

ACWA Region 9 Salton Sea Tour Speaker Bios

Robert Keeran

Robert “Bob” Keeran is a lifelong resident of the Coachella Valley. His family moved to Palm Desert in 1968. He attended Indio high school. Out of high school he worked as a photographer at the Indio Daily News for three years. This is where his love of local history was sparked. Later he attended College of the Desert and transferred to California State University at Long Beach as a photojournalism major.

He worked as a freelance photographer for 12 years before taking a position at Coachella Valley Water District in the Communications Department. In his duties as a Communication Specialist with Coachella Valley Water District, Bob did photography, video production work and public outreach. Bob became very interested in local water history. He lead tours of CVWD domestic water systems, sanitation systems, stormwater system and ground water recharge. Most notably he lead the Imperial Dam tour for 20 years. CVWD’s Imperial Dam tour started in the early 1950’s, and was a complete overview of the agricultural water system.

Bob is a popular speaker on the Metropolitan Water District’s director tours and local service clubs, civic groups, school groups and historical societies. Bob has a talent of explaining the local water system in an entertaining and easy to understand way. He was regarded as the district’s unofficial historian when he retired in April of 2019. In his retirement he has become a University of California Certified Naturalist. He also works part time for an eco-tourism company, RED JEEP TOURS. He takes groups into the Indio Hills, giving insight to the to the Colorado Sonoran Desert, the Cahuilla Indian and the geology of the San Andreas Fault.

Bob met his wife, Heidi, at CVWD. They have been married for 29 years. They have two adult children Cali and Connor.

Thomas Torte, Jr.

Chairman, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

Thomas is the current Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Tribal Council Chairman. Thomas serves as principal advisor to the Tribal Council on all matters pertaining to the Torres Martinez. Chairman Thomas previously served on the Tribal Council as Treasurer for 4 years. Thomas has also worked under the Torres Martinez Regulatory Gaming Commission for 5 years and Tribal Administrator for the Mountain Cahuilla for 4 years.

After graduation from Coleman University, Thomas enlisted in the United States Navy and received an Honorable Discharge in 1993. Thomas served as an Avionics Technician for the F-14 Tomcat Fighter Aircraft, under Navy Squadron VF-302. Following his military service, Thomas

joined the Civil Service on North Island Naval Air Base, San Diego to train personnel for the S3A Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft via Flight Simulator maneuvers. Utilizing skills developed in the military, he served as a Wildland Firefighter for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for several years.

Thomas serves on several Boards, such as the Salton Sea Authority, California Tribal Business Alliance and Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association. Accomplishments include; with Salton Sea Authority, California Natural Resource Agency and California State Legislators, countless visits to the State Capitol, to have Governor Jerry Brown sign into the State Budget, \$80.5 million for restoration of the Salton Sea in June of 2016. More importantly, since 2017, the advocacy and follow through of California Assembly Bill 738 for Native American Model Curriculum.

Thomas continues to plan for the future of Torres Martinez to advance and expand opportunities for economic development; to provide quality educational experiences with improved retention rates of Native youth in high school, college and vocational education; to promote healthy lifestyles for the community; and to continue to invest in Government to Government consultation to secure sovereignty and comprehensive, culture based education.

Vivien Maisonneuve,

Program Manager, CA Department of Water Resources

Vivien Maisonneuve is a Program Manager at the Department of Water Resources where he oversees the planning, permitting, and implementation of the projects under the Salton Sea Management Program Phase I: 10-Year Plan. Vivien has been with the SSMP since 2011. Vivien served as the lead biologist for the program to develop the EIR/EIS for the Species Conservation Habitat project. His expertise is in project management, contracts, budget, environmental documents, planning and permitting.

Vivien has a Bachelor's of Science in Organismal Biology (2003) from the University Bordeaux I and a Master's in Marine Biology and Ecology (2005) from the University Aix-Marseille II.

Edmond Sayegh

Register Civil Engineer, MWH Constructors

Edmond has 27 Years of experience in construction and construction management. He is the Sr. construction manager at MWH for DWR Salton Sea SCH Design-Build Project.

Alex Cardenas

President, Imperial Irrigation District

Director Cardenas was elected to serve as a Director on Imperial Irrigation District in 2018 through 2026 where he currently serve as President of Board.

