

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION



WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION OFFICERS

President

Mike Chrisman
Chrisman Ranches

Vice President

Celeste Cantú
Water Solutions Network

Treasurer

JaNell Cook
HDR, Inc.

Secretary

Yung-Hsin Sun
Stantec

Past President

Robert W. Johnson
Water Strategies LLC

Executive Director

Jennifer Bowles

2020 WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer P. Allen
Contra Costa Water District

Richard Aragon
Rancho California Water District

Thomas M. Berliner
Duane Morris, LLP

John Bezdek
Water and Power Law Group PC

Erica Bishop
GEI Consultants

Roberta Borgonovo
League of Women Voters of California

Ane D. Deister
Urban Water Institute

Kim Delfino
Earth Advocacy

Dave Eggerton
Association of California Water Agencies

Bart Fisher Jr.
Fisher Farms

Pablo Garza
Environmental Defense Fund

David J. Guy
Northern California Water Association

Thomas Harter
University of California

Jeffrey Kivett
Brown and Caldwell

Cynthia Koehler
WaterNow Alliance

Mary Aileen Matheis
Irvine Ranch Water District

Cannon Michael
Bowles Farming Company

Leslie Moulton-Post
Environmental Science Associates

Christopher Park
CDM Smith

Jennifer G. Persike
Jennifer Persike & Company

Thomas S. Philp
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Sara Reid
CoBank

Ronald B. Robie
Court of Appeal, 3rd Appellate District

Eric Robinson
Kronick Moskowitz Tiedemann & Girard

Peter S. Silva
Silva-Silva International

Rebecca Smith
Downey Brand LLP

Teri Smyly
Pacific Gas and Electric Co.

2020 WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION STAFF

Douglas E. Beeman
Deputy Director, News & Publications

Brian Brown
California Project WET Coordinator

Patrick Dunlap
Deputy Director, Development & Operations

Nick Gray
Programs Manager

Liz McAllister
Programs Coordinator

Brad Parsons
Accountant

Gary Pitzer
Writer



WATER EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

2151 River Plaza Drive, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 444-6240
(916) 448-7699 Fax
www.watereducation.org

The mission of the Water Education Foundation is to inspire understanding of water and catalyze critical conversations to build bridges and inform collaborative decision-making.



Executive Director Jenn Bowles and Programs Manager Nick Gray recording a presentation for the virtual Headwaters Tour



Jenn Bowles with 2020 Water Leaders Cory Copeland and Karandev Singh.



Jenn Bowles with Foundation Board President Mike Chrisman, a former California Natural Resources secretary, and current Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot.



Jenn Bowles with Water Leader Dakari Barksdale.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION,

We started 2020 just like any year: we welcomed 23 engineers, lawyers, scientists and others to our Water Leaders class in January, we hosted our annual Water 101 Workshop in February and we journeyed down the Lower Colorado River for our annual tour in early March. As we traversed the lifeline of the Southwest, however, the COVID-19 pandemic was edging its way into the United States, even prompting a few changes in our stops as we went along the river.

Like everyone else, we thought we'd only have to work from home for a few weeks but couldn't grasp at that time how the year would unfold. Either way, we knew we had to keep carrying out our mission and finding a way to keep educating about the most crucial natural resource in California and the West – water.

But how?

As we continued writing articles for our online *Western Water* magazine and working on other publications as we always did – albeit remotely – we postponed many of our in-person tours and workshops to the fall, hoping we could host in-person gatherings then. In the meantime, behind the scenes, we scurried to find a way to do virtual water events that would be educational and engaging.

We came up with a plan to do a virtual format for our annual Headwaters Tour, which focuses on the role the upper watershed plays in water supply and quality across California. Three of us – Nick Gray, Liz McAllister and I – journeyed up to Lake Tahoe, stopping along the way to record video clips at what would be regular stops during an in-person tour. We took videos with a Mini iPad, then hired a professional editor to string the video clips together.

As we pondered the format of the virtual tour, we knew that people were feeling isolated during the pandemic so we hosted chat rooms so people could interact with us and the tour speakers. We were thrilled that our Headwaters Tour and those that followed were a success.

Our Water Leaders class studied solutions to climate change impacts on water resources in 2020, and we had to make several changes along the way to the class curriculum as COVID-19 cases were ebbing and flowing. We built in additional virtual happy hours aimed at helping the 23 class members get to know each other better. After all, a main goal of the program is to build a network of water people who know how to collaborate.

Outside of COVID-19 impacts, we began using a new mission statement in 2020 along with a vision statement, (see page 4 for more details), and the Foundation elected a new president, former California Natural Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman, whose father, Jack Chrisman, was our first board president in 1977. And in 2020 we lost a giant in the water world: Jack's successor as Foundation president and his friend, Bill Gianelli, who died at age 101.

I'm so proud that we persevered through 2020 to carry out our mission, at a time when nearly 15 percent of the state's nonprofits sadly closed their doors. We can't thank enough the people and organizations that continued to support our activities through donations and the grant funders that allowed us to change our contracts to allow for virtual events.

So sending a huge thanks to everyone who helped us through 2020!

