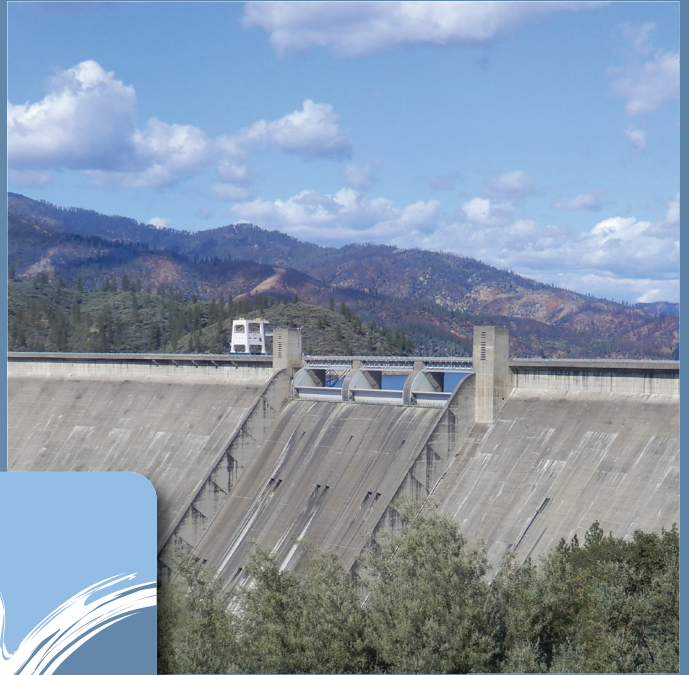


2019 ANNUAL REPORT



WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters and Friends of the Foundation,

As we waded through 2019, two important themes resonated in our work at the Foundation: Groundwater and its sustainability, and the ever-growing nexus between fire and water.

And, in Santa Fe, we convened a variety of stakeholder groups for our biennial Colorado River Symposium, exploring the challenges of the iconic Western river as a major rewrite on management plans loomed. We hosted a meaningful three-day event as representatives from the U.S. Interior Department, tribes, Mexico, NGOs and the seven U.S. states that depend on the river convened in the city that hosted negotiations for the 1922 Colorado River Compact.

Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt served up a provocative keynote address examining lessons learned in the Basin over the past 100 years. During his lunch talk, he looked me straight in the eye and challenged me and the rest of the Foundation team to spread our wings even more across the Colorado River Basin. It's very hard to say no to Bruce, so stay tuned on that.

In California, we spent much of 2019 explaining groundwater, the role it plays in California and how agencies were working to meet the first major deadline in January 2020 to submit sustainability plans for critically overdrafted basins under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. We wrote articles for *Western Water* news; featured a groundwater panel at our annual Water Summit; and highlighted the topic with a special session at our Water 101 Workshop followed the next day by a tour of groundwater sites.

The groundwater tour was just one of our 2019 tours. All together, we traveled 3,957 miles across key water regions in California, Nevada and Arizona. Be sure to check out our new stats section on page 5 to see other impressive numbers, including the 173,352 students we reached in California through teacher workshops under our Project WET (Water Education for Teacher) program.

Perhaps the most dramatic trend emerging in the last couple of years had been the impact of wildfires that sprinted chaotically across watersheds. A rapt audience at our 2019 Water Summit listened to Dave Pedersen, general manager of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District in Calabasas, recount how flames from the Woolsey Fire licked up to district headquarters as staff sheltered in place and what lessons they learned from the disaster. Dave was on a wildfire panel that included Kevin Phillips, district manager for Paradise Irrigation District. Kevin described the fallout from the devastating Camp Fire in Northern California, including the burning of pipes that transport water.

It was an issue that deserved more attention; thus, we assigned our 2019 Water Leaders group to spend the year crafting policy recommendations to better deal with fire impacts on water supply and quality. We graduated that class in December, bringing to 435 the number of people who have gone through our program since 1997.

We couldn't do all this important work without help and donations from our supporters. Thank you again!!!



*Jennifer Bowles,
Executive Director*



Jenn with former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman at the Foundation's Colorado River Symposium.



Jenn with former California Natural Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman, a Foundation board member, and current Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot at the Foundation's Water Summit.



Jenn with California Public Utilities Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves, a graduate of the Foundation's Water Leaders program.

PUBLICATIONS

Western Water

The Foundation's flagship publication, *Western Water*, covered a variety of critical water issues facing California and the West during the year. Altogether, *Western Water* articles drew more than 37,000 page views to the Foundation's website.

The articles, authored primarily by staff writer Gary Pitzer, explored key topics emerging for legislators, water purveyors, environmentalists, farmers and the public. Among the in-depth articles in 2019: The discussion about homelessness and water (June 27); and how California water agencies are recovering from wildfires that destroyed facilities and contaminated supplies (Nov. 7).

