

**JOINT INFORMATIONAL AND OVERSIGHT HEARING OF
ASSEMBLY WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE
AND
THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON URBAN RIVERS AND STREAMS
LEVINE AND GOMEZ, CHAIRS**

**A RISING TIDE OF INNOVATION: WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
IN THE LOS ANGELES WATERSHED**

Speaker's Biographies (in alphabetical order)

Keali'i Bright, Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Natural Resources Agency

Keali'i Bright was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in 2011 as the Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs for Secretary John Laird at the Natural Resources Agency. In this capacity, he leads agency involvement in statewide natural resources and infrastructure legislation, with focused areas of involvement in Salton Sea management, State Parks reform and state bond program implementation. Prior to this position, Mr. Bright served for ten years as a Principal Consultant for the Assembly Budget Committee during which his primary policy assignments were natural resources, environmental protection and transportation.

Rachel Ehlers, Principal Fiscal & 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 nearly 11 years in a number of policy areas. Her current program assignments are: development and maintenance of water systems, flood control, wildlife use and conservation, delta-related programs and coastal programs. Ms. Ehlers holds a B.A. in Psychology from Harvard University.

Esther Feldman, President, Community Conservation Solutions

Esther Feldman is President of Community Conservation Solutions and directs CCS' programs, projects, policy and public finance activities. She spearheaded CCS' successful development of new approaches to regional stormwater capture, including sponsoring new statewide legislation signed into law in 2015. Prior to establishing CCS, she served as L.A. Field Office Director and Director of the National Public Finance Program for the Trust for Public Land, Director of Special Projects for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Chair of the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission. Ms. Feldman has expertise in public finance,

legislation, planning, technical research, water, community outreach, conservation real estate, governmental and public relations and campaigns. Ms. Feldman received her B.S. in Soil and Water Science from UC Davis

Debra Man, Chief Operating Officer, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Debra C. Man is the assistant general manager and chief operating officer for Metropolitan. She is responsible for managing the operational business functions of the district, which include system operations, engineering, planning, and resources management. In this position, one of her primary duties is to implement the Chief Executive Officer's Business Plan and initiatives, as well as, to oversee the application and operational practice of the Board's policies and directives. She brings to her position 20 years of experience at Metropolitan in various aspects of business and water management. A native of Honolulu, Man is a registered professional civil engineer in California and Hawaii who earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Hawaii and a master's degree in civil/environmental engineering from Stanford University.

Dave Pettijohn, Director of Water Resources, Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power

David R. Pettijohn is the Director of Water Resources for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Water System. With over 30 years of water utility experience, Mr. Pettijohn has management oversight for water resource activities including strategic planning, watershed management, conservation, water recycling policy, and local resource development, as well as inter-agency coordination activities and legislative affairs. Mr. Pettijohn is a registered Civil Engineer in the State of California. He currently serves on the Colorado River Board of California. Mr. Pettijohn received his M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Arizona at Tucson.

Max Podemski, Planning Director, Pacoima Beautiful

Max Podemski is the Planning Director for Pacoima Beautiful where he manages a wide range of projects relating to open space and mobility. He was lead author of the Pacoima Wash Vision Plan which outlines how a flood control channel can be converted into a greenway composed of bike and walking lanes as well as open space. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Urban and Environmental Policy from Occidental College and a Master's of Science in Urban Planning from Columbia University.