

Developing and implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plans

Kern and surrounding Counties – Kings, Tulare, Inyo, San Bernardino,
Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Fresno

An educational workshop program from the American Ground Water Trust
Tuesday, February 21st, 2017 – Bakersfield, CA (9:00am to 4:00pm)
Kern Agricultural Pavilion, 3300 East Belle Terrace, Bakersfield, Ca 93307



Practical insight and guidance for Districts, Agencies, Organizations, Growers and groundwater end-users. Learn about strategies, procedures and potential pitfalls involved in developing and implementing GSPs to fulfill SGMA requirements

Workshop Sponsors



Stay on top of the legal issues of collaboration and compliance
Great information-exchange opportunity among legal and hydrologic experts and the diversity of groundwater interests linked by SGMA sustainability requirements for local control of pumping

Presentations and panel discussions will include:

Protecting water rights

Penalties for non-compliance with SGMA

Role of professional facilitators in developing GSPs

The basic legal issues related to GSP implementation

Data recording, verification and reporting responsibilities

Use of computer power to make on-farm pumping decisions

Role and responsibilities of growers to measure, record and report

How to select a numerical groundwater flow model (do you need one?)

Maintaining dependable water supply for homes and residential communities

How best to establish stakeholder engagement & public communication plans

“AND IT NEVER FAILED THAT DURING THE DRY YEARS THE PEOPLE FORGOT ABOUT THE RICH YEARS, AND DURING THE WET YEARS THEY LOST ALL MEMORY OF THE DRY YEARS. IT WAS ALWAYS THAT WAY.”

John Steinbeck, *“East of Eden”* (1952)

OBJECTIVE:

Provide water agencies, farmers, growers, water utilities and other California groundwater end-users with practical technical information to assist with SGMA compliance. The workshop program will focus on Groundwater Sustainability Plan compliance.

FORMAT:

A one-day information-exchange workshop presented by recognized water agency specialists, water attorneys, software experts, hydrogeologists, professional facilitators, growers and irrigators. The workshop will involve five panels of experts. Each panel will commence with short presentations followed by designated time for Q & A discussion among all participants.

PARTICIPATION:

It is anticipated that workshop attendance will be from Water Agencies and Water Districts, landowners, commercial farmers and growers, irrigation specialists, water utility managers and providers of legal and technical consulting services.

BACKGROUND:

The motivation for this workshop is the AGWT’s mission to provide objective groundwater information to facilitate water management decisions that will maximize the beneficial use of water resources. Drought conditions and California’s SGMA response have provided a focus on the vulnerability of groundwater resources and the need to overcome the potential consequences of “tragedy of the commons” inaction. There is an urgency to find consensus solutions while avoiding the risks of mistakes that could result from “more haste-less speed.” The workshop will provide transparency in information with free exchange of legal, hydrological and technological expertise. Recent advances in computing software, phone and tablet capabilities and communication technology allow for the precise control of the delivery of water. The challenge is to find the groundwater management formula(s) required by SGMA that protect water rights, maintain economically viable communities, and maximize agricultural productivity.

PRESENTERS

The team of experts presenting at the workshop has been asked to provide advice, guidance and insight in an inclusive, generic and non-commercial information-exchange format.

8:00 – 9:00	REGISTRATION (Coffee & donuts)
9:00 - 9:10	Introduction - Workshop Objectives Andrew Stone, Executive Director, American Ground Water Trust, Concord, NH Tony Morgan, Deputy General Manager, United Water Conservation District, Santa Paula, CA
9:10 – 9:30	The Kern County Experience KERN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY GSA FORMATION – PROCESS AND PROGRESS with GSP Eric Averett, General Manager, Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, Bakersfield, CA
9:30 – 10:30	Session - Legal/Water Rights MAJOR LEGAL HURDLES IN THE FORMATION OF GSAs & GSPs Brad Herrema, Attorney, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Santa Barbara, CA HOW TO RESOLVE THE CONUNDRUM OF RESTRICTING PUMPING WHILE PROTECTING WATER RIGHTS Ernest Conant, Attorney/Partner, Young Wooldridge, LLP, Bakersfield, CA HOW TO HARMONIZE PRIMACY AUTHORITY AMONG FEDERAL AND STATE LAW RELATED TO FORMING GSAs Deborah Wordham, Attorney, Best Best & Krieger, Los Angeles, CA
10:30 – 11:00	BREAK (Refreshments)

