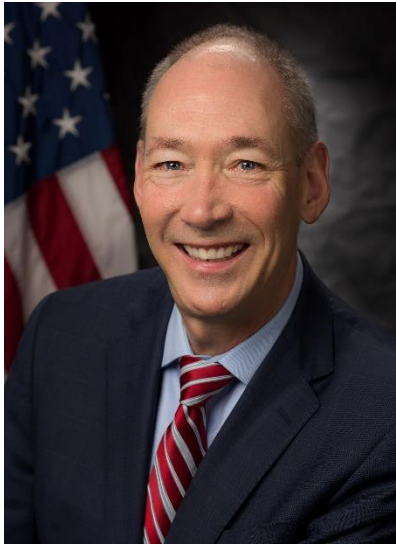




Alex Padilla
U.S. Senator (D-CA)

Senator Alex Padilla, a progressive problem-solver, is the first Latino to represent California in the U.S. Senate. He was appointed in January 2021 to complete the Senate term of Vice President Kamala Harris. The son of immigrants, Padilla grew up in the San Fernando Valley and studied Mechanical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was drawn to politics in response to California's anti-immigrant Proposition 187. Padilla was elected to the Los Angeles City Council in 1999 and the State Senate in 2006. As California's Secretary of State, he oversaw a historic expansion of voting rights and voter participation.

Padilla serves as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety. He is a member of the Senate Committees on Budget; Environment and Public Works; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Judiciary; and Rules. Padilla lives in the San Fernando Valley with his wife, Angela, and their three sons, Roman, Alex and Diego.



Bruno Pigott
Environmental
Protection Agency

Bruno Pigott is Deputy Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water. The Office of Water works to ensure that drinking water is safe, wastewater is safely returned to the environment, and surface waters are properly managed and protected.

Prior to joining EPA, Bruno held multiple roles at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, serving most recently as the Commissioner, Agency Chief of Staff, and Assistant Commissioner in the Office of Water Quality. He started his state service as chief of the State Revolving Loan Fund Program in Indiana.

Bruno holds a bachelor's degree in political theory and economics from James Madison College at Michigan State University and a master's degree in public and environmental affairs from Indian University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs.



**Deputy Commissioner
David Palumbo
Bureau of Reclamation**

David Palumbo is the Bureau of Reclamation's Deputy Commissioner of Operations. In that role he has leadership accountability for the environmentally and economically sound delivery of water and power to the 17 western states served by Reclamation.

David oversees operations in Reclamation's five regions, the Native American and International Affairs Office, and the Chief Engineer Directorate, which manages the Technical Service Center, Hydropower Office, Dam Safety and Infrastructure Office, and Research & Development Office.

Prior to his current position, David served as the Deputy Regional Director in Reclamation's Lower Colorado Basin Region. In this role he oversaw critical water and power programs, including Hoover Dam operations, led Native American activities related to fulfilling Tribal trust responsibilities and implementing Indian water rights settlements, and managed complex design and construction activities.

David joined Reclamation in 2005 and has held a variety of leadership positions. Working collaboratively with water users, power contractors, Tribal nations, non-governmental organizations, and international partners, he has been responsible for multiple water and power resource management, conservation, drought resiliency, and climate change adaptation and mitigation focused projects, programs, and policies.

Prior to joining Reclamation, David worked in the private sector managing engineering and operations for



manufacturing, water, energy, and research and development programs, including a joint venture with Canada's Hydro-Quebec.

He has received two of the Department of the Interior's highest honors for career employees, as well as Presidential Rank Award, and was selected as Reclamation's Engineer of the Year in 2008.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics from Columbia University. He also earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from the University of Notre Dame and a Master of Arts degree in English Literature from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is a licensed professional civil engineer in California and a certified project management professional.



