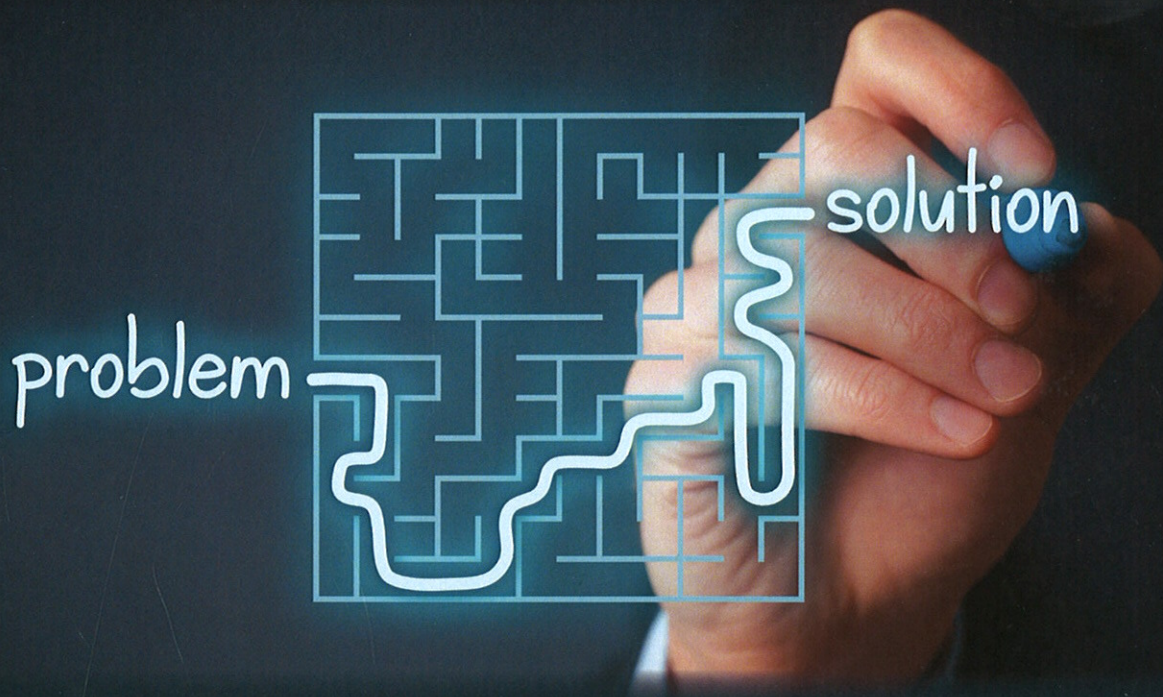


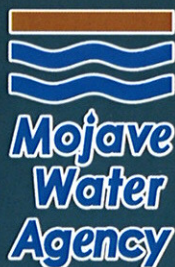
# 2018



## HIGH DESERT WATER SYMPOSIUM

CALIFORNIA WATER:  
NAVIGATING THE RIVERS OF POLICY  
TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY

April 11, 2018 | 8:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Victor Valley College Performing Arts Center  
18422 Bear Valley Road  
Victorville, California





# Program

- 8:15 am**      **Breakfast Buffet & Registration**
- 9:00 am**      **Emcee: Tom McCarthy, General Manager, Mojave Water Agency**  
Invocation and Pledge  
Welcome:  
Kimberly Cox, Board President, Mojave Water Agency  
Roger Wagner, Victor Valley College Superintendent/President
- 9:15 am**      **Keynote Speaker:**  
Charles Wilson, Executive Director and CEO, Southern CA Water Coalition  
“WaterNext – What’s Next for Southern California’s Water Future?”
- 9:50 am**      **Ellen Hanak, PhD. Center Director and Senior Fellow,  
Public Policy Institute of California**  
“Priorities for California’s Water”
- 10:30 am**      **Break**
- 10:45 am**      **Panel Discussion: “Positioning Your Issue to Win in a Changing Legislative Landscape”**  
Moderator: Tom McCarthy  
Ed Manning, Partner, KP Public Affairs  
Ray Kolisz, General Manager, Twentynine Palms Water District  
Jolene Walsh, Senior Director of Public and Government Affairs, Eastern  
Municipal Water District
- 11:45 am**      **Closing Remarks**  
Tom McCarthy

## Featured Speakers

### **Tom McCarthy (Emcee)**

*General Manager  
Mojave Water Agency*

### **Charles Wilson**

*Executive Director and CEO  
Southern CA Water Coalition*

### **Ellen Hanak**

*PhD. Center Director and Senior Fellow  
Public Policy Institute of California*

### **Ed Manning**

*Partner  
KP Public Affairs*

### **Ray Kolisz**

*General Manager  
Twentynine Palms Water District*

### **Jolene Walsh**

*Senior Director of Public and Government Affairs Eastern  
Municipal Water District*



## **Tom McCarthy**

Mojave Water Agency General Manager Tom McCarthy is a professional civil engineer and geologist with more than 20 years of experience. Prior to joining MWA, McCarthy served as the Acting Engineering Manager/Chief Engineer and Water Resources Planning Manager for Anaheim Public Utilities. Additionally, McCarthy has extensive private sector experience and has served as the Project Technical Lead for all water resource projects based in the Southwest while employed with MWH Global Inc. He holds a Master of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Geological Science from the University of Oregon.



