

ACWA LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM

MARCH 14, 2018 • SACRAMENTO CONVENTION CENTER 2018

AGENDA

9:00 - 9:30 AM

Registration and Continental Breakfast

Meeting Room #202 / Sacramento Convention Center

9:30 - 9:40 AM

Welcome Remarks

Brent Hastey, ACWA President

Brian Poulsen, Chair, ACWA State Legislative Committee

9:40 - 9:45 AM

ACWA Outreach Program Update

Cristel Tufenkjian, Director of External Affairs, Kings River Conservation District

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Legislation to Fund Safe Drinking Water

This program will delve into state legislation intended to fill gaps in safe drinking water funding. Hear why the proponents of SB 623 (Monning) are advancing the proposed tax on drinking water and why some in Agriculture are suggesting fees on fertilizers and dairies. Learn the latest on the process – whether it will involve a policy bill or a budget trailer bill or both. Hear more about ACWA's concerns about the proposal and thinking behind the alternative approach that does not include a tax on drinking water.

Moderator:

Cindy Tuck, Deputy Executive Director for Government Relations, ACWA

Panelists:

Senator William W. Monning (D-Carmel), California Senate Majority Floor Leader

Debby Cherney, Deputy General Manager, Eastern Municipal Water District

Ed Manning, Partner, KP Public Affairs

Dave Puglia, Executive Vice President, Western Growers

10:45 - 11:00 AM

Break

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The background of the top section of the page features a photograph of the California State Capitol dome, which is partially obscured by a teal and blue geometric overlay. The word "AGENDA" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, and the word "continued" is written in a smaller, white, lowercase, sans-serif font to its right.

AGENDA continued

11:00 AM - Noon

Can't We Just Put the Water in the Ground?

Water Code Section 1242 states the following: The storing of water underground, including the diversion of streams and the flowing of water on lands necessary to the accomplishment of such storage, constitutes a beneficial use of water if the water so stored is thereafter applied to the beneficial purposes for which the appropriation for storage was made.

In the 2011 policy document, "Sustainability from the Ground up: Groundwater Management in California - A Framework," ACWA recommended that the state of California "designate the use of surface water for groundwater recharge as a beneficial use." The recommendation further stated, the "designation should apply even when there is no plan for future extraction of the water, as long as it is consistent with an SB 1938 groundwater management plan (or the functional equivalent)."

In more recent years, bills authored by Assembly Member Eggman (D-Stockton) have sought to declare groundwater recharge as a beneficial use, but each of those efforts have been met by opposition. In an effort to find an approach that allows entities to recharge groundwater while protecting the water rights of others, ACWA has convened a workgroup to bridge that divide. The workgroup is currently discussing 1) how to define when surface water is in 'excess conditions' and 2) a streamlined administrative permitting process to divert water for underground storage when in excess conditions.

This panel will discuss the evolution of simply declaring groundwater recharge as beneficial use to the excess conditions proposal the workgroup is currently contemplating, and how it will help to improve the health of groundwater basins regardless of whether there is a plan for future extraction of the water, for purposes including, but not limited to, mitigation of overdraft, seawater intrusion, water quality problems and land subsidence.

Panelists:

Susan Eggman, California Assembly Member, District 13 (Invited)

David Aladjem, Partner, Downey Brand

Ryan Bezerra, Partner, Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan

Stefanie Morris, Partner, Best Best & Krieger

NOON - 1:30 PM

Luncheon Program

Meeting Room #203 / Sacramento Convention Center

A conversation with Assemblymember Anna Caballero (D-Salinas) and ACWA Executive Director Timothy Quinn

1:30 - 4:30 PM

Outreach Opportunity

Here's your chance to participate in grassroots outreach by scheduling a meeting with your own local State Senator and/or State Assembly member in their Sacramento offices in advance across the street in the Capitol, after the Symposium.

Programs are subject to change without notice.

Attendance at this event by a public official will constitute acceptance of a reportable gift.