

## **WSWC Groundwater Workshop**

San Pedro, California

September 23, 2025

8:00 am	Welcome and Introductions
8:15 am	<b>Roundtable Discussion: State Groundwater Updates</b>
9:00 am	<b>Groundwater Management Areas and Districts</b>
10:30 am	<b>Managing Cumulative Impacts of Exempt Wells</b>
12:00 pm	Lunch On Your Own
1:30 pm	<b>California Managed Aquifer Recharge (Field Trip Preview)</b> – Jeanine Jones, Interstate Resources Manager, California Department of Water Resources
2:00 pm	<b>Interagency MAR Workgroup</b> – Scott Bradford, Research Leader, ARS/PWA/SAWS Unit, U.S. Department of Agriculture
2:30 pm	<b>Roundtable Discussion on Managed Aquifer Recharge</b>
3:30 pm	<b>Wrap- Up: Thoughts, Next Steps, Webinars</b>
4:30 pm	Adjourn

*Nebraska Groundwater Workshop Report is available with the briefing materials under Tab H.*

### Participants List (virtual)

*Trevor Baggione, Director, Arizona Water Quality Division*  
*Ayesha Vohra, Deputy Counsel, Arizona Department of Water Resources*  
*Jeanine Jones, Interstate Resources Manager, California Department of Water Resources*  
*Bhuvan Varugu, Research Data Specialist, California Department of Water Resources*  
*Mathew Weaver, Director, Idaho Department of Water Resources*  
*John Simpson, Partner, Marten Law, LLP*  
*Connie Owen, Director, Kansas Water Office*  
*Matt Unruh, Assistant Director, Kansas Water Office*  
*Chris Beightel, Program Manager, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture*  
*Anna Pakenham Stevenson, Water Resources Division Admin., MT Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation*  
*Jake Mohrmann, Water Sciences Bureau Chief, Montana Dept. of Nat. Resources & Conservation*  
*Jesse Bradley, Director, Nebraska Dept. of Water, Energy, and Environment*  
*Matt Manning, Chief Water Officer, Nebraska Dept. of Water, Energy, and Environment*  
*Cathy Erskine, Senior Policy Advisor, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources*  
*Hannah Mendez, Hydrologist, Southern Nevada Water Authority*  
*John Rhoderick, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department*  
*Jen Verleger, General Counsel, ND Department of Water Resources*  
*Julie Cunningham, Executive Director, Oklahoma Water Resources Board*  
*Sara Gibson, General Counsel, Oklahoma Water Resources Board*  
*Robert Singlary, Executive Director, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality*  
*Ann Farris, Groundwater Protection Program Manager, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality*  
*Nakaila Steen, Natural Resources Engineer II, South Dakota Dept. of Agriculture & Natural Resources*  
*Teresa Wilhelmson, State Engineer/Division Director, Utah Division of Water Rights*  
*Mark Stratford, Legal Counsel, Utah Division of Water Rights*  
*Leslie Connelly, Manager, Water Quality Program Strategic Planning, Washing Department of Ecology*  
*Brook Paup, Chairwoman, Texas Department of Environmental Quality*  
*Kerry Niemann, Chief of Staff, Texas Water Development Board*  
*John Dupnik, Deputy Executive Administrator, Texas Water Development Board*  
*Chad Abel, National Water Resources Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*  
*Chris Carlson, National Program Lead for Watershed & Aquatic Ecology Research, U.S. Forest Service*  
*Roger Gorke, Sr. Policy Advisor, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency*  
*Paula Cutillo, Senior Water Resources Specialist, Office of Resources & Planning, Bureau of Land Management*  
*Lauren Dempsey, Water & Natural Resources Regulatory Media Expert, U.S. Air Force*  
*Scott Bradford, Research Leader, ARS/PWA/SAWS Unit, U.S. Department of Agriculture*

### Western States Water Council Staff

*J.D. Strong, Executive Director*  
*Michelle Bushman, Deputy Director/General Counsel*  
*Elysse Campbell, Policy Analyst*

### Questions for Discussion

- How are states managing overallocated groundwater basins?
- Do other states have exempt groundwater uses that were presumed *de minimis* at the time of authorization as exempt, but are having a cumulative impact on senior water rights?
- What administrative tools are states using to manage groundwater?
- How are states handling local cooperative shortage sharing agreements?
- How involved are states in creating an environment where groundwater users can work together to solve challenges in their basin?
- For states curtailing groundwater pumping for senior water rights, how are they managing the timing given the delay for the cone of depression to recover? Or managing the timing considering seasonal vs. year-round uses?
- How are states engaging with the public on groundwater policies, education, groundwater protection and conservation, etc.?