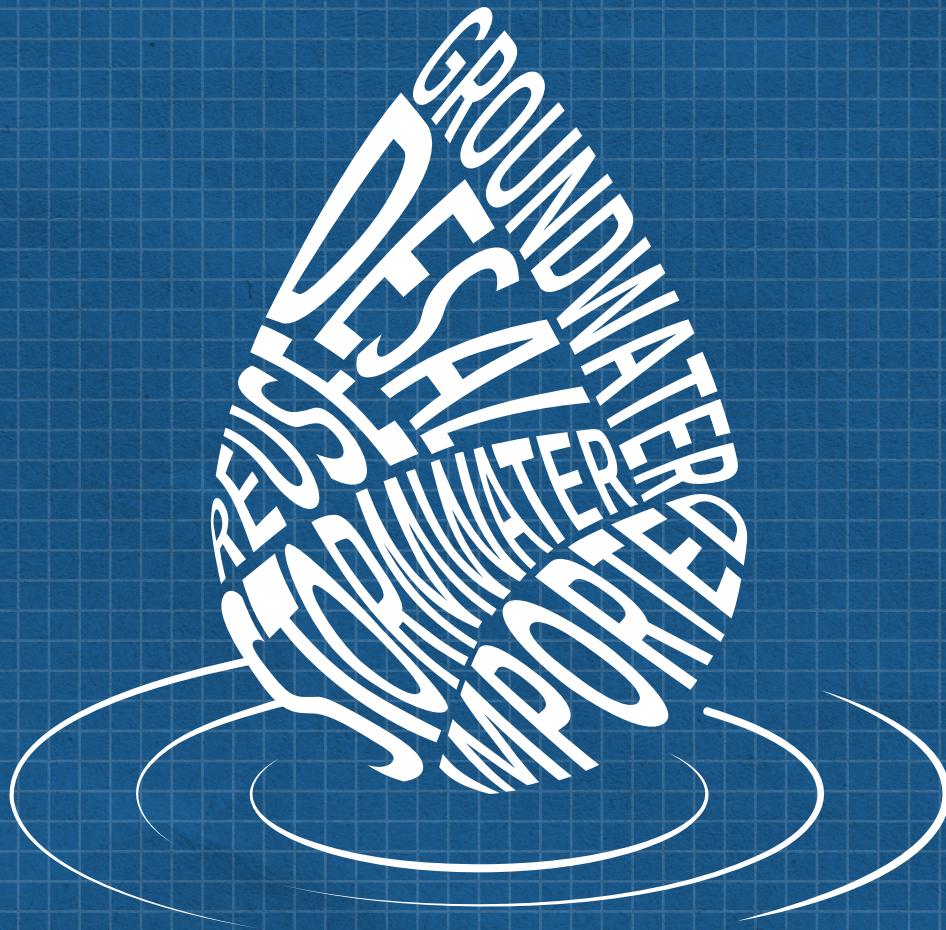




finding
RELIABILITY



Friday, October 13, 2023
7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Westin South Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa
www.ocwatersummit.com



WELCOME to the 15th Annual OC WATER SUMMIT

We find ourselves amidst a critical juncture, grappling with the effects of past drought, aging infrastructure, and policy and regulatory challenges that threaten the availability and sustainability of our water supply. What got us here? And, how can we forge innovative solutions to increase Orange County's water supply for future generations? Today, we will hear from thought-provoking and engaging speakers as we explore this year's theme, **Finding Reliability**.

Returning as master of ceremonies today is none other than comedian and former weathercaster Fritz Coleman, one of Southern California's most iconic news personalities. This is Fritz's fifth year emceeding the Summit, and we couldn't be happier that he is here again.

In addition to our emcee and speakers, we would like to thank our sponsors, especially luncheon sponsor Mesa Water, program sponsor Irvine Ranch Water District, décor sponsor Orange County Sanitation District, and all of our session, associate, table, and exhibitor sponsors listed in the program. This event would not be possible without your help.