Jenn

IMPACT

THROUGH OUR WEBSITE **889,485** Pageviews

THROUGH OUR EMAIL NEWSLETTERS **15,853** Subscribers

THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA **9,285** Followers

THROUGH CALIFORNIA PROJECT
WET TEACHER TRAINING **899** educators at **42** workshops
103,186 CA K-12 students reached

THROUGH OUR WATER LEADERS PROGRAM **23** early to mid-career professionals
459 graduates since the program began in 1997

THROUGH OUR TOURS

6 tours, **311** participants, **2,665** miles traveled (657 miles on in-person tour, 2,008 staff miles traveled for virtual tour videography)

THROUGH OUR EVENTS **137** participants at Water 101

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

At our 2019 Board & Staff Retreat, a main goal was to come up with a more streamlined mission statement and to adopt a vision statement so that we knew what we were trying to accomplish. We had a lot of fun debating the importance of these statements and agreeing on what they should be. The Board of Directors adopted the new statements at their Dec. 2, 2019, meeting to take effect Jan. 1, 2020.

Our new mission statement reads:

To inspire understanding of water and catalyze critical conversations to build bridges and inform collaborative decision-making

And our vision statement reads:

A society that has the ability to resolve its water challenges to benefit all.



State Water Board attorney Tina Cannon Leahy speaks to attendees at Water 101.



Water Leaders and other attendees listen intently at Water 101.



Executive Director Jenn Bowles poses with Programs Manager Nick Gray, Programs Coordinator Liz McAllister and resource speaker Carl Hauge on the Water 101 tour.



Participants pose at a restoration site during the Water 101 tour.



Programs Manager Nick Gray announces trivia over Facebook Live during Big Day of Giving.

HIGHLIGHTS:

WATER 101

Our Water 101 Workshop: The Basics and Beyond was held Feb. 20 at McGeorge School of Law, followed by an optional one-day water tour on Feb. 21. This workshop gave participants the opportunity to learn about the history, geography, legal and political facets of water in California as well as hot topics such as the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and an in-depth session on the impacts of climate change on water resources. The one-day tour traveled around the Sacramento area highlighting innovative and collaborative partnerships, projects and programs in the region that are addressing California’s water issues.

What participants said about the workshop and tour:

- “Every single topic was interesting, and I enjoyed hearing them all.”
- “I see and hear about these terms and projects ALL the time, but I didn’t know the details on them. This was extremely helpful.”
- “I enjoyed having some time to speak with the experts and that there were folks from diverse backgrounds attending.”

BOARD CHANGES

Mike Chrisman, who served as California natural resources secretary for seven years under former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, took the reins in 2020 as president of the Water Education Foundation’s board of directors. He followed in the footsteps of his father, Ira “Jack” Chrisman, who was the Foundation’s founding president in 1977. Chrisman succeeded Bob Johnson, who had been president since 2017. Johnson, a former commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, remained on the board as past president. In addition, longtime board member Celeste Cantú with Water Solutions Network was named vice president; Yung-Hsin Sun with Stantec was elected secretary and JaNell Cook, with HDR Inc., remained as treasurer.

Joining the board as new members in 2020 were:

- **Dave Eggerton**, executive director of the Association of California Water Agencies who participated in Foundation’s Water Leaders program in 2006
- **Leslie Moulton-Post**, president/CEO of Environmental Science Associates
- **Eric Robinson**, attorney and shareholder with Kronick Moskowitz Tiedemann & Girard
- **John Bezdek**, attorney and shareholder with Water and Power Law Group PC
- **Erica Bishop**, senior water resources planner/scientist with GEI Consultants

STAFF CHANGES

Liz McAllister joined the Foundation as Programs Coordinator.

IN MEMORIAM

Bill Gianelli, who served as the Foundation’s second board president from 1985-1989, died in 2020. He made a major financial donation that helped the Foundation create an educational program for young professionals, which was named the William R. Gianelli Water Leaders Class. See more about the program on page 7.

BIG DAY OF GIVING

Big Day of Giving took place in May. While we typically use Big Day of Giving to host an open house at our Sacramento office where you can meet our team and learn about our programs, this year we went virtual. Executive Director Jenn Bowles and Development Director Patrick Dunlap went live on our Facebook feed for the first time and Programs Manager Nick Gray, Jenn and Programs Coordinator Liz McAllister added some fun that included a live water trivia contest on Facebook and Twitter simultaneously. We raised \$4,000 from the campaign.



State Water Board attorney Tina Cannon Leahy explains the legal background of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for the virtual Bay-Delta Tour.



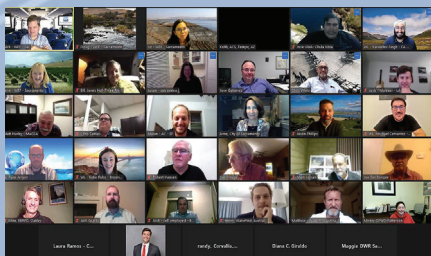
San Joaquin Valley farmer Joe Del Bosque speaking on video to virtual Central Valley Tour participants.



Meghan Hertel from Audubon California speaking on video to virtual Northern California Tour participants.



Former Water Leaders Willie Whittlesey and DeDe Cordell of Yuba Water Agency join a masked selfie with Foundation staff during filming for the virtual Northern California tour.



Tour participants, Foundation staff and tour speakers interact via Zoom during the virtual Central Valley tour premiere.

TOURS

Water Education Foundation tours are praised for being balanced, thorough and fun, and we entered 2020 with another full schedule of field trips to offer participants a firsthand look at the water facilities, rivers and regions critical in the debates about the future of water resources. Those plans were heavily disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, rendering all but one of the tours impossible to host in-person. In the face of this challenge, however, we resolved to continue providing the public with meaningful opportunities to learn about local, state and federal water issues.

