



**WESTCAS 2014 Fall Conference
October 29-31, 2014
Phoenix, AZ**

Guest Speaker Biographies

**Brian K. Biesemeyer, Executive Director, Scottsdale Water Resources Division,
Scottsdale, AZ**

Brian Biesemeyer is the Executive Director of Scottsdale's Water Resources Division and is committed to providing residents with efficient, high-quality, reliable water and sewer services. Brian oversees five departments within the division: Planning and Engineering, Water Services, Water Reclamation Services, Water Quality and Water Technology and Administration. Brian is also a member of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Operator Certification Committee and President of WaterReuse Arizona.

Prior to coming to Scottsdale in December 2012, Brian was the Deputy Public Works - Utilities Director for the City of Peoria, Arizona. In this capacity, he managed the Water and Wastewater Utilities for the city. Brian's previous experience includes General Manager and Operations Manager for Arizona American Water and Operations Manager and Environmental Engineering Supervisor for Citizens Water Resources.

Brian is a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel with over 25 years of leadership experience in both military and civilian organizations. He is a registered professional Environmental Engineer and holds a Master of Science in Civil Engineering, a Master of Science in Mineral Economics, and a Bachelor of Science in Geological Engineering, all from the University of Arizona.

He also holds Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Grade 4 Operator Certifications in Water Treatment, Wastewater Treatment, Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection.

D. Lee Decker, Esq., Shareholder, Gallagher & Decker, Phoenix, AZ

Lee practices environmental law relating to water quality, water rights, environmental compliance auditing, solid and hazardous waste, mining and mined land reclamation and remediation, toxic substances and Superfund matters. With nearly 25 years' experience, Lee has a nationally-recognized water quality practice and works closely with his clients on the federal, state and local levels to develop workable strategies to promote development and expansion of both industrial and mining operations. In working with major industrial, mining, construction and development clients, Lee has honed his keen expertise in the field of environmental law and an unwavering commitment to professionalism. In 2012, Lee was named among the "Best Lawyers in America," along with nearly two thirds of his fellow G&K shareholders.

Marilyn DeRosa, P.E., R.G., City of Tempe Deputy Public Works Director, Water Utilities, Tempe, AZ

Marilyn is a Professional Engineer and Registered Geologist with 22 years of experience in groundwater quality, drainage, water resources, and water and wastewater utilities management. She has a Bachelor's and Master's Degree, both in Geological Sciences and is most recently working with the Water Utilities Team at the City of Tempe as the Deputy Director of Public Works.

Kathleen Ferris, Executive Director, Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, Phoenix, AZ

Kathy has been involved in Arizona water issues for the past 35 years. She began her career in 1977 working for the Arizona State Senate, and later that year was appointed Executive Director of the Arizona Groundwater Management Study Commission. Her work with the Commission and Governor Bruce Babbitt's "rump group" culminated in the passage of the 1980 Arizona Groundwater Management Act. Kathy participated in the Act's negotiations and supervised the drafting of the Act, which continues to be one of the nation's most visionary laws for managing groundwater.

Kathy then served for five years as chief counsel of the newly-formed Arizona Department of Water Resources, and in 1985 was appointed by Governor Babbitt to be Director of the Department. As Director, she was actively involved in the development of many legislative initiatives, including the Underground Water Storage Act and the "Lakes Bill," which banned the use of drinking water in man-made subdivision lakes.

Since 1987, Kathy has been an attorney in private practice specializing in water issues. She has represented a wide array of clients, including municipalities, developers, golf courses, industries, and environmental groups. For nearly 24 years, she has been legal counsel to the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association. Kathy has been listed for many years in The Best Lawyers in America, and in addition to her duties as Executive Director, she will continue to serve as legal counsel to AMWUA.

Robert Fowlie, P. E., CDM Smith, Albuquerque, NM

Mr. Fowlie is a Principal Engineer and Senior Project Manager in the Albuquerque office of CDM Smith. Robert graduated from New Mexico State University in 1986 with a BS in Civil Engineering.

He has over 27 years of experience in the planning, design, and construction of water and wastewater projects including treatment plants, booster and lift stations, pipelines, wells, distribution systems, and conveyance systems. His specific areas of expertise include water and wastewater system design and planning, brackish water treatment, arsenic treatment, surface water treatment, and construction management. He is the project manager for the City of Alamogordo's 1-MGD Interim Brackish Water Reverse Osmosis project.

