



# Urban Water Institute's Spring Conference • February 19-21, 2020 Hilton Palm Springs Hotel • Palm Springs • California

## Wednesday, February 19, 2020

12:00 p.m. Registration, Networking, & Exhibits (Horizon Ballroom)

### Day 1 Program: Trials, Tribulations, and Confrontations

1:00 p.m. Opening Remarks & Introduction

- Greg Quist, Chairman, Urban Water Institute

1:05 p.m. Opening Keynote

- Senator Fran Pavley, A Leader in Water, Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Policies

1:45 p.m. So Sue Me: Overview of Claims and Litigation Issues for Water Districts

*It seems like every time you turn around there is some one out there seeking to sue. Lessons learned, steps to prevent actions, ways to protect your operations—learn from the experts.*

- Lisa Ohlund, General Manager, East Orange Water District, Moderator
- Claire Collins, Partner, Lewis Brisbois
- Sy Everett, Partner, Everett Dorey, LLP

3:00 p.m. Networking Break – Sponsored by Western Municipal Water District

3:15 p.m. PFOA: Now What?

*Is the state throwing water agencies into the deep end without a way out? What are the rules and what are utilities doing to comply?*

- Steve Bucknam, President, Bucknam & Associates, Moderator
- Meg McWade, Director of Public Works, City of Fullerton
- Nicole Blute, Vice President, Hazen and Sawyer
- Mark Grajeda, General Manager, Pico Water District

4:30 p.m. Adjourn

5:30 p.m. Welcome Reception – Sponsored by Water Replenishment District of Southern California

6:30 p.m. Dinner On Your Own

## Thursday, February 20, 2020

7:45 a.m. Registration, Networking, Exhibits & Continental Breakfast – Sponsored by Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Horizon Ballroom)

### Day 2 Program: The Good, The Innovative, and The Downright Ugly

8:45 a.m. Meet the Vendors/Sponsors

- Ane Deister, Executive Director, Urban Water Institute

9:00 a.m. Making the Impossible, Possible: Rethinking Institutional and Regulatory Challenges to Drive Success

*Featuring four cases involving: early game changers transforming GWRs implementation; overcoming interagency financial and cultural constraints leading to effective consolidation; discerning a shift in water use from live stream discharge to potable reuse; boldly reversing an avoidance approach leading to incorporation of a previously private system into a public agency.*

- Paul Jones, General Manager, Eastern Municipal Water District, Moderator
- Mike Markus, General Manager, Orange County Water District
- Matt Stone, General Manager, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
- Dave Pedersen, General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- Joe Mouawad, Assistant General Manager, Eastern Municipal Water District

10:30 a.m. Networking Break – Sponsored by Irvine Ranch Water District

10:45 a.m. Unleashing Innovation in Your Utility

*How to go from concept to action—successful innovation in traditional utility frameworks.*

- Ed Means, President, Means LLC, Moderator
- Deven Upadyay, Chief Operating Officer, Metropolitan Water District
- Jason Carter, Strategy & Innovation Lead, Arcadis

12:00 p.m. Lunch – Sponsored by Coachella Valley Water District (Plaza Ballroom)



# Urban Water Institute's Spring Conference • February 19-21, 2020

## Hilton Palm Springs Hotel • Palm Springs • California

### 1:00 p.m. Hindsight is 2020

*Why did some projects not turn out the way they were intended? Why did some efforts miss the mark?*

- Malissa McKeith, President, CURE, Moderator
- Michael George, Delta Watermaster
- Steve Erie, Professor Emeritus, UC San Diego
- Kevin Hunt, General Manager, Central Basin Water District

### 2:15 p.m. Wild, Wild West Coast and Central Coast Groundwater Basin—a History

*The story of the Water Replenishment District's impressive history describes an evolutionary journey to meeting their customers needs today.*

- Rob Katherman, Board of Directors, Water Replenishment District, Moderator
- Mark Pestrella, Director, Los Angeles Public Works
- Robb Whitaker, General Manager, Water Replenishment District

