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Dale Nellor
National Water
Resources Association

Dale Nellor is the Executive Vice President of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA).

A Nebraska native, Dale has more than 20 years of public policy experience working with the legislative and executive branches in Washington DC. With a focus on agriculture, rural policies, and appropriations – Dale previously served as an advisor to Senator Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, led the government affairs team for the American Meat Institute, managed the legislative affairs efforts for USDA Rural Development, and most recently was the Vice President of Government and Technical Affairs for the North American Millers' Association.

Nellor was raised on a diversified row crop and livestock operation in Northeast Nebraska, which he remains active in today. He graduated from Concordia University of Wisconsin in 2001 with a B.S. in Business Management. He lives in Annandale, Virginia with his wife Dianne and their two sons.



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Tom Dobbins
Association of
Metropolitan Water
Agencies

Tom Dobbins is the CEO of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies.

An experienced association executive, Dobbins served as CEO of the Aluminum Association and the American Composites Manufacturers Association and led the government affairs program at the American Council of Engineering Companies. He also held senior roles on Capitol Hill and in the executive branch. At prior associations, Dobbins has been instrumental in driving organizational growth and working with Congress to pass several infrastructure laws.

Tom Dobbins is a member of the American Society of Association Executives and is a Certified Association Executive.



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Nate Norris
American Water Works
Association

Nate Norris currently serves as Manager of Legislative Affairs in AWWA's Government Affairs office. In this role, he supports implementation of AWWA's legislative priorities, with a particular focus on federal appropriations, water infrastructure, and emerging contaminants.

Prior to AWWA, Nate worked at the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the White House Office of Legislative Affairs.



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Erin Huston
California Farm Bureau

Erin Huston is a federal policy consultant for the California Farm Bureau Federation, California's largest farm organization whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the state. Erin has over eighteen years of federal and state legislative and regulatory experience specializing in agriculture and natural resource policy.

Prior to working on behalf of California Farm Bureau Federation, Erin completed projects for the California Water Foundation and served as the Agriculture Affairs Director for the Irrigation Association where she oversaw the association's agricultural policy and member initiatives. In addition, Erin previously served as the California Government Affairs Manager for Western Growers where she lobbied the California State Legislature and regulatory bodies.

Erin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Erin is also a graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership Program.



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Gary Gold
Department of the
Interior

Gary Gold serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Gary is an attorney and engineer who focuses his work on water resources. He has led a variety initiatives including water rights settlements, ecosystem restoration efforts, and infrastructure projects focused on drought resilience. In his role as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Gary provides leadership and oversight to the Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Geological Survey.



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David French
ENS Resources

David French joined ENS Resources in 2000. As a Senior Vice President, he works closely with local government clients to develop and implement strategies for legislative and regulatory programs and policy initiatives.

In the area of watersheds/forest health/water infrastructure, French has helped to secure over \$30 million in federal funding for the Tahoe Water for Fire Suppression Partnership to improve water distribution systems and regional interconnectivity to better respond to wildfires.

In addition, he works closely with the Placer County Water Agency to obtain federal funding and support by the congressional delegation for the French Meadow Forest Restoration Project.

Before joining ENS, Mr. French spent more than 15 years working on behalf of California communities in the following positions: Director of Governmental Affairs for the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Rural Affairs Liaison for California Governor Pete Wilson, and Professional Staff to California State Senator Tim Leslie.



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Jordan Smith
Van Ness Feldman

Jordan Smith is a Principal at Van Ness Feldman who has 25 years of experience providing public policy advice and representation on federal legislative and regulatory issues, with special emphasis on energy, environmental, natural resource, and healthcare matters. He offers advocacy, strategic planning, and political communication expertise on issues related to the Endangered Species Act, land and water resource matters, next-generation advanced climate technologies, healthcare policy, and the federal budget and appropriations process.

Jordan's experience includes developing and leading education and advocacy coalitions central to some of the most challenging public policy debates in the U.S. and across the globe. He serves as Executive Director of the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition (NESARC) and coordinates a broad coalition of water management agencies and organizations dedicated to improved precipitation forecasting in the western U.S.