Through the creative and flexible skill set of the Foundation team, we pivoted successfully from in-person tours to engaging, virtual tour experiences that educated participants on pressing water issues and allowed them to interact with each other and a wide range of experts representing different viewpoints.

Our virtual format blended an overview presentation on the topics, a guided tour video hosted by Foundation staff that brought viewers to locations in the field to hear from experts and live Q&A sessions where participants could dive deeper into the topics with those same experts in chat rooms.

In 2020, the Foundation conducted one in-person and five virtual tours:

The **Lower Colorado River Tour**, March 11-13, traveled from Lake Mead and Hoover Dam to the Salton Sea and the Coachella Valley to learn about the river's challenges and the vital role it plays in the American Southwest.

The **Headwaters Tour**, Aug. 6, was hosted as a virtual journey through the Sierra Nevada foothills and mountains to examine forest management, climate change and impacts on watershed health.

The **Bay-Delta Tour** was offered twice in a virtual format, Oct. 8 and Nov. 10, and explored parts of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Francisco Bay as participants learned about the natural history and hydrology of the Bay-Delta system, water project infrastructure, Delta conveyance and farming.

The **Northern California Tour** was hosted virtually on Nov. 12 and helped participants learn about farming, fishery restoration and California's major water projects in the Sacramento Valley.

The **Central Valley Tour**, Nov. 19, explored the length of the San Joaquin Valley virtually to learn about water supplies, agriculture and habitat.

The **San Joaquin River Restoration Tour** on Dec. 10 guided participants on a virtual journey along the San Joaquin River to learn about one of the nation's largest and most expensive river restoration projects.

Thank you to our 2020 Tour Sponsors. We could not have made the pivot from in-person to virtual tours without their support.

MAJOR SPONSORS

Bureau of Reclamation's California-Great Basin Region and Lower Colorado Region
California Department of Water Resources

TRAILBLAZER SPONSOR

Stantec

TRAVELER SPONSORS

HDR, Inc.

Turlock Irrigation District

Westervelt Ecological Services

ORGANIZATIONS THAT ALSO OFFERED SUPPORT THROUGH TOUR SPONSORSHIP

Association of California Water Agencies, Central Arizona Project, Contra Costa Water District, Environmental Science Associates, Friant Water Authority, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Imperial Irrigation District, Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Placer County Water Agency, San Luis Canal Company, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Tehama Colusa Canal Authority, Western Canal Water District, Westlands Water District and Yuba Water Agency.

We'd also like to thank editor Nick Janes of J Comm, Inc. for his talent and effort in helping us produce engaging and informative tour videos for our virtual events.

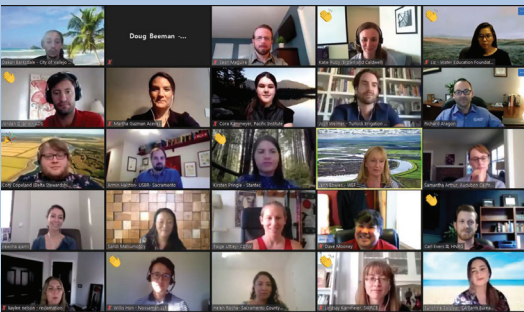
WATER LEADERS



Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot speaks to the Water Leaders class.



Water Leaders gather in person for their orientation, before the COVID-19 pandemic required meetings to be held virtually.



Water Leaders mix with Water Leader alumni during a virtual social hour.

Like all of our in-person programs, the Water Leaders class had to go virtual in March 2020 due to COVID-19. While adapting to changes in the year-long program due to the global pandemic, the class of 23 professionals studied another global issue: climate change. The class report was *"Adapting California Water Management to Climate Change: Charting a Path Forward"*.

Led by Executive Director Jenn Bowles, the class is made up of up-and-coming community leaders and water professionals who deepen their water knowledge and strengthen their leadership skills. They are paired with an expert from the water world as a mentor, and they learn to take an active, cooperative approach to decision-making about water resource issues.

Members of the Foundation's 24th Annual William R. Gianelli Water Leaders Class were: **Stan Ali**, Contra Costa Water District; **Samantha Arthur**, Audubon California; **Dakari Barksdale**, West Yost Associates; **Michael Cervantes**, Association of California Water Agencies; **Cory Copeland**, Delta Stewardship Council; **Liz DaBramo**, Woodard & Curran; **Carl Evers III**, Hancock Natural Resource Group; **Beti Girma**, State Water Resources Control Board; **Armin Halston**, Bureau of Reclamation; **Willis Hon**, Nossaman LLP; **Bailey Johnston**, HDR Engineering; **Lindsay Kammeier**, State Water Resources Control Board; **Cora Kammeyer**, Pacific Institute; **KayLee Nelson**, Bureau of Reclamation; **Jordan Ollanik**, Advanced Drainage Systems; **Kirsten Pringle**, Stantec; **Helen Rocha**, Sacramento County Water Agency; **Katie Ruby**, Brown and Caldwell; **Sunshine Saldivar**, California Farm Bureau Federation; **Karandeve Singh**, Department of Water Resources; **Colin Sueyres**, State Senator Jim Nielsen; **Paige Uttley**, Department of Fish and Wildlife; **Josh Weimer**, Turlock Irrigation District.

What class members said:

"The people I met were amazing! I almost wish I didn't graduate so that I could re-take the class!"

"Thank you for the good year - it was a challenge with many curveballs, but I appreciate all the good folks at WEF for working hard to make this a success."

