

# AGWT-AGWA California Groundwater Conference – February 6 & 7, 2024

## Presenter Professional Bios

### **Sara Chudnoff, PG, Program Director/Hydrogeologist, American Ground Water Trust, Pinetop, AZ**

Sara is the Executive Director of the American Ground Water Trust. She has been working in the water resources and environmental field in New Mexico since the early 2000s. As a consulting scientist, she worked on projects from methane monitoring and reporting to hydrogeologic investigations and well design. In 2009, Sara left her regulatory role with the State and started working with Bernalillo County. In this position, she worked with hundreds of residents monitoring water levels and promoting outreach and education. At the New Mexico Bureau of Geology, she took this model to work on a State-Wide Groundwater Level Monitoring Network. She has a B.S. in Geology from New Mexico Tech and a Masters in Water Resources from the University of New Mexico.

### **Timothy K. Parker, PG, CEG, CHG, Principal Hydrogeologist, Ramboll, Sacramento, CA**

Tim Parker is a groundwater expert and a contract employee with Ramboll, providing hydrogeologic support as the licensed professional on the California statewide aquifer mapping project. He also works as an independent groundwater technical and policy consultant with Parker Groundwater in Sacramento. He has provided geologic, hydrogeologic, and engineering geologic services in private and public sector, was formerly with Schlumberger, Law, Dames & Moore, and has worked for California Department of Water Resources, California Geological Survey, and Department of Toxic Substances Control. His groundwater experience spans more than 30 years and includes water policy analysis, groundwater resources development, groundwater recharge, groundwater management, modeling, monitoring, contaminant hydrogeology, and geologic carbon sequestration. He is a California Professional Geologist, Certified Engineering Geologist, and Certified Hydrogeologist. Tim serves the Groundwater Resources Association of California Legislative Committee as a member and past-Chairman, the California Groundwater Coalition as Director, as Director on the National Ground Water Association and International Association of Hydrogeologists US Chapter. He was a member of the Public Advisory Committee for the development of the 2013 California Water Plan, and is a member of the group to grow the Nationwide Ground Water Monitoring Network, under the U.S. Department of the Interior. Tim also served on the American Ground Water Trust as Chairman and Director. He has co-authored several publications. Tim received his B.S. in Geology from the University of CA – Davis.

### **Kaitlin Palys, Water Resources Scientist, INTERA Incorporated, Torrance, CA**

Kait Palys is a Virginia Tech graduate who has since called California's San Joaquin Valley home. Since 2016, she has dedicated her career to addressing the West's water sustainability and resiliency challenges. Kait is a Water Resources Specialist at INTERA, where she works as a "jack of all trades" under all things Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Outside of work, Kait enjoys serving as the Founder and Co-Director of Central Valley Water Professionals - a passion project with the mission of connecting perspectives from different corners of the CA water world across the Valley.

### **Eric R. Quinley, General Manager, Delano - Earlimart Irrigation District, Delano, CA**

Eric Quinley is the General Manager of the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District, appointed in 2016. Mr. Quinley holds a Bachelor's degree from Fresno Pacific University. He also currently serves in a number of water and energy-related organizations. Prior to joining the District, Mr. Quinley served in management positions with the Friant Water Authority including Interim General Manager and Director of Operations and Maintenance.

### **Molly Bruce, J.D., Research Fellow, Wheeler Water Institute, UC Berkeley's Center for Law, Energy & the Environment, Berkeley, CA**

Molly is a Wheeler Water Institute Research Fellow at UC Berkeley's Center for Law, Energy & the Environment (CLEE). She works on water management issues, focusing on questions pertaining to groundwater management. Molly uses interdisciplinary approaches to understand the institutional, economic, and legal components of effective resource stewardship. Prior to CLEE, Molly tackled environmental policy work with organizations like the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, the North Carolina Conservation Network, and the NC Department of Justice. She also tackled technical work through projects based out of NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab and Duke's Marine Robotics & Remote Sensing Lab, using remotely-sensed data from drones and satellites to address water and climate questions. Molly holds a law degree and a master's degree from Duke University.

