



ACWA Outreach Task Force Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 | Time: 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Sheraton San Diego Resort | Room: Shorebreak

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions – **Cristel Tufenkjian, Chair & Stacy Taylor, Vice Chair**
2. ACWA State Update – **Julia Hall, State Legislative Director, ACWA**
3. ACWA Federal Update – **Caleb Raspler, Federal Relations Representative, ACWA**
4. Recap of SB 72: The “Solve the Water Crisis” Bill – **Michael Hadley, Government Relations Officer, Western Municipal Water District**
5. ACWA Outreach Program: Historical Review and Accomplishments – **Jennifer Rotz, Senior Regional Affairs Representative, ACWA**
6. ACWA Outreach Program: 25th Anniversary Celebration & Outreach Task Force Group Photo – **All**
7. Other Business/Adjourn – **Cristel Tufenkjian**

Meeting Handouts

Outreach Task Force Meeting Recap (Spring Conference)

2024-‘25 Outreach Task Force Roster

Outreach Ambassador & Captains Roles and Responsibilities

[ACWA Priority Issues Bulletin](#)

[ACWA Regulatory Roundup](#)

[ACWA Outreach Handbook](#)

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Location: ACWA Spring Conference, Sacramento, CA



ACWA Outreach Task Force Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 | Time: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Location: Monterey Marriott | Room: Ferrantes Bay View

RECAP

Chair Cristel Tufenkjian and Vice Chair Stacy Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and led a round of self-introductions with attendees.

ACWA State Legislative Director Julia Hall provided an update on ACWA's state legislative and regulatory advocacy efforts to date.

ACWA Federal Relations Representative Caleb Raspler provided an update on federal legislative and regulatory activity in DC.

City of Santa Rosa – Water Department Water Director Jennifer Burke shared perspectives and strategies on conducting and tracking federal outreach in connection with ACWA's advocacy efforts. Group discussion ensued.

ACWA Senior Regional Affairs Representative Jennifer Rotz shared an overview of the Outreach Task Force's advocacy and engagement statistics for the previous and current year.

Chair Tufenkjian led a group discussion on creative tactics to boost outreach award awareness and applications.

The next Outreach Task Force meeting will be held at ACWA Fall Conference on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 in San Diego.

There were no additional discussion items. The meeting was adjourned.



ACWA's 2024-'25 Outreach Task Force Roster

The Outreach Task Force is comprised of region appointed outreach captains, two at-large appointments, and two representatives from each of the following committees: Communications, Federal Affairs, Groundwater, Local Government, State Legislative, Water Management, Water Quality. Committee representatives as well as at-large representatives are appointed by the ACWA President.

At Large:

Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager, Mesa Water District, Region 10 (Vice Chair)
Email: stacyt@mesawater.org

Eric Grubb, Govt. & Public Affairs Manager, Cucamonga Valley Water District, Region 9
Email: ericg@cvwdwater.com

Communications:

Nick Janes, Byron Bethany Irrigation District, Region 5
Email: n.janes@bbid.org

Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director, Palmdale Water District, Region 8
Email: jshay@palmdalewater.org

Federal Affairs:

Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Rep., Metropolitan Water of So. CA, Region 8
Email: aschneider@mwdh2o.com

Josh Weimer, External Affairs Manager, Turlock Irrigation District, Region 4
Email: jmweimer@TID.ORG

Groundwater:

Deanna Jackson, General Manager, Tri-County Water Authority, Region 6
Email: djackson@tcwater.org

Trevor Joseph, Manager of Technical Services, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Region 4
Email: tjoseph@rwah2o.org

Local Government:

Scott Ratterman, Director, Calaveras Water District, Region 3
Email: ccwdratterman@gmail.com

T. Milford Harrison, Board Commissioner, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Region 9
Email: milfordharrison@aol.com

State Legislative Committee:

Teresa Penunuri, Communications Manager, Sante Fe Irrigation District, Region 10
Email: tpenunuri@sfidwater.org

Anjanette Shadley, Assistant General Manager, Western Canal Water District, Region 2
Email: anjanette@westerncanal.com

Water Management:

Aaron Fukuda, General Manager, Tulare Irrigation District, Region 7
Email: akf@tulareid.org