Lastly, thank you for your participation. We hope you enjoy today's program and are inspired to engage in important water decisions being considered in your community, Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,



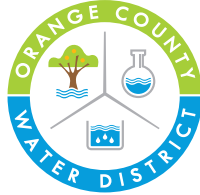
Stephen R. Sheldon
Director
Orange County Water District
OC Water Summit Co-Chairman



Jeffery M. Thomas
Director
Municipal Water District of Orange County
OC Water Summit Co-Chairman

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** OC Water Summit Committee Member*

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

We encourage you to share what you see, hear and learn today with your friends and followers on Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, LinkedIn, and other social media networks. Our only request is that you respect our speakers and Summit attendees by not causing distractions or disruptions.

Using a hashtag or username is a simple way for people to share information on a particular topic, as well as participate in topic-centric conversations. Suggested hashtags, usernames for your tweets and social media handles are listed below. We encourage you to follow them on social media and tag them in your posts and photos.

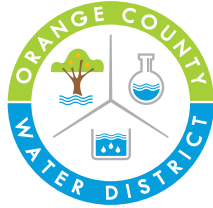
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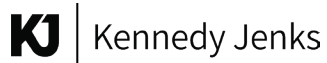
PROGRAM

DÉCOR



SESSION

ASSOCIATE



TABLE

Aleshire & Wynder, LLP
Anaheim Public Utilities
Black & Veatch
City of Santa Ana
Disneyland Resort
East Orange County Water District
El Toro Water District
Hazen & Sawyer
Irvine Ranch Water District

Mesa Water District
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Michael Baker International, Inc.
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PACE Advanced Water Engineering
Trabuco Canyon Water District
South Coast Water District
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EXHIBITOR

Comsys, Inc.
Daupler
Xylem

RESOURCE RELIABILITY ▶

More than half our water comes from purified, reused sources: recycled water for irrigation, and drinking water from OCWD's Groundwater Replenishment System.



COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY LEADS TO RELIABILITY



Irvine Ranch Water District



WATER BANKING ▶

We capture low-cost water for underground storage during wet periods and recover it during dry periods or emergencies.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION & PLANNING ▶

IRWD is a recognized leader in climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas management, and has been awarded The Climate Registry's gold-level status.



7:30 a.m. **REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

8:00 a.m. **WELCOME AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- **Stephen R. Sheldon**, Director, Orange County Water District
- **Jeffery M. Thomas**, Director, Municipal Water District of Orange County
- **Fritz Coleman**, Master of Ceremonies

8:15 a.m. **SESSION 1: Drought or Missed Opportunities?**

After the 1955 floods killed 64 people and caused \$200 million in damage to Northern and Central California, the state created the Department of Water Resources and built a portion of the State Water Project recommended in the 1957 California Water Plan. But the Plan was never fully implemented. Why did that occur? Have we addressed those reasons and does the current Plan show us a way forward to adequate water supplies and secure infrastructure? Have past projects held up and will they in the future? If not, what are the impediments?

- **Moderator: Lisa Ohlund**, Principal, Ohlund Management & Technical Services
- **Darcy M. Burke**, Director, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District and President, Watermark and Associates
- **Bill Jones**, Former California Secretary of State
- **Jason Phillips**, Chief Executive Officer, Friant Water Authority

9:35 a.m. **SESSION 2: Is It Fair to Blame Climate Change for Everything?**

Multi-year drought, harsh floods, devastating wildfires...we're told that extreme weather is becoming more common in California. State and local agencies are enacting climate change policies to combat its effects, but is climate change merely a scapegoat to absolve the state of poor planning? Hear from experts as they share the additional forces at play that led us to this point, and the actions we can take moving forward.

- **Moderator: Fritz Coleman**, Master of Ceremonies
- **John R. Christy, PhD**, Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric and Earth Sciences and State Climatologist, University of Alabama in Huntsville
- **Rong Fu, PhD**, Professor, Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science and Director, Joint Institute for Regional Earth System Science & Engineering, University of California, Los Angeles
- **Steven Greenhut**, Western Region Director, R Street Institute

10:30 a.m. NETWORKING BREAK

10:50 a.m. **SESSION 3: What's Our Water Supply Future?** **Sponsored by Butier**

Southern California received a welcome reprieve from drought conditions in 2023, receiving nearly double our average annual rainfall. With more frequent droughts predicted, punctuated by brief periods of intense precipitation, what could Southern California be like five years from now when drought conditions return? What can Southern California expect when Colorado River water allocations are cut 20-40%? How will Delta allocations be determined? Will the San Joaquin Plan impact Orange County? And, is it time to reconsider brackish water and ocean desalination?

