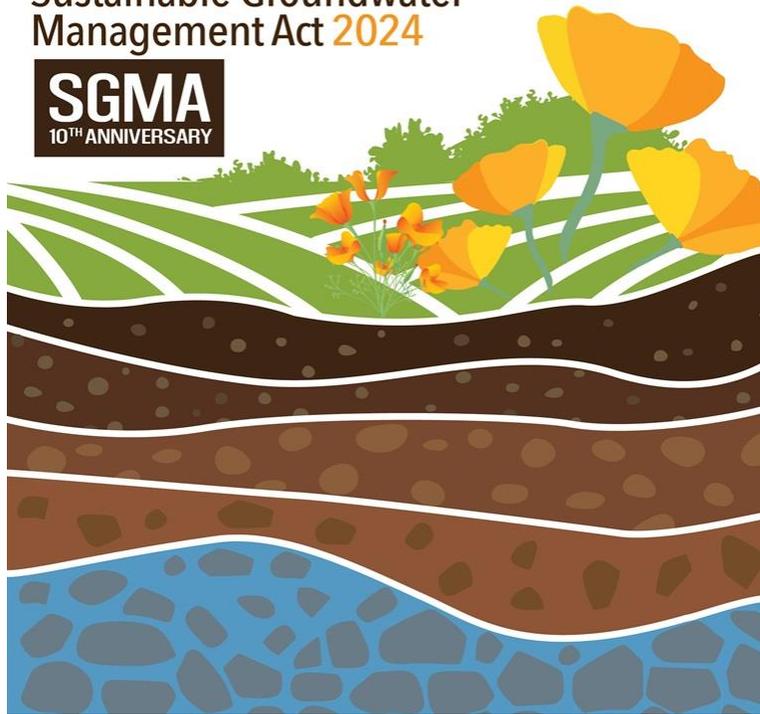


Sustainable Groundwater  
Management Act 2024

**SGMA**  
10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



# **The Road to Sustainability: SGMA 10-Year Anniversary Event**

November 18, 2024

## **Participant Handbook**



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER**  
**MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

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## Getting To and From the Event

Due to limited parking, we recommend attendees use mass transit, ridesharing services, bike, walk, or carpool to the event.

**Bike Parking:** Bike racks are available inside and outside of the building. Please note that there are no bike lanes in the immediate area and you’ll need to bring your own lock.

**Public Transit:** Visit [www.sacrt.com](http://www.sacrt.com) to find public transit stations, routes, and to purchase your fare. Please note that the westbound 8<sup>th</sup> Street-O Street light rail station platform is temporarily closed. The nearest stations for this event are the Archives Plaza Station and 8<sup>th</sup> Street-Capitol Mall Station.

**Car Parking:** Parking is available on the street and at nearby parking garages ([City of Sacramento parking info can be found here](#)). No special parking is provided for the event. In addition to city and private garage parking, the State of California has several parking facilities in Sacramento, including garages and lots. Lot #14 is located at 1517 13th Street, and Lot #24 is located at 1500 10th Street and is open Monday–Friday from 5:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m. These state lots and parking garages offer a daily \$8 discounted rate for state employees (cash only).

**Rideshare Apps:** Rideshare services (e.g., Uber, Lyft, taxi) can use the designated drop-off/pick-up area outside the building’s main entrance on P Street.

**Staying in Sacramento:** Visit [www.VisitSacramento.com/Hotels](http://www.VisitSacramento.com/Hotels) to see lodging options and book rooms for your visit. On this site you’ll find thousands of local options, accommodating a wide variety of budgets.

## About the SGMA 10-Year Anniversary Event

Thank you for joining us to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SGMA has driven reductions in the overuse of groundwater, protected drinking water supplies, and made communities, agriculture, and ecosystems more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Signed into law on September 16, 2014, midway through the historic 2012-2016 drought, SGMA directly addressed declining groundwater supplies and created a statewide framework to protect this critical resource. In California, groundwater provides 41 percent of the state's total water supply in a normal year and up to 60 percent during droughts. About 85 percent of Californians rely on groundwater for some portion of their water needs.