Peter Martin, Deputy Director of Water Resources, City of Santa Rosa, Region 1
Email: pmartin@srcity.org

Water Quality:

Josh Watkins, Water Utility Manager, City of Redding, Region 2
Email: jwatkins@cityofredding.org

Sarah Palmer, President, Zone 7 Water Agency, Region 5
Email: palmer.sarahL@gmail.com



2024-'25 Region Outreach Captains
(Appointed by the Regions)

Region 1

Nicole Dorotinsky, Legislative & Regulatory Affairs
Officer, City of Santa Rosa
Email: ndorotinsky@srcity.org

Greg Orsini, Board President, McKinleyville
Community Services District,
Email: gorsini@mckinleyvillecsd.com

Brad Sherwood, Assistant General Manager,
Sonoma Water
Email: brad.sherwood@scwa.ca.gov

Region 2

Adam Robin, Govt. Relations Manager,
Yuba Water Agency
Email: ARobin@yubawater.org

David Coxey, General Manager, Bella Vista Water
Agency
Email: dcoxe@bvwd.org

Region 3

Kelly Gerkenmeyer, Water Resources Specialist,
Calaveras County Water District
Email: kellyg@ccwd.org

Michael Saunders, President, Georgetown Divide
Public Utility District,
Email: msaunders@gd-pud.org

Region 4

Ryan Ojakian, Legislative & Regulatory Manager,
Regional Water Authority
Email: rojakian@rwah20.org

Region 5

Alexandra Bradley, Communications Specialist,
Zone 7 Water Agency,
Email: abradley@zone7water.com

Region 6

Cristel Tufenkjian, Director of External Affairs,
McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Email: ctufenkjian@mcmullinarea.org

Region 7

Vacant

Region 8

Patty Cortez, Director of Govt. & Community Affairs,
Upper San Gabriel Valley Water District
Email: patty@usgvmwd.org

Charlotte Holifield, Manager of External Affairs/
PIO, Calleguas Municipal Water District
Email: cholifield@calleguas.com

Jeremy Wolf, Legislative Program Manager, Las
Virgenes Municipal Water District
Email: jwolf@lvmwd.com

Region 9

Danielle Coats, Senior Public & Govt. Affairs
Manager, Rancho Water
Email: coatsd@ranchowater.com

James Morales, Board Member, East Valley Water
District
Email: jmoralesjr@eastvalley.org

Antonio Ortega, Government Affairs Officer,
Imperial Irrigation District
Email: aortega@iid.com

Region 10

Alicia Harasty, Legislative Affairs Liaison, Orange
County Water District
Email: adunkin@ocwd.com

Melissa McChesney, Communications Manager,
Padre Dam Municipal Water District
Email: mmcchesney@padre.org

ACWA OUTREACH PROGRAM

ROLE OF OUTREACH CAPTAINS AND AMBASSADORS



PROGRAM HISTORY

In November 2000, the ACWA Board of Directors approved the development of an Outreach Program to serve as the grassroots function for the association and actively engage members in advancing ACWA's legislative and regulatory goals. Since that time, ACWA's Outreach Program has grown to over 2,100 members. The program has positively influenced legislation in Sacramento and Washington D.C.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ACWA speaks as one voice for California water, but can only do so with the backing of an informed, engaged membership. ACWA member involvement – through direct outreach to legislators, regulators and administration officials – is what strengthens the association's state and federal advocacy efforts.

GENERAL DUTIES / RESPONSIBILITIES

Ambassadors:

- Share ACWA Alerts and Advisories with appropriate staff and board members at your agency.
- Determine if your agency will take action in response to an ACWA Alert.
- Coordinate with your region outreach captain(s) to share ACWA's Alerts and Advisories within your ACWA region.

Outreach Captains:

- Serve by appointment of the ACWA region boards for a two-year term.
- Serve on the Outreach Task Force.
- Participate in Outreach Task Force meetings.
- Provide outreach updates during region membership meetings at ACWA Spring and Fall Conference.
- Coordinate with your ACWA region board on outreach to your region.
- Develop a broad outreach list of your region's state and federal elected and appointed officials to extend ACWA's reach and message.
- Recruit more ambassadors within your region and offer to serve as a resource for them.
- Participate in and promote ACWA Outreach Awards.

