 2012 and currently serves on the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. In the 116th Congress, he chairs the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife, with jurisdiction over federal water projects, fisheries management, coastal zone and oceans policy, and wildlife and endangered species. Jared also founded the Congressional Freethought Caucus to promote sound public policy based on reason, science and moral values, while protecting the secular character of government and championing the value of freedom of thought worldwide.

During his four terms in Congress, Jared has built a reputation as a progressive leader and an environmental expert who focuses on making a difference. Jared is also committed to ensuring our communities are resilient to the effects of climate change, including wildfires and droughts. He has been instrumental in defending America's coastlines from offshore oil and gas drilling, introducing legislation to protect the Pacific and Arctic Oceans as part of a coordinated, nationwide effort to protect oceanic ecosystems and coastal economies, while reducing our unhealthy dependency on fossil fuels.

Jared is dedicated to serving the local needs of the 2nd Congressional District of California. From his very first term in Congress, he began pushing legislation that would foster economic opportunity, and protect the unique environmental and economic values of the North Coast including the rural and tribal communities of the district. This includes improving access to critical broadband to close the digital divide and increased funding for public schools and special education programs through his IDEA legislation. He has also fought to improve access to affordable housing options, even passing legislation to create badly-needed affordable housing in West Marin. During his first term in Congress, the House of Representatives unanimously passed Congressman Huffman's first bill as a U.S. Congressman to expand the California Coastal National Monument to include the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands, which led to permanent protection for this jewel of the Mendocino Coast. He has also worked to increase penalties for illegal marijuana grows that damage our watersheds and jeopardize fragile ecosystems, and led the fight to protect marine mammals by calling for an end to orca captivity and designating thousands of miles for protected sanctuaries.

Jared is committed to finding bipartisan compromises and real solutions to pressing issues and reaches across the aisle to find common ground whenever possible. In February 2019, for example, Jared introduced two bipartisan pieces of legislation that provided additional protections to the environment: the bipartisan “Still-In Resolution” to reaffirm the America’s commitment to the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act to defend the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling. Before serving in Congress, Jared represented the North Bay for six years in the California Assembly where he chaired the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee. Among his other accomplishments as a state legislator, Jared played a leading role in crafting landmark water reforms in 2009 and authored dozens of successful bills, including California’s pioneering lighting efficiency standards (AB 1109) which were subsequently adopted into federal law; the nation’s largest programs for solar hot water heating (AB 1470) and paint recycling (AB 1343); reforms that improve California’s State Parks system (AB 1589) and Department of Fish and Wildlife (AB 2402); and creation of a new voluntary type of corporation, California Benefit Corporations, to promote corporate social responsibility (AB 361).

Prior to his legislative service, Jared worked as a Senior Attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). One of his proudest accomplishments at NRDC was helping forge an agreement to restore a 153-mile stretch of the San Joaquin River in California’s Central Valley. Before NRDC, Jared was a successful public interest attorney whose victories included several major jury verdicts in gender discrimination and race discrimination trials. He also served 12 years in local government as a Director of the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD), from 1994 to 2006.

Jared graduated magna cum laude from U.C. Santa Barbara, where he was a three-time NCAA All-American volleyball player. He went on to play for the USA Volleyball Team in 1987 when the team was ranked #1 in the world, before attending and graduating cum laude from Boston College Law School. Jared lives in San Rafael with his wife Susan, a teacher. They have two children, Abby and Nathan. In his free time, Jared enjoys fishing, hiking and playing tennis.

Ellen Hanak

Vice President and Director Water Policy Center Public Policy Institute of California

Ellen Hanak is vice president and director of the PPIC Water Policy Center and a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, where she holds the Ellen Hanak Chair in Water Policy. 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.



Jennifer Pierre
General Manager
State Water Contractors



Jennifer Pierre is the General Manager, overseeing implementing the SWCs objectives and overall operations. She and her staff work to provide technical, legal, and scientific support to the SWC members to ensure a sustainable water supply from the State Water Project. Ms. Pierre has over 15 years of experience with Delta management including but not limited to restoration planning, operations criteria development and regulatory compliance. She leads SWC's participation in guiding and developing the framework for the state's management of water supply and ecological issues within the Delta. Additionally, Pierre manages coordination with the CA Department of Water Resources regarding statewide water supply management, and the programs, policies and regulations affecting SWP.

Robbie Hunter
President
State Building & Construction Trades Council of CA



Robbie Hunter is President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California. The Council represents 22 countywide and regional Building Trades councils throughout California, with 365,000 members.