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Laura Morgan Kessler
Carpi & Clay

Laura Morgan-Kessler, a Partner at Carpi & Clay, brings 20 years of experience advocating for public agency clients on a wide range of issues including water quality and infrastructure, economic development, homeland security, energy, natural resources, and the environment. Born and raised in Southern California, Laura has focused her career on working on behalf of Californians.

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. She provides them with timely and strategic intelligence on congressional and federal agency actions and helps develop and implement federal advocacy strategies. She maintains strong working relationships with Members of Congress and their staff, congressional committees, and federal agencies including the Bureau of Reclamation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of Energy. She also works closely with regional and national organizations such as the Association of California Water Agencies.

One of Laura's proudest professional accomplishments is the work she did on behalf of several of her local government clients to lead the successful effort to remove the residual risk provision from the National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization bill. The residual risk mandate would have been costly to residents and businesses, thwarted economic development, and discouraged local investment in flood control measures. With the absence of specific policy at the National Association of Counties, the National Leagues of Cities, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Laura worked to



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combat this provision and won a floor amendment in the House and a procedural victory in the Senate to strike the provision from the final bill.

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.

Laura currently serves on the Board of Directors for Women in Government Relations, the premier, non-partisan professional organization for women in the government relations field. Previously, she has served as the Chair of the Congressional Outreach Committee and Co-Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Task Force.

Laura graduated from Wake Forest University with a Bachelor of Arts in political science with a minor in sociology.



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Camille Touton
Bureau of Reclamation

Camille Calimlim Touton was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on November 4, 2021, as the 24th commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation.

Commissioner Touton returned to the Department of the Interior in January with the Biden-Harris Administration as Reclamation's deputy commissioner, serving in that capacity until her confirmation.

Prior to her appointment as deputy commissioner, she served as professional staff for the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. She was the staff lead on the resiliency provisions enacted as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020.

Commissioner Touton's congressional experience also includes serving as professional staff for Interior's authorization committees – the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee. She also served as Interior's deputy assistant secretary for Water and Science under the Obama Administration.

She is only the second U.S. Senate-confirmed female commissioner in Reclamation's 119-year history and the first Filipino American confirmed by the Senate to lead a bureau in the Department of the Interior.

Commissioner Touton earned a Master of Public Policy from George Mason University and Bachelor of Science in civil engineering and Bachelor of Arts in communication studies from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



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The Bureau of Reclamation is a contemporary water management agency and the largest wholesale provider of water in the country. It brings water to more than 31 million people and provides one out of five Western farmers with irrigation water for farmland that produces much of the nation's produce. Reclamation is also the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the country.



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Radhika Fox
Environmental
Protection Agency

Radhika Fox is the 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 properly returned to the environment, and surface waters are well managed and protected.

Prior to joining EPA, Radhika served as Chief Executive Officer for the U.S. Water Alliance, Director for policy and government affairs for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and the Federal Policy Director at PolicyLink. She is using her 20+ years of experience to address the most salient water issues at Office of Water by implementing the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, launching the most robust technical assistance program from Office of Water and meeting the commitments of the PFAS Strategic Roadmap.

Radhika holds a B.A. from Columbia University and a Master's in City and Regional Planning from the University of California at Berkeley where she was a HUD Community Development Fellow.



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Rob Harper
U.S. Forest Service

Since January 2014, Robert has been the Forest Service's National Director for Biological and Physical Resources in Washington D.C. Rob has also held assignments in the headquarters office as Staff Assistant to the Deputy Chief, co-lead for work force diversity issues in the Chief's Office and as an Assistant Director for Forest Management.

During his 32 years with the Forest Service, Rob has worked in a variety of positions and locations around the country (California, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Minnesota, and Washington DC). Many of his roles have included responsibilities for water, fish, and wildlife as either a staff specialist or line officer. In his current position Rob and his team provide leadership to the conservation of water and aquatic resources, and a variety of wildlife and threatened and endangered species issues through coordination with States, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many partners.

Prior to arriving in Washington in 2010, Rob was the Forest Supervisor on the Chippewa National Forest in northern Minnesota where he focused on tribal relations, forest management, and travel planning issues. He worked as a District Ranger in Montana on the Lolo National Forest where he worked on community collaboration, forest planning and restoration projects. Rob also led efforts to secure federal reserved water rights for the national forests in Montana.

