

32nd Conference Program!

June 12-13, 2017 • Hotel Nikko • San Francisco



Publications and MCLE Conference Programs
for the California Water Bar since 1989

California Water Law & Policy

This year's rain and snowpack brought a sigh of relief to water suppliers and agencies tasked with overseeing California's water systems. But the promise of a healthy summer water-wise was not without problems, and winter flooding foregrounded the state's aging water control infrastructure. If the past several years have taught us anything, it's that long-term water planning is crucial to survive the feast-or-famine nature of California's water supply.

With this in mind, this year we have assembled for you a comprehensive and practical two-day California Water Law & Policy Conference focusing on two themes: long-term water supply issues facing the state, and how the new federal administration's proposed policies might—or might not—impact water law, supply and management.

You'll learn what is being done to address aging water control infrastructure; developments in water storage and banking; how climate change is factoring into state regulatory decisions; and several takes on the tensions between the federal and state administrations' water policies. You'll also learn strategies for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation; how disputes over the Endangered Species Act are progressing; and about developments with the Bay-Delta and recent indigenous water rights case law.

Our outstanding faculty consists of representatives of state regulatory agencies, environmental organizations, the academic community, and top water attorneys from throughout the state—including Keynote Presentations from Gordon Burns, Undersecretary for Environmental Protection, Cal-EPA, and Karla Nemeth, Deputy Secretary for Water Policy, California Natural Resources Agency.

This year more than ever, your participation will be crucial to your effectiveness as an attorney, water district staff or board member, federal or state government representative, consulting engineer, city or county counsel or planner, environmental organization representative, developer or agricultural business owner. This is a must attend event!

Be sure to register today for this informative conference and find out what impact these critical topics will have on each other—and how the potential outcomes will impact your practice, agency or organization in the future.

Conference Co-Chairs,



Kevin M. O'Brien, Esq.
Downey Brand
Sacramento



Steven Anderson, Esq.
Best, Best & Krieger
Riverside

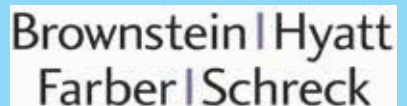
The *only* California Water Law & Policy conference produced by the Publishers of the *California Water Law & Policy Reporter* and co-sponsored by many of the state's top legal firms.



**Conference
Co-Sponsors:**



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Always in San Francisco,
always in the Spring.

REGISTER TODAY!

800-419-2741

<register@argentco.com>

DAY ONE:

7:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 Opening and Introductory Remarks

- **Conference Overview with Critical Detail** (Co-Chairs: Kevin M. O'Brien, Esq., Downey Brand, Sacramento; Steven Anderson, Esq., Best, Best & Krieger, Riverside)

8:45 An Update on California Water Law in a Period of Federal Change (Prof. Barton "Buzz" Thompson, Stanford Law School, Palo Alto)

9:45 Drought, Floods and California's Water

- **Long-Term Climate Projections and Statewide Water Planning** (Michael L. Anderson, State Climatologist, California Department of Water Resources, Sacramento)
- **The SWRCB's Climate Change Resolution and How Climate Change Will Influence State and Local Water Management and Regulation** (Amy Steinfeld, Esq., Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber, Schreck, Santa Barbara)
- **Water Aplenty...and Conservation Regs?** (David Rose, Attorney III, California SWRCB, Sacramento)

10:45 BREAK

11:00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Floods, Droughts, and Lawsuits: An Update (Gordon Burns, Undersecretary for Environmental Protection, Cal-EPA, Sacramento)

11:45 LUNCH (on your own)

1:00 Flood Control and Aging Water Infrastructure

- **A Local Perspective on Aging Flood Control Infrastructure** (Andrea Clark, Esq., Downey Brand, Sacramento)
- **Aging Water Infrastructure** (Gary Bardini, Deputy Director Integrated Water Management, California DWR, Sacramento)
- **Will DWR and the Contractors Now Respect Butte County's Climate Change Predictions?** (Tony Rossmann, Esq., Rossmann & Moore, Berkeley)

2:00 Water Storage and the Flood/Drought Cycle

- **Saving on a Rainy Day: Storage and Drought and 21st Century Opportunities** (Christian Scheuring, Managing Counsel, California Farm Bureau Federation, Sacramento)
- **Sites Water Storage Project Update** (Jim Watson, General Manager, Sites Project Authority, Maxwell)
- **Water Banking and Storage Programs in Times of Plenty** (Dirk Marks, Water Resources Manager, Castaic Lake Water Agency, Santa Clarita)