The 2020 Water Leaders class.



WESTERN WATER

The Foundation's online news magazine, *Western Water*, covered a variety of critical water issues facing California and the West in what turned out to be a very dry 2020.

Our stories looked at topics emerging for policymakers, water purveyors, environmentalists, farmers and the public. Among the in-depth articles in 2020: The ability of science to improve water management decisions and keep up with the accelerating pace of climate change. The impact to precious water resources from persistent drought in the Colorado River Basin. Building resilience and sustainability across California. And finding hope at the Salton Sea.

Climate change was a topic we returned to several times this year. In the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, worries were growing that impacts from climate change — algal blooms, invasive species and more — were evolving faster than scientists can keep up, adding to the challenge of advising water managers on how to adapt. We also took note of an ambitious effort in the Delta to create incentives for farmers to switch to crops or habitat that could store carbon and halt or potentially reverse the decay that's causing Delta islands to sink.

Several articles highlighted the frustrations and challenges of forging compromise and making progress in the California water world. In the Delta, *Western Water* examined the hopes for voluntary agreements to improve environmental conditions for fish and wildlife while still allowing water diversions for farms and cities — and the legal challenges, ongoing conflicts and skepticism that continued to dog and ultimately stall negotiations at least for the time being.

In the Colorado River Basin, two topics of coverage were a major report that synthesized the volumes of scientific information on the Basin in a way that could better aid water managers and agencies as they prepare to renegotiate the river's operating rules. And in preparation for the start of those negotiations, a report released in the fall examined how well interim operating guidelines in place since 2007 worked to stave off water supply cuts to Arizona, Nevada and California.

Western Water interviewed newsmakers for a series of Question-and-Answer columns: Nancy Vogel, a former journalist and veteran water communicator in charge of shepherding Gov. Gavin Newsom's Water Resilience Portfolio. We also talked with two high-profile leaders in the Colorado River Basin: Terry Fulp, who retired after 30-plus years with the Bureau of Reclamation, concluding as director at the Lower Colorado River Region, and Becky Mitchell, who is the state of Colorado's point person on the Upper Colorado River Commission, which is an important voice on the river's issues. Both shared their views about current and future challenges on a river that is a vital lifeline for vast areas of the American West.



A major science report on the Colorado River Basin, a vital water source for seven Western states and Mexico, could aid water managers as they rewrite the river's operating rules.



Invasive plants such as water hyacinth choke waterways in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Western Water | April 10, 2020 | Gary Pitzer

With Sustainability Plans Filed, Groundwater Agencies Now Must Figure Out How To Pay For Them

WESTERN WATER NOTEBOOK: California's Prop. 218 taxpayer law and local politics could complicate efforts to finance groundwater improvement projects

The bill is coming due, literally, to protect and restore groundwater in California.

Local agencies in the most depleted groundwater basins in California spent months putting together plans to show how they will achieve balance in about 20 years.

[READ MORE »](#)



A groundwater monitoring well in Colusa County, north of Sacramento. (Source: California Department of Water Resources)

How California's Proposition 218 could efforts to fund groundwater improvement projects was the subject of a Western Water notebook article in April.

Western Water | April 17, 2020 | Gary Pitzer

Framework for Agreements to Aid Health of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a Starting Point With An Uncertain End

WESTERN WATER IN-DEPTH: Voluntary agreement discussions continue despite court fights, state-federal conflicts and skepticism among some water users and environmental groups

Voluntary agreements in California have been touted as an innovative and flexible way to improve environmental conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the rivers that feed it. The goal is to provide river flows and habitat for fish while still allowing enough water to be diverted for farms and cities in a way that satisfies state regulators.

[READ MORE »](#)



The Delta and the rivers that feed it serve many functions — a source of water to meet the drinking water and irrigation needs across California, as well as providing key habitat for wildlife. (Source: California Department of Water Resources)

In April, Western Water examined efforts to reach voluntary agreements to improve environmental conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Western Water | November 20, 2020 | By Gary Pitzer

Milestone Colorado River Management Plan Mostly Worked Amid Epic Drought, Review Finds

WESTERN WATER SPOTLIGHT: Draft assessment of 2007 Interim Guidelines expected to provide a guide as talks begin on new river operating rules for the iconic Southwestern river

Twenty years ago, the Colorado River Basin's hydrology began tumbling into a historically bad stretch. The weather turned persistently dry. Water levels in the system's anchor reservoirs of Lake Powell and Lake Mead plummeted. A river system relied upon by nearly 40 million people, farms and ecosystems across the West was in trouble. And there was no guide on how to respond.

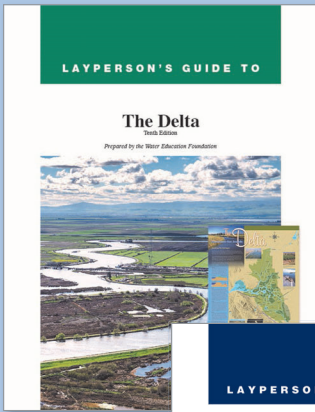
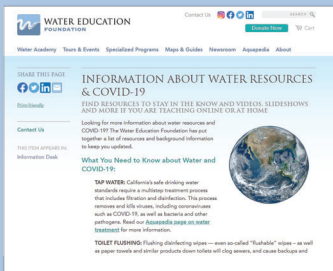
[READ MORE »](#)



At full pool, Lake Mead is the largest reservoir in the United States by volume, but two decades of drought have dramatically dropped the water level behind Hoover Dam as can be seen in this photo. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)

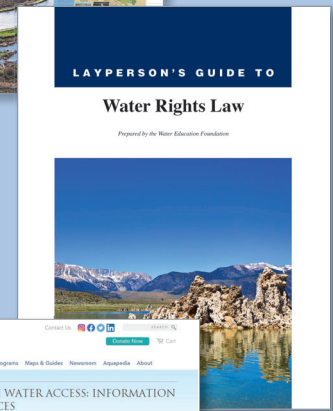
Western Water spotlighted an assessment of a milestone Colorado River management plan in November.

