



*DROUGHT, FIRE AND A  
CHANGING CLIMATE:  
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?*

**Wednesday, October 27, 2021**

**Program: 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**Location:**

Blue Goose Event Center  
3550 Taylor Rd, Loomis, CA 95650

**Wi-Fi:**

Network Name: Blue Goose  
Password: mandarin

8:30 a.m. Registration/Networking

9:15 a.m. Welcome/Introductions

Acknowledgement of John Kingsbury and Ginny Borkowski

Introduction of Justin Caporusso, Executive Director

**9:30 a.m. BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE SIERRA NEVADA**

Angela Avery, Executive Officer, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

9:45 a.m. Comments from Mary Jo McGuire  
Second VP of the National Association of Counties

**10:00 a.m. WATER DATA ANALYSIS AND MODELING: UNDERSTANDING THE PAST, PRESENT, AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

Andy Fecko, General Manager, Placer County Water Agency

Willie Whittlesey, General Manager, Yuba Water Agency

11:00 a.m. Acknowledgement of Jim Branham / Break

**11:15 a.m. ADDRESSING THE SEVERE WILDFIRE RISK FACED IN THE SIERRA NEVADA**

Patrick Wright, Director, Governor's Task Force on Forest and Wildfire Resilience

Dan Porter, Forestry Program Lead, The Nature Conservancy

Ed Murphy, Information and Environmental Services Manager, Sierra Pacific Industries

12:15 p.m. Lunch

**12:45 p.m. THE WONDERFULLY COMPLICATED WORLD OF WATER**

Dave Eggerton, Executive Director, Association of California Water Agencies

1:30 p.m. Adjourn

Speaker Bios

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**Building Resilience in the Sierra Nevada**

Angela Avery, Executive Officer  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Angela leads the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) by providing strategic direction and oversight to the Agency's Region-wide staff. As Executive Officer, she is committed to restoring the health and resilience of the Sierra Nevada Region. She believes that by working with SNC's partners to implement the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Plan we can ensure that the region thrives for future generations and continues to provide California clean air, clean water, recreational opportunities, and spiritual respite.

Angela joined the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in 2007 and became the Policy and Outreach Division Chief in 2015 where she focused on the development of sound, science-based policy and the necessary outreach programs and strategic partnerships that support the Sierra Nevada Region. Previously, Angela worked as a parks, recreation, and conservation planning consultant and managed forested land on the north coast of California.

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**Comments from Mary Jo McGuire**

County Commissioner, Ramsey County Minnesota  
2nd Vice President of the National Association of Counties

Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire was elected National Association of Counties (NACo) 2nd Vice President this past July, 2021. She has been a Ramsey County Commissioner in Minnesota since 2012. Prior to the County Board, Mary Jo served 16 years in the Minnesota State Legislature, serving in both the House and Senate.

Commissioner McGuire is a member of NACo's Executive Board and serves on its Financial Services Corporation and the Audit and Finance Committee. She also serves on NACo's Health Policy Steering Committee, Healthy Counties Advisory Board, Programs and Services Committee, and Arts and Culture Commission.

Mary Jo is a lifelong resident of Ramsey County, currently residing in Roseville. She has a BA in Business Administration from the College of St. Catherine, a JD from Hamline University School of Law, and an MA in Public Administration from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government.

Speaker Bios

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**Water Data Analysis and Modeling: Understanding the Past and Present, and Planning for The Future**

Andy Fecko, General Manager  
Placer County Water Agency

Andrew Fecko serves as the General Manager for Placer County Water Agency (PCWA). He has worked in the water and energy field for 25 years, with a particular interest in water supply infrastructure and hydro-electric energy. In his 15 years at PCWA, Andrew has focused on licensing the Agency's Middle Fork Project and marketing the Project's energy output, legislative and regulatory affairs, securing the Agency's water rights and entitlements, and watershed management issues. Andrew began his role as PCWA's General Manager in March of 2020.