The state's goal is to help groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) reach sustainable groundwater conditions in their basins while maintaining local control, for the benefit of sustainable agriculture, drinking water supplies, and healthy ecosystems. To this end, the state has invested nearly \$1 billion in SGMA, including more than \$100 million through the Department of Water Resources for local groundwater recharge projects.

In the 10 years since its passage, SGMA has achieved remarkable accomplishments including:

- Formation of more than 250 local GSAs
- Implementation of over 100 Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) that use creative solutions like recharging groundwater supplies, limiting usage, and other management actions
- Collection of more groundwater data than ever before to provide a better understanding of groundwater conditions, ultimately leading to better management decisions
- Improvement of water supply reliability through managed efforts to recharge groundwater, with 4.1 million acre-feet of water added in 2023 to underground aquifers

The next 10 years of SGMA will focus on implementing the GSPs developed so far. Projects and decisions aim to bring California's groundwater basins to sustainable conditions by the early 2040s. Weather extremes—especially drought—make this work even more critical, as the state must store and capture as much water as possible during wet years.



# The Road to Sustainability: SGMA 10-Year Anniversary Event Agenda

Monday, November 18, 2024

Registration 8:30 a.m., Session 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

California Natural Resources Agency

715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 and online with advance registration

8:30 a.m. Event Registration

9:00 a.m. Morning Session

**Welcome and Keynote Address** - [Karla Nemeth](#), Director, California Department of Water Resources and former California Governor, [Jerry Brown](#)

**Panel #1: Where Did It All Begin? A Pre-SGMA Reflection.**

*Panelists will reflect on the state of groundwater management prior to 2014, and the collaboration needed to pass SGMA legislation.*

- **Moderator:** [Paul Gosselin](#), Deputy Director of Sustainable Water Management, Department of Water Resources
- **Panelists:**
  - [Roger Dickinson](#), Former Assemblymember, California State Assembly
  - [Lester Snow](#), Former Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
  - [Karen Ross](#), Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
  - [Cindy Tuck](#), Deputy Executive Director, Association of California Water Agencies
  - [Felicia Marcus](#), William C. Landreth Fellow, Stanford University's Water in the West Program

**Break**

**Panel #2: Where Are We Now? Accomplishments of the First 10 Years.**

*Panelists will highlight the achievements and challenges that have brought their agency or organization to where they are now.*

- **Moderator:** [Keith Wallace](#), Assistant Deputy Director of Sustainable Water Management, Department of Water Resources
- **Panelists:**
  - [Trevor Joseph](#), Manager of Technical Services, Regional Water Authority and Sacramento Groundwater Authority
  - [Anecita Agustinez](#), Tribal Policy Advisor, Department of Water Resources
  - [Aaron Fukuda](#), General Manager, Tulare Irrigation District
  - [Nataly Escobedo Garcia](#), Water Policy Coordinator, Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability
  - [Katarina Campbell](#), Director, Westlands Water District

12:25 p.m.

**Networking and No-Host Lunch Break**

*Please note that hosted lunch is not included in this event. See page 5 for lunch options.*

1:45 p.m. Afternoon Session

**Secretary’s Remarks** - [Secretary Wade Crowfoot](#), California Natural Resources Agency

**Panel #3: Where Are We Headed? The Road to Sustainability.**

*After their opening remarks, panelists will share more about their views on SGMA implementation and state intervention.*

- **Moderator:** [Nancy Vogel](#), Senior Water Policy Advisor to the Director, Department of Water Resources
- **Panelists:**
  - [Paul Gosselin](#), Deputy Director of Sustainable Water Management, Department of Water Resources
  - [Dorene D’Adamo](#), Vice Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
  - [Brian Lockwood](#), General Manager, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
  - [Geoff Vanden Heuvel](#), Director of Regulatory and Economic Affairs, Milk Producers Council
  - [Keali’i Bright](#), Assistant Director, California Department of Conservation
  - [Don Cameron](#), President, California State Board of Food and Agriculture and member of the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel

**Closing Remarks** - [Karla Nemeth](#), Director, Department of Water Resources

3:15 p.m.