The COVID-19 resource page included Frequently Asked Questions, links to webpages and learning resources for educators teaching remotely.



In 2020, the Foundation published the tenth edition of the Layperson's Guide to the Delta.

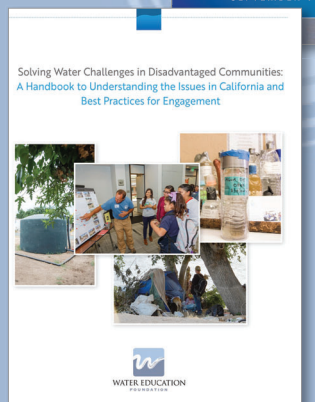
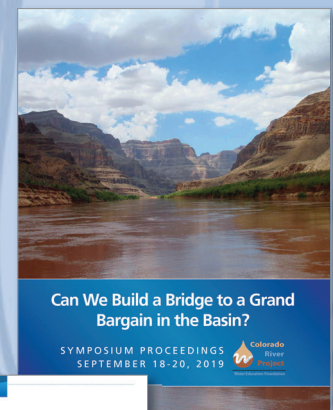
The Foundation updated its popular Layperson's Guide to Water Rights Law.



The Water Equity resource webpage compiled information on water equity, including laws, books, websites and more.



The 2019 Colorado River Symposium Proceedings book was published in 2020.



The Foundation produced a handbook on understanding water challenges in disadvantaged communities that included best practices for engagement.

PUBLICATIONS

RESOURCES FOR EMERGING ISSUES

The COVID-19 pandemic brought the world to its knees in 2020. Its impacts were deeply felt across industries and communities. The pandemic had many implications for water, from tracking coronavirus in wastewater to ensuring personal sanitation and handwashing. The pandemic and resulting job losses from lockdowns to halt the outbreak also highlighted longstanding water equity issues. We responded by building resource pages to inform people about the virus' impact on water and water equity issues.

COVID-19 WEBPAGE: The Water Education Foundation put together a list of resources and background information to inform the public on COVID-19 and water resources topics. The list of resources includes topics such as wastewater treatment, flushable wipes, impacts on disadvantaged communities as well as educational resources on water for K-12 students (and their parents) who were having to continue school from home.

WATER EQUITY WEBPAGE: The Water Education Foundation put together a list of resources and background information to educate about issues of water equity in California and the West. The list of resources includes handbooks, podcasts, organizations, books, maps, a newsfeed on water equity issues and articles from our own news magazine, Western Water.

LAYPERSON'S GUIDE TO WATER RIGHTS LAW

The Foundation revised its 28-page Layperson's Guide to Water Rights Law, which is recognized as the most thorough explanation of California water rights law available to non-lawyers. The guide traces the authority for water flowing in a stream or reservoir, from a faucet or into an irrigation ditch through the complex web of California water rights. The revisions included an extensive section on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, as well as updates on recent court cases affecting water rights.

LAYPERSON'S GUIDE TO THE DELTA

The 24-page Layperson's Guide to the Delta explores the competing uses and demands on California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Included in the guide are sections on the history of the Delta, its role in the state's water supply system and its many complex issues with sections on water quality, levees, salinity and agricultural drainage, fish and wildlife and water distribution. In addition to a glossary of common terms and information on the many state and federal agencies involved in Delta issues, the 2020 version includes the latest information on topics such as the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, conveyance, litigation and invasive species.

SOLVING WATER CHALLENGES IN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

The Foundation produced Solving Water Challenges in Disadvantaged Communities, a handbook designed to help the estimated 1 million Californians living in economically stressed pockets of the state. These communities face daunting challenges in obtaining clean and affordable water to drink, addressing sanitation or stormwater needs and gaining the help to make needed improvements.

COLORADO RIVER SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

The Foundation published the proceedings from the 2019 Colorado River Symposium, "Can We Build a Bridge to a Grand Bargain in the Basin?" The 2 1/2- day, invitation-only event held Sept. 18-20, 2019, brought together some of the top policymakers, water managers and tribal representatives from across the Colorado River Basin. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman and Bruce Babbitt, former Interior secretary and Arizona governor, gave keynote addresses.

The 148-page book included transcripts of discussions on Upper and Lower Basin perspectives on drafting the 2026 Colorado River operating guidelines; lessons learned from the 2007 Interim Guidelines; the U.S.-Mexico partnership on the river; achieving a vision for tribal water; connections between science, policy and management of water resources and more.