Rob began his professional career as a research hydrologist for National Weather Service in Washington DC, and after a short time returned to the Forest Service in northern Idaho as a district hydrologist. Rob worked much of his way through college as a firefighter in northern California and Smokejumper



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in Oregon, and he grew up near the Hiawatha National Forest in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Rob holds an MS in the Geological Sciences, with an emphasis on glacial geology and groundwater, from Indiana University and B.S. in Geology from Lake Superior State University in Michigan.



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

Senator Alex Padilla, a progressive problem-solver, is the first Latino elected to represent California in the U.S. Senate. 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. As United States Senator, Padilla has taken action to cut costs for families, combat the climate crisis, and help thousands of Californians secure millions of dollars owed to them by federal agencies.

Padilla currently 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.



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California 13th
Rep. John Duarte (R)

Congressman John Duarte is a fourth-generation farmer and nurseryman who proudly calls Modesto, California home. He and his wife, Alexandra, are proud winegrape and almond growers and operate John's family business, Duarte Nursery.

Currently serving in his first term in the House representing California's 13th District, the Congressman serves on three committees: Agriculture, Transportation & Infrastructure, and Natural Resources. John is using his platform to fight for working families, water rights, and food producers being squeezed by Washington.

His interest in agribusiness was influenced by his upbringing working in his parent's nursery. Congressman Duarte understands the importance of an experienced and available agricultural workforce and the constraints faced by both employers and employees under today's regulations.



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California 41st
Rep. Ken Calvert (R)

Ken Calvert, a lifelong resident of Riverside County and 17-year small business owner in the restaurant and real estate industries, represents the 41st Congressional District of southern California. Calvert was born on June 8, 1953 and attended neighborhood public schools, graduating from Corona High School in 1971. He attended two years at Chaffey College and then enrolled at San Diego State University, where he graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. Throughout his life, Ken has been actively involved and served in leadership roles with several local community volunteer organizations, including the Corona Chamber of Commerce, the Corona Rotary, and the Corona-Norco Family YMCA.

The 41st District stretches across Riverside County including the cities of Corona, Norco, Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, Canyon Lake, Menifee, Calimesa, Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, La Quinta, Indian Wells, and portions of Eastvale and Riverside.

Rep. Calvert was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1992 and is one of the most senior members serving in the legislative body. Rep. Calvert is the Dean of the California Republican Delegation.

In the 118th Congress, Rep. Calvert continues to serve on the House Appropriations Committee. Rep. Calvert serves as the Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. He also sits on the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee.

In the 118th Congress, Rep. Calvert's legislative priorities includes: enacting pro-growth policies that will help strengthen



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our economy for American families; supporting the men and women serving in our military around the world; fixing our broken immigration system by restoring the rule of law and making the use of E-Verify mandatory for all employers in the U.S.; honoring promises made to our veterans, advocating for NIH research for cures for our most deadly diseases; creating long-term solutions to California's water challenges; reducing the time it takes to build infrastructure projects by making common sense, bipartisan reforms to our environmental laws; funding the development of the life-saving Earthquake Early Warning System; and, much more.



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**California 2nd
Rep. Jared Huffman (D)**

Jared Huffman represents California's 2nd Congressional District which spans the North Coast of the state, from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border, and includes Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte counties. He was first elected to Congress in November 2012 and currently serves on the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. In the 118th Congress, he serves as the Ranking Member of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries with jurisdiction over federal water projects, fisheries management, coastal zone and oceans policy, and wildlife and endangered species. Jared also founded the Congressional Freethought Caucus, which he co-chairs, to promote sound public policy based on reason, science and moral values, while protecting the secular character of government and championing the value of freedom of thought worldwide.

During his time in Congress, Jared has built a reputation as a progressive leader and an environmental expert who focuses on making a difference. Jared is also committed to ensuring our communities are resilient to the effects of climate change, including wildfires and droughts. He has been instrumental in defending America's coastlines from offshore oil and gas drilling, introducing legislation to protect the Pacific and Arctic Oceans as part of a coordinated, nationwide effort to protect oceanic ecosystems and coastal economies, while reducing our unhealthy dependency on fossil fuels.

