

State Water Board Training
February 23-24, 2009
Moderator Biography

Lisa Beutler

Lisa Beutler is the Associate Director for the Center for Collaborative Policy at California State University, Sacramento. She specializes in helping organizations and communities reach decisions and create effective public policy. Ms. Beutler has led or co-led numerous successful projects throughout California, including a major planning effort for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Other recent projects include managing a large scale collaborative in the Lake Tahoe Basin and facilitation and mediation for the California State Water Plan and the national award winning Flood Plan Management Task Force, and strategic planning for the Water Boards. Her work is and has been studied extensively, and her cases are also referenced in texts related to her field.

Prior to joining the Center, Ms. Beutler held a variety of key government positions including posts in special offices of two Governors. Earlier in her career, she served as a Chief Ranger in the Department of Parks and Recreation and at the State Lands Commission.

Ms. Beutler holds a degree in Human Relations and Organizational Behavior as well as numerous professional certifications. In addition to her facilitation-mediation practice, Ms. Beutler occasionally instructs at California State University Sacramento and is the instructor for the North Tahoe-Truckee Leadership Program. In her spare time she serves as a Board member for non-profit and professional organizations, including the American Society for Public Administration.

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Martha Davis

Martha Davis is Executive Manager for Policy Development and oversees the Planning and Water Resources Department at the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA), a municipal water district serving 800,000 people in the western portion of San Bernardino County. IEUA provides regional sewage treatment services, distributes imported water and recycled water supplies, and provides other utility services for the Chino Basin.

Previously, Ms. Davis served as the Executive Director for Californians and the Land (1998-2000) and for the Mono Lake Committee (1984-1996). Under her leadership, the Mono Lake campaign culminated in a unanimous landmark public trust decision by the State Water Resources Control Board to protect Mono Lake. Ms. Davis graduated from Stanford University *cum laude* with a degree in human biology and received her master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. She is the recipient of an honorary PhD in Public Policy from the Kennedy College.

Since 1998, Ms. Davis has served as the Co-Chair of the CalFed Watershed Subcommittee and is a member of the CALFED Bay Delta Public Advisory Committee and co-chair of the State Watershed Council. She is currently chair of ACWA's Energy Committee, Co-chair of ACWA's newly established Climate Change Subcommittee and a member of ACWA's board. She is also President of the Board for Earth Island Institute and serves as a board member for the Mono Lake Committee, the California section of the WaterReuse Association, and the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens.

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Kamyar Guivetchi

Kamyar Guivetchi was appointed Manager of DWR's Division of Statewide Integrated Water Management in August 2008 and he managed the Statewide Water Planning Branch before that since November 2000. During his 31 years with DWR, Mr. Guivetchi has worked on over 25 projects with the Central District, Office of State Water Project Planning, and the Division of Environmental Services as Program Manager of DWR's Suisun Marsh Program.

In his assignment with Statewide Water Planning, Mr. Guivetchi managed DWR staff work and coordination with agencies, stakeholders and the public to update the *California Water Plan* (Bulletin 160) in 2005 and again in 2009 using a collaborative, consensus-seeking approach.

Mr. Guivetchi has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and has completed post graduate work in Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Davis.

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H. David Nahai

H. David Nahai is the Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), the largest municipal utility in the United States. In this capacity, Nahai oversees more than 8,500 employees and an annual budget of more than \$4.2 billion.

Mr. Nahai was nominated as LADWP's general manager and CEO by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and confirmed by the City Council on December 5, 2007. He has the distinction of serving on the LADWP Board of Commissioners prior to becoming the Department's CEO and General Manager. He was first appointed to the Board in 2005 and elected its president in 2006.

Since his appointment to the Board and subsequently as CEO and General Manager, Mr. Nahai has led the beginning of an overall transformation of the LADWP that includes successfully securing funding to make essential water and power infrastructure improvements, initiating and implementing the City's far-reaching Water Supply Action Plan to secure a sustainable water supply, aggressively raising the Department's green energy profile, and ushering in a number of other green initiatives. Under his leadership, the LADWP has increased its renewable energy portfolio from 3 percent in 2005 to over 11 percent by the end of 2008, and the Department is on track to reach its aggressive goal of 20 percent renewables by 2010 and 35 percent by 2020. Additionally, Mr. Nahai has overseen the creation of the Los Angeles Solar Plan, the most ambitious solar program of any municipal utility in the U.S.

Mr. Nahai is widely recognized throughout California as a leading expert in water issues. He served for over 10 years on the state's Regional Water Quality Control Board, safeguarding the quality of

surface, ground and coastal waters while covering a jurisdiction of 11 million residents in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

At the Water Quality Board, Mr. Nahai served under both Democratic and Republican administrations. He was first appointed by Governor Pete Wilson, then re-appointed by both Governor Gray Davis and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Mr. Nahai was elected by his peers to an unprecedented four terms as Chairman of the Board in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2006.

During Mr. Nahai's tenure as Chairman, the Regional Board was awarded the Environmental Leadership Award by Keep California Beautiful, in recognition of the Regional Board's work in the area of urban run-off pollution. More recently, the UCLA Institute of the Environment awarded the Regional Board an "A" grade for its efforts in this area. He resigned from that Board in 2007, shortly after accepting the CEO and general manager position at LADWP.

Mr. Nahai has been the recipient of numerous awards and commendations. In 2003, he received the Environmental Champion Award from the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters. He has been twice honored for community leadership. In 2008, he was honored by Heal the Bay.

