

Water Education Foundation's

# Water 101 Workshop: The Basics & Beyond

## Speaker Biographies

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### **Jenn Bowles | *Executive Director, Water Education Foundation***

Jenn Bowles was named Executive Director of the Water Education Foundation in March 2014. A veteran journalist, she started her career as a reporter and editor at The Associated Press in the Los Angeles bureau for 10 years. She later became the environmental reporter at The Press-Enterprise in Riverside, garnering awards for her coverage of water issues in California during a nine-year stint. She joined Best Best & Krieger LLP in 2009 where she worked as a writer and communications strategist with some of the state's leading water law attorneys. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism and history from the University of Southern California and completed a year-long Scripps Fellowship in Environmental Journalism at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

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### **Jennifer L. Harder | *Professor of Law, Legal Practice, McGeorge School of Law***

Jennifer L. Harder is a professor at University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento where she serves as co-director of the JD Water & Environmental Law Concentration and Faculty Director for Online Learning, serving as faculty liaison to McGeorge's online graduate degree programs in water and government. Professor Harder is co-author of a water law casebook, *Cases & Materials on Water Law* (10<sup>th</sup> ed. 2020) and editor-in-chief for *Environmental Law News*, a biannual publication of the Environmental Law Section at the California Lawyers Association. In 2023-24, Professor Harder is serving as PPIC-Cal Trout Ecosystem Fellow with the Public Policy Institute of California, focusing on climate-smart protection of California's freshwater ecosystems. Prior to entering academia, Professor Harder served as a law clerk to Justice Alexander O. Bryner of the Alaska Supreme Court and as an attorney and partner with a Sacramento law firm, practicing water and public agency law. She is a proud 2003 alumna of the Water Education Foundation's Water Leaders program.

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**Thomas Harter | *Professor of Water Resources, University of California, Davis***

Thomas Harter joined the faculty at the Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources at University of California, Davis in 1995. His research focuses on nonpoint-source pollution of groundwater, groundwater resources evaluation under uncertainty, groundwater modeling and contaminant transport. Harter's research group has done extensive modeling, laboratory and field work to evaluate the impacts of agriculture and human activity on groundwater flow and contaminant transport in complex aquifer and soil systems. Dr. Harter holds the Nora S. Gustavsson Endowed Professorship for Groundwater Resources in Agriculture, is a Distinguished Professor & Distinguished Professor of Cooperative Extension and is Chair of the Hydrologic Sciences Graduate Group. He has a bachelor's degree in hydrology from the University of Freiburg, Germany and a master's degree in hydrology from the University of Stuttgart, Germany. He received his doctorate in hydrology at the University of Arizona.

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**Joshua Nelson | *Partner, Best Best & Krieger***

Josh Nelson is a member of Best Best & Krieger LLP's Municipal Law practice group and the managing partner for BBK's Sacramento office, providing city attorney and general counsel services to cities, special districts and joint powers authorities. His general governance work includes an emphasis on conflicts of interest and ethics, especially regarding contracting. He regularly speaks on Government Code section 1090, the Political Reform Act and legal conflicts of interest. Josh assists public agency clients with proceedings before local agency formation commissions and regularly represents public and private clients before the California Public Utilities Commission on water, energy and telecommunications matters.

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

Pablo Garza is the chief consultant for the Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife in the State Assembly, where he oversees analysis of legislation, works to identify relevant policy issues for further investigation through informational/oversight hearings and advises the committee chair on policy issues related to the committee's jurisdiction. He has more than 20 years experience working in and around the California State Legislature. Prior to becoming chief consultant, he advocated on natural resource and water policy issues on behalf of Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) as political director for its California Ecosystems Program and before that, as the associate director, state policy & external affairs for The Nature Conservancy (TNC). He formerly served on the Board of Directors for the Water Education Foundation. He holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of California, Davis and a master's degree in Latin American studies from the University of California, Los Angeles.

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**Marty Ralph | Director, Center for Western Weather & Water Extremes (CW3E)**

Dr. F. Martin Ralph is a synoptic and mesoscale research meteorologist focused on understanding the physical processes that create extremes in precipitation ranging from flood to drought, and on advancing associated observations, predictions, climate projections and decision-support tools. He is a leading expert on atmospheric rivers and has provided input to policymakers related to Western weather and water extremes. From 2001–2013 he was Chief of the Water Cycle Branch at NOAA’s Earth System Research Laboratory in Colorado where he led the development of the Hydrometeorology Testbed. He also managed NOAA’s Science, Technology and Infusion Program, chaired NOAA’s U.S. Weather Research Program Executive Committee and led the creation of NOAA’s Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program. In 2013 he moved to the University of California, San Diego/Scripps Institution of Oceanography where he created the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes. He holds a bachelor’s degree in meteorology from the University of Arizona, and a master’s degree and doctorate in atmospheric sciences from the University of California, Los Angeles.

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**Nick Gray | Programs Director, Water Education Foundation**

Nick Gray directs the Foundation’s many in-person workshops, conferences and one of the most popular programs – water tours. He plans, coordinates and implements tours of key water regions and topics across California and the Southwest, bringing attendees up close to dams and other water infrastructure, wildlife areas, farms and other sites involved in water. Before joining the Foundation in the summer of 2018, he spent 15 years involved in formal and informal science education as a teacher in the classroom and as the education director of a science museum. Since coming to the Sacramento area a decade ago, he has also been involved with regional science communication organizations, including Capital Science Communicators. He has an undergraduate degree in biology from the University of Dayton.

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