

Breakout 4 [Policy Track] – Climate Change in Water Planning | 2:00pm – 3:15pm

Moderator: Elizabeth Betancourt

Elizabeth Betancourt is a consultant doing work in watershed planning and management, including climate change assessments and drought planning; project development and management; water conservation opportunity evaluation, planning, and implementation; stakeholder identification, outreach, and facilitation; and policy analysis and development. Prior to joining the consulting field, Elizabeth worked at the California Urban Water Conservation Council, aiding in the implementation of SB7x-7 and helping water agencies to meet conservation goals. She also has worked for El Dorado Irrigation District, writing the South Fork American River Watershed Plan with the watershed group, heading up climate emissions accounting and management, and working with partner organizations to implement the CABY IRWMP. Elizabeth holds a M.S. in Watershed Science from Colorado State University and a B.S. in Environmental Biology and Management from U.C. Davis.

Panelists: Holly Alpert , Erin Chappell, Phil Saksa, John Shelton

Holly began working for the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program in August, 2008. After working in and around Mammoth Lakes during graduate school, she became very interested in California water policy and planning. Her particular interest is in adaptation of water resources management to global climate change. Holly has also conducted research in plant ecology and ecophysiology, specializing in Great Basin shrubland and Sierra Nevada forest ecosystems. In addition to working with the IRWMP, she volunteers for the local community theatre, California Native Plant Society, and Devils Postpile National Monument. She enjoys skiing in the winter, hiking and cycling in the summer, and year-round outings with her dog. Holly holds a B.A. in Environmental Science and American Studies from Wellesley College and a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from University of California, Santa Cruz.

Erin Chappell is a Staff Environmental Scientist with the North Central Region Office providing regional assistance in support of DWR's statewide climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. She has worked for the Department of Water Resources for 15 years, joining the Climate Change Program in 2009. Prior to joining the Climate Change Program, she worked for the Division of Environmental Services providing real-time data on juvenile salmon to support water project management decisions, and assisted with the development of the draft Habitat Expansion Plan as part of the Oroville Facilities FERC Relicensing Project. In addition to working for DWR, she has also worked for the Department of Fish & Game and NOAA Fisheries. Erin has a Bachelor's degree in Oceanography from Humboldt State University.

Phil is a graduate researcher in Environmental Systems Science at the Sierra Nevada Research Institute of UC Merced. His work in hydrology and water issues uses field observations and remotely sensed information on weather, plants, soils, and streams to run environmental models used for experimental simulations of land use and climate change to study effects on water cycling, yield, and quality. Prior to his PhD studies, he was the field hydrologist installing the equipment from which he now gets those observations.

John Shelton is a Staff Environmental Scientist for the Central Region of the California Department of Fish and Game. John received his BA and MA from California State University, Fresno in Biology:

Systems Ecology. He is currently involved in the Ecosystem Restoration Program with Cal Fish and Game. Previously John spent time as the San Joaquin Basin Coordinator with the Cal Bay-Delta Authority, as well as 15 years as an Environmental Scientist, and 12 years as the Chief of the Environmental Services Section for the Cal Department of Water Resources.