Exploring the Colorado River Basin, *Western Water* articles looked at what may lie ahead for the Basin as stakeholders begin renegotiating a critical river operating agreement (May 9); a partnership between Colorado ranchers and environmental groups to restore the river's headwaters (Aug. 8); the potential for "black swan" events like extreme droughts or floods to overwhelm water managers (Sept. 12); and the debate over whether a grand vision or an incremental approach can best address the Colorado River's challenges (Dec. 13).

In a series of shorter Notebook articles, *Western Water* examined options for fixing the sinking Friant-Kern Canal (Jan. 17); a California proposal to help low-income households absorb rising water bills (Feb. 7); former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's perspective on resolving Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta conflicts (April 11); how household water conservation could damage wastewater equipment and hamper water recycling efforts (June 13); how a study of microplastics in the San Francisco Bay might help cleanup strategies elsewhere (July 25); efforts by water agencies on California's southern Central Coast to protect against water shortages (Sept. 26); how flood waters could help recharge California's depleted aquifers (Oct. 10); an effort to improve forecasting and flood protection by reactivating dormant stream gauges (Oct. 24); and new approaches that could improve reservoir operations to save water and prevent flooding (Nov. 21).

Western Water also featured articles in its Spotlight series that highlight efforts to address or improve on water resource challenges, including how Southern California utilities are working to wean themselves off imported water (Feb. 28); Kern County's efforts to find a balance between agriculture and groundwater pumping under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (March 28); and how private capital is supporting Sierra Nevada forest restoration (Aug. 22).

Western Water interviewed newsmakers for a series of Question and Answer columns, including Jayne Harkins, the U.S. Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission (March 14); California's Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot on implementing Gov. Gavin Newsom's water agenda (April 25); and University of Colorado Professor Charles Wilkinson on John Wesley Powell's legacy on the 150th anniversary of Powell's trip down the Colorado River (May 23).

Western Water | March 28, 2019 | Gary Pitzer

As Deadline Looms for California's Badly Overdrafted Groundwater Basins, Kern County Seeks a Balance to Keep Farms Thriving

WESTERN WATER SPOTLIGHT: Sustainability plans required by the state's groundwater law could cap Kern County pumping, alter what's grown and how land is used

Groundwater helped make Kern County the king of California agricultural production, with a \$7 billion annual array of crops that help feed the nation. That success has come at a price, however. Decades of unchecked groundwater pumping in the county and elsewhere across the state have left some aquifers severely depleted.

Now, the county's water managers have less than a year left to devise a plan that manages and protects groundwater for the long term, yet ensures that Kern County's economy can continue to thrive, even with less water.

[READ MORE »](#)



Water sprinklers irrigate a field in Kern County, in the southern region of the San Joaquin Valley. (Image: California Department of Water Resources.)

Western Water | June 27, 2019 | Gary Pitzer

Can Providing Bathrooms to Homeless Protect California's Water Quality?

WESTERN WATER IN-DEPTH: The connection between homelessness and water is gaining attention under California human right to water law and water quality concerns

Each day, people living on the streets and camping along waterways across California face the same struggle—finding clean drinking water and a place to wash and go to the bathroom.

Some find friendly businesses willing to help, or public restrooms and drinking water fountains. Yet for many homeless people, accessing the water and sanitation that most people take for granted remains a daily struggle.

[READ MORE »](#)



A homeless camp set up along the Sacramento River near downtown Sacramento. (Source: Water Education Foundation)

Western Water | November 7, 2019 | Gary Pitzer | Douglas E. Beeman

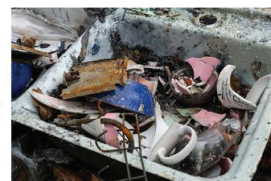
As Wildfires Grow More Intense, California Water Managers Are Learning To Rewrite Their Emergency Playbook

WESTERN WATER IN-DEPTH: Agencies share lessons learned as they recover from fires that destroyed facilities, contaminated supplies and devastated their customers

By Gary Pitzer and Douglas E. Beeman

It's been a year since two devastating wildfires on opposite ends of California underscored the harsh new realities facing water districts and cities serving communities in or adjacent to the state's fire-prone wildlands. Fire doesn't just level homes, it can contaminate water, scorch watersheds, damage delivery systems and upend an agency's finances.