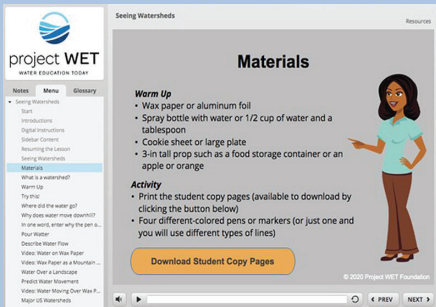


Water, Geography & Climate in California

Discover the Waters of Our National Parks—California Edition

- Once in your break-outs, choose a team member with a Google account who will share their screen – Use the link in the chat with the same number as your breakout room.
- You'll be working in teams to collect evidence of weather or climate related phenomena from several images.
 - What can each image reveal about the local weather and climate?
 - Is this a high or low precipitation location?
 - What kind of temperatures might this area experience?
 - Do you observe evidence related to a current or recent weather

Brian Brown, California Project WET Coordinator, facilitates a Project WET workshop activity.



Project WET's online learning interface aided teachers in adapting to remote teaching.



Project WET adapted to the conditions created by the pandemic.



CALIFORNIA

project WET

WATER EDUCATION TODAY

PROJECT WET

The Water Education Foundation is the California coordinator of Project WET, an international program that in 2020 changed the acronym from 'Water Education for Teachers' to 'Water Education Today' to emphasize the need to educate about immediate water challenges on a local to global scale.

California Project WET started 2020 with plans in the first quarter to carry out 35 workshops across the state aimed at helping K-12 educators bring water lessons into the classroom. The onset of COVID-19 and social distancing mandates resulted in the cancellations of multiple spring workshops and all annual summer institutes to avoid the risk of spreading the virus between participants.

Fortunately, Project WET headquarters in Montana allowed free use of an existing online training that California State University teacher education programs quickly integrated into their spring 2020 courses. The number of courses using the training grew throughout the year. Project WET coordinators and facilitators across the country rapidly learned how to master the use of the Zoom platform to lead Project WET activities in 'live' online workshops, maintaining the program's reputation for engaging, hands-on workshop experiences.

By August 2020, Brian Brown, who leads the California Project WET program at the Foundation, was receiving positive feedback on the online efforts from teachers:

"Dear Mr. Brown - I have had the pleasure of taking the Project Wet course this past Saturday, July 25, 2020. I am happy to report that I learned a great deal and look forward to implementing many of the lessons in my 5th grade class this year. Thank you and your team for developing so many pathways to understanding via online learning. In this crazy time, these opportunities are so valuable to me and my learning community." – 5th Grade Teacher, Magnolia Elementary School, Riverside, CA

By the end of 2020, the California Project WET program was able to conduct **42 educator professional development workshops**, training **899 California K-12 educators** who planned to use Project WET activities with approximately **103,186 students in the 2020-2021 school year**.

Brian also introduced an additional **1,077 California K-12 educators** to Project WET through online conferences and helped **250 fellow Project WET leaders throughout the United States and at least 3 other countries** learn how to teach climate science and engage learners through digital learning.

Despite a complete disruption of how the program traditionally operated, California Project WET adjusted to the new reality (thanks to support from partners) and ended the year by meeting or exceeding annual performance goals and having developed new capabilities to train educators in both the digital and physical realms.

GRANTS HELPING THE PROGRAM

None of this would have been possible without the support from the U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, Coastal Commission, NOAA B-WET and local funding partners. Their continued support, understanding and flexibility allowed the program to adjust to the challenges of 2020 and remain in a position to deliver on our mutual water education goals and objectives.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2020, Brian continued to be actively involved with various professional committees and organizations, including the Project WET USA Coordinator Council, the California Environmental Education Interagency Network, DWR Water Education Committee, Forestry Institute for Teachers Steering Committee and California Project Learning Tree Advisory Committee. The California Project WET program was also represented at the California Association of Science Educators virtual conference.

Brian also creates the quarterly California Project WET Gazette newsletter, which is featured in a digital format on the Water Education Foundation website. The Gazette was especially critical in 2020 as a vehicle to share Project WET online activity strategies and resources with K-12 educators throughout the state.

FUNDING SOURCES

A variety of grants from governmental agencies and other organizations funded the Foundation's special programs, publications and projects in 2020. The Foundation's general activities, in turn, were supported by another primary source — annual contributions.

