



ACWA LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM

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Joaquin Arambula

Dr. Joaquin Arambula was first elected in 2016 to represent the 31st Assembly District in the Central Valley. He is the first Latino physician elected to the California State Assembly. He proudly represents a district that includes 41 percent of the city of Fresno as well as all the rural cities and communities in Fresno County.

Arambula's experiences as an emergency room doctor in Selma in Fresno County forged his determination to improve health care for all people, especially the most vulnerable. He saw the emotional and financial hardships of people struggling with illnesses that could have been prevented with access to quality health care.

Arambula believes health care is a fundamental human right. Since his election, he has been a forceful advocate in addressing the dire shortage of doctors and other health care professionals in the Central Valley. He has authored legislation that improves health and mental health services, but he also has been vigilant to include measures that ensure transparency regarding management of these services and their costs.

In addition, Arambula is fighting to bring more water to the Central Valley by calling for the construction of the Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir and championing legislation for groundwater recharge projects. He also has worked diligently for improvements in other areas, including public safety, job development, and support for veterans and service members.

As the 31st Assembly District representative, Arambula has successfully obtained millions of dollars to benefit communities in the district. These efforts include securing \$70 million for Transformative Climate Communities to invest in disadvantaged communities; \$18 million for State Route 269 in Huron; \$10.5 million to improve public safety in the cities of Selma, Huron, Firebaugh and Mendota; and \$6 million for the CalFood Program to assist local food banks in combating hunger, among other projects.

Arambula was born in Delano, the heart of the farmworker movement, and grew up in Fresno, where he attended public schools. He is a graduate of Bowdoin College in Maine and the University of Minnesota Medical School. Following graduation, he chose to return to Fresno to serve his community as a doctor.

His parents, Juan and Amy Arambula, instilled in their children a commitment to hard work, purpose and public service. Juan is a former Assembly member, and Amy is a health care advocate.

Dr. Joaquin Arambula and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Fresno with their three daughters.

Casey Creamer

Casey is the President/CEO at California Citrus Mutual. He was named to that position on February 1st after serving as the Executive Vice President for the past year. Prior to coming to CCM, he served in senior positions with the Kings River Conservation District and the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association.

During his time working at Kings River, he was a member of ACWA's Federal Affairs and Water Quality Committees. He was also very active in the CV-SALTS process, ran the Kings River Water Quality Coalition, and chaired the Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition.

Casey graduated from California State University Fresno, with a degree in Business Administration with a Marketing option. He is also a graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership Program. Casey and his wife Megan live in Clovis, with their three daughters.

Erik Ekdahl

Erik Ekdahl is the Deputy Director for the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights. The Division is responsible for establishing and maintaining a stable system of water rights to develop, conserve, and use the water resources of the State, while protecting vested rights, water quality, and the environment. Erik joined the State Water Board in 2008, where he focused on nitrate and groundwater contamination. He has worked in the Board's Division of Financial Assistance, Division of Water Quality, and as Director for the Board's Office of Research, Planning and Performance, which is responsible for developing and implementing the Board's requirements under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Erik is a licensed Engineering Geologist, with a Ph.D in Geology from the University of Michigan.

Paul D. Jones II, P.E.

Paul D. Jones II is the general manager of the Eastern Municipal Water District which provides water, wastewater and recycled water services to 830,000 residents in western Riverside County. He has served in that capacity since July 2011. Previously, Jones served for 12 years as the general manager of Irvine Ranch Water District in Orange County. Jones has over 27 years of experience in the water industry and engineering field in both the public and private sectors, and has focused his career on innovations in water supply portfolio diversity, water recycling, renewable energy management, environmental sustainability and water use efficiency.

Jones is currently the President of the Board of the national WaterReuse Association, and is on the Board of Trustees and a past President of WaterReuse California. These organizations advocate for sustainable water resources and support research at a national and state level, representing over 490 utilities, professional consulting firms and technology suppliers in 20 states. He also serves on the Board of the Southern California Water Committee, and chairs the Riverside County Water Task Force. Jones was formerly a member of the City of Tustin Planning Commission, and is a past President of the Board of the Nature Reserve of Orange County (now the Natural Communities Coalition) which coordinates resource management, monitoring and research across the nearly 38,000 acre Orange County natural reserve system. In 2014, Jones was recognized by the Association of California Water Agencies with its Excellence in Water Leadership Award.