Hunter most recently served as Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. At the council, he completed \$47 billion in Project Labor Agreements, governing work with public and private entities including the Port of Long Beach, NBC Universal and the LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority. Previously, Hunter was Council Representative for the Council, starting in 2009.

Hunter is an Iron Worker, and was president of Local 433, Structural Iron Workers, from 2003 to 2009. He served on the board of the District Council of Ironworkers for California and Nevada, and as a board member/apprenticeship instructor/trainer for the Joint Labor Management apprenticeship program in California and Nevada.

Hunter is a native of Belfast, Ireland. In 1972, he started his apprenticeship with the Irish Transport and General Workers Union as a steel erector working in the Harlan & Wolfe shipyards, where his great-grandfather, John Quinn, helped organize the union in 1906 and built the gantry cranes on the Titanic in 1910. Hunter moved to the US in 1978.

Session 2

Dollars and Sense: The Costs of COVID and Quest to Maintain Affordability

Kate Gordon

Director

Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Kate Gordon has spent the past two decades working at the intersection of climate change, energy policy, and economic development. Gordon was appointed Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and Senior Advisor to the Governor on Climate by Governor Gavin Newsom on January 7, 2019. Trained as a community organizer, and later in law and regional economic development, her focus has long been on bringing diverse groups together to work toward a more sustainable, inclusive economy. Prior to being appointed OPR Director, Gordon was the founding director of the Risky Business Project, which focused on quantifying the economic impacts of climate change on U.S. energy demand, crop yields, and coastal infrastructure as well as on human health and mortality. As part of this work, Gordon consulted numerous investors and corporations on strategies to reduce climate risks across investments and assets, and also served as a co-author on the Fourth National Climate Assessment's chapter on "Reducing Risks Through Adaptation Actions."



Prior to her work on Risky Business, Gordon served in senior leadership positions at several nonpartisan think tanks including the Henry M. Paulson Institute, the Center for the Next Generation, the Center for American Progress, and as a nonresident Fellow at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University. Gordon got her start on energy and climate issues working to craft progressive policies at the intersection of labor, business, community, and environmental interests at the national Apollo Alliance, where she ultimately served as co-Executive Director until the merger with the Blue-Green Alliance in 2011. Under her leadership, the Apollo Alliance drafted key parts of the American Recovery And Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) including the Advanced Manufacturing Tax Credit and a competitive grant program for green jobs training and also partnered with the AFL-CIO to draft the "just transition" portions of the proposed American Clean Energy and Security Act (aka the "Waxman-Markey bill").

Gordon earned a J.D. and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of California-Berkeley, and an undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University. Along with her role in state government, Gordon regularly co-teaches a course at Stanford Law School entitled "Climate: Politics, Finance, and Infrastructure."

Eric Sandler

Chief Financial Officer San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Eric Sandler is Chief Financial Officer/Assistant General Manager of Business Services and is responsible for managing a range of internal and external service functions of the Commission including Finance, Customer Service, Information Technology, and Assurance and Internal Controls.



Appointed in 2015, he has over 25 years of experience in municipal and infrastructure financing. Prior to joining the Commission, he served as Director of Finance for the East Bay Municipal Utility District, Director of Finance/Treasurer for the San Diego County Water Authority, and Director of Financial Planning for the SFPUC. Before joining public service, Eric worked in several infrastructure finance positions including renewable energy project finance and municipal investment banking.

Eric serves on boards and committees of various industry organizations including the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. He has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Stanford University and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of California, Berkeley.

Denise Kruger

Senior Vice President Regulated Utilities, Golden State Water Company

Denise L. Kruger is Sr. Vice President, Regulated Utilities for Golden State Water. In this role, Ms. Kruger has oversight of all functions in Regulated Utilities, including Water Operations, Asset Management, Environmental Quality, Customer and Community Relations, Customer Service, Water Use Efficiency, Water Resources and Regulated New Business. Golden State Water provides water service to 254,000 customers and electric service to 23,000 customers in California.



Ms. Kruger has over 20 years of experience in the utility industry. She joined Golden State Water Company in 1992 as Manager of Quality Assurance and Water Quality. In 1998, Ms. Kruger was appointed to the position of Vice President, Water Quality. She then served in various executive roles in water operations before being appointed Senior Vice President, Regulated Utilities.