**Associate Deputy Chief
John Crockett
US Forest Service**

Associate Deputy Chief, John's portfolio includes oversight of several key Forest Service offices focused on Tribal relations, urban and community forestry, wood innovations, landowner assistance and the Grey Towers National Historic Site, the former home of the first Chief of the Forest Service Gifford Pinchot.

John's work takes advantage of his keen sense of collaboration with individuals and key partners, such as The Nature Conservancy, National Forest Foundation, and Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition. John also has increased the relationship between the agency and tribes through co-stewardship efforts that ensure their full participation in decisions that affect tribal trust and ceded lands.

Internationally, John served as the Forest Service liaison for the agency's Bonn Challenge commitments and represented the Agency on the Global Partnership for Forest Landscape Restoration committee. Since its inception in 2014, he has served as an advisor/speaker in the Forest Service International Seminar on Forest Landscape Restoration.

During his decades-long career that began in 1997, John launched several projects as a district ranger on the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina, including the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, a program he later led at the national level as deputy director of Forest Management.

He kick-started the initial work for the Forest Products Modernization effort, an initiative to better align Forest Service culture, policies, and procedures with current and future forest restoration needs. His work includes



consideration of and collaboration with the research community as the agency continues to address global issues such as a changing climate.

John's passion for the outdoors and personal and professional support of public lands is shown through his determination to connect with, influence and diversify the next generation of land stewards. Those connections, some spanning decades, are where John shares his lifelong learning as a mentor to a broad spectrum of people, whether by gender, age, ethnicity or background.

A native of Alabama, John earned a forest management degree in 1998 from Alabama A&M University. He grew up in rural Alabama and is married with three children, with whom he enjoys outdoor activities and travel.



Alexa Williams
House Transportation
and Infrastructure
Committee (Maj.)

Alexa Williams is a Boston-area native with a degree in Environmental Studies and Chemistry. She has lived and worked in Washington DC since 2017. Alexa works as Professional Staff for the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which is chaired by Rep. Peter DeFazio of Oregon.

For the last 3 years, Alexa has worked specifically for the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, which is chaired by Rep. Grace Napolitano of California. In her time with the Committee, Alexa has worked on wastewater, environmental, and Army Corps of Engineers policy and legislation. This includes passage into law of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, The Protect and Restore America's Estuaries Act, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law).



Ryan Hambleton
House Transportation
and Infrastructure
Committee (Min.)

Ryan Hambleton joined the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as minority staff director of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee in March of 2021. The primary areas of jurisdiction of the subcommittee include the clean water programs and water infrastructure, mostly conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, respectively.

Before taking that position, he was at the U.S. Department of the Interior as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, where he helped oversee and provide direction to the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Prior to that, he was on the staff of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, most recently as staff director of Subcommittee on Interior, Energy and Environment. Finally, before that, he worked on energy, environment, and other issues on the staffs of U.S. Senators Jim Bunning of Kentucky and Bob Smith of New Hampshire. Ryan is a graduate of Colby College in Waterville, Maine and a native of the Seacoast Region of New Hampshire.



John Watts
Senator Feinstein Senior
Policy Advisor

John Watts is Senator Feinstein's Senior Counselor and lead staffer on water policy and Indian affairs. He has worked for Senator Feinstein since January 2003.

Previously, John served as committee staff experience as a Counsel on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources from June 2001 to December 2002. He served as a trial attorney in the Environment and Natural Resources Division at the U.S. Department of Justice from 1995 to 2001.

The University of California at Berkeley granted John both his J.D. (1994), Order of the Coif, and his Master of City Planning degree (1991). He previously earned his B.A. Cum Laude in History from Princeton University.



