

## **Managing in an Era of Increasing Variability: Building Resiliency into our Social, Political and Eco Systems**

Grant Davis, Director, California Department of Water Resources

**Session Title:** Day Two Plenary Session

**Speaker Biography:** Grant Davis was appointed Director of the California Department of Water Resources by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in August 2017. DWR operates and maintains the California State Water Project, manages floodwaters, monitors dam safety, conducts habitat restoration, and provides technical assistance and funding for projects for local water needs. Davis will oversee the Department and its mission to manage and protect California's water resources, working with other agencies in order to benefit the State's people and to protect, restore and enhance the natural and human environments.

Davis has been the General Manager of the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) since 2009, where he also served as the Assistant General Manager from 2007 to 2009. Davis was responsible for SCWA's core functions of maintaining nearly 100 miles of streams and detention basins for flood protection, restoring habitat for three federally listed fish species in the Russian River, delivering drinking water to more than 600,000 residents of Sonoma and Marin counties, and providing wastewater management for 60,000 customers. In cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, he was also responsible for the operation of Lake Mendocino and Coyote Valley Dam and Lake Sonoma and Warm Springs Dam. Davis was instrumental in implementing a renewable energy portfolio that has resulted in a carbon free water supply and distribution system. Prior to joining the Sonoma County Water Agency, Davis was Executive Director of The Bay Institute – a science-based, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the San Francisco Bay-Delta watershed and improving water management in California. He was Executive Director from 1997 – 2007. In addition, Davis has an extensive legislative and policy background working at the local, State and federal levels of government. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Davis received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

# Policy Recipe for Water Reliability and Resiliency in California: What are the Ingredients?

Steven Moore, Vice Chair, State Water Resources Control Board

Water supply reliability and ecosystem protection were established as the state's co-equal goals for the Bay-Delta in 2009, and we continue to struggle to find a recipe for success. The California Water Action Plan was developed by the Brown Administration as an all-of-the-above menu for action-based water policy in late 2013, just as the state was entering its worst drought. Some successes related to the Action Plan include the passage of Prop 1's \$7.5 billion Water Bond by voters and its orderly distribution, the passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in over 99% of the affected basins, the increased monitoring and reporting of water diversions and urban water production, and the resulting 20% improved water efficiency that has been sustained beyond the drought. Many challenges remain such as safe drinking water for over 300 disadvantaged communities, and the decline of aquatic ecosystems amplified by the drought, an issue especially relevant to the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. The principles of the Action Plan are as important as ever as the Brown Administration enters its final year, helping the state's water systems and environment become more resilient as they are challenged by a changing climate, increasing population, and aging infrastructure. What have we learned from the successes achieved under the Action Plan, and what ingredients were critical to getting these issues over the finish line, which could be applied to remaining challenges? What is the recipe for success? This presentation will discuss elements of some successful initiatives, especially collaboration and trust-building, local management with a state backstop, treating water as a service and not a commodity, and the importance of open water data and joint fact-finding to build trust and support for difficult decisions.

**Keywords:** California water policy, California Water Action Plan, water supply reliability, water system resilience, ecosystem protection,

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**Speaker Biography:** Steven Moore was appointed to the board by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in 2012, reappointed in 2016, and elected as Vice Chair of the Board in 2017. He previously served on the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board from 2008-2012 under the Brown and Schwarzenegger administrations and held staff positions at that Regional Water Board at various times between 1992 and 2006.

Between 1989 and 2012, Mr. Moore worked over 10 years as an engineer and consultant on a wide variety of water infrastructure projects, including sewer reconstruction, recycled water, stormwater, water supply, stream and wetland restoration, and Environmental Impact Reports throughout California. Mr. Moore has experience both obtaining and issuing discharge permits, wetland permits, and clean water grants and loans. He led Basin Planning for the Regional Water Board from 2002 to 2006.

Mr. Moore holds a B.S. in biological sciences and an M.S. in civil engineering, both from Stanford University. He is a registered civil engineer and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

## Infrastructure Stability in Increasingly Unstable Times

Steve Ritchie, Assistant General Manager of Water Enterprise, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Infrastructure, particularly water infrastructure, is one of the major elements that binds a society together. Threats to the stability of our water infrastructure are many and varied. Fire, drought, earthquake, climate change, aging workforce, reduced revenue, regulatory changes, and legislative changes all represent challenges to our ability to deliver water to 2.7 million people in the San Francisco Bay Area. This presentation will cover each of these challenges, the potential instability they represent, and how we need to be resilient to them.

**Session Title:** Day Two Plenary Session

**Speaker Biography:** Steven Ritchie is Assistant General Manager for Water of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC); responsible for overseeing water system operations and planning including the management of SFPUC lands and natural resources. Prior to this, he managed the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, a multi-agency effort to restore 15,100 acres of valuable habitat in South San Francisco Bay while providing for flood risk management and public access. In addition, in his 40-year career, he has worked in management positions at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, the CalFed Bay-Delta Program, and URS consultants. He has a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from Stanford University.