11:00 12:00 Software, tools and techniques to record data, manage pumping & maximize profits

USING SERVER OR WEB-BASED PLATFORMS TO INTEGRATE EXISTING ON-FARM MEASUREMENT & MONITORING HARDWARE

Ben Daly, IOT (Internet of Things) Specialist, REDtrac, Bakersfield, CA

WATER MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE UTILIZING MODERN WEB STANDARDS AND THE AMAZON CLOUD

Aaron Collier, Vice-President and Hydrogeologist, Collier Consulting, Stephenville, TX

MAXIMIZING DATA BENEFITS FROM ON-FARM MEASUREMENT: END-USER PERSPECTIVE

Greg Wegis, Grower, Wegis Ranch, Bakersfield, CA

MAXIMIZING BENEFITS OF WATER RIGHTS BY ALTERNATIVE USE TRADING

Kevin France, CEO, SWIIM System, Ltd, Denver, CO

12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH (provided) - opportunity to select lunch table with presenters

No allocated afternoon break time until 4:00pm, but refreshments available throughout the afternoon

1:00 – 2:00 Groundwater models for SGMA compliance

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING A GW MODEL

Brent Cain, Senior Hydrogeologist, GEI, Rancho Cordova, CA

ADAPTING REGIONAL GROUNDWATER MODELS FOR LOCAL GSAs

Phyllis Stanin, Vice President and Principal Geologist, Todd Groundwater, Alameda, CA

FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPING GROUNDWATER MODELS UNDER SGMA

Tara Moran, Research Associate, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford, CA

2:00 – 3:00 Stakeholder engagement/communication plans

THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF SGMA “COMMUNICATION PLANS”

J Michael Harty, Principal/Senior Mediator, Kearns & West, Inc., Davis, CA

PROGRESS OF CENTRAL VALLEY GSAs IN COMPLYING WITH GSP STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Dave Ceppos, Associate Director and Managing Senior Mediator, Center for Collaborative Policy, CSU, Sacramento, CA

GSA CHALLENGES OF INVOLVING UNDERREPRESENTED PERSONS AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Julia Golomb, Associate, Consensus Building Institute, Oakland, CA

3:00 – 4:00 Water & pumping allocation schemes for GSPs

LEGAL PRECEDENTS FOR WATER ALLOCATIONS IN ADJUDICATED BASINS

Craig Parton, Attorney, Price Postel & Parma LLP, Santa Barbara, CA

CASE STUDY - WATER ALLOCATIONS IN LAS POSAS

Bryan Bondy, Groundwater Manager, Calleguas Municipal Water District, Thousand Oaks, CA

REAL WORLD EXPERIENCES WITH ALLOCATION SCHEMES

Steve Bachmann, Hydrogeologist, Independent Consultant, Santa Barbara, CA

4:00 WRAP-UP - ADJOURN – opportunity for further conversations with exhibitors

5:00 WORKSHOP ENDS



Presenter professional background Listed alphabetically

Eric Averett, General Manager, Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, Bakersfield, CA



Eric Averett is the General Manager of Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, a position held since 2008. Prior to this, Eric served 7 years as the District Manager for Improvement District No. 4 of the Kern County Water Agency. Since 1991, Eric has been involved in evaluating and resolving the water supply and quality challenges facing Kern County. Eric also serves the Kern water community as the Board President of the Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority, Board member of the Water Association of Kern County, Board member of the McAllister Ranch Irrigation District, Board member for the Association of California Water Agencies (Region 7) and Manager of the Kern Groundwater Authority. Recently, he has been tasked with leading several local efforts to organize and unite Kern County's water interests to more effectively address regulatory issues related to water supply and quality.

Eric holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Resource Management from California State University Bakersfield. Eric has been an adjunct professor for the Kern Community and Taft Community College systems since 1999 where he teaches classes on physical and chemical processes in water treatment. He also teaches water related courses throughout California and Nevada for the American Water Works Association. Eric is certified as a Treatment and Distribution Operator with the State of California at the T5/D5 level.

