

Breakout 3 [Policy Track] – Water Rights | 2:00pm – 3:15pm

Moderator: John Kingsbury

John has been in the water business for the past 24 years. In March, 2011, he was hired as the Executive Director, Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA). The Association advocates for the water interests of its members in all or a portion of 15 or the 58 counties from the southern tip of Lassen County down to Fresno. Prior to MCWRA, John worked for 10 1/2 years at the Placer County Water Agency in Auburn as the Director of Customer Services and responsible for planning, organizing and directing the 29 member Water System's Customer Services Department. He also worked with statewide and regional organizations that monitor and influence regulatory and legislative matters of critical interest to the water purveyors and participated on various regional and statewide committees. Prior to working at Placer County Water Agency, John worked for 12 1/2 years at the El Dorado Irrigation District as the Customer Services Manager responsible for planning, organizing and directing the Water System's Customer Services Department. John lives in Placerville, and has been an El Dorado County resident since 1979.

Panelists: Ryan Bezerra, Dave Eggerton, Jan Goldsmith, Antonio Rossmann

Ryan Bezerra has been a shareholder with Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan since 2002. His practice focuses on water right and water quality issues, including advising clients concerning related issues such as groundwater rights, streamflow requirements and the Endangered Species Act, preparing water-supply assessments and litigation of related disputes. Mr. Bezerra is also general counsel for a community services district. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Davis in 1992 and his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law in 1995. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the Order of the Coif. In 2009, Mr. Bezerra received the Water Statesperson of the Year award from the Regional Water Authority, which represents the water suppliers throughout the Sacramento region, for his work on the major water legislation enacted by the Legislature that year.

Dave Eggerton has served as General Manager of the El Dorado County Water Agency (Water Agency) and Executive Director of the El Dorado Water & Power Authority (EDWPA) since January, 2011. The Water Agency exists to ensure that El Dorado County has adequate water for the future through planning, water rights, legislative and regulatory advocacy, water efficiency, public outreach and education, watershed protection, and supporting the efforts of local water purveyors. Previously, Dave served as Senior Deputy General Counsel for El Dorado Irrigation District where he managed the District's governmental affairs and water policy programs.

Janet Goldsmith is a principal with Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard, a Sacramento law firm known statewide for its expertise in water law. Ms. Goldsmith's practice has focused on water rights, groundwater law and environmental issues related to water rights and natural resource allocation for over 35 years. She is experienced in handling surface and ground water transfers, including the transportation of water through state and federal facilities. She advises both public and private entities on water management issues and has appeared before the State Water Resources Control Board and both state and federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court, representing water users' interests. Ms. Goldsmith's clients include water users and water agencies, including Placer County Water Agency and Tahoe City Public Utilities District, and private water right holders throughout Northern California.

Antonio Rossmann has served in the past 35 years as counsel in some of California's and the West's leading water and land-use proceedings, including the Owens Valley groundwater war, the Mono Lake public trust litigation, the State Water Project Monterey Amendments challenge, the Imperial-to-San Diego Colorado River water transfer, and protection of California groundwater regulation against constitutional attacks. Mr. Rossmann, an honors graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School has also been teaching water resources, land use, and constitutional law at UC Berkeley for the past 30 years.