

October 25, 2023



WATER EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION

# Water Summit 2023:

## Taking On the Improbable in Western Water

### Water Education Foundation's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Summit

#### *Taking On the Improbable in Western Water*

The Sawyer Hotel | 500 J St., Sacramento

#### AGENDA

9:00 a.m. Check-In

9:30 **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Jenn Bowles, *Executive Director, Water Education Foundation*  
Nick Gray, *Programs Director, Water Education Foundation*

9:45 **The Waters That Connect Us: A Changing Tide in Water Policy**

Anecita Agustinez, *Tribal Policy Advisor, California Department of Water Resources*

10:15 **NETWORKING BREAK**

10:45 **Accelerating Change on the Regulatory & Policy Landscape**

Moderator: Jenn Bowles, *Executive Director, Water Education Foundation*

Alexandra Biering, *Senior Policy Advocate, California Farm Bureau*

Wade Crowfoot, *Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency*

Chelsea Haines, *Regulatory Relations Manager, Association of California Water Agencies*

Eric Oppenheimer, *Chief Deputy Director, State Water Resources Control Board*

Erick Orellana, *Senior Policy Advocate, Community Water Center*

12:00 p.m. **NETWORKING LUNCH**

1:00 **Rita Schmidt Sudman Award for Excellence in Water Journalism**

[#WaterSummit2023](https://twitter.com/WaterSummit2023)

- 1:15 Pursuing Sustainability in California Groundwater**  
Moderator: Nick Gray, *Programs Director, Water Education Foundation*  
Tina Cannon Leahy, *Staff Counsel IV, State Water Resources Control Board*  
Paul Gosselin, *Deputy Director of Sustainable Groundwater Management, California DWR*  
Ann Hayden, *Vice President, Climate Resilient Water Systems, Environmental Defense Fund*  
Matt Hurley, *General Manager, McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency*
- 2:30 NETWORKING BREAK**
- 3:00 Pivoting to a Dynamic Future in the Colorado River Basin**  
JB Hamby, *Chair, Colorado River Board of California*
- 3:30 Breaking Through: Obsolete Dam Removal in the West**  
Moderator: Nick Cahill, *Staff Writer, Water Education Foundation*  
J. Aman Gonzalez, *Senior Project Manager, California American Water*  
Brian Johnson, *President, Klamath River Renewal Corporation*  
Rob Lusardi, *Assistant Professor of Freshwater Ecology, University of California, Davis*  
Meghan Quinn, *California Dam Removal Program Director, American Rivers*
- 4:45 Closing Remarks**
- 5:00 NETWORKING RECEPTION**

## Speaker Bios & More