**Poster Session - How the State is Assisting with SGMA Implementation**

4:30 p.m.

**No-Host Networking Social**

*Connect with colleagues and peers after the event at a no-host social, held at [Hop Gardens](#), 2904 Franklin Boulevard, Sacramento. See page 6 for directions and parking information.*

For event-related questions, please email [sgmps@water.ca.gov](mailto:sgmps@water.ca.gov).  
For more information on the Department of Water Resources’ Sustainable Groundwater Management Program, please visit:  
<https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management>.

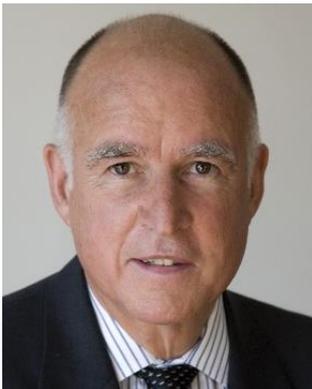
## Speaker Biographies

*(listed in order of appearance)*



**Karla Nemeth**, Director, California Department of Water Resources

In addition to her role as the Department of Water Resources Director, in March 2024, Nemeth has been tasked by Governor Gavin Newsom to serve as an advisor on the administration's water priorities. Her focus is on leading implementation of key water projects to achieve the Governor's Water Supply Strategy. Nemeth seeks to prepare the Department of Water Resources and the state to adapt to more extreme weather as a result of climate change—investing in aging and green infrastructure, better management of groundwater supplies, and programs to improve local water resilience. Prior to joining the Department of Water Resources, Nemeth worked at the California Natural Resources Agency as Governor Brown's deputy secretary and senior advisor for water policy. She holds a Master's degree in public administration from the University of Washington.



**Jerry Brown**, Former Governor of California

Governor Brown signed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act into law on September 16, 2014. Sworn in as Governor of California on January 3, 2011, and reelected in 2014, Brown previously served as Governor in 1974. At 36, he was the youngest California Governor in 111 years. During the first two terms, he established the first agricultural labor relations law in the country, started the California Conservation Corp, and promoted renewable energy. In 1970, he was elected California Secretary of State.

Brown began his career as a clerk at the California Supreme Court. After reentering politics he was elected Mayor of Oakland, serving two terms from 1999 to 2007. In 2006 he became California Attorney General.

Today Brown enjoys life on a ranch in Colusa County, on land that has been in his family since the 1860s. His property has served as a meeting space for the California Native Plant Society, entomologists, and forestry and fire experts.

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, he earned his law degree from Yale Law School in 1964.

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**Paul Gosselin**, Deputy Director of Sustainable Water Management, California Department of Water Resources

Gosselin oversees the Sustainable Groundwater Management Office (SGMO) and the Division of Regional Assistance (DRA). He joined the Department of Water Resources after serving 13 years as Butte County's Director of Water and Resource Conservation. In addition to fostering regional partnerships through the Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, he chaired Butte County's Drought Task Force. Earlier in his career, Gosselin was Chief Deputy Director at the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and the Director of Regulatory Services for the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture. Gosselin holds a Master of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Massachusetts.



**Roger Dickinson**, Former Assemblymember, California State Assembly

Dickinson authored Assembly Bill 1739, one of three bills that comprise the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and he was elected to the Sacramento City Council. Prior to election to the State Assembly in 2010 and 2012, he served on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. Today Dickinson serves as the Policy Director for CivicWell and works with the Housing Concepts Coalition, advocating for legislative and administrative steps to increase housing. Other posts held include serving on the boards of the MS Society of Northern California, the Aerospace Museum of California, and the Sacramento Tree Foundation. He is a co-founder of SMART, Sacramento Metro Advocates for Rail and Transit. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley, where he lettered in varsity basketball, and he earned a law degree at UCLA in 1976.