[READ MORE »](#)



Debris from the Camp Fire that swept through the Sierra foothills town of Paradise in November 2018. (Source: California Office of Emergency Services)

IMPACT

Educating About Water in California and the West



WEBSITE
887,979
Pageviews (2019)



SOCIAL MEDIA
7,969
Followers

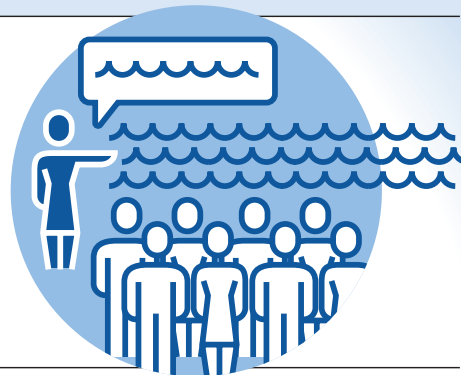


EMAIL NEWSLETTERS
15,651
Subscribers

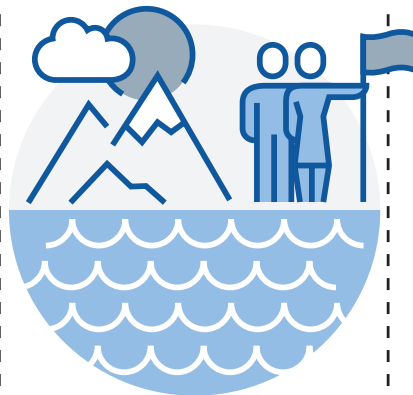
CALIFORNIA PROJECT WET TEACHER TRAINING

1,017
Educators at
51
Workshops

173,352
California K-12 Students
Reached During the
School Year



TOURS
9
Tours
381
Participants
3,957
Miles Traveled



WATER LEADERS PROGRAM
23
Up-and-Coming Community
Leaders from Diverse
Backgrounds Participated
435
Graduates Since 1997

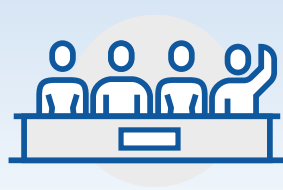
EVENTS

Colorado River
Symposium
(Sept. 18-20)



186
Attendees

Water Summit
(Oct. 30)



150
Attendees

Water 101
(Feb. 7)



173
Attendees

Santa Ana River
Watershed Conference
(March 29)



204
Attendees

WATER SUMMIT

The 36th annual Water Summit, Water Year 2020: A Year of Reckoning, was held on Oct. 30 at the Embassy Suites Sacramento Riverfront. Wade Crowfoot, secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, gave the keynote lunch address, speaking on, Advancing a New Water Agenda for California. Robert Hartman, hydrologist and retired director of the National Weather Service's California-Nevada River Forecast Center, gave the opening keynote: Atmospheric River Science, Forecasting and Scale: Applications for Water Management.

“Excellent panels and panelists on timely topics.”

— WATER SUMMIT PARTICIPANT

The Water Summit featured top policymakers and leading stakeholders who provided the latest information and viewpoints on issues affecting water statewide and across the West. Panels discussed ways agencies are meeting deadlines for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, reaching consensus in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta with proposed voluntary agreements and the emerging nexus of wildfire and water in the wildland-urban interface.

The annual briefing included a networking reception outside along the Sacramento River and a silent auction, with proceeds from the sale of donated items providing financial support for the Foundation's Water Leaders professional development program.



Foundation board members Mike Chrisman, a former California Natural Resources secretary, and Yung-Hsin Sun with current California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot at the Water Summit.



Water Summit panel on emerging nexus of fire and water featured (from left) Clint Snyder, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board; Kevin Phillips, Paradise Irrigation District; Moderator and Foundation Board Member Jennifer Persike, Leadership California; Dave Eggerton, ACWA; and David Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District.



Members of the Water Summit panel on challenges facing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.



California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot answers questions from Cheyanne Harris, a member of the Foundation's Water Leaders program, at the Water Summit.

WORKSHOPS

Water 101 Workshop

Our Water 101 Workshop: The Basics and Beyond was held Feb. 7 at McGeorge School of Law, followed by an optional one-day groundwater tour on Feb. 8. This workshop offered the opportunity to learn about the history, geography, legal and political facets of water in California as well as hot topics such as the Delta, climate change and an in-depth session on groundwater and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) as deadlines for sustainability plans were nearing.

The one-day groundwater tour visited cities and farms that rely on groundwater, examined a subsidence measuring station, explored groundwater quality and recharge projects and heard updates from agencies responding to SGMA.

“Great menu of topics presented by wonderful speakers. I would recommend this course to anyone who has worked in the water industry for years or just starting their career.”

— WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

Santa Ana Watershed Conference

The Foundation helped the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority plan and execute the 2019 Santa Ana Watershed Conference, Moving Forward Together: From Planning to Action Across the Watershed. The daylong conference March 29 at Cal State Fullerton’s Titan Student Union focused on issues related to the watershed that winds through San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles and Orange counties. Participants heard about planning, investments and collaboration in the watershed, efforts to help disadvantaged communities and priorities of federal agencies working in the watershed.

“It gave a really good overview about where our region is headed and enlightened the group to some emerging concerns, rather than just regurgitating a completed report.”

— CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT



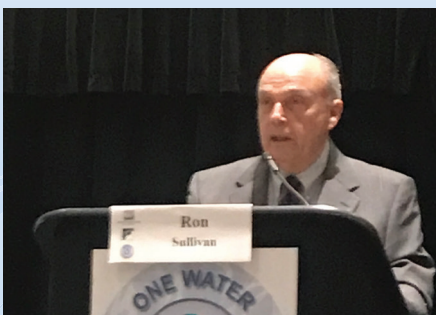
An attendee looks over Foundation materials at the Water 101 Workshop.



UC Davis Professor Jay Lund held the audience in rapt attention during his presentation at the Water 101 Workshop.



Hope Smythe, executive officer of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, at the Santa Ana River Watershed Conference.



Ron Sullivan, chair of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission, welcomes attendees at the Santa Ana River Watershed Conference.

Attendees at the Foundation’s Water 101 Workshop listen intently to speaker presentations.



TOURS

Water Education Foundation tours are praised for being balanced, thorough and fun. Participants learn about local, state and federal issues from experts on all sides. Time for socializing and networking is included in the action-packed itineraries.

In 2019 the Foundation Conducted Seven Public Tours:

The Lower Colorado River Tour, Feb. 27-March 1, traveled from Lake Mead to the Salton Sea and the Coachella Valley, and visited Hoover Dam to learn about the river's challenges and the vital role it plays in the American Southwest.

The Central Valley Tour, April 3-5, explored the length of the San Joaquin Valley to learn about water supplies, agriculture and habitat.

The Bay-Delta Tour, June 5-7, traveled through the Delta to San Francisco as participants learned about water project infrastructure, Delta conveyance, farming and how water moves to the San Francisco Bay.

The Headwaters Tour, June 27-28, traveled through the Sierra Nevada foothills and around the Lake Tahoe area to examine forest management, climate change and impacts on watershed health.

The Edge of Drought Tour, Aug. 27-29 explored a drought-stressed part of the Southern California coast to hear about atmospheric rivers, groundwater management, post-wildfire impacts and strategies for water resources management in water-scarce areas.

The Northern California Tour, Oct. 2-4, helped participants learn about farming, fishery restoration and California's major water projects.

The Central Coast Tour, Nov. 6-7, took participants to the coast to learn about groundwater and desalination, as well as visiting the former San Clemente dam site.



Central Coast Tour participants learn about how farmers are making efficient use of water.



Participants on our Edge of Drought Tour get a look at an ocean desalination plant in Santa Barbara.



The Bureau of Reclamation's Fernando Ponce and Lisa Navarro sample recycled water on our Central Coast Tour.

"I especially liked this tour because it highlighted collaboration & partnerships that are working in addition to providing accessible information about the complexities of California water management. I know I can count on WEF tours to be well planned & executed!"

— NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TOUR PARTICIPANT

Thank You to Our 2019 Tour Sponsors

Major Sponsors

Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region and Lower Colorado Region

California Department of Water Resources

Trailblazer Sponsor

Stantec

Traveler Sponsors

Jacobs

ESA

HDR, Inc.

Turlock Irrigation District

Organizations That Hosted or Co-hosted Meals, Provided Refreshments or Offered Other Support

Association of California Water Agencies, Bay Ecotarium, Central Arizona Project, Clarksburg Community Church, Coachella Valley Water District, Contra Costa Water District, Delta Farms, East Bay Municipal Utility District, GEI, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Imperial Irrigation District, Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District, Kern Water Bank Authority, Limoneira, Marina Coast Water District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Placer County Water Agency, Pure Water Monterey, Record Family Wines, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority, Stockton Area Water Suppliers (California Water Service Co., City of Stockton, County of San Joaquin, Stockton East Water District), Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, United Water Conservation District, Western Canal Water District, Westlands Water District, Yolo County Farm Bureau and Yuba Water Agency.



Participants on our Lower Colorado River Tour get a look at Imperial Dam as the river flows past.



Chief Sisk of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe discusses Native American populations in the Shasta region during a boat trip on Shasta Lake during our Northern California Tour.