- **Moderator: Lisa Ohlund**, Principal, Ohlund Management & Technical Services
- **Mark Donovan, P.E.**, Chair, CalDesal and North American Water Treatment and Desalination Practice Leader, GHD
- **Adán Ortega, Jr.**, Board Chairman, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- **Edward Ring**, Contributing Editor and Cofounder, California Policy Center

12:15 p.m. **CLOSING REMARKS**

- **Stephen R. Sheldon**, Director, Orange County Water District
- **Jeffery M. Thomas**, Director, Municipal Water District of Orange County
- **Fritz Coleman**, Master of Ceremonies

12:30 p.m. LUNCHEON BEGINS

WELCOME



Stephen R. Sheldon

Director, Orange County Water District

Stephen R. Sheldon is an elected member of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) Board of Directors; his division includes parts of Irvine, Newport Beach and Tustin. He has served on the board since 2005 and was previously president of the board in 2008 and 2009, and 2021 and 2022. A representative on behalf of OCWD for the League of Cities, he also sits on the University of California, Irvine Urban Water Research Institute Advisory Committee.

Sheldon brings more than 25 years of experience in public policy and real estate development. As a past consultant and attorney, his work included managing hundreds of land-use entitlement efforts before cities, counties and special districts. He is currently the CEO of Sheldon Development, LLC. His company has developed over 2,500 housing units ranging from luxury apartments, townhomes, single-family homes, and estate lots; along with park land, open space, trails, and other public amenities and benefits. He was a recent successful bidder of a surplus elementary school site from a public school district and developed 63 homes and a two acre public park.



Jeffery M. Thomas

Director, Municipal Water District of Orange County

Jeffery M. Thomas has served on the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) Board of Directors since 2009. He represents Division 6, which includes the cities of Tustin and Rancho Santa Margarita and portions of Irvine, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, San Juan Capistrano, and San Clemente. A community leader, Thomas served as mayor and city councilman for the city of Tustin from 1992 – 2004. He is credited for saving the city of Tustin over \$1 million by recommending removing city funds from the Orange County Investment Pool.

Thomas has been in the investment management industry for over 25 years, working with industry leaders like Morgan Stanley, Citigroup, and Sage Advisory Services. He advises a broad range of clients, including municipalities, corporations, hospitals, endowments, foundations, insurance companies, and high-net-worth individuals. Thomas' financial expertise has led to several key appointments, including being appointed by the Orange County Supervisors to chairman of the Orange County Oversight Committee and by Orange County Treasurer John Moorlach as chairman of the Treasurer's Advisory Committee. These committees have largely been credited with restructuring and rebuilding the Orange County Investment Pool after the County's bankruptcy in 1994. Additionally, he was appointed by State Treasurer Matt Fong to the Technical Advisory Committee for the California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission and by Governor Pete Wilson to the California Housing Partnership Corporation.

Thomas holds a Juris Doctorate from Western State University, College of Law, and a Bachelor of Arts in political science from California State University, Fullerton.



Fritz Coleman
Master of Ceremonies

Fritz Coleman is NBC4's former weathercaster on the weekday editions of Channel 4 News. A Southern California broadcasting icon, Coleman is well known for his sense of humor and extensive knowledge of weather. He joined NBC4 in 1982 as the weekend weathercaster and moved to weekdays in 1984. Coleman was part of the longest-running evening news team with legendary journalists Chuck Henry and Colleen Williams and sports anchor Fred Roggin.

Coleman was named "Best Weathercaster" in nearly every major newspaper in Southern California. He devotes much of his free time supporting events, frequently organizing evenings of entertainment to benefit local nonprofit organizations. He has also led several NBC4 community town hall meetings throughout the Southland addressing the drought crisis that has impacted our region for many years, including educating neighborhoods on weather patterns and water conservation.