Jared is dedicated to serving the local needs of the 2nd Congressional District of California. From his very first term in Congress, he began pushing legislation that would foster economic opportunity, and protect the unique environmental



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and economic values of the North Coast including the rural and tribal communities of the district. This includes improving access to critical broadband to close the digital divide and increased funding for public schools and special education programs through his IDEA legislation. He has also fought to improve access to affordable housing options, even passing legislation to create badly-needed affordable housing in West Marin. During his first term in Congress, the House of Representatives unanimously passed Congressman Huffman's first bill as a U.S. Congressman to expand the California Coastal National Monument to include the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands, which led to permanent protection for this jewel of the Mendocino Coast. He has also worked to increase penalties for illegal marijuana grows that damage our watersheds and jeopardize fragile ecosystems, and led the fight to protect marine mammals by calling for an end to orca captivity and designating thousands of miles for protected sanctuaries.

Jared is committed to finding bipartisan compromises and real solutions to pressing issues and reaches across the aisle to find common ground whenever possible. In February 2019, for example, Jared introduced two bipartisan pieces of legislation that provided additional protections to the environment: the bipartisan Still-In Resolution to reaffirm the America's commitment to the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act to defend the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling.

Before serving in Congress, Jared represented the North Bay for six years in the California Assembly where he chaired the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee. Among his other accomplishments as a state legislator, Jared played a leading



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role in crafting landmark water reforms in 2009 and authored dozens of successful bills, including California's pioneering lighting efficiency standards (AB 1109) which were subsequently adopted into federal law; the nation's largest programs for solar hot water heating (AB 1470) and paint recycling (AB 1343); reforms that improve California's State Parks system (AB 1589) and Department of Fish and Wildlife (AB 2402); and creation of a new voluntary type of corporation, California Benefit Corporations, to promote corporate social responsibility (AB 361).

Prior to his legislative service, Jared worked as a Senior Attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). One of his proudest accomplishments at NRDC was helping forge an agreement to restore a 153-mile stretch of the San Joaquin River in California's Central Valley. Before NRDC, Jared was a successful public interest attorney whose victories included several major jury verdicts in gender discrimination and race discrimination trials. He also served 12 years in local government as a Director of the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD), from 1994 to 2006.

Jared graduated *magna cum laude* from U.C. Santa Barbara, where he was a three-time NCAA All-American volleyball player. He went on to play for the USA Volleyball Team in 1987 when the team was ranked #1 in the world, before attending and graduating *cum laude* from Boston College Law School. Jared lives in San Rafael with his wife Susan, a teacher. They have two children, Abby and Nathan. In his free time, Jared enjoys fishing, hiking, and playing tennis.



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**California 22nd
Rep. David Valadao (R)**

Congressman David G. Valadao was born and raised in Hanford, California in the center of the agriculturally rich Twenty-First Congressional District. As a lifelong resident of the Central Valley, he has been active in agriculture and dairy industry groups, as well as many local charities.

The Valadao family emigrated from the Azores Islands of Portugal to the United States in 1969. After settling in the Central Valley, Valadao's father started a small dairy farm in the Central Valley in 1973. Valadao was born on April 14, 1977.

The family business now consists of two dairies, as well as over 1,000 acres of farmland in Kings and western Tulare County, on which Valadao and his family grow almonds, alfalfa, corn, and wheat as dairy feed stock.

Intimately involved in the dairy industry, Valadao has taken on leadership roles within the California Milk Advisory Board, and Western States Dairy Trade Association. In addition, he was elected as Regional Leadership Council Chairman for Land O' Lakes, Inc.

Valadao attended local schools, graduating from Hanford High School in 1995 and later attended the College of the Sequoias in Visalia. Valadao married his high school sweetheart, Terra, in 1999. Together, they have three beautiful children.

In 2010, Valadao was elected to represent California's 30th State Assembly District. Valadao served on several California Assembly Committees including the Agriculture Committee, where he held the position of Committee Vice-Chair.



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In 2012, Valadao was elected to represent California's 21st Congressional District, which includes Kings County and portions of Fresno, Kern, and Tulare Counties. He was reelected for his second term in November 2014. In November 2016, Valadao was elected to serve a third term. Valadao served on the influential House Appropriations Committee, which is the committee responsible for funding the federal government and determining where American tax dollars are spent. Most recently, in 2020, Valadao was elected to return to Washington to serve in the House of Representatives.