Steve Bachmann, Hydrogeologist. Independent Consultant, Santa Barbara, CA

Dr. Bachmann has over 30 years of professional geological experience ranging from academic to consulting to public sector. He currently splits his time between independent consulting and as consulting Groundwater Programs Manager for United Water CD and as a retained consultant to Calleguas Municipal Water District. His experience in water projects in California, Nevada and Arizona includes artificial recharge planning and implementation, groundwater management, water transfers, timing of reservoir releases, groundwater quality studies, aquifer studies, groundwater modeling, groundwater recharge studies, fisheries issues, wetlands treatment, technical advice and testimony for state regulatory proceedings and expert witness on groundwater and water availability. Dr Bachmann co-authored the book California Groundwater Management. Dr Bachmann lectures statewide on groundwater management and groundwater monitoring/modeling. He has a PhD in geological sciences from UC Davis.

Bryan Bondy, Contract Groundwater Manager, Calleguas Municipal Water District, Thousand Oaks, CA



Bryan Bondy has a B.S. and M.S. in geological sciences with an emphasis in hydrogeology from San Diego State University and over 20 years of experience in the groundwater field. He is a Professional Geologist and California Certified Hydrogeologist. As part of his duties at CMWD, Mr. Bondy has served as the Las Posas Valley Basin (LPVB) Groundwater Users Group's (LPUG) facilitator and technical advisor since 2009. LPUG is comprised of agricultural, municipal, and domestic groundwater pumpers from the LPVB and is a chartered stakeholder group of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) in Ventura County. The FCGMA is one of the first agencies in the State to begin the difficult task of developing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). In 2015, the FCGMA delegated the responsibility for developing a pumping allocation program for the LPVB GSP to LPUG. In Fall 2016, LPUG completed a pumping allocation program proposal that was unanimously approved by its membership, which represents approximately two-thirds of the basin pumping. The allocation program proposal address a number of challenging issues in the basin, including unexercised groundwater rights. Mr. Bondy's leadership and facilitation services were key to LPUG achieving consensus on the allocation approach. The FCGMA and LPUG are currently working to develop an ordinance based on LPUG's allocation program proposal.

Brent Cain, Senior Hydrogeologist, GEI, Rancho Cordova, CA



Brent Cain has more than twenty years of experience in hydrogeology throughout the Western and Central U.S., with an emphasis on groundwater flow modeling, basin and local scale water resource investigations, and integrating data management systems and GIS into modeling applications. Mr. Cain attended Furman University and the University of Arizona, Department of Hydrology. He has served as a national Groundwater Modeling Practice Leader has overseen the development of dozens of basin scale hydrologic studies and numerous groundwater system optimization and sustainability assessments. He developed the "sustainability engine" methodology for collaboratively modeling and assessing water resources and drought in adjudicated basins in Arizona and California. Mr. Cain has also recently been working on modeling approaches for Groundwater Sustainability Plans near Lake Tahoe and in the San Joaquin Valley as well as for groundwater-surface water interaction studies in Arizona, California and Nebraska. He is an avid fan of Georgia Bulldogs football and must be kept away from dog rescue shelters at all costs or he will try to adopt them all.

Dave Ceppos, Associate Director and Managing Senior Mediator, Center for Collaborative Policy, CSU, Sacramento, CA



Dave has a comprehensive background developing and mediating consensus based, stakeholder-driven, resource management processes. Dave is the managing mediator and process designer of the Department of Water Resources Water Use Efficiency Program. He is the program manager and facilitator for stakeholder and mediation efforts on numerous water quality efforts. including several Total Maximum Daily Load cases, Numeric Nutrient Endpoint projects, and Irrigated Lands Regulatory Programs.

His past work includes being the project manager, and senior mediator, for the Upper Klamath Basin Working Group Restoration Planning Project, during the Klamath Basin water use crisis in 2001 - 2003. He has similarly been the senior facilitator / mediator and process designer for the Headwaters Forest Reserve Management Plan for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and California Department of Fish and Game.