### 3:00 p.m. Networking Break – Sponsored by Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

### 3:15 p.m. Just How Ugly Can Cyber Threats Be?

*What are the threats to utilities, what are ways to protect against the threats, who holds the secrets?*

- Dave Pedersen, General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Moderator
- Joseph Oregon, Cybersecurity Advisor, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
- Eric D. Conway, Global Leader Cyber, Jacobs

### 4:00 p.m. I've Seen Fire and I've Seen Rain

*First-hand experiences from utilities experiencing impacts of fire fighting response measures. Hear the Paradise Fire story—good and ugly.*

- Andree Hunt-Johnson, Sr. Water Resources Engineer, BAWSCA, Moderator
- Rob Kuta, Vice President, California Water Service
- Kevin Phillips, District Manager, Paradise Irrigation District
- George Barber, District Manager, Cal Water's Chico and Oroville Districts

### 5:30 p.m. Chairman's Reception – Sponsored by DUDEK (Plaza Ballroom)

## Friday, February 21, 2020

### 7:45 a.m. Registration, Networking, Exhibits & Buffet Breakfast – Sponsored by Meyers Nave (Horizon Ballroom)

***Chairman's Drawing: Don't miss out on your opportunity to win an Apple Watch. Please pick up your ticket at the registration desk.***

### Day 3 Program: Inside and Outside the Business of Water

#### 8:30 a.m. Opening Remarks

- Ane Deister, Executive Director, Urban Water Institute

#### 8:45 a.m. Filling Buckets with Talents, Time and Treasure

*Unsung heroes are helping people, communities and nations deliver clean, safe water where there is neither. Stories are inspirational and a tribute to those who give willingly to help others in need.*

- Matt Stone, General Manager, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Moderator
- Doug Headrick, Retired, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
- Kendall Dye, Board Member, Golf Fore Africa

#### 9:30 a.m. The State of the State Programs Affecting the Water Utilities Business

*The Delta Conveyance NOP on the street; Governor Newsom moving forward with sustainability. How do they affect utilities?*

- Rich Nagel, Vice President, Jacobs, Moderator
- Erik Ekdahl, Water Rights Division, State Water Resources Control Board
- Fiona Sanchez, Director of Water Resources, Irvine Ranch Water District



## Urban Water Institute's Spring Conference • February 19-21, 2020 Hilton Palm Springs Hotel • Palm Springs • California

### 10:15 a.m. Regional Reliability through Partnerships and Collaborations

*Meeting today's water demands sometimes takes a village—several organizations working with a combined commitment and mutual goals. Some examples will be shared.*

- Andree Hunt Johnson, Sr. Water Resources Engineer, BAWSCA, Moderator
- Maureen Martin, Special Projects Manager, Contra Costa Water District
- Amy Holm, Executive Director, The Climate Registry
- Brad Coffey, Group Manager of Water Resource Management, Metropolitan Water District
- Kirk Westphal, Water Resources Leader, Brown & Caldwell

### 11:15 a.m. Who's Swimming with the Sharks?

*It's 2020, twenty years into the 21st century, and while we fiddle with our smart phones, we're still struggling with how to bring new technology into our water and wastewater systems. "We've always done it this way" is our battle cry. But there continue to be brave folks trying to make things better for us and our customers. Welcome three of these intrepid entrepreneurs pitching their ideas in front of a panel of wizened water warriors. Sit back and enjoy today's trip into the Shark Tank!*

- Greg Quist, Board of Directors, Rincon del Diablo Water District, Moderator

### Shark Tank Presenters:

- Adam Stein, CEO, Advantageous Solutions
- Charles Jennings, General Manager, Jenfitch Inc.
- Dan Angelescu, CEO, Fluidion US Inc.

### Shark Tank Judges:

- Lisa Ohlund, General Manager, East Orange County Water District
- Bob Siemak, Assistant General Manager, Water Conservation District
- Cristina Ahmadpour, President, Isle Utilities

### Chairman's Raffle Drawing!

**Conference Adjourns**  
**Thank You For Joining Us!**