Since he came to Congress, Valadao has established himself as a leader in agriculture and water policy, two important issues for his constituents in CA-21. His time in Congress has been focused on combating the water issues impacting California's Central Valley. In the 114th Congress, Valadao introduced H.R. 2829, the Western Water and American Food Security Act, to address the regulatory burdens that have largely contributed to the severe drought conditions in Central and Southern California. Valadao aims to ensure Congress does everything in their power to provide relief for the farmers, families, and entire communities suffering from the current water crisis. This Congress, Valadao has introduced H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility on Water Act to improve Western water reliability in the United States.

Valadao's work on the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Committee has fostered his interest in ensuring our active duty military members have the tools and services they need to defend our nation and keep Americans safe. Valadao worked hard to ensure Naval Air Station Lemoore was named the location for the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet of the F-35C aircraft. Valadao is also dedicated to keeping our promises to our nation's veterans by making sure those who served our country are taken care of in their retirement years and receive the best quality healthcare available.



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**California 21st
Rep. Jim Costa (D)**

James Manuel Costa has represented the San Joaquin Valley in the United States House of Representatives since 2005. Costa proudly represents California's 21st Congressional District, which includes parts of Fresno and Tulare counties.

A son of Portuguese immigrants from the Azores Islands, he was raised on a dairy farm in Fresno's Kearney Park area and is a third-generation family farmer in the San Joaquin Valley. Costa is a product of Fresno County schools, an alumnus of San Joaquin Memorial High School and California State University, Fresno.

As a member of Congress, Costa has applied his farming background to fighting for water, agriculture, healthcare, and the economy. In these capacities, he has protected California agriculture, enhanced water storage, repaired critical infrastructure, and advocated for a strong national defense to keep us safe from threats here at home and abroad.

His efforts in Congress have been recognized by organizations like the American Farm Bureau Federation, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the National Organization for Victim Assistance. Costa is committed to building a stronger nation for our children and protecting the future of our democracy for generations to come.



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**California 5th
Rep. Tom McClintock
(R)**

Tom McClintock represents the people of California's historic Sierra Nevada foothills and fertile Central Valley in a district that stretches from Placerville to Modesto, through the Yosemite Valley and on to Kings Canyon.

Often described as "the gold standard" for fiscal conservatism in Congress, the National Taxpayers Union rated him the best vote for taxpayers in the House four times, most recently in 2020. Citizens Against Government Waste recently named him as one of the perfect votes in the House fighting wasteful government spending.

McClintock is a member of the House Judiciary Committee where he serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement and also serves on the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government. He is a senior member of the House Natural Resources Committee where he serves on the Subcommittee on Federal Lands, which he chaired from 2015 to 2018, and on the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries, which he chaired from 2011 to 2015. The Congressman is also a member of the House Budget Committee and has proposed major fiscal reforms to curb unauthorized appropriations, control mandatory spending, balance the budget and protect the nation's credit.

Prior to his election to Congress, McClintock served 22 years in the California legislature, where he became one of its most recognized conservative leaders. He twice received the Republican nomination for State Controller, narrowly missing election in 2002 by 23/100ths of one percent. He ran as the conservative standard bearer for Governor in California's historic recall election in 2003.



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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.



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Annick Miller-Rivera
House Natural
Resources Committee

Annick is a Senior Professional Staff member with the House Committee on Natural Resources.



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Melanie is a Professional Staff Member for the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Melanie Thornton
Senate Energy and
Natural Resources
Committee



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**Anne-Louise Fregerslev
Christensen**
Embassy of Denmark

Anne-Louise Christensen is the Special Advisor for Water for the Danish Water Technology Alliance at the Embassy of Denmark in Washington, D.C. Anne-Louise is the lead on the Danish Water Technology Alliance's government-to-government and strategic cooperation on water policies.

The Danish Water Technology Alliance is a Danish knowledge exchange program on water with the aim for Denmark to be the world leader in delivering intelligent, sustainable and efficient water solutions.

Prior to this, Anne-Louise was the Advisor of Environment and Justice & Home Affairs at the Embassy of Denmark in Washington, D.C. She holds a Master in Political Science from the University of Copenhagen.