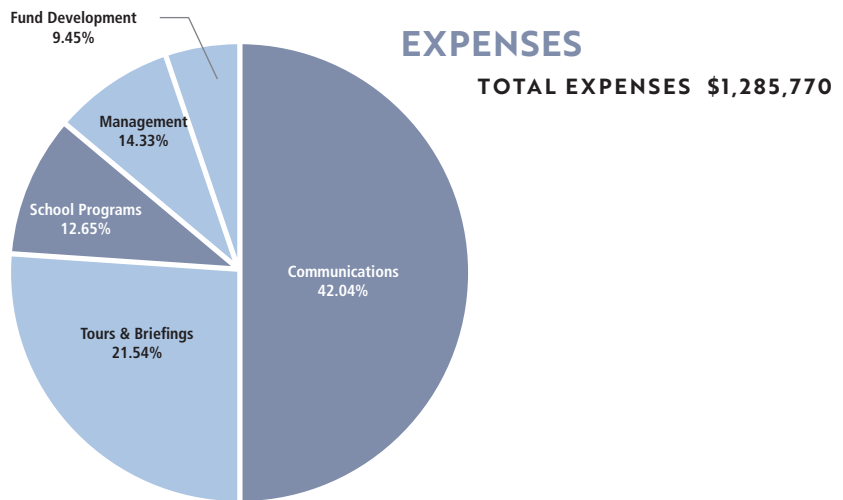
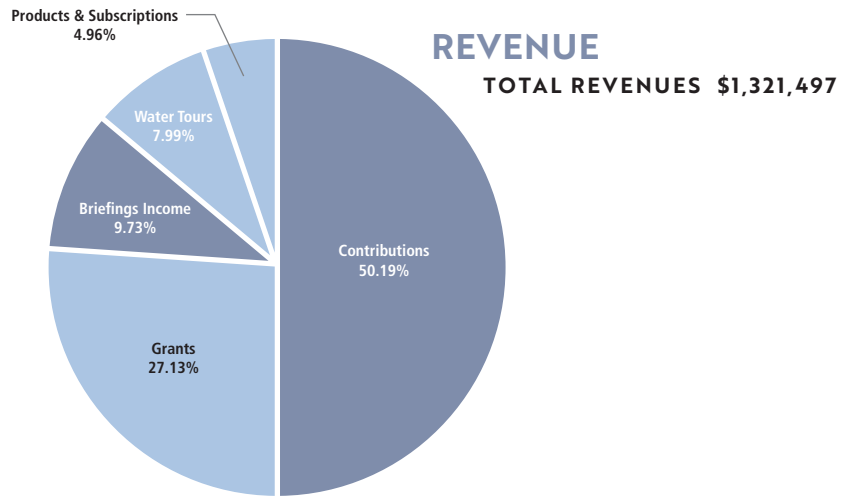
This diversity of funding helps the Foundation fulfill its mission of providing balance in all written materials, school programs, tours, workshops, conferences and publications. Reviewers and advisory groups help ensure technical accuracy, but the Foundation retains editorial control over all programs and publications — no matter what the funding source.

In 2020, grant funds provided 27 percent of the Foundation's revenues, including support for Project WET, tours and publications.

Major contributions (see page 12 for the list) represented 50 percent of 2020 revenues and helped maintain core programs such as Western Water online, conferences, tours and the Water Leaders Program.

Additional Foundation income is derived from attendance at briefings and water tours (18 percent) and the sale of our educational materials (5 percent).

In return for all this support, the Foundation continues to serve as the source of impartial information on water issues in California and the Southwest. We thank all the organizations and individuals for the many ways in which they support our work and help us fulfill our mission.



Filming the American River for the Headwaters Tour.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

SUPPORTERS, PATRONS, AND STEWARDS (\$5,000 and above)

Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency
Association of California Water Agencies
California Water Association
Coachella Valley Water District
East Bay Municipal Utility District
Eastern Municipal Water District
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Hancock Natural Resource Group
HDR
Imperial Irrigation District
Irvine Ranch Water District
Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District
Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Modesto Irrigation District
Morning Star Company
Orange County Water District
Riverside Public Utilities
Rowland Water District

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Sacramento, City of
San Diego County Water Authority
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
San Geronio Pass Water Agency
San Juan Water District
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Semitropic Water Storage District
Sonoma County Water Agency
Southern Nevada Water Authority
Stantec
Sweetwater Authority
Turlock Irrigation District
Vallecitos Water District
Yuba Water Agency

SPONSORS (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Alameda County Water District
Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency
Bowles Farming Company

Bronco Wine Company
Brown and Caldwell
Byron Bethany Irrigation District
CDM Smith
Celeste Cantú
Contra Costa Water District
Don Cotton
Downey Brand LLP
East Valley Water District
El Dorado Irrigation District
Escondido, City of
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Golden State Water Company
Helix Water District
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Kern Water Bank Authority
Kings River Conservation District
Kjeldsen, Sinnock & Neudeck, Inc.
Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard
La Canada Irrigation District
La Verne, City of
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Martin Hein Ranch Company
MBK Engineers
Nossaman LLP
Palo Verde Irrigation District
Rancho California Water District
River Garden Farms Company
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
Sacramento County Water Agency
San Jose Water Company
San Luis Canal Company
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District



Foundation staff celebrate a socially distanced birthday amid the COVID-19 pandemic during an outing along the Sacramento River.

CONTRIBUTORS CON'T.

Vino Farms, LLC

West Basin Municipal Water District

Westlands Water District

PILLARS

(\$1,000-\$2,499)

Albert A. Webb Associates

Babcock Laboratories, Inc.

Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan

Best Best & Krieger LLP

Boutonnet Farms, Inc.

Buena Vista Water Sanitation District

Buttner Properties, Inc.

Carmichael Water District

Carollo Engineers

Central California Irrigation District

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

Central Valley Project Water Association

Chad Williams

City of Palo Alto Utilities

CoBank

Colorado River Commission of Nevada

Colorado Water Center

Corona, City of

Dublin San Ramon Services District

El Dorado County Water Agency

Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP

Environmental Science Associates

Fallbrook Public Utility District

Firebaugh Canal Water District

Fred Cannon

GEI Consultants, Inc.

Hammonds Ranch, Inc

Hancock Farmland Services

Hanford, City of

Hi-Desert Water District

Jennifer Persike & Company

Leslie Moulton-Post

Los Alisos Ranch Company

Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers

Marin Municipal Water District

Mission Ranches Company, LLC

Napa, City of

Northern California Water Association

Oakdale Irrigation District

Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Otay Water District

Padre Dam Municipal Water District

Panoche Water District

Pebble Beach Community Services District

Roberta Borgonovo

Sacramento Suburban Water District

Salt River Project

San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District

San Dieguito Water District

San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

San Gabriel Valley Water Company

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

Santa Margarita Water District

Sea Mist Farms

Somach Simmons & Dunn

Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District

Stockton East Water District

Sunnyvale, City of

Ventura, City of

Vida Fresh, Inc.

