



**Groundwater Resources Association of California
in cooperation with California Groundwater Coalition
presents its**

16th ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM

March 29, 2017

The Citizen Hotel, Sacramento

California's Groundwater Future: Decision Time?



After suffering through another year of historic drought in 2016, California has experienced record-breaking rainfall in 2017, raising questions about California's aging infrastructure, like Oroville Dam. Will abundant rainfall take the pressure off ongoing efforts to implement long term solutions? Will 2017 be a make or break year for the Governor's California WaterFix, will the election of Donald Trump help or hurt that effort? Will the feds have a different idea how to address California's infrastructure challenges? Add the recent decision by the state's top water regulators to maintain emergency drought rules in place until May, SGMA implementation and a host of legal issues in the Delta and join us for an action-packed day!

Luncheon Keynote Speaker

Robert Hertzberg, Chair, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water

Decision Time 2017:

Flooding and drought, SGMA implementation, funding challenges, unimpaired stream flows, long term groundwater replenishment, California WaterFix, federal infrastructure programs and more!

8:00 Registration, Networking and Continental Breakfast

Program Moderators

Chris Frahm, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Tim Parker, GRA Legislative Committee Chairman

8:30 Welcome

GRA President, Chris Petersen

CGC President, Ken Manning

8:45 Alf W. Brandt

Senior Counsel, Speaker Anthony Rendon

Alf W. Brandt leads many efforts to advance environmental law, water law in particular. He currently serves as Senior Counsel to Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and is the Executive Director of the National Judicial College's Dividing the Waters Program. Brandt chaired the 2016 American Bar Association conference on environment, energy and resources, in October. He also serves in the leadership for the American Bar Association's Section of the Environment, Energy and Resources. Brandt played a critical role in the development of the 2014 Water Bond, the 2009 Delta/Water Legislation and the 2007 flood protection package.

9:00 Senator Jeff Stone (R-Temecula)

Vice Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Senator Jeff Stone was elected to represent the 28th Senate District in 2014 which stretches from Southwest Riverside County (Temecula, Murrieta and Lake Elsinore) to the Arizona Border. Senator Stone is currently the Vice Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

9:15 Assemblymember Dante Acosta (R-Santa Clarita)

Vice Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Assemblymember Dante Acosta was elected in 2016 to represent California's 38th Assembly District. Before joining the Assembly, Dante served as Mayor Pro Tem on the Santa Clarita City Council. In the private sector, he worked as the General Sales Manager of a car dealership, and in a number of senior leadership positions in the finance industry as well as volunteering for several worthwhile charities. Assemblymember Acosta is the Vice Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

9:30 Secretary John Laird

California Natural Resources Agency

John Laird was appointed California Secretary for Natural Resources by Governor Jerry Brown on January 5, 2011. He has spent nearly 40 years in public service, including 23 years as an elected official. Continuing his public service as California's Secretary of Natural Resources, Laird has made climate change adaptation, water conservation and supply reliability, enhanced relationships with tribal governments, State Parks access, farmland conservation, and oceans sustainability, among other issues, top priorities. As Secretary, he provides administrative oversight to thirty departments, commissions, councils, museum, boards and conservancies.

9:45 Scott Cantrell
Water Branch Chief, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Scott Cantrell is the Chief of the Water Branch in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife where he has worked for about 25 years. The Water Branch conducts program activities related to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, instream flow studies and water rights, state and federal water projects operations, California Water Fix and EcoRestore, and Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program.

10:00 Senator Ben Hueso (D-San Diego)
Member, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Senator Ben Hueso was elected to the Senate in a special election to represent the 40th Senate district, including National City and parts of the City of San Diego and Chula Vista. Senator Hueso served as Chairman of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee during his tenure in the Assembly and currently serves as a member of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

10:15 Assemblymember Bill Quirk (D-Hayward)
Chair, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee

Assemblymember Bill Quirk, Chair of the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, was elected in November 2012 to represent the 20th Assembly District. On February 14, Assemblymember Quirk introduced AB 574, co-sponsored by California Coastkeeper Alliance and WaterReuse California, to push the development of potable reuse regulations. Assemblymember Quirk has served as a leader for more than 30 years in local organizations including the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency.

10:30 Break – PLEASE BE BACK IN YOUR SEAT IN TIME FOR THE NEXT SPEAKER

10:45 Armando Quintero
Chair, California Water Commission

Armando Quintero currently serves as Chair of the California Water Commission and is the Executive Director of the University of California, Merced Sierra Nevada Research Institute. Armando held multiple positions with the U.S. National Park Service from 1977 to 1998, including district ranger and chief of the special park uses group at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. He is also vice-president of the Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors.