Dave received a B.L.A. in landscape architecture from the University of Florida and has completed additional graduate level studies in mediation, facilitation, and risk communication through Emory, Columbia, and Pepperdine Universities. He is a member of the International Association of Public Participation, the Society of Ecological

Restoration, and the Association for Conflict Resolution. He is recognized by the US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR) as an Approved Dispute Resolution and Consensus Building Professional

Aaron Collier, Vice-President and Hydrogeologist, Collier Consulting, Stephenville, TX



Aaron Collier is a professionally licensed hydrogeologist with 14 years of experience in all facets of groundwater management, planning, sourcing, and subsurface investigations. As one of the vice presidents of Collier Consulting, Mr. Collier's primary responsibilities are overseeing the daily operations of the organization and being the primary point of contact for many of the firm's geoscience and engineering projects. Representative projects have included local and regional hydrogeological investigations throughout Texas and Florida, groundwater modeling, borehole and surface geophysical investigations, water resource engineering, and environmental litigation. Mr. Collier also is the managerial lead for Collier Consulting's water asset management software product HYDROS, a custom built cloud-based Software. Mr. Collier was educated at Tarleton State University (B.S. Geology) and the University of Texas at San Antonio (M.S. Geology).

Ernest Conant, Attorney/Partner, Young Wooldridge, LLP, Bakersfield, CA



With over 36 years of experience, Ernest has served as general counsel for many different public agencies, including assisting with the development of the Semitropic and Arvin-Edison Water Storage District's water banking programs. As general counsel for the Kern Water Bank Authority, he assisted with its formation and development, including its comprehensive Habitat Conservation Plan. Ernest worked on behalf of the Kern Water Bank Authority for the implementation of Monterey Amendments among State Water Project Contractors and served on the Technical Advisory Committee for the project's Environmental Impact Report. In addition, Ernest served as special counsel for the Friant Water Users Authority in negotiating the San Joaquin River Settlement, resolving 18 years of litigation. As chairman of the Contractor's Drafting Committee, Ernest coordinated negotiated 112 Central Valley Project renewal contracts for water supply contracts with the United States Bureau of Reclamation. As a member of the State Legislative Committee for the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) he has been involved in addressing

various legislative initiatives, including the new Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and a Juris Doctorate from Pepperdine University.

Ben Daly, IoT (Internet of Things) Specialist, REDtrac, Bakersfield, CA



Mr. Daly has over 15 years of international experience in the finance, risk management and technology sectors. After six years' service with the U.S. Navy including two tours in Operation Desert Storm, Ben served in various operations management and business development and technical roles at firms like Cabot Chemical (NYSE:CBT), Robert Half International (NYSE: RHI), Hudson Global Resources (NASDAQ: HHGP), Altran Corporation (EN Paris: ALT), Trina Solar (NASDAQ: TSL), Renesola Ltd. (NASDAQ; SOL), CANDI Controls, Inc., and Seecontrol, Inc. (recently acquired by Autodesk). Most recently, Mr. Daly served as the CEO of an Australian based IoT startup www.Zyber.com (ASX: ZYB) and has successfully designed and deployed a technology agnostic groundwater/well monitoring solution for REDtrac and Semitropic Water Storage District.

Kevin France, CEO, SWIIM System, Ltd, Denver, CO



Mr. France is a co-founder and acts as the Chief Executive Officer of SWIIM System, Ltd., an on-farm crop-water optimization and conservation technology company. He is also a partner at Regensis Management Group, a start-up incubator and consultancy focusing on natural resource-based technology development. Mr. France is a managing partner, founder or an equity participant in several natural resource projects which include water rights, real estate and related projects covering thousands of acre feet of water rights. Many of these projects focus on agricultural optimization and water resource conservation. SWIIM provides an alternative to the non-sustainable, agricultural dry-up option and uses a groundbreaking blend of technological capabilities to transform water rights and legal water allocations into a valuable revenue stream.

Mr. France participates in land and water asset development transactions and in sourcing capital development for such ventures. He has acted as a facilitator for independent study courses focusing on business strategy and entrepreneurship at Regis University. Mr. France has a MBA from Regis University and a BS degree in Business Administration and Communications from the University of Colorado.

Julia Golomb, Associate, Consensus Building Institute, Oakland, CA



Julia is an Associate at the Consensus Building Institute, with 7 years of experience as a mediator, facilitator, and negotiations coach. Julia facilitates and mediates environmental planning and public policy disputes. Her primary practice areas include food and agriculture, climate mitigation and adaptation, water, energy, and land use and transportation planning. Recent projects include Salinas Valley Groundwater Management Plan Facilitation and the San Joaquin River Restoration Program.