Cardenas is a Past President of Salton Sea Authority and current member which is a regional advocacy group for the Imperial and Riverside Counties. Additionally, he is a member of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments where he is appointed to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission. Finally, Cardenas serves as voting delegate for American Public Power Association on the Policy Makers Council.

Cardenas was elected to El Centro City Council in 2013 and finished his term in 2018. During his term, he served as the Mayor for the City of El Centro in 2017.

Cardenas is the Executive Director for Count Appointed Special Advocates as of 2008 where he spends most of his time advocating for the health and wellness of foster children in Imperial County. In addition, he serves as an adjunct professor for the University of Phoenix and Columbia College. I have earned a bachelor's degree in Public Administration and master's degree in Organizational Management.

Lastly, he has been assigned to numerous community task forces and governing boards that include Imperial Valley Wellness Foundation, Centinela State Prison Citizen's Advisory Committee, Imperial County Early Education Council, Vo Neighborhood Medical Clinic, and Past President of El Centro Kiwanis Club.

JB Hamby

Vice President, Imperial Irrigation District

Director JB Hamby currently serves as Vice President of the IID Board of Directors and represents Division 2, which includes southeast El Centro, Heber, Holtville, and Seeley. He also serves as the Chairman of the Colorado River Board of California and the State of California's Colorado River Commissioner.

Director Hamby was elected to the IID board in the November 2020 general runoff election and served as the board's Vice President in 2021.

Prior to being seated on the board, Director Hamby served as a United States Senate Page nominated by Senator Barbara Boxer and a legislative intern for the office of Senator Ben Sasse. Director Hamby has also served as a business operations analyst at Uber. Director Hamby studied History at Stanford University.

A fourth-generation resident of the Imperial Valley, Director Hamby resides in El Centro. His current four-year term expires December 2024.

Gina Young Dockstader

Director, Imperial Irrigation District

Director Gina Young Dockstader represents Division 3, which includes Brawley, Calipatria and Niland and the southeastern area of the Salton Sea. She was elected to the IID Board of Directors in the November 2022 runoff election.

Director Dockstader is an agribusiness woman. Prior to her service on the IID Board she managed her father's farming office, started a trucking company, owns an organic date farm and is a partner in a farming entity and an organic packing house outside of Brawley.

A fourth-generation Imperial Valley resident, she attended local schools, graduating from Calipatria High School, furthering her education from Northern Arizona University where she majored in Public Relations and minored in Business Management and Spanish.

Director Dockstader currently serves on the Career Technical Educational advisory board for Calipatria High School and is a member of her local PEO sisterhood, a philanthropic educational organization for furthering the career of women.

Bari Bean

Marketing and Community Relations Manager, BHE Renewables

Bari Bean is the Marketing and Community Relations Manager for BHE Renewables. Bari specializes in developing community relationships, educational engagements, and creating partnerships between community and industry. She is involved with BHE Renewables wind, solar, geothermal, and hydro projects with a current focus on geothermal and lithium recovery. Based in the Imperial Valley, Bari is a native to the area and passionate about the growth of clean energy in the region. Bari holds a BFA in Digital Arts from Chapman University, a Masters in Marketing, Communications and New Media from Georgetown University and a CORE credential from Harvard University. Bari plays an active role in her community where she is the Vice President of the Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, Board Member of the Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation, a member of P.E.O., Women in Renewable Energy, and Women in Geothermal.

Scott S. Slater

Shareholder, Brownstein

Scott S. Slater is a leader in the water industry with 39 years experience in water transactions and legal matters. He has unique expertise in Colorado River law, having served as the lead negotiator for THE IID/San Diego County Water Agency Transfer in the 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement, which was the largest in United States history. He is the author of *California Water Law and Policy*, the leading two-volume water law treatise in California – now in its 29th year. He has taught water law at several graduate and law schools in the United

States, Australia and China and recently led a government decentralization and groundwater sustainability effort for the Republic of Tunisia. He was recognized by the California Daily Journal as one of the best 100 lawyers in California and currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Cadiz Inc, a publicly traded water solutions provider ("CDZI"), as well as the Chairman of the Board for Limoneira Company, and a shareholder in the Brownstein law firm.