Ms. Kruger is very active in the utility industry, including holding a Board seat on CFEE, the California Foundation for the Environment and Economy. She is Vice Chair of the Water Research Foundation, an organization responsible for over \$460M worth of water related research, and past Chair of the American Ground Water Trust. Ms. Kruger received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California-Davis and a Master of Business Administration Degree from the University of California-Irvine.

Doug Kobold

Executive Director

California Product Stewardship Council

Doug has worked in the Solid Waste and Recycling industry for over 28 years. He accepted the position of Executive Director for the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) in August 2018. As Executive Director, his duties include responsibility for leading strategic coalition development, including long-term program strategy and resource development. The Executive Director is also responsible for leading staff and coalition members, while adhering to CPSC's goals, mission, and vision. Over all, the Executive Director is specifically responsible for financial management, fundraising, governance, personnel supervision, and special programs.



Prior to CPSC, he worked at Sacramento County for over 18 years, where he last held the position of Waste Management Program Manager. That position provided oversight of the Business Development & Special Waste Division of the Department of Waste Management & Recycling. Those duties included the department's Contracts Administration function (negotiations and management of 100+ contracts annually), trend analysis, management of the Special Waste Program (Household Hazardous Waste), preparation and presentation of reports to the County Board of Supervisors, and serving as the Department's Legislative Liaison. As the Manager of Technical Services for Edgar & Associates, Inc. (EAI), he assisted clients throughout California with permitting and design of landfills, transfer stations, material recovery facilities, and compost facilities. Before those 2 ½ years at EAI, Doug worked as the Solid Waste Operations Manager and as a landfill design engineer for Yolo County for over 5 years.

Doug received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from California State University, Chico, with a minor in Planning in 1992. He also received SWANA certifications for Manager of Landfill Operations (MOLO) in 1997, Manager of Collection Systems (MOCS), and Manager of MSW Management (MMSWM), both in 2008.

Session 3

A Peek Behind the Curtain: California Water Rights 101

Tina Cannon Leahy

Senior Staff Counsel

State Water Resources Control Board Office of Chief Counsel

Tina Cannon Leahy is a Senior Staff Counsel in the Office of Chief Counsel at the State Water Resources Control Board. In addition, she teaches California Water Law to undergraduates at U.C. Davis, is a co-chair of the California Environmental and Policy Center, and is the Environmental Law Section Board Representative to the California Lawyers Association. Previously, Tina worked as a Water Policy Consultant for the California State Assembly focusing on water management, water supply, water conservation and development, water rights, and in-stream and environmental water needs, and as a Senior Staff Counsel for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Session 4

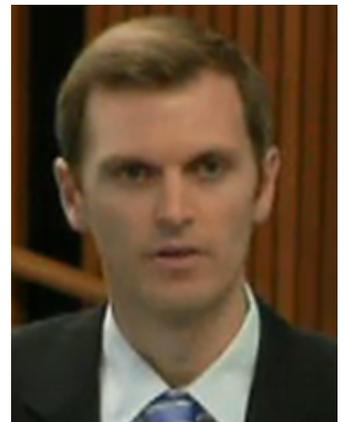
Keeping Our Ear to the Ground: Where Do We Stand on SGMA?

Steven Springhorn

Acting Deputy Director, Statewide Groundwater Management

California Department of Water Resources

Steven Springhorn PG is a Senior Engineering Geologist with the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Sustainable Groundwater Management Section in Sacramento. Steven has over 10 years of experience working on a variety of legislatively mandated programs and projects for the State, including the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) technical assistance, IRWM grant administration, evaluation of stream depletion impacts, and groundwater substitution transfer and conjunctive use programs. Steven received an M.S. in Geology from California State University (CSU), Sacramento, and a B.S. in Geology from CSU, Chico. Steven is a California Professional Geologist.



Patricia (Patty) Poire

**Executive Director
Kern Groundwater Authority**

Patty was hired as the Planning Manager/Executive Director for the Kern Groundwater Authority (KGA) in February 2018 to coordinate, oversee, and assist in the development and the implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The KGA is the largest GSA in the San Joaquin Valley made up of 16 water districts/cities that cover 80% of the Kern County Subbasin. She was voted by the Kern subbasin GSAs at the Point of Contact for the basin.



Her agricultural experience comes from 10 years with Grimmway Farms where she was their Corporate & Public Affairs Director. Her previous employment opportunities in Bakersfield included working for the City of Shafter overseeing special projects and Lennar Homes where she was their Project Manager in the Land Development department where she handled land entitlements. Her employment experience has given her a balance of understanding land use, water use and employment and how those interact in SGMA.