Prior to joining CBI, Julia worked at Kearns & West in San Francisco, where she facilitated multi-stakeholder processes including coastal erosion and sea level rise planning on the San Francisco Pacific Coast, transmission line siting in the Southwest, and public review of the California Gray Wolf conservation plan. In addition to her work with CBI, Julia coordinates the California Agricultural Mediation Program (CALAMP), which provides free mediation to the agricultural community in California. Julia is a certified mediator and holds a Masters of Environmental Management

from Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, where she studied environmental mediation and facilitation.

J Michael Harty, Principal/Senior Mediator, Kearns & West, Inc., Davis, CA



J. Michael Harty has 15 years of direct experience in conflict resolution and management and nine years as a practicing lawyer. Mike has extensive experience assessing, convening, designing and facilitating/mediating large and complex public and organizational disputes. Mike also consults with federal and state agencies and NGOs on strategic issues related to conflict management and public decision making. His current work in Collaborative Solutions practice has two distinct but related components. The Conflict Management/Public Engagement component assists clients in managing and resolving complex disputes with public and private dimensions, as well as effectively and appropriately engaging the public in decision making. The Policy and Evaluation component provides support for decision makers and third-party review of decision making processes, primarily in the area of natural resource protection.

Mike has direct experience with water rights adjudication, water quality, ocean, mining, ecosystem restoration, public lands, and endangered species issues. He has worked on multiple projects where the interests of Native American tribes were significant. Mike is familiar with a wide range of federal environmental statutes including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, NEPA, and Endangered Species Act. He also is familiar with California state environmental statutes. Mike holds a J.D. cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC and a B.A. cum laude from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.

Brad Herrema, Attorney, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Santa Barbara, CA



Brad's forte and long-term focus include strategic water supply planning, water right permitting and regulatory compliance, litigation including water right adjudications, transactional negotiations and due diligence, and water quality, environmental, and species concerns, spanning every aspect of California and national water law. A strategic business partner to his clients, Brad serves as special water counsel to private corporations, cities and special districts, investor-owned utilities and large landowners.

Brad has extensive experience in the development of new groundwater supplies in adjudicated and non-adjudicated basins, local groundwater management, groundwater storage and complex groundwater litigation. He is actively engaged in implementation of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014, including representation of groundwater sustainability agencies, development of groundwater sustainability plans, and protection of water users' water rights and reliable access to groundwater supplies.

Brad serves as counsel to the Chino Basin Watermaster.

Tara Moran, Research Associate, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford, CA



Tara's research focuses on the technical requirements of water management, including data collection, sharing and integration. Moran is particularly interested in understanding the role of data and information in water management decisions. She works with interdisciplinary research teams to develop solutions to the legal, technical and governance challenges of sustainable groundwater management. Tara is the program lead for Water in the West's Sustainable Groundwater program. She identifies research opportunities for improved groundwater management and connects groundwater managers throughout California and the western US with groundwater researchers at Stanford University. She also works with policy makers and other agencies to advance groundwater policy for more sustainable groundwater management.

Prior to moving into the program lead role, Tara worked as a Research Associate at Stanford University deploying groundwater imaging technologies. During that time, she developed a strong sense of the challenges facing groundwater managers throughout the state and a desire to help address these issues through multi-disciplinary research efforts. Before starting at Stanford University, Dr. Moran worked with a variety of stakeholders in natural resources management, both as a consultant and academic. Tara holds a first class honors B.Sc. in Environmental Science and a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Calgary, Canada.

Tony Morgan, Deputy General Manager, United Water Conservation District, Santa Paula, CA



Tony Morgan (PG, CHG), is the Deputy General Manager / Groundwater & Water Resources at United Water Conservation District in Santa Paula, CA. He has undergraduate and graduate degrees from Indiana University and has been with UWCD since 2009. Prior to that, he was Western Region Manager for Layne Geosciences.

Mr. Morgan is leading UWCD's efforts on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and is active with ACWA and GRAC. He oversees the Groundwater Resources Department at UWCD which serves as an in-house resource on groundwater supply, water quality, and water resource management and also provides hydrogeological expertise to other local agencies. The department performs water level measurements and water quality sampling and analysis on hundreds of wells each year and performs field investigations to improve the District's understanding of the controls on groundwater flow, evaluates the impacts of groundwater utilization and conservation options on resource availability. Mr. Morgan has served as a Director on the Board of the American Ground Water Trust since 2008.

