



**GLOBAL
CHALLENGES**



**LOCAL
SOLUTIONS**



2025 SPRING CONFERENCE

RIVIERA RESORT & SPA PALM SPRINGS
FEBRUARY 26-28, 2025

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITIES
12:00 - 1:00PM	REGISTRATION, NETWORKING & EXHIBITS
1:00 - 1:45PM 	OPENING KEYNOTE: WHAT'S NEW? MEET THE NEW HEAD OF LADWP <i>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is the nation's largest publicly-owned water and power utility. Ms. Quinones leads the organization of more than 11,000 employees, delivering water and power to the four million residents of Los Angeles.</i> Janisse Quinones, CEO and Chief Engineer, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power 10 minute Audience Q&A / 10 minute Meet the Speaker
1:50 - 3:00PM 	WATER: WET WATER, PAPER WATER, VIRTUAL WATER <i>A recent report released by NRDC found that more than 1,100 counties— one-third of all counties in the lower 48—will face higher risks of water shortages by mid-century as the result of global warming. More than 400 of these counties will face extremely high risks of water shortages. The speakers will focus on California's water situation.</i> Karla Nemeth, Director, California Department of Water Resources (Invited) Edward Ring, Director of Water & Energy Policy, California Policy Center Dr. Jay Lund, Vice Director, UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences <i>Moderator: Jason Phillips, UWI Board Secretary; CEO, Friant Water Authority</i> 10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers
3:00 - 3:10PM	BREAK



TIME	ACTIVITIES
<p data-bbox="175 730 378 758">3:10 - 4:15PM</p> 	<p data-bbox="496 581 1214 611">PFAS: NOT ONLY DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER</p> <p data-bbox="496 625 1455 724"><i>Where do we stand on PFAS regulations? Will there be a political tug of war between the past Executive branch administration and the incoming chair of the US Senate Environmental Committee on PFAS regulations?</i></p> <p data-bbox="496 770 1273 835">Dr. Kevin Morley, Federal Relations Manager, American Water Works Association</p> <p data-bbox="496 846 1390 945">Dr. Anna Reade, Director of PFAS Advocacy, Environmental Health Major General R. Mark Toy, USACE Ret., General Manager, Yorba Linda Water District</p> <p data-bbox="496 968 1442 1033"><i>Moderator:</i> Greg Newmark, UWI Board of Directors; Principal, Los Angeles Office Leader, Myers Nave</p> <p data-bbox="496 1073 1393 1102">10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers</p>
<p data-bbox="175 1381 378 1409">4:20 - 5:30PM</p> 	<p data-bbox="496 1245 1341 1310">GOING TO THE WELL TOO OFTEN – EVENTUALLY IT RUNS DRY</p> <p data-bbox="496 1325 1451 1423"><i>An insightful discussion regarding the critical issues surrounding the Colorado River’s water supplies and demands. This session will feature conversations on the current state of the river, and the challenges of balancing water resources.</i></p> <p data-bbox="496 1470 1414 1610">J.B. Hamby, Chairman of the Colorado River Board of California; State of California’s Colorado River Commissioner Representative Upper Basin TBD (Invited) Representative Federal Government (Invited)</p> <p data-bbox="496 1633 1455 1698"><i>Moderator:</i> Craig Miller, UWI Board of Directors; General Manager, Western Municipal Water District</p> <p data-bbox="496 1738 1393 1768">10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers</p>
<p data-bbox="175 1917 378 1944">5:45 - 7:00PM</p>	<p data-bbox="496 1917 854 1946">OPENING RECEPTION</p>

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 27, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITIES
8:00 - 8:45AM	BREAKFAST
8:45 - 9:55AM 	UNCERTAIN SUPPLIES, GROUNDWATER DEPLETION, RISING TEMPERATURES, REDUCED SNOW PACK – WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG? <i>Gound water depletion, farming demands, climate impacts... We ain't seen nothin' yet.</i> William Bordeaux, Executive Vice President, Harris Ranch Mayor Robert Silva, Mayor, City of Mendota (Invited) Dr. David Sunding, Graduate Professor, UC Berkeley College of Natural Resources (Invited) <i>Moderator: Jason Phillips, UWI Board Secretary; CEO, Friant Water Authority</i> 10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers
10:00 - 11:10AM 	LA IS ALL-IN ON RECYCLING <i>The UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation recently published a report on the resilience value of recycled water for Los Angeles. The November 2024 report found that Pure Water Los Angeles could prepare the City for an uncertain future by: (1) avoiding and protecting regional GDP impacts of \$81 billion; (2) avoiding water shortages totaling 1 million acre-feet; (3) improving local water resilience by 139%; and (4) reducing earthquake-driven shortage by 97%. Hear from the experts on how Pure Water Los Angeles could transform the City's water supply.</i> Dusty Ference, Executive Director, Kings County Farm Bureau Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board Paul Gosselin, Deputy Director of Sustainable Groundwater Management (Invited) <i>Moderator: David Pedersen 1st Vice Chair; General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District</i> 10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers



AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITIES
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11:15AM - 12:25PM



THE STIGMA OF SGMA

Ten years ago, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was passed by Governor Schwarzenegger as THE answer to California’s groundwater management challenges. Underneath the 10-year celebrations, a harsh reality is setting in that it may not be the cure everyone hoped for. This session looks under the hood of SGMA to examine some of the difficult facets of implementing the program.

Dusty Ference, Executive Director, Kings County Farm Bureau
Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
Paul Gosselin, Deputy Director of Sustainable Groundwater Management (Invited)

Moderator: Jennifer Persike, UWI Board of Directors; Founder/President, Jennifer Persike & Company

10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers

12:30 - 1:30PM LUNCH

1:30 - 2:00PM



COMMUNICATING THE VALUE OF WATER



Short panel presentation as an introduction to the ‘tasting’ that will occur at the cocktail reception.

Kelly Smith, Vice President of Communications and Marketing, Louisville Water
American Water Works Association, Denver (Invited)

Moderator: Darcy Burke, UWI Board Planning Chair; Director, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District


PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 27, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITIES
<p data-bbox="175 716 375 743">2:15 - 3:25PM</p> 	<p data-bbox="493 590 1097 617">SQUEEZING BLOOD OUT OF A ROCK</p> <p data-bbox="493 632 1468 772"><i>New water conservation mandates have put into place increasingly stringent water use targets and penalties. California has conserved a tremendous amount of water to-date. Additional water savings have been mandated, but are they attainable or are water providers being asked to squeeze blood out of a rock?</i></p> <p data-bbox="493 814 1419 955">David Mitchel, Adjunct Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California's Water Policy Center (Invited) Heather Cooley, Director of Research, Pacific Institute Additional panelist - name and position here</p> <p data-bbox="493 976 1468 1039"><i>Moderator: Andree Lee, UWI Board President; Vice President of Environment and Water, EKI Environment & Water</i></p> <p data-bbox="493 1081 1390 1108">10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers</p>
<p data-bbox="175 1360 375 1388">3:30 - 5:00PM</p> 	<p data-bbox="493 1262 1446 1331">THE FUTURE ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE – PLANNING FOR TOMORROW</p> <p data-bbox="493 1346 1484 1556"><i>The Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA or Alliance) is a coalition of water, energy, and education leaders working together to build and bolster career pathways to water and energy jobs for all California students. The Alliance is a collection of more than 200 professional organizations statewide, including water and energy agencies, departments of education, school districts, colleges, technical trade schools, and more. WEEA is administered and led by the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC).</i></p> <p data-bbox="493 1598 1419 1667">Tiffany Baca MWDOC, Public Affairs Manager, Municipal Water District of Orange County; Program Lead, Water Energy Education Alliance</p> <p data-bbox="493 1688 1495 1715"><i>Moderator: Paul Brown, UWI Board of Directors; President, Paul Redvers Brown</i></p>
<p data-bbox="175 1885 375 1913">5:15 - 6:30PM</p>	<p data-bbox="493 1864 954 1892">BOARD CHAIR'S RECEPTION</p> <p data-bbox="493 1906 1446 1934"><i>Introduction of the new Board Chair's Circle charter members; Bourbon tasting event</i></p>



Friday, February 28, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITIES
8:30 - 9:15AM	BREAKFAST
9:15 - 10:45AM 	<p>CALIFORNIA AT THE CROSSROADS: PEOPLE, POLITICS & POWER IN 2025</p> <p><i>How will the results of the 2024 elections impact the water industry? Find out from state and federal experts what we can expect in 2025.</i></p> <p>Eric Sapirstein, President, ENS Resources Townsend Public Affairs (Invited)</p> <p>10 minute Audience Q&A / 15 minute Meet the Speakers</p>