### **Jesse Scolavino, Associate Water Resource Engineer, Brown and Caldwell, San Diego, CA**

Jesse is a California professional water resource engineer and geologist-in-training with experience in wastewater treatment, hydrogeology, groundwater, stormwater, and water resource planning. Jesse has delivered water resource consulting services to both private and municipal clients throughout the western United States. Her passion in the industry is to help create a one water approach through climate adaptation, water resource management, and integrated resource planning. Jesse is originally from Fairfield, CA. Jesse moved to San Diego, where she currently resides, to earn her bachelor's degree in environmental engineering with a minor in geological sciences from San Diego State University.

### **John Bednarski, PE, Chief Engineer, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California,**

John Bednarski is the chief engineer and group manager of Engineering Services for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. He is responsible for the Metropolitan's engineering activities, including management of the Capital Investment Plan; facility planning; construction management and inspection; project management; and infrastructure monitoring. John joined Metropolitan as an associate engineer after working at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for 10 years. His early work focused on treatment plant expansions and the Oxidation Retrofit Program. He later headed both the program management unit and the infrastructure reliability section in Engineering Services. In the latter role, He was responsible for construction management efforts, infrastructure assessments, survey and mapping/GIS activities. Most recently, he has led support for the design of the Delta Conveyance Project and managed the development of the Regional Recycled Water Program and the Advanced Water Purification Center demonstration plant. John is a registered civil engineer in California and earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Claremont McKenna College. He also holds a master's degrees in public administration and environmental engineering from the University of Southern California.

### **Raymond Tremblay, PE, Department Head, Facilities Planning, Los Angeles County Sanitation District, Whittier, CA**

Raymond L. Tremblay, B.S., M.S. Mr. Tremblay is a Registered Civil Engineer, State of California, a Board Certified member of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. Mr. Tremblay has been a member of the Sanitation Districts' engineering staff since 1993 serving in various capacities in wastewater treatment and reuse facilities planning, construction, operation, and regulatory compliance. Mr. Tremblay

currently serves as the Department Head of Facilities Planning, responsible for planning and environmental review, property management, and information technology.

**Eddy Teasdale, PG, CHG, Principal Hydrogeologist, Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers, Woodland, CA**

Eddy Teasdale's extensive career of over 20 years has established him as a distinguished authority in the fields of geology and hydrogeology. His work has spanned the breadth of the United States and beyond, encompassing a wide range of complex projects across hydrogeology, environmental management, water transport, and flood control. He has demonstrated expertise in various aquifer contexts — from alluvial to volcanic, and from carbonate to bedrock environments. In his role as a project manager, Eddy has consistently delivered success in ambitious and wide-ranging projects. His capability in producing meticulous technical reports goes hand in hand with his adeptness at liaising with regulatory agencies at all government levels, effectively communicating key project details and resolving any emergent challenges. Eddy's particular forte is in hydrogeologic analysis, as well as in the full lifecycle of monitoring and public water wells, overseeing everything from initial design through to construction, testing, and final evaluation. His substantial contributions have been particularly felt in California, where he has led groundwater investigations, site evaluations, and a multitude of well operations, including assessments, closures, modifications, and upgrades. His expertise has been a cornerstone to both public entities and private sectors across the state. In his latest projects, Eddy has been instrumental in assisting Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in devising and implementing strategies that align with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This work has placed his profound insights into California's groundwater challenges at the heart of efforts towards enduring water resource sustainability.

**Michael Cruikshank, Senior Hydrogeologist, Water Systems Consulting, Rancho Cucamonga, CA**

Michael Cruikshank, PG CHG, is a Principal Hydrogeologist at Water Systems Consulting. He received his BS in Geology and MS in Civil Engineering from California State University at Fullerton, and is a Professional Geologist and Certified Hydrogeologist in the State of California. Michael has 18 years of technical and project management experience. He has led projects in large stakeholder environments including the development and implementation of groundwater sustainability plans, salt and nutrient management plans, recharge master plans and the groundwater components of large water resource programs.