Robert W. Johnson, Executive Vice President, National Water Resources Association (NWRA), Former Commissioner USBR, Scottsdale, AZ

Robert "Bob" Johnson currently serves as Executive Vice President of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA). With more than 30 years of water planning and policy experience, as well as his in-depth knowledge of Reclamation management and operations, Bob provides strategic planning advice and advocates on behalf of NWRA and its members with respect to water-related issues at the State, Federal, and Congressional levels to negotiate agreements and facilitate mutually acceptable approaches to the resolution of water issues.

Bob spent more than 30 years working for Reclamation. He joined the Mid-Pacific Regional Office in Sacramento, California in 1975. He later moved to the Boulder City, Nevada, office, then to Washington, D.C., where he served in a management position in the Commissioner's Office. He returned to Boulder City, first as the Chief of the Region's Water, Land, and Power Operations Division, and then as the Deputy Regional Director. He served as Regional Director of Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region from 1995 to September 2006.

As Regional Director, Bob served as "Water Master" of the lower Colorado River. He oversaw the management of the last 700 miles of the Colorado River, Hoover Dam, and numerous other Reclamation activities in southern Nevada, southern California, and Arizona. He initiated and directed significant changes in the management of the Colorado River, including the first water sharing agreements between California, Arizona, and Nevada and the first water supply guidelines to put California on a path to reducing its use of Colorado River water.

Confirmed as Reclamation's Commissioner on September 30, 2006, Bob became the 20th person to lead the Bureau. Among his many accomplishments in the position, he implemented the "Managing for Excellence Program" that focused on improved customer collaboration, accountability, and efficiency, developed the "Water for America" program to address water related problems associated with drought and climate change, and implemented loan guarantee and rural water planning legislation.

Born in Lovelock, Nevada, Bob earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Nevada. Over the scope of his career, Commissioner Johnson has received numerous awards, including the President's Meritorious Executive Award.

David V. Modeer, General Manager, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, Phoenix, AZ

David V. Modeer joined the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) as General Manager overseeing all Central Arizona Project (CAP) operations in January 2009. Mr. Modeer has been a leader in water resource management for 40 years and has significant experience in all areas of water system operations, financing, customer service and planning. He has a thorough understanding of political and operational water issues impacting the western United States.

Prior to his arrival at CAP, Mr. Modeer was the Director of Water Services for the City of Phoenix and spent 10 years as the Director of Water in Tucson, Arizona. Mr. Modeer also has more than 26 years of management experience with American Water Works, Inc. as Vice President of Operations for both the Pennsylvania-American and Western Region divisions. He also held various managerial positions in the Midwest.

Mr. Modeer served six years on the publicly-elected Board of Directors of the CAWCD prior to his selection as General Manager. Mr. Modeer is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, an organization of the major metropolitan water utilities throughout the United States; Chairperson of the Western Urban Water Coalition, an organization of the major western water agencies; and President of the Colorado River Water Users Association.

Mr. Modeer is a graduate of the Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry and Philosophy.

In addition to managing and delivering the state's largest allocation of Colorado River water to eighty percent of Arizona's population, CAP operates the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District and is the operating arm of the Arizona Water Bank. Additionally, CAP owns and operates six groundwater recharge facilities, helps shape public and political water policy, and plays an active role in addressing local, regional and national water management and environmental issues.

Brian Moorhead, Senior Environmental Scientist, Groundwater Division, Salt River Project

Brian Moorhead is a Senior Environmental Scientist in SRP's Groundwater Division. Since 1995, Brian has been tracking the expansion of Zebra and Quagga mussels in the nation's surface waters, and has been actively monitoring SRP's reservoirs, canals and lateral delivery system since the mussels' 2007 arrival at Lake Mead. Additionally, Brian coordinates SRP's White Amur fish program, aquatic weed control program, and source water quality programs involving blue-green algae, taste and odor research, and caddisflies-mosquito control. Brian was selected as a member of the Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council in 2007.

Brian received his Bachelor's degree in Biology from Oklahoma State University and has been with SRP for 24 years.