Water Replenishment District of Southern California

West Yost

Western Municipal Water District

Westervelt Ecological Services

Zone 7 Water Agency

SUSTAINERS

(\$750-\$999)

Association of California Water Agencies/
JPIA

Atascadero Mutual Water Company

Booth Ranches, LLC

Calaveras Public Utility District

Crestline Village Water District

Dudley Ridge Water District

Elk Grove Water District



Foundation staff members Nick Gray, Liz McAllister and Doug Beeman film a stop along the Friant-Kern Canal for the virtual Central Valley Tour.

CONTRIBUTORS CON'T.

Fairfield, City of
Foothill Municipal Water District
Friant Water Authority
Jurupa Community Services District
Laguna Beach County Water District
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Placer County Water Agency
Santa Cruz, City of
Todd Groundwater
Western Canal Water District

FOUNDERS (\$500-\$749)

Anonymous
Bella Vista Water District
Bob & Kay Moline
Buttonwillow Land & Cattle Company
California Central Valley Flood Control Association
CalWest Rain, Inc.
Cawelo Water District
Central Coast Water Authority
Fresno, City of
J.K. Thille Ranches

Jennifer Harder and Eric Robinson
Lone Tree Creek Vineyards
Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster
Mid-Peninsula Water District
Mike Chrisman
Mojave Water Agency
Montpelier Farming Corporation
North Delta Water Agency
PacificComm LLC
Pakpour Consulting Group
Rebecca & Charles Smith
Redwine and Sherrill
Richvale Irrigation District
Robbins, Browning, Goodwin & Marchini
San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority
San Luis Water District
Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Sara Reid
South Delta Water Agency
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
Valley Water Company
Wente Vineyards
West Kern Water District
West Stanislaus Irrigation District

Wheeler Ridge Maricopa
Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

BUILDERS (\$250-\$499)

Anonymous
Blankinship & Associates, Inc.
Britz Farming Corp.
Butte County Department of Water & Resource Conservation
California Rice Commission
Chamisal Creek Ranch
Chino Basin Water Conservation District
Columbia Canal Company
Curtis Spencer
Curtis Swanson
D'Arrigo Brothers Company
Dave Eggerton
Davids Engineering, Inc.
Del Oro Water Company
Del Puerto Water District
Ducks Unlimited
Eddie Rigdon
Eldon Cotton & Associates
Erica Bishop
Hanson Bridgett LLP
Herum Crabtree Suntag
Imperial Valley Water (IVH20)
Jennifer Allen
Jennifer Wells
John P. Carter, A Professional Corporation
John Salmonson
Joseph C. Chrisman
Kautz Farms
Kern Delta Water District
Laura Hidas
Los Angeles Water and Power Associates Inc



Jenn Bowles, Patrick Dunlap, Liz McAllister and Nick Gray grab a selfie with Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District General Manager Thad Bettner (second from left) during filming for the virtual Northern California Tour.

CONTRIBUTORS CON'T.

McCord Environmental Inc.
Michael Kavanaugh
Mojave Public Utility District
Napa Sanitation District
Pete Silva
Philip J Cerro II
Randy Record & Associates
Remy Moose Manley, LLP
Richard Cox
Rick Aragon
Rita Schmidt Sudman
Scotts Valley Water District
Shafter - Wasco Irrigation District
Sierra Pacific Industries
South Sutter Water District
Tea Pot Dome Water District
Tina Cannon Leahy
Tustin, City of
Weimar Water Company
Yuma County Water Users Assoc.

ASSOCIATES

(\$100-\$249)

Ane Deister
Anne Castle



Patrick Dunlap snaps a selfie during a boat ride on the Lower Colorado River Tour.

Anonymous
Aromas Water District
Aziz Akbari
Brazil/LeVake Government Relations
Christopher Park
Dairy Institute of California
Dan Steiner
David J. Stoldt
David W. Abbott
Delta Farms
Edward Horton
Ellen Hanak
Frederick D. Hansen
Gloria Anderson
Golden Valley Farms
Grace and Bob Winchell
Harrison C. Dunning
Heather Engel
Hugh Bennett Ranch Inc.
James F. Anderson Law Firm
James Gibbs
Jeff & Gina Moresco, Jeff Moresco Farms
Jennifer Bowles
Jesse Barton, Gallery & Barton APLC
John Dracup
Karen Donovan
Keith Scoular
Leonard Davis
Lester Farms



Nick Gray and Jenn Bowles filming an introduction for the virtual Bay-Delta Tour.

Local Agency Formation Commission of Riverside County
Mercy Springs Water District
Michael McPherson
Mohr-Fry Ranches
Montgomery & Associates
North Marin Water District
Northern Water
PG&E
Ramesh Gopalan
Robert Guzzetta
Ron Robie
Rubio Canon Land & Water Association
Rural County Representatives of California
Shasta County Water Agency
Shasta County Water Works
Stenderup Ag Partners
Summers Engineering Inc.
The Greenberg Foundation
Thomas B Dunphy
Thomas Harter
Thomas Philp
Tulare Lake Drainage District
UC California Institute for Water Resources
Wanda Williams
Wendy Wang
Young & Sons/ Cocopah Nurseries, Inc.
Yvonne West

MISSION

To inspire understanding of water and catalyze critical conversations to build bridges and inform collaborative decision-making

VISION

A society that has the ability to resolve its water challenges to benefit all



WATER EDUCATION
FOUNDATION