# Charles Wilson

Charles Wilson serves as Executive Director and CEO of the Southern California Water Coalition, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public education partnership dedicated to securing reliable, affordable, quality water for Southern California. The organization is comprised of 200 member organizations including cities, counties, businesses, industrial and agricultural groups, water agencies, and environmental organizations,



Wilson is a leading public affairs professional in Southern California and is a recognized leader in the industry. His career includes 25 years in the electric utility industry with Southern California Edison, as well as serving as director of community and media affairs for State and U.S. Senator John Seymour. He also has worked in sports radio and television with ABC, ESPN, and the Netherlands Broadcast Company.

He serves as principal owner of PC Consulting Services Inc. and is a board member of the Santa Margarita Water District.

A graduate of UCLA, Charles earned his BA degree in political science with an emphasis in international relations and public administration. Charles and his wife, Pam, live in South Orange County with their daughter.



## Ellen Hanak

Ellen Hanak is director of the PPIC Water Policy Center and a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. Under her leadership, the center has become a critical source of information and guidance for natural resource management in California.

She has authored dozens of reports, articles, and books on water policy, including *Managing California's Water*. Her research is frequently profiled in the national media, and she participates in briefings, conferences, and interviews throughout the nation and around the world. Her other areas of expertise include climate change and infrastructure finance. Previously, she served as research director at PPIC. Before joining PPIC, she held positions with the French agricultural research system, the President's Council of Economic Advisers, and the World Bank.

She holds a PhD in economics from the University of Maryland.

## Ed Manning

Ed Manning is a Partner with KP Public Affairs. He is a registered lobbyist and an attorney specializing in environmental, energy and land use law with more than 30 years of experience. Ed is an expert in energy, environmental and water policy, and has managed broad coalitions and developed winning strategies on diverse issues including water supply, air quality, energy infrastructure, environmental enforcement, and transportation infrastructure issues.



His experience includes serving as lead negotiator for business interests on landmark legislation on climate change, and Brownfields and land use reform efforts, including SB 375 (Steinberg) and the California Land Reuse and Revitalization Act of 2004. He also was instrumental as a lead negotiator of the 2009 Delta Reform Act, 2009 Water Bond, and most recently on the Water Bond, Proposition 1.

Prior to his career with KP Public Affairs, he was a partner with the law firm of Weston, Benshoof. Manning's experience also includes serving as General Counsel to Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy, and was an alternate on the State Lands Commission and was one of the architects of California's Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Rider University and a Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School of Los Angeles.



## Ray Kolisz

Under Ray Kolisz's leadership as General Manager, Twentynine Palms Water District (TPWD) is being recognized for innovating technologies that are reducing the cost of treatment in a way that benefits many communities in California. This is especially true in efforts to address high levels of arsenic and fluoride in the Twentynine Palms Valley.

Ray has also been a leader in raising the issue of economic feasibility as an obstacle in the implementation of new water quality standards. This was punctuated in 2017, when TPWD joined a coalition of water agencies in persuading the California Attorney General not to appeal the invalidation of the standard for Chromium 6.

Ray began his work in the water industry installing water pipes for a high desert pipeline contractor. Ray was employed by the Joshua Basin Water District from 1989-1993. Ray joined the Twentynine Palms Water District in 1993. Through the years, Ray has held progressively responsible positions including Maintenance Worker, Water Quality Technician, Chief Plant Operator, Operations Manager, and General Manager.



## Jolene Walsh

Jolene Walsh is the Senior Director of Public and Governmental Affairs at Eastern Municipal Water District and has worked there for 17 years. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Earth Science from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Redlands and is a graduate of the Water Education Foundation's Water Leaders Program, where she became interested in water policy. Prior to joining EMWD, Jolene lived in Jamaica serving in the U.S. Peace Corps on water and sanitation projects. Jolene is an active member of several Federal Affairs Committees for California and national associations. In her free time, she enjoys endurance cycling, running, and outdoor adventures with her daughter.

**Thank You!**  
**Special thanks to:**

**Catherine Abbott**  
*Executive Director of the  
Victor Valley College Foundation  
and her staff*

**Tyler Busch**  
*Victor Valley College  
Restaurant Manager  
and his team*

**Nancy Christian**  
*Victor Valley College PAC  
and her team*



**EnM Media**

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