Other Tours

On April 25, the Foundation conducted a private tour for the Water Solution Network's leadership program focused on water resource issues affecting the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

WATER LEADERS

The Water Leaders Class is a one-year program that educates up-and-coming community leaders and water professionals about water issues and prepares them to take an active, cooperative approach to decision-making about water resource issues. The program is led by Executive Director Jennifer Bowles.

In 2019, 23 young professionals participated in the Foundation's 23rd Annual William R. Gianelli Water Leaders Class. The class project was "Fire & Water: An Emerging Nexus in California."

"You provided a ton of information, put us out of our comfort zones, and created a network of future leaders in an entertaining way. Thanks SO much for what you do."

— WATER LEADERS CLASS MEMBER

Members of the 2019 Water Leaders Class are:

Jonathan Abelson, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.; Erica Bishop, GEI Consultants; Dominic Bruno, River Garden Farms; Greg Bundesen, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Daniel Constable, Delta Stewardship Council; DeDe Cordell, Yuba Water Agency; Andrew Garcia, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority; Jenifer Gee, Kronick Moskovitz Tiedemann & Girard; Cheyanne Harris, Brown and Caldwell; Julia Hart, Sierra Nevada Conservancy; Levi Johnson, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Kevin Kasberg, Jacobs; Megan Maurino, Alameda County Water District; Danielle McPherson, WaterNow Alliance; Maya Mouawad, Best Best & Krieger LLP; Tara Paul, Nossaman LLP; Geeta Persad, Union of Concerned Scientists; Adriana Renteria, Community Water Center; Ivy Ridderbusch, San Diego County Water Authority; Gokce Sencan, Public Policy Institute of California – Water Policy Center; Melissa Sparks-Kranz, Association of California Water Agencies; Sarah Sugar, State Water Resources Control Board; and Andrea Zimmer, CDM Smith.



Members of the Water Leaders class gather for a group photo while crossing San Francisco Bay on the Bay-Delta Tour.



Members of the Water Leaders class discuss the presentation for their class project during a workday at the Foundation office.



Water Leaders take a break during the Headwaters Tour.

Graduation day for the Water Leaders class.



COLORADO RIVER PROJECT

In 2019, the Foundation's Colorado River Project marked its 23rd year by producing an annual tour along the lower Colorado River that exposed attendees to a range of issues and perspectives, a biennial symposium, and various publications and news articles related to the Colorado River Basin. It also included Project WET workshops in Southern California areas served by the Colorado River.

Serving on the Advisory Committee in 2019 were: Michael Cohen, the Pacific Institute; Michael Connor, WilmerHale; John Entsminger, Southern Nevada Water Authority; Amy Haas, Upper Colorado River Commission; Chris Harris, Colorado River Board of California; Robert W. Johnson, Water Strategies LLC; Jeff Kightlinger, MWD of Southern California; James Lochhead, Denver Water; Jennifer Pitt, National Audubon Society; Stanley M. Pollack, Navajo Nation Department of Justice.

Primary financial support for the project is provided through a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation's Upper and Lower Colorado Regions, along with contributions from supporters across the West.

Colorado River Symposium

In September, the Foundation held its 12th biennial Colorado River Symposium, "Can We Build a Bridge to a Grand Bargain in the Basin?"

The invitation-only Sept. 18-20 event featured a lineup of top speakers, including Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman, former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, former Reclamation Commissioner Bob Johnson, former Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis of the Gila River Indian Community, former Assistant Interior Secretary for Water



Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman delivered the opening keynote address to our Colorado River Symposium.



Symposium participants get a chance to network after the first day of panels and speakers.

Panelists discuss lessons learned from the 2007 Interim Guidelines on Colorado River operations.



COLORADO RIVER PROJECT

and Science Anne Castle, along with Jayne Harkins, U.S. Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission, United States Section, and Roberto Salmón, Mexican Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission, CILA MEX-EUA.

The opening keynote featured Commissioner Burman discussing her perspective on laying the foundation for progress on the Colorado River, followed by two panels, one for the Lower Basin moderated by an Upper Basin stakeholder, and one for the Upper Basin moderated by a Lower Basin stakeholder, which focused on building the road to 2026, when new operating guidelines for the Colorado River are expected to be in place.



Water Education Foundation



Foundation President Robert Johnson, a former Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner, and Terry Fulp, regional director of Reclamation's Lower Colorado River Region, share a light moment during a panel discussion.



Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt provided the keynote luncheon address on lessons learned from the last 100 years on the Colorado River.



Panelists discuss achieving a vision for tribal water rights to the Colorado River.

“Thoughtful panel discussions, lots of food for thought, and great side conversations/networking.”

— SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANT

Day two featured a keynote address from Babbitt, who also served as Arizona governor, on lessons learned over the 100 years in the Colorado River Basin, a tribute by Colorado Senior Water Judge Gregory Hobbs for the late Gary Weatherford, a longtime Foundation board member and a key figure behind the idea of starting our biennial Colorado River Symposium in 1997 who passed away in 2018, as well as panels covering the U.S.-Mexico partnership on the river, collaboration between science and policy, a tribal vision for water, and lessons learned from the 2007 interim guidelines.

Day three wrapped up with panels on improving precipitation forecasting, innovation in the Basin, and a big-picture look ahead with representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation.

The symposium was recorded and the written proceedings will be published in 2020.



Symposium participants unwind during a reception at the New Mexico Museum of Art.

HIGHLIGHTS

Outreach

In March, six students from Galt High School, south of Sacramento, visited the Foundation to share their presentation on California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and solicit feedback. The students, members of Future Farmers of America (FFA), were preparing for an FFA debate competition that they ultimately won.

Executive Director Jenn Bowles was the luncheon keynote speaker at the Water Resources & Policies Initiative annual conference April 25 at California State University, Chico. Her talk was titled, "A Sustainable Water Future for California: Communicating to the Public and the Media".

In late May, Jenn was invited to join other dignitaries at the signing of the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan at Hoover Dam, an event that featured Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman and representatives from the seven states in the Colorado River Basin.

In July, the Foundation hosted a group of Chilean agricultural high school students from Liceo Agrícola El Carmen de San Fernando who were interested in water resource issues in California.

Jenn was interviewed in August for the Talk+Water podcast hosted by Texas+Water, a monthly newsletter published by The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, the Texas Water Journal and the Texas Water Resources Institute.

In October, Jenn Bowles and Development Director Patrick Dunlap made a presentation to the Walnut Grove Rotary in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Jenn also participated in an ACWA video on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, providing an impartial voice to talk about the Delta. The video was shown during the ACWA Conference in Monterey.

Social Media

The Foundation used its Twitter account @WaterEdFdn to post upcoming events and tours, top water stories from its weekday news aggregate, Aquaforia, and breaking news from press releases and newspaper articles. In addition, news items, tour and event information and photos were routinely posted to the Foundation's Facebook page. And the Foundation grew its presence on LinkedIn and promoted its Water Leaders and Water 101 programs.

Staff/Board Changes

Patrick Dunlap, Development Director, and Andrea Sproul, Events & Communications Manager, joined the Foundation this year.

In 2019, the Foundation welcomed four new directors and said goodbye to several long-time directors. Joining the board were Pablo Garza, Environmental Defense Fund; Jeff Kivett, Brown & Caldwell; Teri Smyly, Pacific Gas & Electric Company; and Rebecca Smith, Downey Brand LLP, who joined the board as a graduate of the Foundation's Water Leaders class. In addition, Board Member JaNell Cook, HDR, Inc., was named Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair.

The board said goodbye to long-time Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair Mike Savage, Brown & Caldwell; and Board Members Maurice Hall, Environmental Defense Fund; Phil Dunn, GEI Consultants.



Chilean high school students and their chaperones pose with Jenn Bowles and Events and Communications Manager Andrea Sproul.



Galt High FFA students pose with Foundation staff at the end of their visit.



Executive Director Jenn Bowles was the keynote speaker at the Water Resources & Policies Initiative annual conference April 25 at California State University, Chico.



PROJECT WET SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Project WET

The Water Education Foundation has been the designated host institution for the California Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) program in an agreement with the Montana-based Project WET Foundation dating back to 1995.

In 2019, interest in Project WET professional development trainings continued to soar among California K-12 educators as a resource to engage students in the study of water resources and management in conjunction with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Project WET activities engage students in the study of water through an interdisciplinary science lens and from multiple viewpoints. These activities help students better understand the economic, environmental and societal implication of decisions and their role in the conservation and protection of water resources.



California Project WET coordinator Brian Brown (in the green T-shirt) explains to a group of teachers how to use USGS data as part of a Project WET activity.



Teachers get hands-on experience with a Project WET activity.



Brian Brown explains how a watershed works to students during State Science Day at the state Capitol.



Teachers get on the Cosumnes River during a Project WET institute conducted in June.

“I loved that we focused on our local watershed and saw different strategies, real content & project ideas... so all good!”

— WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

Led by Brian Brown at the Water Education Foundation with assistance from volunteer facilitators around the state, the California Project WET program hosted 1,017 educators at 51 workshops, showing them a variety of activities to bring back to the classroom where they reached approximately 173,352 California K-12 students during the school year.