She is a native from Bakersfield, being born and raised here. She was appointed by Governor Brown to the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley in July 2017 as well as the Independent Review Panel for Underground Injection Control Program established under SB 83. She has been active in the Kern County Farm Bureau with currently holding the position of VP.

Jonathan Nelson

**Policy Director
Community Water Center**

Jonathan Nelson joined the Community Water Center in 2016 as Policy Director. Jonathan previously held positions at a healthcare trade association where he managed government affairs and worked to expand access to healthcare for vulnerable populations, and at a Sacramento-based public affairs firm where he worked on issues related to health access, clean transportation, and the digital economy. Outside his professional career, Jonathan works as a foster care advocate and has helped pass legislation recognizing the unique needs of medically fragile foster care children. Jonathan received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Davis.



Ann Hayden

Senior Director, Western Water Environmental Defense Fund

Ann Hayden is the Senior Director, Western Water and Resilient Landscapes for the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). Ann joined EDF in 2002 to help lead its efforts to improve urban and agricultural water supply reliability and restore the San Francisco Bay Delta estuary. She currently leads EDF's work to advance implementation of sustainable groundwater management and water transfers as well as habitat markets to restore critical habitat to benefit the environment and agriculture in California. She builds broad coalitions of state and federal agencies, non-profit partners, landowners, and the private sector to support the development and implementation of environmental markets that help increase California's healthy freshwater and terrestrial systems and improve delivery of the environmental services these habitats provide. Ann earned an M.A. in Environmental Science and Management from UC Santa Barbara, and a B.A. in Marine Biology from UC Santa Cruz.



Session 5

Fighting Fire with Fire: Controlled Burns, Watershed Management, and Big Science for the 21st Century

Thom Porter

Chief

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Chief Porter was appointed Director by Governor Gavin Newsom on January 8, 2019. Chief Porter was designated Acting Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on December 14, 2018. He has been serving as Chief of Strategic Planning in CAL FIRE Sacramento Headquarters since January 1, 2018. Previously, he served as the Southern Region Chief, Assistant Region Chief, and San Diego Unit Fire Chief. Chief Porter's depth of fire department management expertise is balanced by his forestry background. He is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) in California with a Bachelor of Forestry Degree from the University of California Berkeley.



Angela Avery

Executive Officer

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Angela Avery was named Executive Director of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in December 2018. Ms. Avery has been with SNC since 2007, previously serving as the agency's Policy and Outreach Division Chief and working on developing sound policy and outreach programs to support the Sierra Nevada forests and the benefits they provide to the entire State of California. Ms. Avery graduated from Louisiana State University and attended San Francisco State University.



Jay Ziegler

Director of External Affairs and Policy

The Nature Conservancy

Jay Ziegler oversees the California chapter's engagements with governments and other stakeholders at the state, county, and local levels. He helps develop and direct implementation of Conservancy strategies on public policy, legislation, regulatory matters, campaigns, and constituency building. Prior to joining the Conservancy, Mr. Ziegler founded and was principal of Ziegler Associates, a multi-disciplinary public affairs firm focusing on environmental issues, land use, regulatory matters and clean technology.



Before that, he worked extensively at the state and federal levels, serving in communications, policy and advocacy roles. He also has substantial campaign experience in California. Mr. Ziegler has served as a senior counselor to policy makers in the State Capitol and Washington, D.C. He worked in both communications and government affairs roles within the Clinton Administration, and served as Special Assistant to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt for Intergovernmental Affairs, where he was integrally involved in policy coordination on a number of complex natural resource policy issues, such as endangered species and habitat conservation programs across the West. He holds a B.A. in political science-public service from U.C. Davis.

Session 6

Where Regulations Collide – How Do We Harmonize Inter-Agency Workflow?

Wade Crowfoot

Secretary

California Natural Resources Agency

Wade Crowfoot was appointed California's Natural Resources Secretary by Governor Gavin Newsom in January 2019. Secretary Crowfoot oversees an agency of 19,000 employees who protect and manage California's natural resources. This includes the state's forests and natural lands, rivers and waterways, coast and ocean, fish and wildlife, and energy development. As a member of the Governor's cabinet, he advises the Governor on natural resources and environmental issues.



