



Panel Discussion on San Joaquin Valley Water Issues

Introduction

At this meeting, representatives from San Joaquin Valley communities and the agricultural industry will share their perspectives on the region's most pressing water issues, reflect on the previous presentations, and engage in a facilitated discussion with presenters.

Panelists have been asked to respond to the following prompts in their opening remarks:

- Introduction: Who are you, what does your business/entity do, and what water dependencies do you encounter?
- Listening to the presentations today, what are some of the take home pieces about Human Right to Water, the State Water Project, or the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act for you and your business or community?
- From your perspective, what are the most pressing water issues impacting your business or community right now?

Background

This agenda item advances Goal One of the Commission's Strategic Plan. Goal One directs the Commission to serve as a primary public forum for the discussion of improving water management policy to assist regions in achieving climate resiliency by convening panel discussions or presentations and inviting public comment and discussion at Commission meetings, and by conducting meetings or workshops in different locations throughout the state, as appropriate to the subject, to highlight projects or water management issues and engage the public. The September 2021 meeting is intended to highlight issues of importance to the San Joaquin Valley, and this agenda item provides an opportunity for local stakeholders to engage in a discussion about those issues.

Meeting Overview

At the September meeting, Executive Officer Joe Yun will facilitate a panel discussion with the following stakeholders from San Joaquin Valley communities and the agricultural industry:

- Raul Barraza, General Manager of the Arvin Community Services District
- John Duarte, Chief Executive Officer, Duarte Nursery
- Bill Mattos, President, California Poultry Federation
- Michael Prado Sr., Board President, Sultana Community Services District

Panelists' biographies are included below.

Agenda Item: 10

Meeting Date: September 14, 2021

Page 2

This is an informational item.

Biographies

Raul Barraza, Jr. has been General Manager at Arvin Community Services District (Arvin CSD or District) since May of 2016. Raul was born and raised in Wasco and believes growing up in the Central Valley is both a privilege and a humbling way of life. He graduated from CSU, Bakersfield and taught for about 5 years before making a jump over into the petroleum industry where he worked on project management for new construction over the next 6 years. After joining Arvin CSD, Raul proceeded to complete his Distribution Grade 3 and Treatment Grade 3 operator certifications and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Public Administration. Mr. Barraza has presented to or in collaboration with Community Water Center, Committee for a Better Arvin, Self Help Enterprises, and Rural Community Assistance Corporation.

John Duarte is a fifth-generation family farmer and co-owner and Chief Executive Officer of Duarte Nursery in Hughson, California. Duarte Nursery is a leading producer of trees and vines for almond, grape, pistachio and walnut growers throughout the western United States. John and his wife Alexandra also grow almonds, walnuts, and wine grapes in several California counties. John has a degree in Business Finance from San Diego State University, a Master of Business Administration from University of the Pacific in Stockton, and is an alumni of the California Agricultural Leadership Program. The Duarte family is an active advocate for rural communities. John lives on a working orchard in Modesto, California with his wife Alexandra where they are in the last throes of raising four children.

Bill Mattos was born and raised on a farm in Stanislaus County. He is an honors graduate of Cal Poly State University in San Luis Obispo where he was named outstanding graduate in journalism and holds a master's degree in Agricultural Journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A former Stanislaus County Supervisor, he worked for the USDA under Secretary Earl Butz and served as a White House intern in the Nixon administration. Bill is the president of the California Poultry Federation and the Northwest (Washington and Oregon) Chicken Council where he manages the affairs of the meat poultry industry with emphasis in governmental relations, public affairs, public relations, animal welfare and marketing. He also works with agricultural and business groups to promote business and industry in California and the United States.

Michael Prado, Sr. grew up in the Reedley, Dinuba area and has resided in Sultana where he and his wife have raised their four children. Unable to work due to a physical disability, Mr. Prado began his journey in community service. Mr. Prado worked with the Monson-Sultana Booster Club for more than 16 years and with the Dinuba Sports Boosters for 10 years. He has been a member of the Sultana Community Services District for 25 years and President for the last 12 years. Mr. Prado has been a member of the AGUA Coalition (la Asociación de Gente Unida por el Agua, or the Association of People United for Water) for 12 years and is a SAFER (Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience) Advisory Group Member. He also participates in

Agenda Item: 10

Meeting Date: September 14, 2021

Page 3

the Kings Water Alliance Integrated Regional Water Management and in various water organizations to collaborate and raise awareness about water quality and sustainability.

Contact

Laura Jensen

Assistant Executive Officer

California Water Commission

916-820-5897