**Lester Snow**, Former Secretary of California Natural Resources

During his more than 40 years of water resource management experience, Snow served as California's Secretary of Natural Resources, the Director of Department of Water Resources, Regional Director of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Executive Director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, and General Manager of the San Diego County Water Authority. He was the start-up Executive Director of the California Water Foundation, a nonprofit focused on sustainable water management. Early in his career he was with the Arizona Department of Water Resources. He serves on the board of directors of the California Water Services Group, an investor-owned regulated water utility, and the board of the Klamath River Renewal Corporation, a nonprofit corporation. He holds a Master of Science degree in Water Resources Administration from the University of Arizona.

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**Karen Ross**, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Initially appointed as Secretary by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in 2011, Ross was reappointed by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2019. Prior to her California appointment, she was Chief of Staff for U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. Before that position she served as President of the California Association of Winegrape Growers and as Vice President of the Agricultural Council of California. In addition to her membership on the Public Policy Institute of California's Statewide Leadership Council, she has served on numerous boards and committees in California agriculture and with various academic institutions. She holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is a graduate of the Nebraska Ag Leadership Program.



**Cindy Tuck**, Deputy Executive Director, Association of California Water Agencies

Tuck is a member of ACWA's Executive Team and facilitates the work of ACWA's Government Relations Team. Prior to joining ACWA, she served as Undersecretary at the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). Her roles included overseeing Agency administration, sitting as CalEPA's liaison to the State Water Resources Control Board and as the Secretary's voting alternate on the Ocean Protection Council and the Strategic Growth Council. Cindy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Engineering—both from the University of Illinois. She holds a law degree from McGeorge School of Law. Cindy is a licensed Professional Engineer in California and a member of the California State Bar. She is an alum of Leadership California.



**Felicia Marcus**, William C. Landreth Fellow, Stanford University's Water in the West Program

Marcus, an attorney, consultant, and member of the Water Policy Group most recently served as Chair of the California State Water Resources Control Board. Before that appointment, she served in positions in government, nonprofit, and the private sector. In government, she was the regional administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency's Pacific Southwest region. Prior to the EPA, Marcus served as the President of the board of Public Works for the City of Los Angeles. In the nonprofit world, she was the Western Director for the Natural Resources Defense Council, and prior to that the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Trust for Public Land. Earlier in her career, she was a founder and general counsel to Heal the Bay. She was also a law clerk to the Honorable Harry Pregerson (9th Circuit Court of Appeals) and legislative assistant to Congressman Anthony C. Beilenson in Washington, DC. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in East Asian studies from Harvard College and a juris doctor degree from New York University School of Law.

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**Keith Wallace**, Assistant Deputy Director, California Department of Water Resources, Sustainable Water Management Office

Wallace is the Assistant Deputy Director for Sustainable Water Management where he serves as the manager of the Department of Water Resources' Sustainable Groundwater Management Office (SGMO) which is responsible for the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Keith was appointed to this position in October 2023 after managing SGMO's Outreach and Engagement Section for more than five years. Prior to joining SGMO in 2018, he was the Project Manager for the Department of Water Resources' Integrated Regional Water Management's Implementation Grant Program. Wallace began working for the Department of Water Resources in 2010, after spending the first nine years of his career in consulting. He has a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.



**Trevor Joseph**, Manager of Technical Services, Regional Water Authority and Sacramento Groundwater Authority

Joseph, a professional geologist and certified California state hydrogeologist, has more than 26 years of extensive groundwater expertise at both the state level and within the Sacramento region. As Manager of Technical Services for the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) he serves more than 20 Sacramento area water agencies, municipalities, cities, and the County of Sacramento, and leads implementation of SGMA for the North American Subbasin. He is also the Project Manager for the Sacramento Regional Water Bank project. Prior to joining RWA, Trevor managed the City of Roseville's groundwater program and also worked at the Department of Water Resources, where he helped to develop the state's regulatory and implementation framework for SGMA. Trevor holds a Bachelor's degree in geology from California State University, Sacramento.