3:00 BREAK

3:15 California WaterFix: An Adventure in Administrative Law (Meredith Nikkel, Esq., Downey Brand, Sacramento)

3:45 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Update

- **Emerging Topics in SGMA Implementation** (Derek Hoffman, Esq., Gresham Savage, Nolan & Tilden, San Bernardino)
- **Potential Disputes and Litigation Arising from SGMA Implementation** (Hanspeter Walter, Esq., Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard, Sacramento)
- **Financing SGMA Implementation: Navigating the Prop. 218 Minefield** (Rebecca Smith, Esq., Downey Brand, Sacramento)
- **California's 2017 Groundwater Legislation** (Kristin Garcia, Esq., Jackson Tidus, Irvine)

5:15 HOSTED RECEPTION

DAY TWO:

7:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 Conference Overview with Critical Detail

- (Co-Chairs: Kevin M. O'Brien, Esq., Downey Brand, Sacramento; Steven Anderson, Esq., Best, Best & Krieger, Riverside)

8:45 The Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan: California at (Another) Tipping Point

- **The Environmental Perspective** (Gary Bobker, Rivers and Delta Program Director, Bay Institute, San Francisco)
- **The Legal Perspective** (Tim O'Laughlin, Esq., O'Laughlin & Paris, Sacramento)
- **Bay-Delta Flows and the Coequal Goals: Criteria for Getting It Right** (Tim Quinn, Association of California Water Agencies, Sacramento)

10:00 BREAK

10:15 Indigenous Water Rights in California

- **Ninth Circuit Holds Indian Reservations Have Reserved Groundwater Rights *Agua Caliente Band v. Coachella Valley Water District*** (Roderick Walston, Esq., Best, Best & Krieger, Walnut Creek; Catherine Munson, Esq., Kilpatrick Townsend, Washington D.C.)

11:00 Clean Water Act Roll Back? The Future of Wetland Regulations under the New Administration (Scott Birkey, Esq., Cox, Castle & Nicholson, San Francisco)

11:30 LUNCH (on your own)

12:45 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Federal/State Tensions: California's Take on Water Policy in the Era of the Trump Administration (Karla Nemeth, Deputy Secretary for Water Policy, California Natural Resources Agency, Sacramento)

1:30 Federal-State Relations and Water

- **California's Environmental Resistance: A Legislative Response to Rollbacks from DC** (Sara Aminzadeh, Executive Director, California Coast Alliance, San Francisco)
- **Evolving California Water Management to Actually Benefit Our Ecosystems and Economy** (Jason Peltier, Executive Director, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Los Banos)

2:30 The Endangered Species Act and Rivers: Two Case Studies

- **Trinity River Update** (Daniel O'Hanlon, Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard)
- **Santa Ynez River Update** (Steven Torigiani, Esq., Young Wooldridge, Bakersfield)

3:30 ADJOURN

Conference Co-Chairs:

Steven Anderson focuses on environmental, water and natural resources law, including practice under the ESA, Clean Water Act and under state water quality and water rights laws.

Kevin O'Brien assists clients throughout California in water rights, water quality, endangered species and environmental matters, including litigating in state and federal courts and at administrative hearings.

Conference Faculty:

Sara Aminzadeh oversees initiatives to protect and defend the ocean, bays and rivers, including the California Water Partnership.

Michael Anderson advises the California Department of Water Resources on climate, climate change and water supply patterns.

Gary B. Bardini is responsible for programs supporting the Governor's California Water Action Plan.

Scott Birkey is a land use and natural resources lawyer who handles entitlement, compliance, and litigation matters.

Gary Bobker works to enforce baseline environmental protections and provide guidance to long-term restoration plans and projects.

Gordon Burns is Undersecretary for Environmental Protection at the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Andrea Clark practices law on water rights and flood control issues, serving as general counsel to public agencies, water districts and JPAs.

Kristin Garcia represents private and public clients in groundwater, air quality, climate change, energy, and land use law.

Derek Hoffman represents clients in the areas of water rights, business, real estate and eminent domain.

Dirk Marks is water resources manager of a major southern California water agency.

Catherine Munson represents tribal clients before federal courts and administrative agencies.

Karla Nemeth serves as the Governor's senior advisor on water policy.

Meredith Nikkel advises clients on water supply development and management and is special counsel to cities, counties and districts.