Jolene Walsh
Eastern Municipal
Water District

Jolene Walsh, a southern California native, is the Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs at Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) where she has worked on water policy since 2000. She is actively involved in securing extensive federal and state funding for EMWD's many capital improvement projects, especially projects that promote sustainability, like recycled water and groundwater desalination infrastructure. As a fervent advocate for arid west water issues, Jolene is the Vice Chair of ACWA's Federal Affairs Committee, treasurer of the Western Urban Water Coalition, and represents EMWD on many other federal affairs committees for national and state associations. She is active an active advocate on many water policy issues, but is best known for her work on Waters of the United States and the Clean Water Act.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Geology from UC Santa Cruz, a Master of Business Administration and is a graduate of the Water Education Foundation's Water Leaders Program. Prior to starting her career, Jolene lived in Jamaica serving on water and sanitation projects for the U.S. Peace Corps. In her free time she enjoys cycling, running, and outdoor adventures with her family.



Abby Schneider
Metropolitan Water
District of Southern
California

Abby Schneider is the Executive Legislative Representative for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Abby joined Metropolitan at the beginning of the pandemic in April 2020 and immediately went to work advocating for federal funding for water infrastructure. She was actively involved in the creation of a new grant program to fund large recycled water projects in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Abby has long been involved in California water issues. Prior to joining Metropolitan, Abby worked for Association of California Water Agencies as their Senior Federal Affairs Representative for more than a decade. Before that, she was a science fellow for Senator Dianne Feinstein. Abby has an undergraduate degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and a Masters and Doctorate in Marine Estuarine and Environmental Science.



Ana Schwab
Best, Best & Krieger

Director of Government Relations Ana D. Schwab works with communities, special districts and stakeholders on matters regarding water, wastewater, environmental and infrastructure issues. Ana draws on her years of experience working in Washington, D.C. to track, advance and guide the development of legislative and regulatory language to build solutions for clients. Ana utilizes the nexus of legal, policy, funding and regulatory processes to advance clients' goals.

Accomplishments include playing an instrumental role in the passage of land transfer legislation and amendments to legislation regarding primary water and infrastructure funding and regulatory policy, as well as other pieces of legislation and amendments. Additionally, Ana secured federal funding for water, wastewater and recycling projects. She works with key stakeholders on developing funding and infrastructure solutions for cross-border water pollution.

Before joining Best Best & Krieger LLP, Ana served as a legislative coordinator and legislative assistant at two national law firms. She also served as professional staff for two members of the U.S. House of Representatives.



Laura Morgan Kessler
Carpi & Clay

Laura Morgan-Kessler, a southern Californian native, brings 20 years of experience advocating for public agency clients on a wide range of issues including water quality and infrastructure, natural resources, and the environment. Laura is known for developing partnerships with clients, and her dedication to – and passion for – their issues has proven to be an effective combination for success.

Previously, Laura worked on Capitol Hill as a legislative staff member for Senator Dianne Feinstein. During her tenure with the Senator, she focused her efforts on issues of importance to Californians such as transportation, water, energy, and the environment. She also supported the Senator’s Energy and Natural Resources Committee portfolio.

She currently serves as a Board Member for Women in Government Relations, where she serves as the Chair of the Congressional Outreach Committee, as well as a member of the Transportation & Infrastructure Task Force and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Laura graduated from Wake Forest University with a Bachelor of Arts in political science with a minor in sociology.



Sara Tucker
Natural Resource
Results

Sara joined Natural Resource Results in September 2014 after serving as a Senior Professional Staff Member on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. She worked for three consecutive Chairs – Senator Bingaman, Senator Wyden and Senator Landrieu.

Sara's portfolio included public lands and water issues and she was the lead staff for the Water and Power Subcommittee first under the leadership of Senator Shaheen and subsequently Senator Schatz. Sara was responsible for covering the Bureau of Reclamation's budget, policies and programs. Sara also staffed the National Parks Subcommittee under the leadership of Senator Mark Udall.

Prior to joining the Committee, Sara served as the Director of Government Affairs at Trout Unlimited where she worked on western water issues and public lands conservation.

She received her master's in environmental policy from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's of science from Cornell University. She is originally from Philadelphia and lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband and children.