

**WESTCAS 26th Annual
Conference
June 20-22, 2018**

**Guest Speaker
Biographies**



“The Voice of Water Quality in the Arid West”



Robert Adams, D.E., P.E., Principal, Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.

Robert Adams is a Principal and Design Team Leader in the Austin office of Alan Plummer Associates, Inc., with BS, M Eng., & D Eng. degrees from Texas A&M University. He has been assisting clients with solutions to water supply, water quality, and environmental problems for over 30 years. He develops sustainable solutions by applying both natural and conventional treatment approaches for wastewater and biosolids. He has worked on many water resource planning studies and has engaged in watershed planning for water quality improvement.

Robert has had the privilege of working with Dr. Peggy Glass in two different firms during his career, and he has also served as a Director of the Upper Brushy Creek Water Control and Improvement District in central Texas.

Laura Blaylock, CFM, Manager of Energy and Water Management, Water Resources Engineering Tarrant Regional Water District, Fort Worth, TX

Laura earned her Bachelor of Science degree at Tarleton State University, graduating in 1999. She immediately took a position at Tarrant Regional Water District in the Engineering Department. She has 18 years' experience in raw water transmission operations, flood operations, energy planning and procurement and long-term supply reliability.

As Manager of Energy and Water Management, she directs multiple projects researching optimization of existing resources, conservation, new source development and alternative operations. As a Certified Floodplain Manager, she also serves on a Task Force committee at the NCTCOG, coordinating regional development in the Trinity River Floodway. As a Certified Energy Manager, she oversees energy consumption and procurement for TRWD.

Andrew Fecko, Director of Strategic Affairs, Placer County Water Agency

Andrew Fecko is the Director of Strategic Affairs for Placer County Water Agency. He has worked in the water and energy field for 20 years, with a particular interest in water rights and water and energy management issues. He has worked on Colorado River issues, Bay-Delta matters, and Sacramento and American River flow management negotiations from both the regulatory and utility perspectives.

In his current role at PCWA, he manages the Agency's strategic business partnerships and regulatory and government affairs. Andrew is a graduate of U.C. Davis and lives in the community of Foresthill, CA with his wife and two children.

Robert Gensemer, Ph.D., Vice President, GEI Consultants, Fort Collins, CO

Robert (Bob) Gensemer is a Vice President and Senior Ecotoxicologist with GEI located in Fort Collins, Colorado. He has BA in Botany and Microbiology from Ohio Wesleyan University, and a PhD in Limnology and Biological Sciences from University of Michigan. Bob has over 30 years of academic and industrial experience in general aquatic toxicology, the conduct and oversight of ecological risk assessments, sediment remedial investigations under EPA's Superfund program, and the development and modification of ambient water quality criteria for protection of aquatic life.



One of Bob's primary areas of technical expertise is the development and basis of aquatic life criteria for Clean Water Act compliance, including the development and updating of toxicity databases, criteria derivation and modification, site-specific criteria development, and the use and development of biotic ligand models (BLMs) for derivation of site-specific metals criteria. From 2001 through 2007, Bob was a Principal Investigator for several projects under the Arid West Water Quality Research Project (AWWQRP), including the Extant Criteria Evaluation, Biotic Ligand Model Evaluation, and the Recalculation Procedure Evaluation.

He has provided expert testimony in state water quality hearings (including NM, CO, and WV) to update both statewide and regional criteria, and has assisted in the development, modification, and negotiation of numerous permitted effluent discharge limits. Most recently, Bob and the GEI team have been leading national efforts to review and/or implement new scientific approaches for aquatic life protection, including the national implementation of new BLM-based copper criteria, newly proposed criteria for aluminum and conductivity, and review of the scientific basis for defining Waters of the US under the Clean Water Act.

Gary M. Gin, R. G., Vice President of Arizona Operations, Leonard Rice Engineers, Phoenix, AZ

Gary Gin joined LRE in 2017. He has 19 years of extensive experience in the water resources industry. Gary specializes in the planning, permitting, development, and operational efficiency of water infrastructure projects spanning from recharge basins, water supply wells to Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells. Gary is the ASR Practice Leader and is focused on developing operator friendly systems to manage and creating efficient recharge systems that are cost-effective and sustainable.