Andrew is a graduate of U.C. Davis, and a long-time Placer County resident. He lives in the rural community of Foresthill, California with his wife and two children.

Willie Whittlesey, General Manager  
Yuba Water Agency

Willie Whittlesey assists with all aspects of Yuba Water Agency's operations and management, including flood risk reduction, hydropower generation, energy sales, water rights, water supply and more.

Having grown up in the Sierra Nevada foothills, Whittlesey is also passionate about using his role at Yuba Water to help accelerate the pace and scale of forest management and is leading the agency's efforts to protect the Yuba River watershed from catastrophic fire through innovative partnerships, programs and projects.

Prior to joining Yuba Water, Whittlesey spent 13 years with Pacific Gas & Electric's land and hydro generation departments and six years in private forest management.

Whittlesey graduated from Humboldt State University with a bachelor's degree in forestry and is a registered professional forester in California.

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## Speaker Bios

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### **Addressing the Severe Wildfire Risk Faced in the Sierra Nevada**

Patrick Wright, Director  
Governor's Task Force on Forest and Wildfire Resilience

Patrick Wright is Director of the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, where he led the development of the state's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. Mr. Wright was previously Executive Director of the California Tahoe Conservancy and served as Director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and as Deputy Secretary for the California Resources Agency in the Davis administration.

Prior to these appointments, he was a Senior Policy Advisor to the Regional Administrator of EPA and the Deputy Secretary of Interior and held positions in EPA's Air and Water Management Programs in San Francisco.

Dan Porter, Forestry Program Lead  
The Nature Conservancy

Dan Porter leads The Nature Conservancy's California Forest Program. Mr. Porter's extended team develops compelling media for major news outlets, advocates for public funding, moves public policy and leads regional, large-scale forest restoration partnerships. Previously, Mr. Porter played a variety of roles – from field ecologist to project director. During this time, he became skilled in raising and managing large funds and closing complex land transactions.

Mr. Porter enjoys sharing his perspective as an ecologist, forester, and conservationist with large and small groups alike. He earned a Bachelor of Science from UC Davis and an MA from Humboldt State University.

Ed Murphy, Information and Environmental Services Manager  
Sierra Pacific Industries

Ed Murphy is the Information and Environmental Services Manager (Inventory Forester) for Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI). He is a Registered Professional Forester in California and graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry in 1978. In 1988 Ed joined SPI (33 years), which at the time owned 130,000 acres. SPI has grown to 2.3 million acres. His 43 years in the industry have been leading the development of comprehensive resource mapping (GIS) and multi-resource inventory applications. Currently at SPI, Ed is responsible for tracking and maintaining all of SPI's resource inventory data and establishing projections for California's state mandated 100-year sustainable harvest demonstration.

Ed and his team's most recent efforts on our California lands involved securing a 1.6 million acre 50-year Incidental Take Permit (ITP) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for both northern and California spotted owls and completing a 650,000 acre 50-year ITP and HCP and Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) for seven anadromous salmonid species.

Speaker Bios

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**The Wonderfully Complicated World of Water**

Dave Eggerton, Executive Director  
Association of Water Agencies

Dave Eggerton serves as Executive Director of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), the largest water organization of its kind in the nation. With a professional staff of approximately 40 employees and offices in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., ACWA is a statewide association whose 450 local public water agency members are responsible for about 90% of the water delivered in California.

Prior to joining ACWA, Eggerton served as General Manager of the Calaveras County Water District from 2014-2018. After beginning his career as a corporate lawyer in the Bay Area, he made the move to the Sacramento region, where he worked as deputy general counsel for the El Dorado Irrigation District from 2004-2010 and as general manager of the El Dorado County Water Agency from 2011-2014.

Eggerton earned bachelor's degrees in English and Political Science from Texas A&M University in 1995 and proceeded to graduate first in his class at the University of California, Davis School of Law in 2000.



Mountain Counties  
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

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Blue Goose Event Center, Loomis CA

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### Watershed Level



### Lake Level



### Stream Level

