

California's Inland Flood Control System and Emergency Preparedness

Informational Hearing – May 9, 2019

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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

Rachel Ehlers is a Principal Fiscal & 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 over 14 years in a number of policy areas. Her current program assignments are: development and maintenance of water systems, flood management, wildlife and conservation, Delta-related programs, and coastal programs. Ms. Ehlers holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard University.

JOHN PAASCH, CHIEF – HYDROLOGY AND FLOOD OPERATIONS OFFICE, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

John is the Chief of the Hydrology and Flood Operations Office of the Division of Flood Management. John oversees flood operations, snowpack and river forecasting, and regional flood emergency planning actions of the Department of Water Resources. John is a licensed engineer with a Bachelor's Degree in BioResource and Agricultural Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University.

LESLIE GALLAGHER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

Leslie Gallagher has experience on two of California's major water sources, the Colorado River, and the Sacramento/San Joaquin River system. Ms. Gallagher currently serves as the Executive Officer of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, a California state agency charged with regulating the State's vast and complex flood control system in California's Central Valley. A California attorney, Gallagher has held leadership positions with the California State Bar Public Law Executive Committee and Council on State Bar Sections and previously served as the Central Valley Flood Protection Board's first in-house general counsel. Before her tenure with the State, she served as the Assistant General Counsel for the San Diego County Water Authority and as a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Oceanside, California, where she specialized in land use, redevelopment and environmental law. Ms. Gallagher graduated summa cum laude from California State University, Sacramento with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and holds a Juris Doctor from the University of California, Davis, King Hall School of Law.

MEEGAN NAGY, DEPUTY MANAGER, RECLAMATION DISTRICT 108

Mrs. Meegan Nagy, PE has over 20 years' experience practicing as a civil engineer in California. Meegan worked at the Sacramento District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1997-2016. During the first half of her career, she focused on environmental stewardship as an engineer and project manager. Since 2005, her focus has been flood protection and emergency management. As the Sacramento District emergency manager, Meegan managed the response and recovery efforts for the 2005/2006 flood events in the Central Valley and deployed in response to many national disasters including hurricane Katrina. Meegan was the Chief, Flood Protection and Navigation Section and Levee Safety Program Manager where she was responsible for leading the inspections for federal and non-federal flood protection projects and managing review of all

encroachments and alterations to federal flood protection projects. Meegan joined Reclamation District (RD) 108 in January 2017 to serve as a Deputy Manager. Meegan is responsible for leading the RD's flood risk management and habitat restoration initiatives. The responsibilities extend to include both the Knights Landing Ridge Drainage District and the Sacramento River West Side Levee District, encompassing a flood risk management system of approximately 90 miles of rural levees. Meegan graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 1996; and she is a licensed Professional Civil Engineer in the State of California.

MELINDA TERRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Since 2008, Melinda Terry has served as the Executive Director for the California Central Valley Flood Control Association. The Association has over 70 local flood management agencies as members including counties, cities, and levee and reclamation districts with levee maintenance and drainage responsibilities, and was established in 1926 to promote the common interests of these public agencies in maintaining effective flood management systems in California's Central Valley for the protection of life, property, and the environment. Prior to her current position she served as Deputy Secretary for Legislation for the California Resources Agency in the Schwarzenegger Administration; Vice President of Government Affairs for the California Forestry Association; and Legislative Director for Assemblyman Trice Harvey (R-Bakersfield).

CHRISTINA CURRY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR – PLANNING, PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION, CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (CAL OES)

Christina (Tina) Curry's areas of oversight include state-level Planning and Preparedness programs for all hazards, including but not limited to the State of California Emergency Plan, Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance, Radiological/Nuclear preparedness, and the Cal OES Earthquake and Tsunami program. She also oversees Cal OES Training and Exercises, and Hazard Mitigation Planning programs. Tina was appointed Deputy Director for Planning, Preparedness and Prevention in 2013, following appointments as Assistant Director in 2005 and Deputy Director of Preparedness and Training in 2008. Tina has over 25 years of experience in emergency management. Beginning in 1991, Tina worked in the Office's Recovery programs, providing assistance, training and guidance to applicants of disaster assistance programs through numerous state and federal disaster declarations including the Loma Prieta and Northridge earthquakes.

STEVE CANTELME, CHIEF OF EMERGENCY SERVICES, SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Steve Cantelme has been with Sacramento County since July 2011. Prior to joining the County, he worked for the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District for 28 years. He holds a Master's degree in Organizational Management and Communication and a Bachelor's degree in Fire Service Management, both from Sacramento State.