Mark T. Murphy, Ph.D., Principal Scientist, Hassayampa Associates, Tucson, AZ

Mark T. Murphy is the Principal Scientist of Hassayampa Associates in Tucson, AZ. His responsibilities include all aspects of the company's business performance and technical contributions in the areas of stream restoration, storm water management, and water quality. Dr. Murphy previously worked GeoSystems Analysis, Inc., the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, URS Corporation (formerly known as United Research Services) and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Dr. Murphy holds a Ph.D. in Geology from the Johns Hopkins University (1989), an M.S. in Geology from the University of New Mexico (1985), and a B.S. in Earth Science from the University of California, Santa Cruz (1977). Dr. Murphy was an Associate Professor at Heritage College on the Yakama Indian Nation in central Washington State (1996-1997) and Visiting Assistant Professor at Arizona State University from 1997-2000. He has been a Visiting Lecturer in Environmental Ethics at the University of Richmond in Virginia from 1997 to the present. Dr. Murphy's primary area of expertise is the physical ecology (hydrology and geomorphology) of aquatic systems, specifically how fluvial morphology and shallow groundwater dynamics combine to create habitat.

Dr. Murphy has worked with municipalities and other members of the regulated community to develop methods for complying with the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, as they consider protection of ecosystems. Dr. Murphy has supported determinations of ecological flow requirements of aquatic, wetland and riparian communities, and provided surface water hydrological criteria for restoration and adaptive management plans. Dr. Murphy's research has focused on the connectivity in arid fluvial systems. He was a Principal Investigator for the Arid West Water Quality Research Project, supported by a 5.5-million dollar U.S. EPA research grant to Pima County (Tucson, AZ) to investigate the scientific applicability of nationwide water quality standards to streams of the arid West.

Dr. Murphy is a Board Member of Watershed Management Group, the City of Tucson Citizens Water Advisory Commission, and Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District. He served on the Advisory Board of the Southwest Hydrology magazine and was a Board Member of the Arizona Hydrological Society from 2000-2002. He was also a member of New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson's panel on Forest and Watershed Health. Dr. Murphy's primary sources of funding over the last two years have been state, county, and local governments; the Walton Family Foundation; The Nature Conservancy; the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; and U.S. EPA grants to these entities.

Peter D. Nichols, Esq., Berg Hill Greenleaf & Ruscitti LLP, Boulder, CO

Peter Nichols practices water law, water quality law, environmental law, and land and water conservation law. In addition to water law and water quality issues, Peter has particular expertise in the federal Clean Water Act and water rights, conservation easements involving water rights, and the temporary use of agricultural irrigation water rights to meet municipal needs.

Nichols serves as special assistant attorney general to Colorado and New Mexico in national litigation involving the Clean Water Act, e.g., *Miccosukee Tribe of Indians v. So. Florida Water Mgmt. Dist.*, 541 US 95 (2004). He also represents western water users in these matters, including the National Water Resources Association, Western Urban Water Coalition, Denver Water, Aurora Water, Colorado Springs Utilities, City of Boulder, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, East Bay Municipal Water District, Salt Lake & Sandy Metropolitan Water District, Central Utah Water Conservancy District, Southern Nevada Water Authority, and Truckee Meadows Water Authority, among others.

Recent and present conservation clients of Peter's include Mesa Land Trust, Yampa Valley Land Trust, Colorado Open Lands, Aspen Valley Land Trust, Pitkin County, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), and the Colorado Water Trust.

Peter also serves special counsel to the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District on water and agricultural conservation, and as special counsel to the Lower Arkansas Valley Super Ditch Co., Inc., on water leasing for municipal use. He formerly served as general counsel to the Upper Black Squirrel Creek Ground Water Management District.

He has also handled water rights and environmental matters for numerous municipalities, including Woodland Park, Monte Vista, Saguache, Crestone, and Ouray, energy companies, such as Puckett Land Company and Thermo Power, industrial entities, such as Emerson Electric/Micro Motion, mining companies Gold Links Mining and the Revenue Virginus Mine, as well individual farmers and ranchers, among others.

Peter is an avid climber, skier and cyclist, as well as a former (and still occasional) international mountaineering guide.

Michael J. O'Connor, Associate General Manager and Chief Legal Executive, Salt River Project, Phoenix, AZ

Michael was named SRP's Associate General Manager and Chief Legal Executive Law and Human Resources on July 25, 2011. Based in Tempe, Arizona, SRP is one of the nation's largest publicly owned electric and water utilities, with annual operating revenues of approximately \$3.0 billion, and a balance sheet measuring some \$11 billion. In his position, Michael reports directly to Mark Bonsall, the SRP General Manager/Chief Executive Officer. In addition to leading the SRP Legal Department, Michael also is responsible for SRP's Human Resources, Environmental Management, Land, and Risk Management Departments.

