

Plenary – Engaging Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Perspectives for IRWM in the Sierra | 3:00pm  
– 4:45pm

Moderator: Debbie Davis

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-convened 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.

Panelists: Katie Burdick, Mark Drew, Gary Lippner, Shanti Warlick

Katie Burdick has provided professional consulting services in California and across the country since 1972. Katie has consulted with a wide variety of clients including local and state agencies and governments, federal agencies, and local and national environmental groups. Since 2006 her work has focused almost exclusively in Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM). As a consultant in the IRWM world, Katie has participated in all aspects of IRWM from preparation of IRWM Plans to implementation of bond-funded projects. She has supported IRWM governance (from design of the governance structure through plan implementation), established and facilitated numerous working groups and technical advisory committees, managed public outreach and stakeholder involvement efforts and established data management and web site development efforts.

Mark currently serves as California Trout's Eastern Sierra Program Manager and as the Program Director for the Inyo-Mono IRWM Program. Prior to joining California Trout, Mark worked as The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Southeastern Caribbean Program's Protected Areas Specialist where he managed TNC's conservation programs in the US and British Virgin Islands. Earlier in his career, Mark spent almost 15 years involved, both academically and professionally, in resource conservation in the U.S. mainland, Oceania, and the Asia region. Mark also spent three years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Cook Islands and Nepal where he implemented extensive conservation programs, aided in the development of resource management plans, and conducted numerous community-based projects. Mark holds a B.S. in Forestry and Natural Resources Management, and an M.A. in International Development Policy and a Doctorate degree in Forestry and Resource Conservation from the University of Florida.

Gary Lippner is a registered Civil Engineer with 20 years of experience focusing on infrastructure development and water. Gary was employed at CSU Sacramento's Office of Water Programs where he experienced academic and project management work. He also worked with Contech Construction Products where he experienced infrastructure development across North America. Currently, Gary is a Senior Engineer in DWR's North Central Region Office and manages the Water Supply Evaluations Section that focuses on local assistance, IRWM, and CA Water Plan activities. Gary also acts as NCRO's Regional Coordinator to facilitate the office's support of more than 50 DWR programs and coordination with hundreds of local and regional water agencies.

Shanti is a Miwok woman from the Sierra Nevada Mountains and a member of the Colfax-Todds Valley tribe. As an indigenous person from a riparian people, the protection and restoration of what western ideology calls natural resources is paramount to the survival of California Tribes for the physical and

spiritual well-being and is what she advocates for. She is a strong supporter of California Indians and Indian Communities exercising Self Determination to secure the inherent rights belonging to them in and for their traditional aboriginal territories.