



33rd Annual Water Symposium • APRIL 17, 2025
COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT OXNARD

"Fire and Water: Collaborative Solutions for a Sustainable Tomorrow"

8:00 AWA GENERAL WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS – AWA PRESIDENT
SUSANNE COOPER, PE Civil Engineer and President - Jensen Design and Survey

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM OVERVIEW – AWA Committee Co-Chairs
SCOTT MECKSTROTH, PE General Manager – Ojai Valley Sanitary District
GREGORY J. PATTERSON, Partner –Musick Peeler & Garrett LLP

PROGRAM M/C

WANDA L. MOYER, Dep. Public Works Director/Environmental Compliance-City of Simi Valley/Waterworks Dist No 8

8:10 LOCAL WATERSHED ADJUDICATION / LEGAL UPDATES
Legal Developments and Watershed Adjudication

- Updates regarding local watershed legal case status.

GREGORY J. PATTERSON, Partner - Musick Peeler & Garrett LLP

8:20 MUTUAL WATER COMPANIES [CHALLENGES/SOLUTIONS/RESOURCES] (Panel)
Community Challenges and Solutions

- Collaborative efforts between mutual water companies and local communities in tackling water-related challenges.

PANEL SPEAKERS:

Moderator: ROBERT ERANIO, Director of the Board – California Assoc. of Mutual Water Companies

MIKE SULLIVAN–Essick Farm Management Company, LLC (Hermitage Mutual Water, etc.)

JOHN DICKENSON, President – Casitas Mutual Water Company

HELEN MCGRATH, Board Member – Southside Water Improvement District

JAMES GRAHAM, Board Member – Pleasant Valley Mutual Water Company

9:55 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WATER POLICY"

- "From Source to Statute: Updates on Water Legislation Bills"

KARINA CERVANTEZ, Managing Director - California Association of Mutual Water Companies

10:20 FIRE AND WATER (Panel)
Fire Preparedness and Water Management

- The intersection of wildfire risks and water resources, emphasizing strategies for preparedness and prevention.

Moderator • Session Introduction / Closing Remarks

DANIEL COHEN, Emergency Response Coordinator- Calleguas Municipal Water District

PANEL SPEAKERS

HISTORIC FIRE PATTERNS...WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED? UNDERSTANDING FIRE-CAUSED VEGETATION TYPE CONVERSION.

BRYANT BAKER, Director of Conservation and Research, Las Padres ForestWatch -Chaparral/Coastal Sage Scrub and Fire Ecology. Science behind weather and natural fuel for fires, and open space interaction with urban landscaping. *(Perspective from wilderness landscape Advocacy)*

FIRE AND WATER (Panel, Continued)

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? PREVENTION MEASURE PROPOSALS.

CHRIS DANCH, Executive Director, Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council

-Specific Actions Taken: Updated Fire Mapping for Ventura County Risk Areas (FRAP), Watersheds/Land Use Strategies.
(Perspective from preventative agency)

INFORMATION SHARING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATION

DANIEL COHEN, Emergency Response Coordinator- Calleguas Municipal Water District

-Ventura County strong! Mutual Aide and Collaboration. Mountain Fire Incident Response to Mutual Water Companies.
(Prospective from a water provider)

11:25 MORNING SESSION CLOSING

11:30 BREAK / LUNCH SETUP / VENDOR EXHIBITS

12:00 LUNCH (Ballroom doors re-open)

12:15 AWA ANNOUNCEMENTS/INTRODUCTIONS/AWARDS

The Annual John Flynn Water Award (Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency Presents)

The Annual Richard V. Laubacher Water Award (United Water Conservation District Presents)

12:30 WELCOME TO CLOSING SESSION WANDA MOYER

12:35 SUCCESSFUL WATER PROJECTS ... OUR FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT (Panel)

Innovation and Collaboration

- Long-term sustainability and the promising horizon for water resource management.

“LIGHTNING ROUND” PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Successful local water projects and planned infrastructure updates

1. **Session Introduction BRAM SERCU, PhD** Principal Hydrologist, United Water Conservation District
2. **City of Ventura GINA DORRINGTON**, General Manager, Ventura Water - Ventura WaterPure, State Water Interconnection
3. **City of Oxnard TIM BEAMAN, PE**, Asst. Public Works Director – Groundwater Recovery Enhancement & Treatment (GREAT) project updates, Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) project
4. **United Water Conservation District MARYAM BRAL, PhD, PE**, Asst. General Manager – Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement, Freeman Diversion Conveyance System Upgrade, Recycled Water Interconnection Pipeline, Extraction Barrier & Brackish Water Treatment (EBB)
5. **Calleguas Municipal Water District FERNANDO BAEZ, PE**, Eng. Mgr. – Salinity Management Pipeline, Calleguas-Las Virgenes interconnection
6. **Las Virgenes Municipal Water District JOE MCDERMOTT, PE** Assistant General Manager – OceanWell Endeavor Project
7. **Q&A** for all Agencies

1:25 SYMPOSIUM CLOSING REMARKS - WANDA MOYER

1:30 EXHIBITOR DOOR PRIZE DRAWING/ADJOURN – SUSANNE COOPER, AWA President