Prior to leading the Natural Resources Agency, Crowfoot served as chief executive officer of the Water Foundation, a nonprofit philanthropy that builds shared water solutions across the American West. Before that Crowfoot served in Governor Jerry Brown's Administration as deputy cabinet secretary and senior advisor to the Governor. He also previously served as West Coast regional director for the Environmental Defense Fund and a senior environmental advisor to then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom.

Secretary Crowfoot received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996 and earned a master's degree in public policy from the London School of Economics in 2004, graduating with honors.

A native of Michigan, Crowfoot grew up spending his summers outdoors at a YMCA camp and at his family's remote cabin in Northern Ontario. Upon moving to California in the mid-1990s, he became an avid hiker and backpacker and marks his first time in the redwoods at Big Basin State Park as one of his defining California moments. Now he spends his time outside of work hiking and camping with his wife, Lisa, and their young daughter.

Grant Davis

General Manager

Sonoma County Water Agency

Mr. Davis, as the General Manager of the Sonoma County Water Agency, is responsible for management activities related to the Water Agency's core functions of water delivery, wastewater management, flood protection, and environmental sustainability. An emerging focus of the Water Agency's operations is the development of a secure, clean and renewable energy portfolio to insulate the region's water supply from outside supply and price shocks, ensuring reliability. Currently, the Water Agency is working to expand their portfolio of renewables to offset their own energy use and to build an enterprise.



According to Mr. Davis, "It is incumbent upon the Agency to be looking ahead to find innovative solutions to the challenges we face today. Projects the Water Agency are undertaking are intended to be multi-benefit, providing security to our water supply while supporting broader regional benefits, including the creation of local jobs."

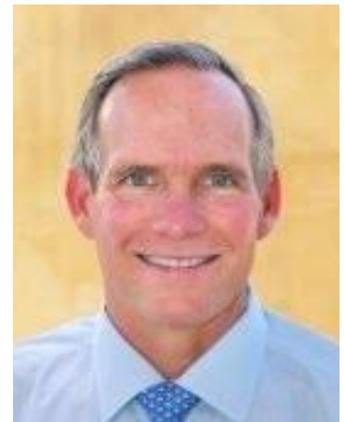
Prior to joining the Agency, Mr. Davis was Executive Director of The Bay Institute, a science based nonprofit, dedicated to protecting the San Francisco Bay-Delta Watershed and improving water management in California. Mr. Davis also worked for Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey and was an aide to State Senator Milton Marks of San Francisco and to Assemblywoman Lucy Killea of San Diego. Davis also operated a successful small business, specializing in strategic planning, public relations and campaign management.

Mr. Davis currently serves on the University of California President's Advisory Commission, for the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In addition, Mr. Davis is a board member of the California Utility Executives and Managers Association, Water Reuse California, and the Bay Planning Coalition. Mr. Davis received his BA in political science from the University of California at Berkeley.

Paul Townsley

VP Regulatory Matters & Corporate Relations California Water Service Group

Paul G. Townsley is Vice President, Regulatory Matters & Corporate Development for California Water Service Group, the third largest investor-owned water and wastewater utility in the United States. Townsley is responsible for the Company's regulatory matters with public utility commissions in four states, and is also responsible for new business development. He has more than 35 years of experience in multi-utility corporations providing water, wastewater, electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications services across the United States. Paul has a wealth of knowledge having worked in many utility sectors and has experience with utilities during natural disasters, the energy crisis, and California drought. Townsley holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marine Engineering from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y. He is a licensed professional engineer in Arizona and Hawaii and holds a national license as a marine engineer.



Kristin Peer

Deputy Secretary & Special Counsel for Water Policy California Environmental Protection Agency

Kristin Peer was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom in September 2019 to serve as Deputy Secretary and Special Counsel for Water Policy at the California Environmental Protection Agency. Prior to her appointment, she served for four years at CalEPA as Assistant General Counsel.

Prior to coming to CalEPA, she was at the California Department of Justice, where she served as Deputy Attorney General in the Natural Resources Law Section of



the Public Rights Division from 2010 to 2015. In her earlier positions, she was an associate at Miller, Starr, Regalia from 2007 to 2010 and a credit analyst at Union Bank from 2002 to 2004.

Kristin received her law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2007. During her time at UCLA Law, she was an extern at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Eastern District of California and a summer law clerk at Miller Starr Regalia in Walnut Creek.

Kristin received bachelor degrees in Business-Economics and Spanish from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she graduated with honors and was awarded Phi Beta Kappa.

Kristin currently resides in Sacramento with her husband and two children.