**Anecita Agustinez**, Tribal Policy Advisor, California Department of Water Resources

Agustinez has served as the Department of Water Resources' Tribal Policy Advisor since August 2013. With over 30 years of advocacy experience on behalf of California's Native American tribes, she provides policy support and recommendations regarding tribal issues to the director and chief deputy director and has been actively engaged with agency projects and programs, assisting with tribal consultation and development of the Department of Water Resources' Tribal Consultation Policy. Before joining the department, she served as the Native American Liaison and Manager of the Office of Legislative and External Affairs and the Office of Health Access at the Department of Health Care Services. She previously served as the Assistant Director of the Office of Native American Affairs at the Department of Justice in the

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Office of the Attorney General. Agustinez studied political science at Stanford University and is a tribal citizen of the Diné (Navajo) nation.



### **Aaron Fukuda, General Manager, Tulare Irrigation District**

A Hanford, California native and registered professional engineer, he began his career with the Tulare Irrigation District in May 2006 and transitioned to General Manager in May 2018. He also coordinates water activities with surrounding jurisdictions, including the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Fukuda was recently concurrently appointed as the Interim General Manager of the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MKGSA). As the Interim General Manager, Fukuda is responsible for the administration of the MKGSA and the implementation of the MKGSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan, as its entities strive for groundwater sustainability by 2040.



### **Nataly Escobedo Garcia, Water Policy Coordinator, Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability**

Escobedo Garcia is the Water Policy Coordinator for Leadership Counsel, based in their Coachella office. She was born in Mexicali and raised in Oxnard, CA. She holds a bachelor's degree from University of California, Santa Cruz, in Latin American and Latina/o Studies, as well as a master's degree in Anthropology from California State University, Los Angeles. She recently received her Ph.D. in Social Ecology at the University of California, Irvine, where her dissertation focused on the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in the San Joaquin Valley. She is particularly interested in how issues of water injustice, water rights, and water governance impact people of color, low-income people, and farmworker communities in California.



### **Katarina (Kitti) Campbell, Supervisor of Resources, Westlands Water District**

Campbell, a California Licensed Professional Engineer, has been with Westlands Water District, the largest agricultural water district in the nation, since 2010. A key role has been leading Westlands' SGMA regulatory compliance activities and delivering an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). She currently leads Westlands' GSP implementation efforts, and most notably developed recharge programs that resulted in nearly 400,000 acre-feet of groundwater recharge to date. She holds a degree in civil engineering from California State University, Fresno.

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### **Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency**

Wade Crowfoot was appointed California Secretary for Natural Resources by Governor Gavin Newsom in January 2019. As Secretary, Crowfoot oversees an agency of 19,000 employees charged with protecting and managing California's diverse resources. This includes stewarding the state's forests and natural lands, rivers and waterways, coast and ocean, fish and wildlife, and energy development. As a member of the Governor's cabinet, he advises the Governor on natural resources and environmental issues. Secretary Crowfoot has been on the frontlines of environmental leadership throughout his career, including spearheading efforts to establish and defend California's landmark climate change policies in his role as West Coast regional director for the Environmental Defense Fund. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's degree from the London School of Economics.



### **Nancy Vogel, Senior Water Policy Advisor to the Director, California Department of Water Resources**

Vogel rejoined the Department of Water Resources in October 2024 as Senior Water Policy Advisor to the Director, after working at the Natural Resources Agency for five years as Director of the Governor's Water Portfolio Program and Deputy Secretary for Water. Her career includes stints handling communications for the Department of Water Resources and the Natural Resources Agency, time as a principal consultant for the Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes, and nearly 20 years as a journalist for *The Sacramento Bee* and the *Los Angeles Times*. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Conservation and Resource Studies and a Master of Arts degree in Journalism, both from the University of California, Berkeley.