Mr. Nahai is Vice President of the Board of the California League of Conservation Voters, and sits on the Boards of numerous charities, including the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles, the Iranian American Jewish Federation, the Jewish Community Foundation, the B'nai Zion Foundation, and the Magbit Foundation.

Mr. Nahai began his career in the private sector as an attorney close to three decades ago, and became a partner at some of the nation's largest and most respected law firms. In 1992, Mr. Nahai formed Nahai Law Corporation, a Century City law firm, specializing in real estate, corporate, environmental and commercial law. He divested his interest in the firm on October 31, 2007.

Mr. Nahai holds graduate and post-graduate degrees in law from the London School of Economics and the University of California at Berkeley, and was a Visiting Scholar at Berkeley.

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John Withers

Mr. Withers, of Irvine, was appointed to the Irvine Ranch Water District Board of Directors in 1989 to fill a vacancy and has been subsequently re-elected to serve on the board three times. He served as President of the Board in 2004.

Mr. Withers serves on the Engineering and Operations Committee as well as various Ad Hoc Committees.

Mr. Withers is an associate with California Strategies in Irvine, a strategic government relations firm. In past positions, he has served as a Senior Project Manager for Lewis Operating Corporation and as Director of Water Resources for Psomas & Associates, a civil engineering and planning firm based in Costa Mesa. He has served as Director of Governmental Affairs for the Orange County Region of the Building Industry Association of Southern California, and as a legislative advocate for California Building Industry Association in Sacramento.

Mr. Withers has served as Commissioner to the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission since 1995. He also served as the chairman of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, having been appointed by the Governor in 1992. Mr. Withers is also a Board Member of the National Water Research Institute. A native Southern Californian, Mr. Withers received his B.A. from UCLA in economics with a specialization in urban studies in 1979. He was then selected as a CORO Foundation Fellow and received a master's degree in urban studies from Occidental College in 1988.

Community activities include membership in the UCLA Alumni Association, youth sports and Mariners Church.

A resident of Irvine since 1984, Mr. Withers and his wife Katie live in Turtle Rock. They have three children, Carolyn, Gordon, and Peter.

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Gary Yamamoto

Gary Yamamoto is the chief of the Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management of the California Department of Public Health. He oversees the drinking water program, environmental management branch, sanitation and radiation laboratory and the environmental laboratory accreditation program. He has been with the Department for over 36 years, starting as an assistant engineering specialist (sanitary) and being promoted several times to his present position as the division chief.

He is a licensed professional engineer in the field of civil engineering. He graduated with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering Science from the California Institute of Technology. He has authored and co-authored papers on drinking water contaminants, groundwater contamination and drinking water regulations. He has also made numerous presentations for conferences, workshops, training sessions and regional association meetings. He has taught for over 23 years at a community college on operations and treatment of water systems. He is a life member of American Water Works Association. He serves on the NSF International Council of Public Health Consultants and the Water Quality Association Public Health Review Board.

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Conner Everts

Conner Everts is the Executive Director of the Southern California Watershed Alliance and Co-Chair of the Desal Response Group. Mr. Everts was elected to the Casitas Municipal Water District and was President of the Ojai Groundwater Management Agency. He was on the SWRCB stakeholder process for recycled water guidelines and worked on the issue with media and workshops for public acceptance.

Mr. Everts was convener of the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC), and on the legislative directed Desal Task Force and TMDL state guidelines. He has reviewed grants for Prop. 50 conservation and desal proposals.

Mr. Everts sits on 8 Boards including Chair of Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform (POWER) and Water for California, but his most important work is as elder advisor to the Environmental Justice for Water and with the Southern California Steelhead Coalition helping remove dams on the streams where he caught fish as a youth and hopefully others can in the future.

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Victoria Whitney

Victoria Whitney currently serves as the State Water Resources Control Board's Deputy Director for Water Rights. Ms. Whitney graduated from the University of California at Davis with a degree in Civil Engineering. She is a registered Civil Engineer in the State of California. Ms. Whitney started with the Division of Water Rights in 1984. She has worked on numerous controversial and complex water right matters throughout the State, assisting the Attorney General and the courts in water right actions. She supervised the preparation of water right and environmental documents for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the northern California coastal streams.

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Professor Scott Samuelsen, Ph.D, P.E.

Professor Scott Samuelsen is Director of the National Fuel Cell Research Center (NFCRC) at the University of California Irvine, and Professor of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Environmental Engineering. He directs as well the Advanced Power and Energy Program (APEP), and hosts the Secretariat of the Pacific Rim Consortium on Energy, Combustion, and the Environment (PARCON). His research is directed to fuel cells and fuel cell systems for stationary applications, and the hydrogen infrastructure for mobile hydrogen-fueled combustion and fuel cell vehicles. He directs fundamental and applied research on (1) advanced coal and natural gas power plants for the co-production of electricity and hydrogen for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), (2) distributed generation and information technology research for the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) in support of energy-efficient and environmentally-responsible power generation, (3) hydrogen vehicle and refueling research for the South Coast Air Quality Management District in collaboration with Toyota, General Motors, Honda, Nissan, and Air Products, (4) advanced energy systems research for the California Energy Commission, and (5) alternative vehicle and alternative fuel infrastructure research with the University of California Institute for Transportation Studies. Professor Samuelsen co-Chairs the California Stationary Fuel Cell Collaborative, and leads the Collaborative standing committee on the stationary fuel cell and hydrogen vehicle interface. His energy expertise is based on forty years of combustion research working with strategic alliances involving industry with applications to gas turbine propulsion, gas turbine electronic power generation, and combustion distributed generation resources. He holds the Ph.D. degree from the University of California Berkeley.