**Mike Blazevic, PG, CHG, Hydrogeologist, Santa Margarita Water District, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA**

Mr. Blazevic has over 16 years of professional experience in the geological, hydrogeological, and water resource fields. His technical expertise includes aquifer sedimentology and stratigraphy, hydrogeologic basin characterization, water resource planning and monitoring, and using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to help solve complex hydrogeological problems. In the private sector, Mr. Blazevic worked throughout southern and central California drilling, testing, and designing production and monitoring wells and interpreting complex hydrologic, hydrogeologic, and water quality data. Additionally, he has been involved with several groundwater modeling projects throughout California – from developing conceptual models to using models as a water resource planning tool. As a Hydrogeologist at Santa Margarita Water District, Mr. Blazevic is responsible for managing and maximizing its local groundwater supply while also enhancing the local supply through innovative water resource projects, such as urban water capture and managed aquifer recharge. Mr. Blazevic received his M.S. and B.S. in Geological Sciences from California State University.

**John Jansen, PG, PGp, PhD, Senior Geophysicist & Hydrogeologist, Collier Geophysics, West Bend, WI**

John has a B.S. in Geology and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Geological Sciences with an emphasis in hydrogeology and geophysics, all from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is a Senior Geophysicist and Hydrogeologist for Collier Consulting. John works on a wide variety of ground water projects around the country specializing in high-capacity wells and groundwater resource management. He received the NGWA Keith A Anderson Award in 2012 for service to NGWA and the groundwater industry and was the NGWA McEllihney Distinguished Lecturer in Water Well Technology in 2013. John was an invited lecturer on managed aquifer recharge and groundwater geophysics for the Geoscience University of China in Beijing in June of 2018.

**Kristen Marberry, Hydrogeophysicist, Collier Geophysics, Golden, CO**

Kristen Marberry has been employed with Collier Geophysics for almost four years. Her area of expertise includes geophysical data processing and geophysical surveys. Previously, she was employed as a Project Coordinator for Dynalectric Colorado, where she was responsible for geophysical surveys. Kristen earned her Master's degree in Hydrology and Water Resources Science and Bachelor of Science in Geological/Geophysical Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines.

**Joy Langford, Director, Division One - Water Replenishment District, Los Angeles County, CA**

Joy Langford was appointed by the Water Replenishment District (WRD) Board of Directors to serve as Director of Division One in February of 2022. Ms. Langford has over fifteen years of experience as a public private partnership liaison assisting corporations with environmental practices at the local, State and Federal government levels. She also served as the Senior Environmental, Energy and Water Policy Advisor to Assemblywoman Autumn Burke where she crafted environmental policy and advocated for updated water infrastructure. Joy has a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

**Adam Weber, Interim Chief Technology Officer, ARCHES H2, CA**

Adam Z. Weber holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Tufts University and earned his Ph.D. in chemical engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. His dissertation work focused on the fundamental investigation and mathematical modeling of water management in polymer-electrolyte fuel cells. Dr. Weber continued his study of water and thermal management in polymer-electrolyte fuel cells at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, where he is now a staff scientist and Group Leader of the Energy Conversion Group. His current research involves understanding and optimizing fuel-cell performance and lifetime. He is also the Deputy Director of the DOE Fuel-Cell Performance and Durability (FC-PAD) consortium as well as Deputy Director of the HydroGen - Advanced Water Splitting Materials Consortium. Dr. Weber has authored over 100 peer-reviewed articles and 10 book chapters.

**Anthony Zampello, Chairman, Association of Ground Water Agencies and Executive Officer, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster and the Raymond Basin Management Board, Azusa, CA**

Mr. Zampello oversees groundwater quality and supply management activities as well as administration of the Basin's groundwater adjudication. He directs staff functions associated with basin management as it directly relates to groundwater production, well construction, groundwater treatment and resource planning. He has more than thirty years of water management and resource planning experience in the San Gabriel Valley with local Municipalities and Special Districts. Tony holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and is a certified Water Treatment Operator and Water Distribution Operator. He is President of The Association of Ground Water Agencies (AGWA) and serves

on the Greater Los Angeles IRWMP as Water Management Area Representative for Groundwater. Tony is also the Executive Secretary for the San Gabriel Valley Water Association and Central Basin Water Association.