Prior to joining SRP, Michael was a partner at Jennings, Strouss & Salmon. Michael joined Jennings Strouss in 1985 and practiced law at the firm until 2012 in the areas of utilities and energy companies, products liability, complex commercial litigation, insurance coverage and bad faith, and professional malpractice defense.

Michael earned his B.A. degree in Political economy from the Johns Hopkins University in 1982. He earned his J.D. degree, magna cum laude, from the George Washington University National Law Center in 1985. He is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Federation of Insurance Corporate Counsel, International Association of Defense Counsel, Defense Research Institute, Arizona Association of Defense Counsel, Tort Trial Insurance Practice Section, American Bar Association, Trial Practice Section, State Bar of Arizona and Maricopa County Bar Association.

Born in New York State, Michael and his wife Michelle have four children: Matthew, a junior at Scottsdale Community College, and triplets, Michael a sophomore at Johns Hopkins University, Alexandra a sophomore at New York University, and Samantha a sophomore at Santa Clara University.

Michael has received several honors and recognition while in private law practice: AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated, Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America* (2005-2012), Listed, *Southwest Super Lawyers* (2009-2012), AB Top Lawyer, Product Liability, *Arizona Business Magazine* and Best of the Bar, *The Business Journal* and was selected as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a member of the International Association of Defense Counsel, and the Federation of Corporate Counsel.

Michael has been active in several community activities over the years including, but not limited to, Board of Directors of the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, the Advisory Board of Directors of the Rodel Foundation, Desert Voice's Oral Learning Center, Brophy Dad's Club, North Scottsdale Little League (President), and Valley of the Sun United Way.

Michael is very interested in promoting education and health issues in the State of Arizona. In September 2012, Michael became a member of the Rodel Foundation of Arizona's Advisory Council Board. On January 25, 2013, Michael became a member of the Board of Directors of St. Joseph's Foundation.

Russell D. Smoldon, CEO, B3 Strategies, Phoenix, AZ

B3 Strategies Chief Executive Officer, Russell D. Smoldon, has over 30 years of public policy experience focused on energy, water, taxation, environmental, health care and economic development issues. The relationships he has with government officials, legislators and the business community in Arizona, across the country and at the federal level in Washington, D.C. are extensive.

A former legislative assistant to Congressman Thomas S. Foley, Mr. Smoldon has been involved with nearly every public policy issue affecting Arizona over the past 25 years in his role as Manager of Government Relations with Salt River Project (SRP) in Phoenix, Arizona. Prior to joining SRP, he served as the government relations representative for Idaho and Montana with Spokane, Washington-based Avista Corporation.

As a respected leader in the Phoenix business community, Mr. Smoldon serves on the board of the Arizona Tax Research Association (ATRA), the Western Business Roundtable, the Greater Phoenix Urban League, the American Legislative Exchange Council and the National Conference of State Legislators' Advisory Council on Energy and National Tax Partnership. He serves as a member of the Arizona Supreme Court's Child Support Guidelines and Domestic Relations Committees and the Arizona Highway Users' Association, and has assisted numerous non-profit organizations, including the Arizona Trails Association.

Mr. Smoldon received a B.A. in Political Science and History from Gonzaga University. While attending Gonzaga University School of Law, he left to accept the position with Avista, becoming the youngest utility lobbyist in the country at the time. Smoldon also completed a number of post-graduate courses in Theory and Political Science at Eastern Washington University before being recruited by SRP and moving to Arizona.

Mr. Smoldon has a personal passion for public policy, economics and American history. He is a prolific reader and golfer. Mr. Smoldon is married to Michelle January and his son, Nick, recently graduated from Gonzaga University.

Kathryn Sorensen, Water Services Director, City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ

Kathryn Sorensen is the Water Services Director for the City of Phoenix. Prior to starting this position in 2013, she served for more than four years as the Director of the City of Mesa's Water Resources Department, responsible for the management of Mesa's water and wastewater utilities. Kathryn moved into the lead role for Mesa's Water Resources Department after nine years of management experience in water, wastewater, gas, and electric utility service with the city.

Kathryn has a PhD in Resource Economics from Texas A&M University and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Michigan.