Coleman has garnered several awards and honors for his dedication to community service. In 2019, he received an honorary doctorate from Woodbury University in Burbank for his extensive public service in the community. Since 2000, he has won Humanitarian of the Year Awards – including from Shelter Partnership and the California Hospital Medical Center. The City of Los Angeles named Coleman a "Treasure of Los Angeles," and the U.S. House of Representatives gave him the Humanitarian of the Year Award for his fundraising efforts on behalf of the American Red Cross. Coleman has also been honored by the Los Angeles Chapter of the Salvation Army for his long-time commitment to the organization.

Coleman moved to Los Angeles in 1980 from Buffalo, New York, where he worked as a radio personality. Prior to that, he was a disc jockey and radio talk show host at various stations throughout the country. In the early 1980s, he worked as a stand-up comic at various clubs in California. He also made a number of appearances on the "Tonight Show" and other television programs. Coleman has performed at The Improv, The Ice House and other Southern California comedy clubs. He has used his humor in multiple series and specials that have aired on NBC4 over the years including "What a Week" (1990 – 1991), "It's Fritz" (1988-1990), "Fritz and Friends" (Special) and "The Perils of Parenting" (Special). He received four Los Angeles area Emmy Awards for his work on the NBC4 comedy specials and series.

Coleman has written, produced and starred in three one-man plays. His first production "It's Me! Dad!" won the coveted 1997 Artistic Directors Award. A humorous and touching account of what happens when a "baby boomer" tries to recount his own life for his young children, the play shows how the father comes to grips with the passage of time and the skeletons in his own closet. The production also aired successfully on public television in Los Angeles.

"The Reception," Coleman's second play, is an insightful and hilarious look at relationships found at an imaginary wedding reception - the bride's second marriage - the groom's third. His most recent play, "Tonight at 11!" is an insider's look at a typical local newscast. A rollercoaster ride between funny and poignant, Daily Variety called it, "surprising, incisive and powerful."

A Navy veteran, Coleman is originally from Philadelphia and attended Salem College in West Virginia and Temple University in Philadelphia where he studied radio, television and film. Coleman is an avid cyclist, runner, rollerblader and skier. He lives in the San Fernando Valley and has two sons and a daughter.

Drought or Missed Opportunities?



Moderator: Lisa Ohlund

Principal, Ohlund Management & Technical Services

Lisa Ohlund has over 35 years of experience in the wastewater, water and recycled water fields, with more than 20 years in the public sector and 15 years in the private sector. In 2020, she retired as the general manager of the East Orange County Water District and continues to provide consulting services through Ohlund Management & Technical Services. She has worked with over 50 water and wastewater agencies throughout California, including large and small cities and special districts. Ohlund is a board member and past chair of the Urban Water Institute, an associate member of the Association of California Water Agencies, and was also a member of the coordinating committee for the Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022, a water initiative that was structured to provide funding to develop five million acre feet of new water for California.



Darcy M. Burke

Director, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District and President,
Watermark and Associates

Darcy M. Burke was elected to the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District in 2018, and re-elected in 2022, serving Division 1. In 2023, she was appointed to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Local Government Advisory Committee where she serves on the Water Subcommittee, PFAS Risk Communication Subcommittee, and the Climate Adaptation Subcommittee. Since 2015, she has served as president and chief executive officer of Watermark Associates, a comprehensive business consulting firm. Previously she has served as the director of public affairs for the Municipal Water District of Orange County, the executive director of the California Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association, and the executive director of Metropolitan's Center for Water Education. Burke received her bachelor's degree from Mount St. Mary's University, Los Angeles, in international economics and marketing, as well as her master's degree in business administration with an emphasis in organizational leadership. She completed her field study in energy and utility management in China. Burke has been published numerous times in water publications and is regularly interviewed on California water issues. She is also the cohost of the popular "We Grow California" podcast which focuses on California water and agriculture issues.



Bill Jones

Former California Secretary of State

Successful businessman. California Secretary of State. State legislator. Rancher. Family man. Bill Jones' commitment to public service and widely recognized achievements has allowed him the honor of serving four governors and four presidents.

