



## 2018 Annual Water Policy Institute

September 11 – 12, 2018

Sir Francis Drake Hotel

450 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA 94012

### AGENDA

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#### DAY ONE- September 11, 2018, 9:00 am - 5:45 pm

8:00- 9:00am      **Registration and Breakfast**  
Mezzanine

9:00-9:15am      **Opening**  
Franciscan Room

Sue Gander, Director  
Environment, Energy and Transportation Division  
National Governors Association Center for Best Practices

Scott Pattison, Executive Director and CEO  
National Governors Association

9:15-9:30am      **Welcome Remarks**  
Franciscan Room

The Honorable Edmund G. “Jerry” Brown, Governor of California  
Co-Chair, National Governors Association Water Policy Learning Network

9:30-10:15am      **State Introductions – Lightening Round**  
Franciscan Room

*State participants introduce themselves, share one water policy issue they have worked on and one issue they hope to learn more about at this meeting. All in one minute!*

Bevin Buchheister, Senior Policy Analyst  
NGA Center for Best Practices

10:15-11:00am      **Transforming the Water Sector Through Technology & Innovation**  
Franciscan Room

*Hear a big picture exploration of how global water challenges and solutions relate to near and long-term challenges governors face in all water sectors. Learn how technology advances and policy frameworks can help governors meet their states' most pressing water needs.*

Albert Cho, Vice President  
Strategy and Business Development  
Xylem, Inc.

11:00-11:30am      **BREAK**

11:30- 12:30pm  
Franciscan Room

## **Building Resiliency into Agricultural Water with Advanced Technology and Policy Innovation**

*Aquifers used for drinking water and agricultural irrigation are being depleted all over the country. Explore new state policies being piloted and technology being employed to encourage agricultural water conservation, extend water resources of the Ogallala Aquifer, and provide drought resilience. We will learn about the potential applications of a project underway called Open ET, that is measuring water use and plant needs in agricultural settings.*

Tracy Streeter, Director  
Kansas Water Office

Robyn Grimm, Senior Manager  
Water Information Systems  
Environmental Defense Fund

*Moderator:*

Joaquin Esquivel, Board Member, California State Water Resources Control Board

12:30-1:45pm  
Franciscan Room

## **Networking Lunch**

*Tables will be organized by key topics:*

Technology & Innovation  
Utility Regionalization  
Drinking Water Contamination  
Cybersecurity

Funding & Finance  
Stormwater  
Drought  
Water-Energy Policy

1:45- 2:45pm  
Franciscan Room

## **Small System Regionalization: Policies, Tools and Technology to Meet Rural Water Needs**

*This panel will discuss state policies and governance structures that enable regional utility collaboration and consolidation as well as new funding available from USDA Rural Development. Panelists will discuss public-to-public and public-to-private regional collaboration alternatives for utilities and local consolidation efforts to create regional sustainability and economic development opportunities. They will also highlight tools and technology, like mapping and asset management, used to determine the feasibility of regional projects.*

Olga Morales, New Mexico Regional Manager  
Rural Community Assistance Corporation (Western RCAP)

Blanca Surgeon, Building Rural Economies Coordinator  
Rural Community Assistance Corporation (Western RCAP)

Carrie L. Castile, PhD, State Director  
Rural Development  
United States Department of Agriculture

*Moderator:*

Radhika Fox, CEO, U.S. Water Alliance

2:45-3:45  
Windsor Room

### **Breakout Session One:**

#### **State Level Action to Address Drinking Water Contamination**

*Public health concerns are growing around the safety of the nation's drinking water. In addition to known contaminants like lead, states are finding a group of chemicals called PFAS, that are potentially harmful to human health. Adoption of national limits for PFAS can take a decade or longer which means governors are playing a key role in understanding potential health risks and developing a response. This session will focus on actions governors can take to protect their drinking water. We will learn about the coordinated response led by the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART), New Jersey's experience setting a state limit and the federal response.*

Mike Zimmer, Cabinet Director  
Executive Office of Governor Rick Snyder, Michigan

Debbie Mans, Deputy Commissioner  
State of New Jersey,  
Department of Environmental Protection

*Moderator:*

Bevin Buchheister, Senior Policy Analyst  
NGA Center for Best Practices

Renaissance Room **Breakout Session Two:**

#### **Combatting the Cyber Threat to Water Infrastructure**

Idaho National Lab's Water Security Test Bed (WSTB) is a first-of-its-kind, multi-million dollar field-scale water distribution system that is used as a platform for performing drinking water security experiments in a setting that resembles real water pipes in the ground but does not risk public health. Learn from researchers how states can support the water sector's ability to protect themselves from cyber-attacks and respond to chemical, biological and radiological incidents. Learn about best practices that the largest publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater utility company has adopted to protect their treatment and distribution systems.

