

Breakout 5 [Policy Track]– Water-Land Nexus | 11:15am – 12:30pm

Moderator: Otis Wollen

Otis is a facilitator and organizational consultant. He served five terms as an elected Board member of the Placer County Water Agency. Otis also served as an Executive Director of the Committee for Sustainable Agriculture in the 80's, Climate Neutral Network in the 90's, and continues to serve as ED of Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform. He is also President of the American River Watershed Institute, and Treasurer of the Sierra Vista Community Center.

Panelists: Craig Breon, Tim Crough, Bob Meacher, Ken Vang,

Craig K. Breon heads the Regional Climate Change Program for the Sierra Nevada Alliance. The program advocates on land use, natural resource, and climate planning throughout the Sierra counties. Previously, Mr. Breon spent more than a decade with the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society—first as Environmental Advocate and then as Executive Director—often addressing issues relating to water supply, flood control, and wastewater impacts on wildlife and habitats. Mr. Breon has taught Environmental Law and Environmental Advocacy at Santa Clara University. He received his B.A. from Williams College in Massachusetts and a J.D. from the U.C. Davis School of Law.

Tim Crough is the Assistant General Manager at the Nevada Irrigation District. He was previously employed with the City of Grass Valley four years as the city's deputy director of public works. He has a 25-year background in public and private sector engineering and management, including service as general manager of the Tenaja Community Services District and the Murieta County Water District. A registered professional engineer, Crough was raised in Southern California and is a graduate of California State University, San Diego. He and his family reside in Lake of the Pines.

Robert Meacher is currently a candidate running to represent the newly created 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly District of the State of California. He was originally elected County Supervisor in 1992, and was re-elected in 2008 to serve his 5<sup>th</sup> term as Supervisor of Plumas County's 2<sup>nd</sup> District. As Supervisor, he has served as a member of Plumas County's Transportation Commission, the Economic Development Commission, Director/Spokesman for the Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and as Commissioner of the Plumas County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo). He represented the Regional Council of Rural Communities, co-chaired the CALFED Watershed Program, and sits on the board of three non-profits. Currently, he co-chairs a statewide steering committee under Governor Jerry Brown's Administration's Resources Agency and the Department of Conservation, where he developed a watershed program for the State of California which will address a host of issues, and chairs the North Cal-Neva Resource Conservation and Development Council. Robert graduated Chico State where he majored in Pre-Law and Political Science. He is a certified Paralegal/Legal Assistant/Alternative Dispute Mediator. He lives in Plumas County with his family.

Ken Vang is a licensed professional engineer and has an extensive background in hydraulics, hydrology, designing drainage systems, sewer systems and water systems, as well as vast experience in computer modeling of water systems. Mr. Vang is currently the County Engineer for Madera County and oversees multiple divisions. He is responsible for Building inspections division, Solid waste/landfill, development review, and the sewer and water special districts. Mr. Vang started his career as an intern for the City of Clovis Engineering Department, and then went on to work for the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) team as an Engineer I, Development Review Section Leader. There he gained

experience in developing plans to meet FMFCD standards, met with developers and other agencies, performed hydraulic and hydrology calculations of drain pipelines and detention basins, and designed storm drain plans for capital projects. Prior to joining Madera County Mr. Vang was the Senior Design Manager for Precision Civil Engineering, Inc., specializing in master planning of sewer, water and storm drain systems for development projects.