Jones was first elected California Secretary of State in 1994, making history by becoming the first resident of the Central Valley to serve in a statewide constitutional office in over a century. During his re-election in 1998, he received the endorsement of almost every major newspaper in California for his fair-minded, even handed approach in administering elections and implementing ground-breaking political reform. As Secretary of State, Jones implemented innovative new programs to increase voter participation, place all campaign contributions and spending information on the internet, and modernize paper-driven manual business filing systems with web based services to vastly improve customer service. As a nationally recognized leader of agriculture, trade and water issues, he played an active role in the creation of an efficient and stable water supply system for the state.

Before his election as Secretary of State, Jones served 12 years as a legislator from Fresno in the California State Assembly. In 1990, his fellow republican legislators elected him to serve as Assembly Republican Leader. During his tenure in the legislature, Jones compiled a distinguished record of achievement and a reputation for honesty and integrity.

Jones was also founder and chairman of the board of Alto Ingredients, one of the largest maker and marketer of diversified alcohol products in the country. He is also a managing partner at J&J Farms, a diversified farming company. In 2005, Jones was appointed to the California Bay Delta Authority by Governor Schwarzenegger to help with water issues throughout the state. He also served as a member of the California Chamber of Commerce Board.



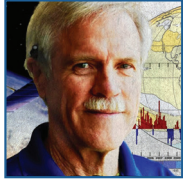
Jason Phillips

Chief Executive Officer, Friant Water Authority

Jason Phillips is the chief executive officer (CEO) of Friant Water Authority. As CEO, he oversees all activities the Authority conducts on behalf of its member agencies. Phillips' previous responsibilities range from serving as a project manager in the planning division and as an area manager for the Klamath Project, to helping address the drainage issue on the San Joaquin Valley's west side. His previous experience also includes working for the Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region for 15 years. Phillips received his Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Portland State University. After graduating, he moved to Sacramento to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a civil engineer and project manager on civil works and flood control projects.

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Is It Fair to Blame Climate Change for Everything?



John R. Christy, PhD

Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric and Earth Sciences and State Climatologist,
University of Alabama in Huntsville

John R. Christy, PhD is the distinguished professor of Atmospheric and Earth Sciences and State Climatologist at the University of Alabama in Huntsville where he has researched climate issues since 1987. Born and raised in Fresno County, Calif., his studies of California's climate began over 60 years ago as described in his book "Is it getting hotter in Fresno ... or not?" In the 1990s he was selected to receive NASA's Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal and the American Meteorological Society's Special Award for creating the first global atmospheric temperature dataset from satellite sensors. He was inducted as a Fellow in the Society in 2002 and has testified before 20 congressional hearings. Most of his research involves building climate-quality datasets from scratch to answer questions about the climate. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from Cal State University, Fresno, and a Master of Science and PhD in atmospheric sciences from the University of Illinois. Upon graduating from Fresno State, Dr. Christy served two years in Nyeri Kenya, East Africa teaching high school physics and chemistry. He and his wife Babs had two children and now seven grandchildren. Following Babs' passing in 2014, he and Sherry were married and they reside in Huntsville, Ala.



Rong Fu, PhD

Professor, Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and Director, Joint Institute
for Regional Earth System Science & Engineering, University of California, Los Angeles

Rong Fu, PhD is a professor in the department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, and the director of the Joint Institute of Regional Earth System Science and Engineering at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research focuses on the mechanisms that control droughts, rainfall seasonality and variability over Amazonian and North American regions, and how changes of global climate, local vegetation and biomass burning have influenced these processes in the recent past and will influence rainfall seasonality and droughts in the future. Dr. Fu received NSF CAREER and NASA New Investigator Awards, and the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Outstanding Achievement Award for biometeorology. She is also an elected fellow of the AMS, the American Geophysical Union (AGU), and the American Association For the Advancement of Science (AAAS), respectively. She was the president of the Global Environmental Change Section (2015-2016) and leadership team of the AGU Council, and the chair of the AAAS Atmosphere and Hydrosphere (2022). She is an AMS Council Member, and an AAAS Council Member serving on its Executive Committee (2023). Dr. Fu has served on many national and international panels. She co-led NOAA Drought Task Force IV and is an editor of Journal of Geophysical Research – Atmosphere, and the editor of the Climate and Climate Change Section, the 3rd edition of the Encyclopedia of Atmospheric Sciences.