Gary is a Registered Professional Geologist in Arizona and Texas. While employed with the City of Phoenix, Gary and the City were recipients of several national and state awards in developing highly efficient ASR well systems that address resiliency to droughts.

Roger Gorke, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Roger Gorke is the EPA lead for drought and western water issues, such as the nexus between water quantity and water quality and the clean-up of abandoned mines. Roger played a key role for EPA in the development of the Presidential Memorandum "Building National Capabilities for Long Term Drought Resilience". He is also the liaison for EPA with the Western States Water Council and the Western Governors' Association with respect to water issues.

Roger is a native of California and graduate of UC Santa Barbara. He lives in Camarillo, with his wife, Chaan, and sons, Luke and Jackson. In his spare time, when not driving to or attending baseball & football games for his sons, he enjoys playing and building guitars and restoring vintage tube amplifiers.

David K. Harkins, Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE, Water Resources Lead, Carollo Engineers, Inc., Austin, TX

Dr. David K. Harkins is the Water Resources Lead of Carollo Engineers in Austin, Texas. Dr. Harkins has over 20 years of experience in water resources and environmental engineering design and planning studies. His experience is primarily focused on water supply, groundwater modeling, Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), groundwater management, water quality analysis and modeling, water availability modeling, water resources management, instream flow analysis, environmental flow analysis, bay and estuary evaluations.



Dr. Harkins completed his B.S. in Petroleum Engineering (1992), and a M.S. (1995) and Ph.D. (1998) in Civil Engineering from Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Dr. Harkins was recognized in April 2010 by Texas Tech University Civil Engineering Department by being inducted into the Civil and Environmental Engineering Academy and became a Diplomate of the American Academy of Water Resource Engineers in November 2010. Dr. Harkins is a registered Professional Engineer in the States of Texas, Oklahoma, and Mississippi.

Courtney Jalbert, Infrastructure Integrity Manager, Tarrant Regional Water District, Fort Worth, TX

Courtney Jalbert graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in Meteorology in 2004. She joined the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) in 2005 working in the Engineering Department, giving her 13 years of experience in the water industry. Her role over the years has included a wide range of projects, including GIS tools to better assess the pipeline, managing a multi-year project to build the Rainfall Runoff Model for reservoir operations and flood control, managing a site specific probable maximum precipitation study, and running the gauge system for TRWD.

Ms. Jalbert's current role as Infrastructure Integrity Manger includes leading the pipeline integrity program with condition assessment, risk prioritization, and predictive maintenance. She is a member of the TRWD Asset Management Implementation Team, which will lead the District in best practices for all assets, including vertical assets and horizontal assets. She recently acquired her certification from the Institute of Asset Management (IAM) in November of 2017.

Jeanine Jones, Interstate Resources Manager, California Department of Water Resources

Jeanine Jones is the California Department of Water Resources' Interstate Resources Manager. She has previously been CDWR's Drought Preparedness Manager, and still works extensively on drought. She represents CDWR on the Colorado River Board of California and Western States Water Council, where she is the Vice-Chair. She is a registered professional engineer in California and Nevada.

Jeffrey S. Longworth, Esq., Partner, Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Washington, D. C.

Jeffrey S. Longworth is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Barnes & Thornburg LLP and the D.C. administrator of the Environmental Department, which was recently recognized as Tier 1 for national environmental litigation in the annual "Best Law Firms" ranking by U.S. News and Best Lawyers. He is involved in counseling and litigating issues that arise under federal environmental laws and regulations, with an emphasis on Clean Water Act matters, especially issues involving permitting, stormwater, effluent limitations guidelines, enforcement, inspections and spill prevention.

Mr. Longworth was appointed to the EPA Federal Advisory Committee on Urban Wet Weather Flows, which was established in 1996. He frequently teaches environmental law courses around the country and serves as editorial advisor to several industry publications. He has served on the Montgomery County (Maryland) Water Quality Advisory Board.