Travis L. McLing Ph.D.  
Energy Water and Chem-bio Lead  
Idaho National Laboratory  
The Center for Advanced Energy Studies

Sarah Leeper, Vice President and General Counsel  
California American Water  
Hawaii American Water

*Moderator:*

Patricio Portillo, Policy Analyst  
NGA Center for Best Practices

3:45- 4:15pm  
Mezzanine

### **Networking Break**

4:15- 5:15pm  
Franciscan Room

**Finance Innovation: Using Environmental Impact Bonds to Attract Private Capital and Share Performance Risk**

*The nation is facing a critical funding gap for necessary investment in drinking and wastewater infrastructure, estimated by the American Society of Civil Engineers to be \$105 billion from 2016-2025. At the same time, states are facing new weather extremes that require investments in resiliency measures. The growth of impact investing offers one tool that states can use to meet these challenges.*

*Learn from the pioneer who ushered impact investing into the water sector how the District of Columbia, Atlanta, Baltimore and others are using Environmental Impact Bonds to finance green infrastructure and resiliency projects. Be prepared to join the discussion of how governors can support the use of this financing mechanism in their states. There will be plenty of time for Q&A.*

Eric Letsinger, CEO  
Quantified Ventures

*Moderator:*

Benjamin H. Grumbles, Secretary  
Maryland Department of the Environment

5:15- 5:45pm

**Peer to Peer Exchange**

*This time is reserved for state officials to share their insights from the day and ask questions of their peers in other states.*

6:00- 7:00pm  
Starlight Room

**No Host Reception**

*Please join us to continue the conversation in the lounge.*

## **DAY TWO - September 12, 2018; 7:30 am - 12:30 p.m.**

7:00- 8:00 am      **Breakfast**  
Mezzanine

8:00 - 9:00 am      **Stormwater Policy Challenges and Technology Solutions**  
Franciscan Room

Stormwater carries pollutants to rivers, streams and the ocean, and in older cities it can cause sewage overflows that pollute nearby waterbodies which often serve as the local drinking water supply. Across the country, treatment of stormwater employs similar practices and raises related policy challenges. We will discuss common challenges and solutions as we learn about California's new focus on capturing stormwater to recharge aquifers and South Bend Indiana's use of new technology to dramatically cut the cost of preventing combined sewer overflows. We'll also gain insight into scientific advances and promising management tools in the pipeline.

Annalisa Kihara, PE, STORMS Unit Chief  
Division of Water Quality  
California State Water Resources Control Board

Kara M. Boyles, Ph.D., P.E.  
City Engineer, South Bend, Indiana

Dr. Stephen Weisberg, Executive Director  
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project

*Moderator:*  
Bevin Buchheister, Senior Policy Analyst  
NGA Center for Best Practices

9:00 – 10:00 am      **Managing Drought in a Changing Climate**  
Franciscan Room

*Climate change is bringing pressures like shorter and more intense wet seasons, rising temperatures, shrinking snowpack, and more volatile precipitation patterns that will seriously impact California's water system. New research melds lessons learned from the unusually warm drought of 2012–2016 with climate change simulations to identify reforms that can help reduce the social, economic, and environmental costs of future droughts and prepare California for greater extremes and growing water scarcity. New tools are also being developed by NOAA and NIDIS to predict drought occurrence and severity.*

Ellen Hanak, Director  
Water Policy Center  
Public Policy Institute of California

Elizabeth Ossowski, Program Coordinator  
NOAA/National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)

*Moderator:*  
Joaquin Esquivel, Board Member  
California State Water Resources Control Board

10:00 – 10:15 am **Break**

10:15-11:15 am **Breakout Session One:**  
Windsor Room

**Saving Dollars and Resources by Optimizing Water-Energy Policy**

*Water and energy are interdependent resources. Approximately 13 % of U.S. energy is used to pump, treat and deliver water to end users, and large amounts of water are used to extract, generate and transport energy. Decreasing the use of both resources can lower costs to consumers, conserve resources and decrease environmental impacts. Learn from two states that recently held retreats with NGA to better coordinate state policies to achieve water and energy savings.*

Anna Henderson, Water Advisor  
Office of Governor Mark Dayton, Minnesota

Christina Ashie Guidry, J.D., Policy Analyst & VI/Environmental Justice Coordinator  
Office of Policy & Sustainable Practices  
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

*Moderator:*

Patricio Portillo, Policy Analyst  
NGA Center for Best Practices

Renaissance Room **Breakout Session Two:**

**Using the Water Infrastructure Financing Act (WIFIA) to Address Governor's Major Water Infrastructure Challenges**

*WIFIA is used for high dollar water and wastewater infrastructure projects that are of national or regional significance. This panel will discuss the many applications of this fund including replacement of lead pipes in drinking water systems and bolstering the State Revolving Loan Fund. Join the discussion to learn how governors can encourage and coordinate applications from local jurisdictions.*

Jordan Dorfman, Senior Attorney Advisor  
WIFIA Program  
Environmental Protection Agency

Michael Carlin, Deputy General Manager and Chief Operating Officer  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

*Moderator:*

Sue Gander, Director  
Environment, Energy and Transportation Division  
NGA Center for Best Practices

11:15 – 11:30 am **Break**

11:30- 12:00 pm  
Franciscan Room

**Snapshot of Federal Legislation and Funding**

Alex Schaefer,  
Government Relations, Natural Resources Committee, National Governors  
Association

12:00-12:15  
Franciscan Room

**Closing Remarks**

Several governors' water policy advisors will discuss closing thoughts and reflections.

NGA will give closing remarks and detail next steps for the Water Policy Learning  
Network for the coming year.