



WATER EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION

# Water 101: The Basics & Beyond

April 10, 2025

McGeorge School of Law | Sacramento, CA

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
**PACIFIC**  
McGeorge School of Law

Workshop scope: A daylong course on California water with an optional one-day tour. Participants will learn about California water basics and current topics in water resources history, geography, management, law and politics.

## Check-in & Networking

8:30 - 9:00 am

## Welcome & Introductions — Workshop Overview

9:00 - 9:15 am

## California's Natural Water Endowment

9:15 - 10:00 am

### Jenn Bowles

*Executive Director*

Water Education Foundation

**Session details:** Overview of California's geography, hydrology & water history, including major water infrastructure projects, wild & scenic rivers, groundwater and alternative supplies.

## Networking Break

10:00 - 10:15 am

## Public & Private Rights in California Water

10:15 - 11:30 am

### Jennifer Harder

*Professor of Law, Legal Practice*

McGeorge School of Law

**Session details:** Overview of riparian, appropriative, tribal and groundwater rights in California, including reasonable & beneficial use, public trust law and related cases.

## Getting to Know the Water Education Foundation

11:30 - 11:45 am

### Nick Gray

*Programs Director*

Water Education Foundation

**Session details:** Introduction to the Water Education Foundation, including our tours & events, resources for continued learning and publications.

## Networking Lunch

11:45 am - 12:30 pm

## Fundamentals of California Groundwater

12:30 - 1:30 pm

**Thomas Harter**

*Professor of Water Resources*  
University of California, Davis

**Session details:** Overview of California's groundwater resources, including its importance in the state's water supply, its history of use & overuse and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

## Networking Break

1:30 - 1:45 pm

## Legal & Institutional Management Framework

1:45 - 2:45 pm

**Joshua Nelson**

*Partner*  
Best Best & Krieger

**Session details:** Overview of the water management institutions and regulatory agencies in California and their respective roles, including a summary of governing laws at both the state & federal levels.

## Networking Break

2:45 - 3:00 pm

## Understanding & Working with the State Legislature

3:00 - 3:45 pm

**Pablo Garza**

*Chief Consultant*  
California State Assembly,  
Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife

**Session details:** Overview of California's legislative process, including examples of landmark water legislation, current & future water issues and priorities for the legislature.

## Networking Break

3:45 - 4:00 pm

## Increasing Water Management Flexibility through Atmospheric River Science & Forecasting

4:00 - 5:00 pm

**Marty Ralph**

*Director*  
Center for Western Weather & Water Extremes (CW3E)

**Session details:** An overview of the latest atmospheric river research and efforts to improve weather forecasting to help inform water resources planning such as forecast informed reservoir operations (FIRO).

## Adjourn to Networking Reception

5:00 pm