**Scott D. Warner, PG, CHG, CEG, Principal Hydrogeologist, BBJ Group and PhD Candidate at the University of Newcastle (Australia)**

Scott D. Warner is a Principal Hydrogeologist with the environmental consultancy, BBJ Group (San Rafael, California) and is a doctoral researcher with the Global Centre for Environmental Remediation at the University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia. He has over 35 years' experience as a consulting hydrogeologist and environmental remediation specialist with a focus on the remediation of chemically-impacted groundwater using sustainable in situ approaches. Scott's current research focus concerns the impact of climate shifts on the design and performance of groundwater restoration approaches and technologies. Scott received his MS in Geology from Indiana University, Bloomington and BS in Engineering Geology from the University of California, Los Angeles. He is a Registered Professional Geologist, Certified Hydrogeologist, and Certified Engineering Geologist in California.

**Nicole Blute, PhD, PE, VP, Director of Drinking Water Process Technology, Hazen & Sawyer, Los Angeles, CA**

Nicole specializes in drinking water treatment and system planning for regulatory compliance. She is an expert in drinking water treatment and system planning, particularly for impaired groundwater and PFAS, and a leader in chromium-6 treatment, having led over a decade of technology testing forming the basis for the Best Available Technologies set by California. Nicole also focuses on corrosion control, including integration of new supplies into distribution systems and compliance strategies for the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. She has managed more than a dozen pilot and bench-scale projects to assess technology performance and corrosion control, and design projects to implement treatment. She is a Registered Professional Engineer in California and New York and earned her PhD in Environmental Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Eric Lindberg, PG, CHG, Division Manager, Groundwater Protection Branch, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Riverside, CA**

Eric Lindberg is the Assistant Executive Officer of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, previously serving as manager of the Groundwater Protection Branch, and is a certified hydrogeologist in California. The Santa Ana Region is a leader in recycled water reuse and indirect potable reuse projects in California. Agencies in the region reuse 200,000 acre-feet of recycled water per year, with more potable reuse projects in the works. Mr. Lindberg has 17 years' experience in groundwater resources management, indirect potable reuse projects, salt and nutrient management programs, hydrogeology, groundwater quality investigations, and agricultural regulation.

**Travis Wentworth, Water Quality Manager, Self-Help Enterprises, Visalia, CA**

Mr. Travis Wentworth earned his B.S. degree in Environmental Resources Engineering from Humboldt State University. He garnered seven years of experience as a civil and environmental engineer at prominent national and local firms. Mr. Wentworth contributed his expertise to diverse engineering endeavors encompassing wastewater treatment, groundwater recharge research, well construction, and pipe network design. Mr. Wentworth assumed the role of Water Quality Manager at Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) in September 2022, where his primary focus involves administering water sampling initiatives and deploying filtration devices to aid low-income residents reliant on private wells, who are affected by pervasive groundwater contamination across the Central Valley.

**Siva Bandaru, PhD, Product Development Lead and Senior Research Scientist, Aepnus Technology, Berkeley, CA**

Dr. Siva Bandaru earned his PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley in 2020 under the guidance of Professor Ashok Gadgil. His research focused on developing, scaling up, and pilot testing of iron electrocoagulation technologies to treat arsenic contaminated groundwater for drinking in rural communities in West Bengal, India, and California, USA. In recognition of his contributions to the development and implementation of electrochemical arsenic remediation in rural South Asia, he was honored with the 2022 Rien van Genuchten Early-Career Award of Porous Media for a Green World. Currently, Dr. Bandaru serves as a senior research scientist at Aepnus Technology Inc.

**Todd Webster, PhD, PE, Vice-President, Envirogen Technologies, Inc., San Diego, CA**

Todd has more than 25 years of experience in all aspects of biological and physicochemical water treatment system design, installation, and operation at the pilot- and full-scale levels throughout North America and the world. He is responsible for all aspects of company initiatives in the NA Remediation, Food & Beverage, and Mining sectors. He provides technical process engineering support to the company for the entire treatment system product line. He earned his PhD in Civil/Environmental Engineering and is a registered Professional Civil Engineer in California. Recent work focus has been implementing innovative and cost-effective environmental solutions for the treatment of emerging contaminants of concern.