Jones received his Bachelor of Science degree with honors in civil engineering with an emphasis in water resources from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in 1982. He is a licensed Professional Civil Engineer in the State of California and a member of the National Engineering Honor Society, Tau Beta Pi.

Brian Poulsen

Brian Poulsen is General Counsel at El Dorado Irrigation District. He currently serves as Chair of the ACWA State Legislative Committee and is a member of the ACWA Legal Affairs Committee.

Adam Quiñonez

Adam Quiñonez began his career at ACWA in 2018. As Senior Legislative Advocate, Adam's portfolio includes state budget, groundwater, water quality, water conservation, and energy.

Prior to joining ACWA, Adam served in Governor Brown's administration as Legislative Director at the Department of Consumer Affairs where he had previously served as Assistant Legislative Director since 2015. At the Department of Consumer Affairs Adam worked on a number of issues related to consumer protection and led in the development of a medical cannabis regulatory framework in California.

Adam brings over a decade of state legislative experience having worked at several state departments and agencies in his career. Adam received a Bachelor of Arts from U.C. Davis and lives in Sacramento with his wife, Nicole, and two sons Harrison and Beckett.

Phoebe Seaton

Phoebe Seaton Co-founded and Co-Directs Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability with Veronica Garibay. Leadership Counsel is a community-based advocacy organization focused on the intersecting issues of water, land use, climate, housing, transportation, energy, civil rights and environmental justice. The organization is headquartered in Fresno with offices in Kern County, Riverside County and the State Capital. Phoebe is based in Sacramento and oversees the state policy portfolio and legal advocacy. Prior to co-founding Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, Phoebe led the Community Equity Initiative at California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. Phoebe received her B. A. in History from UC Berkeley and J.D. from UCLA. Prior to receiving her J.D., Phoebe spent time in Guatemala working on national and international human rights and economic justice issues.

Senator Henry Stern

A sixth-generation Californian with family roots in agriculture and entertainment, Senator Stern was elected to represent the 27th Senate District, which includes parts of Los Angeles and Ventura counties, in 2016. A former civics teacher and environmental lawyer, Stern is the first millennial elected to the California State Senate. He enjoys volunteering at his local Boys & Girls Club, hiking, surfing and cooking. Stern is an alumnus of Harvard University and UC Berkeley Law.

Cindy Tuck

Cindy Tuck joined ACWA in March 2011 as State Legislative Director. In this position, she led the association's State Legislative Department and, together with ACWA's other two advocates, represented the interests of ACWA members before the California Legislature and at the Governor's office. In 2012, she became Deputy Executive Director for Government Relations overseeing the Federal Relations Department, State Legislative Relations Department, and the State Regulatory Relations Department. Cindy's Legislative portfolio includes water bonds, the Delta, and drinking water.

Cindy has three decades of experience developing and implementing legislation and regulations involving water and environmental issues. Prior to joining ACWA, she served as Undersecretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA). In that role she was the senior policy advisor to the Secretary for Environmental Protection under Governors Schwarzenegger and Brown. She also oversaw the administration of the Agency, including the Agency's budget of over \$1.5 billion. She represented California on the Environmental Council of the States and served as the Agency's liaison to the State Water Resources Control Board.

Cindy is a licensed professional engineer and an attorney. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering and a Master of Science degree in environmental engineering, both from the University of Illinois. She also holds a Juris Doctorate degree from McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific and is a member of the State Bar. She is an alumna of Leadership California. In her spare time, Cindy enjoys travel and photography.

John K. Woodling

After more than 30 years of providing innovative leadership with state, federal, and local agencies, John Woodling recently joined the staff of GEI Consultants. He is currently Chairperson of the ACWA Groundwater Committee, and has been a key influencer on development of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the implementing regulations. He previously served as Executive Director of the Regional Water Authority, a coalition of two dozen water purveyors and associated agencies in the greater Sacramento area. He also led the Sacramento Groundwater Authority, responsible for sustainably managing the groundwater basin in northern Sacramento County. For nearly a decade, Mr. Woodling managed groundwater programs of the California Department of Water Resources, as well as directing development of the Integrated Regional Water Management Program. He is a licensed professional geologist, certified engineering geologist, and certified hydrogeologist in California, and holds a bachelor's degree in geology and a master's in hydrogeology.