Daniel O'Hanlon focuses on law, litigation, counseling and permitting in the areas of water resources, remediation, the ESA, and wetlands.

Tim O'Laughlin advises clients on water, land use and planning, and the environment and serves as general counsel to public agencies.

Jason Peltier is executive director of a major California water agency in the Delta.

Tim Quinn oversees an association of local public water agency members helping shape significant developments in state water policy.

David Rose is an attorney in the Office of Chief Counsel at the State Water Resources Control Board, where he advises on water rights.

Tony Rossmann has practiced land use and natural resources law for over three decades in leading water and land-use proceedings.

Chris Scheuring works to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout California.

Rebecca Smith counsels clients on water rights, water supply, land use and development, and environmental compliance.

Amy Steinfeld represents public water agencies, special districts, private landowners and water utilities on water and land use issues.

Barton H. "Buzz" Thompson, Jr. is Professor of Natural Resources Law and Director of the Woods Institute for the Environment.

Steven M. Torigiani represents clients in environmental law, agriculture, land use, CEQA, water and public agency law.

Roderick Walston has litigated many significant water rights cases, with victories at the U.S. and California Supreme Courts.

Hanspeter Walter practices water, environmental, administrative, and land-use law, with an emphasis on regulatory compliance, water rights, water quality, and other land-use matters.

Jim Watson is the general manager of an authority which pursues the development and construction of the Sites Reservoir Project.

Location and Lodging:

The site of the program is the Hotel Nikko, 222 Mason St., San Francisco, CA 94102. A block of rooms has been reserved at a special negotiated rate of \$249. To register for your room at the discounted rate, [CLICK HERE](#), or call 866-NIKKO-SF, and ask for the "2017 California Water Law Conference" discount. Space is limited, so register by the May 19, 2017 cut-off date!

Tuition:

Conference tuition is \$895. A discount of \$100 is available for individuals from government agencies, public interest groups, or academia; for current subscribers to the *California Water Law & Policy Reporter*; or for each attendee when two or more people from one firm or organization register together.

Tuition includes attendance, program materials, continental breakfasts, morning and afternoon refreshment breaks, and a three-month electronic subscription to the *California Water Law & Policy Reporter* (a \$200 value).



Five Ways to Register:

Early registration is encouraged. To register: (1) Online for both the conference and hotel, [CLICK HERE](#); (2) Mail the completed registration form on the reverse to: Argent Communications Group, PO Box 506, Auburn, CA 95604-0506; (3) Complete the registration form and fax to 530-852-0360; (4) Email it to <register@argentco.com>; or (5) Call 800-419-2741. Full payment or purchase order is due with registration.

MCLE Credit:

MCLE accreditation has been requested for this program. Pending MCLE accreditation approval by the State Bar of California for up to 11 hours.

Cancellation Policy:

Full refunds (less a \$50 processing fee) will be made only if notice is received by June 6, 2016. Substitutions are encouraged. Argent Communications Group reserves the right to cancel any program and assumes no responsibility for personal loss.

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REGISTRATION FORM

Yes! Please register the following:

Name: _____

Email (required): _____

Name: _____

Email (required): _____

Name: _____

Email (required): _____

Firm/Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

TUITION:

- \$895 per person, or
- \$795 each for two or more from the same firm, or
- \$695 government and nonprofit employees, or
- \$595 each for two or more government and nonprofit employees

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PAYMENT METHOD:

- Check enclosed. Payable to Argent Communications Group
- P.O. attached. **OR**
- Charge my: Visa MasterCard Exp Date: _____

Card #: _____

Signature (required): _____

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June 12-13, 2017 • Hotel Nikko • San Francisco

“California’s Water Law, Policy and Regulation: Coping with Drought, Floods and the New Federal Administration”

WITH FEATURED PRESENTATIONS BY:

WHAT ATTENDEES SAY ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE:



Gordon Burns, Undersecretary
for Environmental Protection,
Cal-EPA



Karla Nemeth, Deputy Secretary
for Water Policy, California
Natural Resources Agency

“This conference was terrific. I appreciated the breadth and depth of the presentations and will use the information going forward.”

—David Edwards, Deputy City Attorney
Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office
Department of Water and Power

“The conference formula is spot on and allows enough flexibility to adjust to current topics. One could attend this conference every year and walk away with new, relevant, and useful information.”

—Paul R. Boughman, Special Counsel, Water Law
Western Area Counsel Office, Camp Pendleton

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<register@argentco.com>