Steven Greenhut

Western Region Director, R Street Institute

Steven Greenhut is the Western region director for the R Street Institute, where he promotes the group's free-market policies throughout the Western states. He is also a member of the Southern California News Group editorial board and is a long-time journalist who spent most of his career as senior editorial writer and columnist for The Orange County Register. He previously was the Sacramento-based California columnist for the San Diego Union-Tribune. He headed two online watchdog journalism operations covering state capitols.

Greenhut also is director of the Pacific Research Institute's Free Cities Center, which promotes market-based solutions to the nation's urban problems. He is the author of three books, *Abuse of Power: How the Government Misuses Eminent Domain* (2004); *Plunder! How Public Employee Unions are Raiding Treasuries, Controlling Our Lives and Bankrupting the Nation* (2009); and *Winning the Water Wars: California Can Meet its Water Needs by Promoting Abundance Rather than Managing Scarcity* (2020). He also edited the 2021 book, *Saving California*, and wrote two recent short books about urban policy and transportation, *Back from Dystopia* and *Putting Customers First*. He lives outside Sacramento.

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What's Our Water Supply Future?

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Mark Donovan, P.E.

Chair, CalDesal and North American Water Treatment and Desalination Practice Leader, GHD

Mark Donovan is the North American water treatment and desalination practice leader for GHD, a global engineering firm focused on making water, energy and communities sustainable for generations to come. Donovan holds a bachelor's and master's degree in chemical engineering, and is a licensed engineer in California and Hawaii. He has been a member of CalDesal since its founding, a long serving executive committee member, and is currently in his second term as chair of the organization.

Donovan has delivered numerous potable reuse, brackish and seawater desalination projects across the globe over his 25-year career. As a member of the GHD Owner's Engineering Team for Poseidon, Donovan was instrumental in the successful delivery of the Carlsbad Desalination Project. Currently, Donovan is the program manager on behalf of South Coast Water District for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project, having successfully navigated the project through planning, preliminary design, CEQA, and major permit approvals over the past eight years.



Adán Ortega, Jr.

Board Chairman, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Adán Ortega, Jr. took office as the 20th chair of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board of Directors on January 1, 2023. Ortega is the first Latino chair and the first former Metropolitan employee to serve in this role. As chair, Ortega leads a 38-member board of directors, representing each of Metropolitan's 26 member agencies across Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura counties. He also represents the district and its policies and programs on the national, state and local levels.

Ortega has three decades of experience in government relations and has helped lead efforts to bring assistance to small community water systems in disadvantaged communities across the state. The principal of Ortega Strategies Group, a public affairs and government relations firm based in Fullerton, Ortega previously served as Metropolitan's vice president of external affairs from 1999 to 2005. Prior to his position at Metropolitan, he held roles as chief deputy for then-Secretary of State Bill Jones and assistant general manager of both West Basin and Central Basin municipal water districts. In 2013, Ortega was appointed by then Gov. Jerry Brown to the California Water Commission. Prior to that, he was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, where Ortega chaired its water committee from 2005 to 2012.

Ortega earned a bachelor's degree in English and history from Whittier College. He and his wife Susan reside in Fullerton.



Edward Ring

Contributing Editor and Cofounder, California Policy Center

Edward Ring is a contributing editor and senior fellow with the California Policy Center, a public policy research institute which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. His work has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, Orange County Register, San Jose Mercury, Wall Street Journal, The Economist, Real Clear Politics, City Journal, and elsewhere. In 2021 he was the founder and leader of the “More Water Now” campaign, which culminated in the drafting of the Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022, which the campaign attempted to qualify for California’s November 2022 state ballot. Ring is the author of “The Abundance Choice: Our Fight for More Water in California,” published last year.

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Thank you for attending the 2023 OC Water Summit

**Visit our website, www.ocwatersummit.com, in the coming weeks to
view recordings of this year's sessions.**