

INFORMATIONAL AND OVERSIGHT HEARING
UPDATE ON THE OROVILLE DAM
May 11, 2017

PANEL BIOGRAPHIES

RACHEL EHLERS, PRINCIPAL FISCAL AND POLICY ANALYST, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Ms. Ehlers is a Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst with the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO). The LAO provides nonpartisan budget and policy advice to the state Legislature. Ms. Ehlers has worked for the LAO for 12 years in a number of policy areas. Her current program assignments are: development and maintenance of water systems, flood control, wildlife and conservation, Delta-related programs, and coastal programs. Ms. Ehlers holds a B.A. in Psychology from Harvard University.

JOHN LAIRD, SECRETARY, CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

John Laird has served as Secretary for the California Natural Resources Agency since 2011. A long-time resident of Santa Cruz, Secretary Laird has spent nearly 40 years in public service at the state and local level, including 23 years as an elected official. While serving the maximum three terms in the Assembly, Laird authored 82 bills that were signed into law. These bills established the landmark Sierra Nevada Conservancy, restored community college health services, expanded and clarified state civil rights protections, reformed the state mandates system, and significantly expanded water conservation.

As California's Secretary of Natural Resources, Laird has prioritized climate change adaptation, water conservation and supply reliability, enhanced relationships with tribal governments, State Parks access, farmland conservation, and oceans sustainability. He provides administrative oversight to thirty departments, commissions, councils, museum, boards and conservancies – and is a sitting member of sixteen conservancies, councils, boards and commissions within the purview of the Agency.

WILLIAM CROYLE, ACTING DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

William Croyle was appointed Acting Director for the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by Governor Edmund G Brown Jr., effective January 1, 2017. Prior to his appointment, William served as Deputy Director for Statewide Emergency Preparedness and Security at the Department.

William's nine years with DWR also include serving as the Department's Drought Emergency Operations Manager, representing the Department on Governor Brown's Interagency Drought Task Force and various other drought task forces and work groups. He also oversaw the Department's Drought Management Operations Team. William served as the Department Emergency Program Manager and spent more than six years as Chief of Flood Operations. He also worked more than 23

years for the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in Sacramento, where he served in a variety of capacities.

William is a registered professional engineer and received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from California State University, Sacramento.

RON STORK, SENIOR POLICY ADVOCATE, FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

Ron is a national expert in flood management, federal water resources development, hydropower reform, and Wild & Scenic Rivers. He joined Friends of the River as Associate Conservation Director in 1987 and became its Senior Policy Advocate in 1995. Ron was presented the prestigious River Conservationist of the Year award by Perception in 1996 for his work to stop the Auburn dam. In 2004, he received the California Urban Water Conservation Council's Excellence Award for statewide and institutional innovations in water conservation.

Prior to coming to Friends of the River, Ron was Executive Director of the Merced Canyon Committee, where he directed the successful effort to obtain Wild and Scenic designation for the Merced River. He is a former member of the Governor's Flood Management Task Force and currently represents Friends of the River on the Sacramento Regional Water Forum. Ron holds a BS degree in Plant Science from UC Davis and he loves to visit and botanize in California's wild places.

ROBERT BEA, PHD, PROFESSOR EMERITUS, CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, UC BERKELEY

Professor Bea has over 48 years of experience in engineering and management of design, construction, maintenance, operation, and decommissioning marine systems including offshore platforms, pipelines, and floating facilities. He has been teaching at the University of California at Berkeley since 1989. He is co-founder of the Center for Catastrophic Risk Management.

BILL CONNELLY, SUPERVISOR, BUTTE COUNTY

I have been a resident of Butte County for 60 years. I have served on the Butte County Board of Supervisors representing District 1, since being elected in 2004. I have been involved with many of the water issues Butte County has faced for the last 14 years. I am involved in levee and flood control improvements, water rights and re-licensing of the Oroville Dam. In addition, I have been a successful small business owner in Oroville for 35 years. With my family history and local experience, I understand the needs and interests of Oroville.