

Opening Plenary – Regional Water Management in California | 10:15am – 11:15am

Moderator: Liz Mansfield

Liz Mansfield works for the Center for Collaborative Policy, and is the senior facilitator for the Sierra Water Workgroup. She previously worked for El Dorado Irrigation District as the Water Resources Manager. She was the Executive Director of the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning group for the Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba River Region (CABY). She also held the position as Deputy Assistant to the California Department of Water Resources and Water Consultant to the California Legislature, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks And Wildlife.

Panelists: Gary Bardini, Jim Branham, Debbie Davis,

Gary is currently the Deputy Director of Integrated Water Management for the California Department of Water Resources. Gary started his career at the California Department of Boating at Waterways and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. He then moved on to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to provide water resource modeling support to State Water Project and Central Valley Project operations and was involved with Bay-Delta issues and Central Valley water rights negotiations. Gary was then employed by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, where he managed the Storage and Conveyance Facilities Unit, and managed the planning activities associated with water supply reliability. Gary served as the Chief of the Hydrology Branch for five years, and in 2009, he was appointed Chief of DWR's Division of Flood Management. Gary holds a BS degree in civil engineering from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo with an emphasis in water resources and structures.

Jim Branham has spent nearly 30 years working on natural resource and rural community issues in California. He was selected as the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's first Executive Officer by the Conservancy Board in October of 2005. Prior to assuming his current position, he served as Undersecretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency from November 2003 through October 2005. There he assisted the Secretary in shaping and implementing Governor Schwarzenegger's environmental policy, coordinating activities of six boards and departments in the agency. He began his career as an aide to State Senator Jim Nielsen in 1978. He also served in a number of positions under Governor Pete Wilson, including representing the California Resources Agency before the California Coastal Commission, and participated in historic natural resource decisions such as the Headwaters Agreement and Endangered Species Act listing of the Coho salmon and steelhead trout. Jim graduated from California State University at Chico in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He and his wife Patricia live in Placer County.

Debbie Davis is the Community and Rural Affairs Advisor in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. Prior to joining OPR, Debbie served as the Policy Director at the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, a coalition of more than 70 community-based, tribal, non-profit, and faith based organizations working together to achieve water justice in California. In her role at EJCW she co-convoked the California Water Summit, a neutral venue to learn about, discuss, and debate California's water future. Debbie has a Bachelor's Degree from UC Davis and a Master's Degree in Social Ecology from UC Irvine.