### **Dorene D'Adamo, Vice Chair, State Water Resources Control Board**

Appointed to the State Water Resources Control Board in 2013 and reappointed by Governor Newsom in 2022, D'Adamo serves as Vice Chair and also as the member with experience in the field of water supply and water quality relating to irrigated agriculture. She is on the Board of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and previously served on the Valley Coalition for UC Merced's Medical School and on the Governor's Drought Task Force. She was a member of the California Air Resources Board from 1999-2013, where she was instrumental in the Board's air quality and climate change programs and regulations. She has also served in various capacities for members of Congress from the San Joaquin Valley, over a 20-year period, working primarily on environmental, water, and agricultural legislative policy. She earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.



**Brian Lockwood**, General Manager, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

As General Manager, Lockwood leads a dedicated team of water resource enthusiasts working tirelessly to achieve sustainable groundwater resources. He started at Pajaro Valley Water in 2005 and assumed the role of General Manager in 2016. Earlier in his career, Lockwood worked for the United States Geological Survey. He earned both Bachelor and Master's degrees in Earth Sciences from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and is a California Professional Geologist and Certified Hydrogeologist. Lockwood is a past president and current board member of the rambunctious Rotary Club of Freedom.



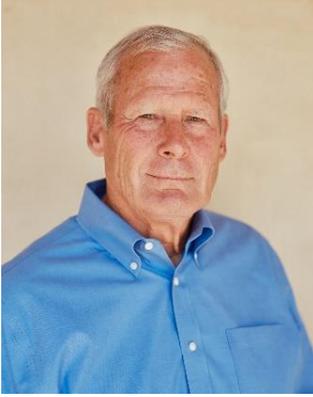
**Geoff Vanden Heuvel**, Director of Regulatory and Economic Affairs, Milk Producers Council

Vanden Heuvel is the Director of Regulatory and Economic Affairs for Milk Producers Council, a California dairy farmer trade association. Prior to his current position, he spent 39 years as an active dairy farmer in Chino in Southern California, where he was involved as a board member and consultant for the Milk Producers Council, focusing on milk price regulation and policy. He also represented agriculture for 20 years on the board of the Chino Basin Watermaster, as well as representing agriculture on the executive committee of the Southern California Water Coalition, where he still serves. After retiring from dairying he moved to Tulare, California. He focuses on water supply issues, including the implementation of the SGMA for the dairy industry, in addition to milk economics issues. Vanden Heuvel is currently the Vice Chairman of the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley Board.



**Keali'i Bright**, Assistant Director, California Department of Conservation

Bright is the Director of the Division for Land Resource Protection at the California Department of Conservation. In this role, Bright leads multiple programs to build regional capacity to lead protection and stewardship of the state's most valuable agricultural and watershed resources through changing land use and climate. Prior to this role, Bright served as the Deputy Secretary for Climate and Energy, and previously as the Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs at the Natural Resources Agency for Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. These positions preceded a decade of work for the Legislature on natural resources, environmental protection, energy, transportation, and other programs for the California State Assembly Budget Committee. Bright earned his Bachelor's degree in Latin American and Latino Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz.



**Don Cameron**, President, California State Board of Food and Agriculture, Chairman, McMullin Area GSA, & Member of Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Cameron has been the Vice President and General Manager of Terranova Ranch, Inc. since 1987, where he farms approximately 8,000 and owner of farms, located in Fresno County. He also custom farms 1,000 acres for others. In addition to these responsibilities, he serves on the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel and continues to serve on the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, where he has been President since 2018. He is currently the California Cotton Alliance Chairman; Director and past Chairman for the California Tomato Growers Association; Executive Director for Western Growers Association, Raisin City Water District; Chairman for the McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency; and was a member of the Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap. He holds a degree in biology from Fresno State University.

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## Ways to Ask Panelists Questions

A small amount of time has been allotted at the end of each panel for audience questions. You may pose questions using multiple options:

- **Join by Web:** <https://pollev.com/cleansky463>
- **Join by Text:** Send **cleansky463** and your message to **37607**
- **Zoom Q&A:** If you are participating by Zoom, use the Q&A Function to submit a question
- **Join by QR Code:** Using your camera app, scan the QR code
- **Handwritten:** Comment cards for handwritten submissions may be picked up from the registration desk and handed to one of the room monitors