Advanced Workshops

Brian worked in collaboration with California Department of Water Resources researchers to organize and co-lead special-focus workshops for teachers on the importance of floodplain restoration efforts in the Central Valley and how climate science is being applied to build resiliency in California communities and water supply systems. Water conservation and watershed management remained the focus of most California Project WET workshops. Coastal Commission funding has allowed the program to develop new tools to help teachers better connect Project WET activities with education standards. They also help teachers identify community action projects that students can engage in to apply the concepts and skills learned in the classroom to protect the quality of water flowing off our landscapes into coastal and marine environments. Other special-focus collaborations included forest and watershed management institutes with the Society of American Foresters and training new AmeriCorps members, who will be working throughout the Sierra Nevada through 2020 for organizations partnered with the Sierra Nevada Alliance.

All advanced California Project WET workshops demonstrate the use of U.S. Geological Survey data to localize Project WET activities and highlight the federal Central Valley Project, State Water Project and other water supply systems in California.

Grants Helping the Program

The Foundation has been aided in offering Project WET workshops through grants from the Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region and the U.S. Geological Survey, California Water Science Center (USGS) with added support from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and local water district and education programs. In 2019, the California Project WET program also received support from the California Coastal Commission, Whale-Tail License Coastal and Ocean Fund; the Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region; Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD); and Project WET Foundation. The program began a new agreement with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration B-WET program to support a local, in-depth education training program in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

Related Activities

Brian continued to be actively involved with various professional committees and organizations, including the Project WET USA Coordinator Council, the California Environmental Education Interagency Network, DWR Water Education Committee, Forestry Institute for Teachers Steering Committee and California Project Learning Tree Advisory Committee. The California Project WET program also was represented at 12 education conferences in 2019, including the California Science Teachers Association conference.

Brian also creates the quarterly California Project WET Gazette newsletter, which is featured in a digital format on the Water Education Foundation website.

FUNDING SOURCES

A variety of grants from governmental agencies and other organizations funded the Foundation's special programs, publications and projects in 2019. The Foundation's general activities, in turn, were supported by another primary source — annual contributions.

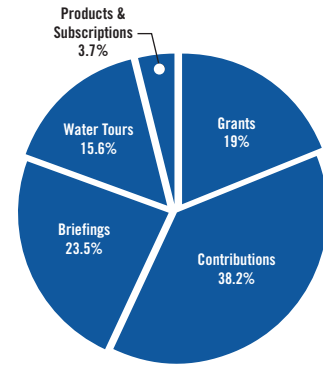
This diversity of funding helps the Foundation fulfill its mission of providing balance in all written materials, school programs, tours, workshops, conferences and publications. Reviewers and advisory groups help ensure technical accuracy, but the Foundation retains editorial control over all programs and publications — no matter what the funding source.

In 2019, grant funds provided 19 percent of the Foundation's revenues, funding Project WET, special workshops, and publications.

Major contributions represented 38 percent of 2019 revenues and helped maintain core programs such as *Western Water* online, conferences, tours and the Water Leaders Program.

In 2019, the Foundation continued its "Giving Back" program for our major contributors in which complimentary maps, publications and attendance at Foundation events were awarded to contributors based on their pledge amount. This is our way of thanking our contributors — which include cities, farmers, law firms, engineering firms, water districts, businesses and other organizations, and private individuals — for their support (See page 15 for the list of major contributors).

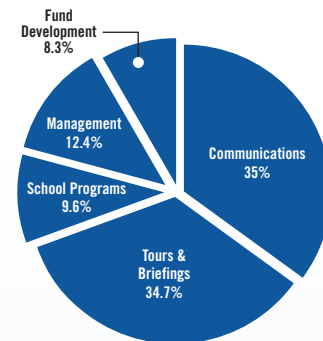
Additional Foundation income is derived from attendance at briefings and water tours (39 percent) and the sale of our educational materials (4 percent). In return for all this support, the Foundation continues to serve as the source of impartial information on water issues in California and the Southwest. We thank all the organizations and individuals for the many ways in which they support our work and help us fulfill our mission.



SOURCES OF REVENUE

\$1,735,527

Jan. 1, 2019 – Dec. 31, 2019



EXPENDITURES

\$1,610,723

Jan. 1, 2019 – Dec. 31, 2019

Major Grants in 2019

Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region

- Colorado River Tour
- Western Water
- Colorado River Symposium
- Project WET Workshops

Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region

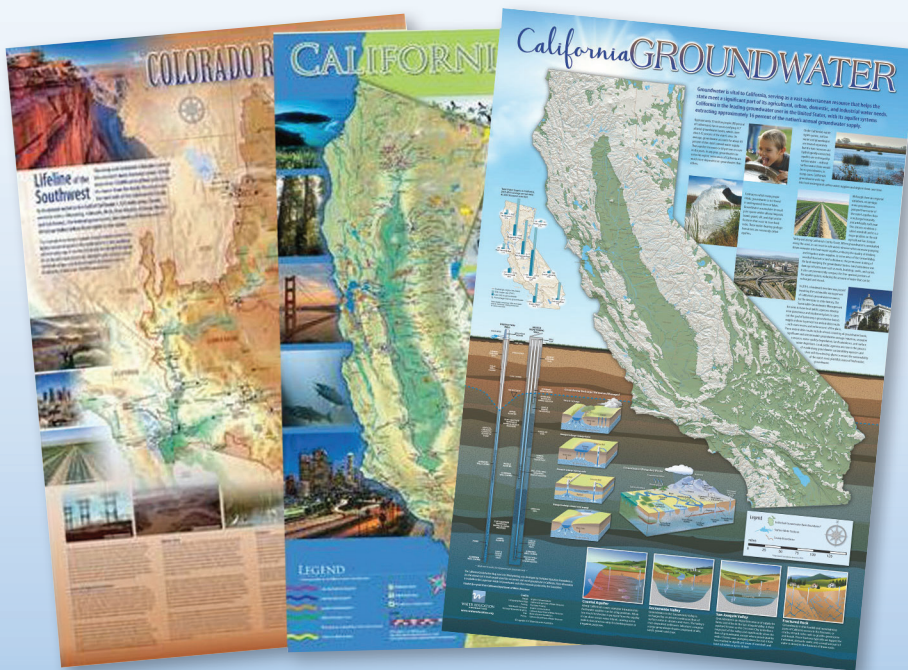
- Water Tours
- Layperson's Guide to the Delta
- Water Summit
- Project WET Workshops

California Department of Water Resources

- Water Tours

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)

- U.S. Geological Survey
- California Coastal Commission
- Department of Water Resources
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

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(\$5,000 and above)

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California Water Association
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East Bay Municipal Utility District
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San Luis Canal Company



Board members Bart Fisher and Pete Silva share a moment at the Foundation's Colorado River Symposium.

A staff selfie during the Bay-Delta Tour.

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 Santa Rosa, City of
 South San Joaquin Irrigation District
 Sweetwater Authority
 Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
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(\$1,000 – \$2,499)

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 San Dieguito Water District
 San Gabriel Valley Water Company
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 Somach Simmons & Dunn
 Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District
 Stockton East Water District
 Sunnyvale, City of
 Ventura, City of
 Water Replenishment District of Southern California
 Western Municipal Water District
 Westervelt Ecological Services
 Zone 7 Water Agency



Programs Manager Nick Gray and Development Director Patrick Dunlap share a laugh with two members of the Water Leaders class during the Water Summit reception.



Board Member Cannon Michael and Nick Gray during a stop on the Central Valley Tour.



News & Publications Director Doug Beeman with hydrologist Rob Hartman at the Water Summit.

Staff take a moment to celebrate the Foundation's 42nd birthday.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

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(\$750 – \$999)

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 West Stanislaus Irrigation District
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 Wonderful Orchards



Scott Morris and former Executive Director Rita Schmidt Sudman chat after Scott's last board meeting.



Foundation President Bob Johnson and Executive Director Jenn Bowles during a break at the board retreat.

Foundation board members and Executive Director Jenn Bowles honor outgoing Vice President Scott Morris at his last board meeting.



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(\$250 – \$499)

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 Thille Ranches, J.K.
 Tustin, City of
 Water and Power Associates, Inc.
 Yuma County Water Users' Association



Foundation Board Member Mike Chrisman, a former California Natural Resources Secretary, and current Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot chat at the Water Summit.



Programs Manager Nick Gray and Eric Zigas, a principal associate with Environmental Science Associates who was a resource speaker on the Foundation's Central Coast Tour.



Executive Director Jenn Bowles, McGeorge Law School Professor Jennifer Harder and Programs Manager Nick Gray at Water 101.



Outgoing Vice President Scott Morris and Board Member Mary Aileen Matheis chat during an evening gathering at the board retreat.



Jenn Bowles and Nick Gray with a prized map during a pop quiz at Water 101.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

FOUNDATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

(\$100 – \$249)

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Staff writer Gary Pitzer takes notes during a Water Summit panel.



Board Member Chris Park at the reception following the Water Summit.



Board Member Jennifer Persike and Executive Director Jenn Bowles at the Water Summit luncheon.



Foundation board members and staff at the biennial board retreat in Long Beach.

**THE MISSION OF THE
WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION,
AN IMPARTIAL, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION,
IS TO CREATE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING
OF WATER RESOURCES
AND FOSTER PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND
RESOLUTION OF WATER RESOURCE ISSUES THROUGH
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EDUCATION
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