Mr. Longworth serves as special environmental counsel to numerous national trade associations, industries, coalitions and state/municipal government agencies before federal and state regulatory and enforcement authorities. He works closely within the federal rulemaking process with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Small Business Administration, and White House Office of Management and Budget, to name a few. Mr. Longworth also works closely with many state regulatory agencies and advises clients and the firm's legislative team on environmental issues arising under federal legislation.



Mr. Longworth graduated from Amherst College in 1984 and received his J.D. in 1991 from the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, where he served as a member of the Law Review.

Mr. Longworth is admitted to practice in the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia, and before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 7th, 9th and District of Columbia Circuits.

Richard Meyerhoff, Ph.D., GEI Consultants

Richard Meyerhoff is a Senior Water Quality Specialist with GEI Consultants, Inc. He has Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in biology from Baylor University and a PhD in aquatic ecology from Oregon State University. With almost 30 years of water resources experience, Dr. Meyerhoff spent the first part of his career working as a regulator with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality overseeing the state's water quality standards program, water quality assessments, priority pollutant sampling and other special water quality and biological studies needed to support regulatory decisions.

Since 1997, Mr. Meyerhoff has worked as a consultant, assisting clients mostly in the west with implementation of federal, state and tribal water regulatory requirements, including activities involving water quality standards, TMDLs, use attainability studies, stormwater permit compliance, and groundwater management. From 2001 to 2007 he served as the Research Manager for the Arid West Water Quality Research Project (AWWQRP), a collaborative initiative to conduct scientific research on western ephemeral and effluent-dependent waters to help resolve issues of significance to both the regulated community and regulators.

Similarly, Richard has been providing technical and regulatory support to other collaborative stakeholder efforts in the arid west to find solutions to complex regulatory issues, including establishing revised freshwater recreational standards (bacteria) for the Santa Ana Region of California, implementing the Middle Santa Ana River watershed bacteria TMDL and revising the existing Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake nutrient TMDLs. Since 2012 he has been working with the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) stakeholder-led initiative providing Technical Project Management and regulatory services to the development of a Salt and Nitrate Management Plan and establishment of Salt and Nitrate Control Program regulations in the Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans) for the Central Valley Region of California.

Brian Powell, Director, Groundwater Management and Facilities Planning, Eastern Municipal Water District, Perris, CA

Brian Powell joined Eastern Municipal Water District in 2010 and serves as the Director of Groundwater Management and Facilities Planning. He has worked in the water industry for 30 years focusing on planning and designing of water systems including groundwater facilities. He is a member of the American Water Works Association and is on the Groundwater Committee for the Association of California Water Agencies.

Powell graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from California Polytechnic University, Pomona in 1988. Prior to joining EMWD, Powell worked as a consulting engineer planning and designing water systems & facilities for numerous cities and water districts. In his personal time, he enjoys off-roading, traveling, and spending time with his family, especially his two grandchildren.



Timothy Quinn, Ph. D., Executive Director, Association of California Water Agencies

With more than 30 years of experience in California water issues, ACWA Executive Director Timothy Quinn has helped shape some of the most significant developments in state water policy in recent decades. His involvement in developing ACWA's Statewide Water Action Plan and the Brown Administration's California Water Action Plan has helped advance comprehensive solutions to meet the state's 21st century water needs.

Over the course of his career, Quinn has been a leader in many events that have transformed California water management, including passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 and enactment of Proposition 1, the \$7.5 billion general obligation water bond overwhelmingly approved by California voters in November 2014. In addition, he played a key role in developing the California Legislature's historic 2009 comprehensive water package, which ushered in a new era in water policy focused on the coequal goals of improving the state's water supply reliability and restoring the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta ecosystem. He also was actively involved in developing the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, the 2000 CALFED Record of Decision, the 1995 Monterey Agreement, the 1994 Bay-Delta Accord, and the 1991 Governor's Drought Water Bank. Other accomplishments include successfully negotiating numerous water marketing agreements and legislative initiatives.