Craig Parton, Attorney, Price Postel & Parma LLP, Santa Barbara, CA



Craig Parton (J.D., Hastings) is a partner with Price, Postel and Parma LLP of Santa Barbara, California. His practice involves a variety of natural resource matters as well as complex litigation of all types. He has handled jury trials and appeals in state and federal court in numerous jurisdictions and has served as counsel in several groundwater basin adjudications. He represented a private landowner in the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin case and was trial counsel for a public water management district in the Seaside Groundwater Basin adjudication.

Mr. Parton currently represents the largest group of agricultural interests in the Oxnard Plain in on-going discussions with other stakeholders concerning water allocation issues and is representing a collection of 17 water districts and the City of Fresno in litigation recently filed against the federal government in Washington D.C. relating to water supply events in the Central Valley.

Phyllis Stanin, Vice President and Principal Geologist Todd Groundwater, Alameda, CA



Ms. Stanin has 30 years with expertise in hydrogeology and groundwater basin management. Phyllis has consulted on numerous projects involving regional hydrogeologic assessments, with a particular emphasis on managed aquifer recharge and conjunctive use. Her expertise includes fate and transport of contaminants in groundwater and she has served as expert witness or a court-appointed consultant on cases involving alleged groundwater contamination.

Phyllis also has significant experience in groundwater development including well siting and design, geophysical logs, and field testing programs. She has successfully completed several groundwater management plans in accordance with the California water code and is currently managing the preparation of Salt and Nutrient Management Plans in accordance with the California Recycled Water Policy.

She serves as Secretary for the American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) committee on Managed Aquifer Recharge Standards. She is a California PG, Certified Engineering Geologist and Certified Hydrogeologist. She has a MS degree from the University of San Francisco.

Andrew Stone, Executive Director, American Ground Water Trust, Concord, NH



Andrew Stone has a BSc Honors (Birkbeck College, London) and an MSc in hydrogeology from University College London. Between 1974 and 1989 he was a lecturer and groundwater researcher at Rhodes University, South Africa. Since 1989 he has worked in the United States as a private-sector groundwater consultant, as adjunct professor teaching groundwater protection policy in the MS Degree program at Antioch New England University and as groundwater educator, advocate and outreach specialist for the non-profit AGWT. He is a recipient of the National Ground Water Association "Oliver Award" in for his work in promoting groundwater education.

In his time with the American Ground Water Trust he has convened and organized over 250 conferences, workshops and training programs on groundwater issues throughout the US.

Greg Wegis, Grower, Wegis Ranch, Bakersfield, CA



Gregory was born and raised in Buttonwillow California, attended Shafter High School and graduated with Honors. After High School he attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo majoring in Crop Science. Since 2000 he has worked on the 4th generation family farm in Buttonwillow, producing almonds, pistachios, carrots, tomatoes, cherries, wheat, corn, and alfalfa.

Gregory is active in the California agricultural community, winning the Outstanding Young Farmer Award in 2012, serving on the Board of California Tomato Growers Association, serving as President of the Kern County Farm Bureau (2013-2015) and as President of the Semitropic Growers for Sustainable Groundwater PAC.

Deborah Wordham, Attorney, Best Best & Krieger, Los Angeles, CA



Deborah Wordham's practice areas include water rights, water quality, endangered species, the California Environmental Quality Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and related fields of environmental and natural resources law at both the state and federal levels. Deborah works with clients on implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, updating urban water management plans and responding to the State Water Board's drought regulations. As deputy attorney general with the California Attorney General's office from 2001 through 2011, Deborah represented several state natural resources agencies both as litigation counsel and in-house counsel.

Prior to joining Best Best & Krieger LLP, Deborah was in-house at The Nature Conservancy, where she advised on California water rights and water resources. While at The Nature Conservancy, Deborah participated in complex stakeholder negotiations related to the State Water Resources Control Board's update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing, and advised The Nature Conservancy on elements of the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan. Deborah has a JD from Whittier College School of Law.

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- ~ Communicate the environmental and economic value of groundwater
- ~ Showcase groundwater science and technology solutions
- ~ Increase citizen, community and decision-maker awareness
- ~ Facilitate stakeholder participation in water resource decisions