**Rachel Maxwell, PG, Senior Scientist, Roux, Oakland, CA**

Rachel Maxwell is an experienced Geologist with a demonstrated history of working in the environmental services industry. She is skilled in data analysis, environmental forensics, litigation support, site assessments, water resource assessments, remediation, and land mitigation assessments. Rachel has worked with environmental issues at a wide array of industries, including dry-cleaning facilities, industrial manufacturing facilities, municipal/industrial landfills, and metal smelting facilities. During her time as a consultant, Rachel has worked on various projects with emerging contaminants such as PFAS, and now microplastics. Rachel earned her Master's degree in Soil, Water, and Environmental Science from the University of Arizona and continued her education in Geology at the University of California, Berkeley and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

**Jennifer F. Novak, JD, Principal, Law Office of Jennifer F. Novak, Rolling Hill Estates, CA**

Jennifer formerly served as a Deputy Attorney General with the California Department of Justice, where she handled cutting-edge legal issues in matters valued in the hundreds of millions and billions of dollars on behalf of the People of the State of California. Since returning to the private sector, she founded a law firm to be of service to people who understand the importance of environmental laws but keep the regulatory process fair for those who take compliance seriously. She has experience representing clients ranging from Fortune 500 and national companies, to retirees who operated manufacturing businesses. Jennifer earned her law degree from the University of California, Davis, King Hall School of Law and her Bachelor's Degree from University of California, Berkeley.

**Terri Slifko, PhD, Water Quality Manager: Chemistry, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA**

Dr. Theresa Slifko manages the Chemistry Unit in the Drinking Water Quality Laboratory at Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. She has been a leader in the water community for over 26 years, providing technical guidance and expertise in the field of water quality, regulations, legislation, and water quality compliance within the areas of drinking water, recreational water, recycled water, and potable reuse water. Currently, Dr. Slifko oversees compliance chemistry, chemistry research, taste and odor testing and analysis, drinking water

treatment plant operations support, data evaluation, compliance monitoring and reporting, and other water quality support activities at Metropolitan's six Water Quality Laboratories. Current research efforts within Dr. Slifko's Unit are focused on the development and optimization of cyanotoxin detection methods, development of bioassessment tools for detecting toxicity of non-targeted compounds, development and testing microplastics enumeration methods, and monitoring and evaluating occurrence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. Terri's PhD is from the University of South Florida.

**Shawn Harkness, Account Manager, CV Strategies, Inc., Phoenix, AZ**

Shawn is a communications consultant for the Inland Empire's largest strategic communications firm, with offices across the state of California. He works with multiple clients covering public water agencies, city governments, special districts and large-scale solar operators. Shawn perform account management services including: news releases, speech writing, event promotion, media relations, strategic planning and crisis management. As a television journalist and newsroom leader, Shawn knows how to tailor a message so it resonates with audiences. His career took him to newsrooms around the country, with hands-on and management roles in big cities such as Chicago, and rural areas including Montana and West Virginia. Shawn most recently served as News Director at the NBC and Univision stations in Palm Springs. He is well versed in translating detailed, industry-specific information into easy to understand and engaging messages that the wider public can understand. Shawn received his BA in Communication from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania.

**Zeki Kayiran, PE, Principal, AKM Consulting Engineers, Irvine, CA**

Zeki has provided technical and management expertise in the planning, design and construction management/inspection of water resources engineering projects for the past 50 years. He worked for four (4) engineering firms before he started AKM Consulting Engineers in 1990 to provide water resources engineering services to public agencies. His experience includes the design and construction management/inspection of 45 groundwater wells as well groundwater treatment projects. Between 1973 and 1988, he taught fluid mechanics and hydraulic design classes at California State University, Long Beach. Since 2006, he has served as an industry adviser and taught groundwater well drilling and equipping, as well as groundwater treatment as part of University of California, Irvine's Civil and Environmental Engineering Senior Project Design class. He has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Robert College, Istanbul in 1971, and M.S. in Civil Engineering (Water Resources) from California State University, Long Beach in 1974.