Prior to joining ACWA as executive director in 2007, Quinn served as deputy general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and represented the district on numerous state and federal water issues during his 22-year tenure. He joined MWD in 1985 as principal economist and became deputy general manager in 1994. Before coming to MWD, Quinn was a project manager at the RAND Corporation, specializing in research on natural resources and environmental policy issues. He earned a Master's degree (1976) and PhD (1983) in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Zoe Rodriguez del Rey, Water Resources Associate, Coachella Valley Water District

Zoe Rodriguez del Rey joined the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) as a Water Resources Associate in 2017. CVWD provides domestic water, wastewater, recycled water, irrigation water, drainage, flood control and groundwater management services to over 300,000 residents in Coachella Valley, California.

In her role at CVWD, she is responsible for implementing programs that support the District's mission to replenish and sustainably manage the Coachella Valley's water resources. Zoe's 12 years of experience in the water utility sector includes managing water resources, water quality, and regulatory compliance projects for the City of Portland Water Bureau and in private consulting. Zoe has a Master's Degree in Environmental Sciences from Portland State University and a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from the University of New Orleans.

Jack Simes, Area Planning Officer/Acting Area Manager, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Southern California Area Office

Jack Simes is the Area Planning Officer and Acting Area Manager for the Bureau of Reclamation's Southern California Area Office located in Temecula, California. That office has program responsibility in nine Southern California Counties for implementing water reclamation and reuse projects under the Title XVI authority, conducting water and related resources planning, water conservation field services, and Native American Affairs.



Jack completed undergraduate studies at the University of Maryland where he served as Co-Captain of the Varsity Fencing Team and went on to complete graduate studies at the University of Baltimore, Troy State University, and Georgetown University. He is married to the former Karen Campbell of Bristol, Tennessee, and they have a son, Brandon who lives in Prescott, Arizona with his wife, Trina, and their two beautiful children, Scarlett, age 6 and Rhett, age 3.

Christopher Treese, Manager of External Affairs, Colorado River Water Conservation District

Chris Treese is the Manager of External Affairs for the Colorado River Water Conservation District. Chris is responsible for the River District's legislative and regulatory lobbying efforts in Denver and D.C. and has testified before Congress several times. He is also responsible for the District's water education and information efforts.

Chris earned a BBA and MBA in Economics. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA) and is a former Director of WESTCAS.

Chris moved from Denver to the wetter, better side of Colorado in 1982 to be the boomtown advisor for Union Oil's oil shale project. He now lives in Glenwood Springs. When not working, he pretends his knees can still rock climb, ski, and bike.

James Walter, Senior Meteorologist, Salt River Project

James Walter is a senior meteorologist in the Surface Water Resources at the Salt River Project (SRP). SRP is a water and power utility founded in 1903 which serves the majority of the Phoenix metropolitan area. The Surface Water Resources group is responsible for weather forecasting in support of power and water operations, watershed monitoring, runoff forecasting, reservoir operations planning, flood emergency reservoir operations, and drought preparedness.

James has been with SRP for more than 16-years, participating in operational weather and streamflow forecasting, summer convective storm research, snow monitoring, and climate change science. Prior to SRP, James received a bachelors and master's degree from Arizona State University's department of Geography.

Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager/Chief External Affairs Officer, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Dee Zinke is the Assistant General Manager and Chief External Affairs Officer for The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Metropolitan is the regional wholesale water provider supporting Southern California's \$1.5 trillion economy and a region with 19 million residents.

Zinke has a 30-year career in public affairs working on complex policy issues related to water resources, environmental stewardship and housing. At Metropolitan, she directs strategic initiatives and collaborative efforts related to legislative advocacy, communications and community relations. In this capacity, she helps ensure Metropolitan is recognized as an innovative and influential leader on water management issues as well as a trusted, credible resource on water policy.



Guest Speaker Biographies

Before joining Metropolitan in 2009, Zinke worked at Calleguas Municipal Water District, for the Building Industry Association of Greater Los Angeles and Ventura Counties and for a defense contractor in Washington, DC. Zinke currently serves on the Advisory Council for the Public Policy Institute of California's Water Policy Center, is Chair of the Association of California Water Agencies Federal Affairs Subcommittee on Energy and Water and Co-Chair of the Southern California Water Dialogue. She also serves on the Board of Directors for HomeAid Los Angeles, an organization dedicated to constructing transitional housing for the homeless.

Zinke is a graduate of Virginia Tech.