11:00 Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Gerber)
Member, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, and Transportation

Senator Jim Nielsen, elected to the Senate in January 2013, proudly represents the citizens of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba counties. He serves as Chair of the Senate Republican Caucus, Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and Vice Chair of the Senate Budget & Fiscal Review. He also serves as a member of the Senate Committees on Appropriations and Health. The Senator is working side-by-side with farmers and ranchers in the Klamath Basin and authored a law to protect 'area-of-origin' water rights in California.

11:15 Update on Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
Department of Water Resources

11:30 Senator Bill Dodd (D-Napa)
Member, Senate Agriculture Committee

Senator Bill Dodd was elected in November of 2016 to represent California's 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Yolo, Napa, Sonoma, Solano, Sacramento, and Contra Costa Counties. Prior to his election to the Senate, he served in the Assembly, representing the 4th Assembly District. He also served on the Napa County Board of Supervisors from 2001 to 2014.

11:45 Gordon Burns
Undersecretary, California Environmental Protection Agency

Gordon Burns was appointed Undersecretary for the California Environmental Protection Agency by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in December 2011. Prior to his appointment, Gordon spent most of his career as an attorney in the California Attorney General's Office, where he focused on complex natural resources cases, writs, and appellate practice. Gordon was instrumental in the construction of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the streamlined adjudication bills enacted the following year.

12:00 Lunch Break – PLEASE BE IN YOUR SEAT IN TIME FOR THE LUNCHEON SPEAKER

12:30 LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Keynote Speaker – Senator Robert (Bob) Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys)
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Senator Robert (Bob) Hertzberg is the first former Assembly Speaker in 86 years to be elected to the California State Senate, and one of only six lawmakers in California history to serve as Assembly Speaker and subsequently win a seat in the Senate. He now represents the 18th Senate District with nearly 1 million residents in the San Fernando Valley. Senator Hertzberg is the newly appointed Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and will discuss his priorities as Chair.

1:15 Break – PLEASE BE IN YOUR SEAT IN TIME FOR THE NEXT SPEAKER

1:30 PANEL PRESENTATION – ENSURING RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY AND FLOOD PROTECTION IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

With the Oroville Dam spillway regularly in the news and the extraordinary wet season upon us following a 5-year drought, a panel of experts will talk about the challenges we face with aging and vulnerable water resources infrastructure in the state and possible solutions to ensure reliable water supplies and reduced flood risk for future generations.

Gary Bardini, Deputy Director, Integrated Water Management, Department of Water Resources

Deven Upadhyay, Group Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Joseph Countryman, Member, Central Valley Flood Protection Board

Ron Stork, Senior Policy Advocate, Friends of the River

3:00 Break – PLEASE BE IN YOUR SEAT IN TIME FOR THE NEXT SPEAKER

3:15 Scott Slater
President and Chief Executive Officer, Cadiz, Inc.

The Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery and Storage Project, designed to conserve billions of gallons of renewable groundwater in California's Mojave Desert, was recently included on President Trump's list of "priority" infrastructure projects. Having also cleared environmental hurdles in California, what's next for Cadiz? What can other California groundwater agencies learn about and benefit from the commitment to infrastructure by the new federal Administration?

3:30 Assemblymember James Gallagher (R-Yuba City)
Vice Chair, Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

Assemblymember James Gallagher was elected to serve California's 3rd Assembly District in 2014 and was appointed Vice Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee in 2016. Before joining the Assembly, Assemblymember Gallagher served on the Sutter County Board of Supervisors for six years.

3:45 Assemblymember Brian Dahle (R-Bieber)
Vice Chair, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee

Assemblymember Brian Dahle has represented California's 1st Assembly District since 2012. Before joining the Assembly, he served on the Lassen County Board of Supervisors for 16 years. Assemblymember Dahle currently serves as Vice Chair of the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee.

4:00 Assemblymember Adam Gray (D-Merced)
Member, Assembly Agriculture Committee

In 2012, Assemblymember Adam Gray was elected to represent the 21st Assembly District which encompasses Merced County, portions of Stanislaus County, and the cities of Merced, Modesto, Los Banos, Patterson, Gustine, Newman, Ceres, Livingston, and Atwater. He currently Chairs the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee and is a sitting member of the Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care and the Agriculture Committee.

4:15 Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella)
Chair, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee

Elected in 2014, Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia represents California's 56th Assembly District and is currently the chair of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee. In this capacity he oversees some of the state's most pressing issues, such as drought and flood conditions, and the implementation of the multi-billion dollar Proposition 1, Water Bond. Assemblymember Garcia is the author of AB 18, the California Clean Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, providing \$3.1 billion in bonds for these purposes.

4:30 GROUP PHOTO

5:00 Hosted COCKTAIL RECEPTION
BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK
Blackbird, 1015 9th street

***Thank you for supporting the
Groundwater Resources Association of California and the
California Groundwater Coalition***