

14th Annual Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium

Waves of Change: Charting the path for water stewardship in uncertain times



8:00 - 8:45

Registration & Breakfast

8:45 - 9:00

Welcome from the National Wildlife Federation

Jennifer Walker, Director - Texas Coast & Water Program

9:00 - 10:00

CREATING AND MAINTAINING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

Doa Ross, Deputy General Manager of Engineering for Southern Nevada Water Authority

10:00 - 10:15 — Break

10:15 – 11:30

MAXIMIZING WATER RESOURCES – STRATEGIES AND CHALLENGES IN DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

Moderator: Stacy Pandey, Lower Colorado River Authority

Drought Management Tactics to Extend Water Supplies

Michael Murphy, Water Conservation Manager, LCRA

Using 311 Apps for Watering Enforcement During Droughts

Steve Villatoro, Environmental Compliance Supervisor, Austin Water

Challenges of Water Conservation and Irrigation Enforcement

Jason Homan, General Manager, Travis County WCID 17

11:30 – 12:00 PM

¿SE COMPORTÓ EL NIÑO?

John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas State Climatologist, Texas A&M University

12:00 – 1:00 — Lunch & Networking

1:00 - 1:30

THE TEXAS WATER FUND: WATER CONSERVATION, WATER LOSS MITIGATION, AND WATER AWARENESS

Sam Marie Hermitte, Assistant Deputy Executive Director for Water Science and Conservation, Texas Water Development Board

1:30 – 2:15

UNEXPECTED PARTNERS – HOW EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS CAN LEAD TO GREATER WATER SAVINGS

Moderator: Christopher Charles, Austin Water

Rain Catcher Program: Cofunding a Water Customer Incentive Program

Denise Delaney, Environmental Program Manager, Austin Watershed Protection

Expanding Water Conservation through Partnerships

Juan Soulas, Planner IV, San Antonio Water System

Joining Forces for Water Conservation

Emily Morales, Utility Services, City of Round Rock

2:15– 3:00

PANEL DISCUSSION: GETTING A HANDLE ON OUTDOOR WATER USE

Moderator: Karen Guz, San Antonio Water System

Panelists: Kevin Kluge, Austin Water; Andrew Cummings, New Braunfels Utilities; Tiffany Diaz, Georgetown; Kelsey Delgado, Fair Oaks Ranch

3:00 - 3:45

TOUR OF THE AUSTIN CENTRAL LIBRARY ONSITE REUSE SYSTEM

March 19, 2023

Austin Central Library

710 W Cesar Chavez St, Austin, TX 78701

SPEAKERS



Doa Ross is the Deputy General Manager of Engineering for the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Southern Nevada Water Authority. She executes the design and construction of critical water projects that treat and deliver water to both the existing population and support economic development. Ross graduated from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, is a licensed professional engineer and has served on multiple committees and boards for civil engineering projects.



Michael Murphy is the Water Conservation Manager for the Lower Colorado River Authority. He has worked in the water industry for more than 20 years, including international development, startup acceleration, technology innovation, and entrepreneurship. He graduated from Texas State University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and holds an MBA and MA from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies.



John Nielsen-Gammon is a Regents Professor at Texas A&M University, Director of the Southern Regional Climate Center, and was appointed the Texas State Climatologist in 2000. He is now serving a two-year term as President of the American Association of State Climatologists. In addition to teaching, Dr. Nielsen-Gammon conducts research on large-scale and local-scale weather, climate, and air pollution, with a focus on intense rainfall and droughts. He received his Ph.D. from MIT.



Sam Marie Hermitte is the Assistant Deputy Executive Administrator of Water Science & Conservation at the Texas Water Development Board. Her work encompasses strategic planning, legislative analysis and implementation, water data, drought policy and project coordination, and flood priority research projects. She holds a master's degree in public affairs with a portfolio in integrated watershed studies from the University of Texas at Austin.



Emily Morales is a Water Conservation Technician for the City of Round Rock. Her work focuses on outreach, education, and enforcement. She leads the courtesy leak alert program and helps maintain drought restriction enforcement. She also leads 1-on-1 irrigation evaluations and larger public outreach events to help residents save water. Emily has a BS in Environmental Science from Southern New Hampshire University and an AAS in Environmental Technology from Austin Community College.



Karen Guz is the VP of Conservation at San Antonio Water Authority. Her team is responsible for acquiring over one billion gallons of water each year through conservation education, incentives, and reasonable regulation. Karen has a Master of Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She serves on several state and national water committees, and authored the chapter on Water Conservation in the Texas Water Law Handbook.



Tiffany Diaz is the Regulatory & Conservation Manager with the City of Georgetown's Water Utility. Her teams work on a wide range of regulatory compliance projects including development of an Industrial Pretreatment program and LCRR. Diaz has a Master in Public Administration from Morehead State University. She is a current cohort member of the AWWA Transformative Water Leadership Academy and a 2024 recipient of the Water Now Alliance's Emerging Leaders Award.



Kelsey Delgado is the Environmental Program Manager for the City of Fair Oaks Ranch. She oversees all environmental ordinances and programs ranging from Tree Preservation, Drought Contingency, Water Conservation, SWPPP and MS4 permitting. She has received her BS and MS in Environmental Science focusing on Natural Resources and Wildlife Management and Sustainable Development from the University of Texas at San Antonio.



Steve Villatoro is the Environmental Compliance Supervisor for Austin Water's Water Conservation Division. His team is responsible for enforcing water conservation ordinances, including issuing fines, conducting administrative hearings, new irrigation installation inspections, and responding to 311 complaints related to water waste violations. Steve has over 16 years of experience in environmental regulation enforcement.



Jason Homan is the Chief Executive Officer of the Travis County Water Control & Improvement District No. 17. He is responsible for all administrative and operational functions, and administers a general operating fund budget of \$30 million, numerous major construction projects, and a staff of 106 personnel. He has an extensive background in planning, implementing and directing physical plant upgrades, training and managing utility employees, as well as performing utility inspections for regulatory and safety compliance.



Denise Delaney is the Watershed Protection Department's Acting Education Program Manager. Her professional horticultural roots are 40 years deep in Central Texas. She has coordinated the City of Austin Grow Green program since 2004. She was the first Director of Horticulture at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, working closely with Mrs. Johnson during the construction, installation, and development of the original gardens.



Juan Soulas is a Senior Planner who has spent over 17 years in SAWS Conservation. His focus is on residential outdoor water use, where he runs programs that help customers reduce their water use while making their outdoor spaces more beautiful. One of his main duties is to coordinate the outreach efforts of contracted conservation partners to increase community access to vital conservation information.



Kevin Kluge is the Water Conservation Manager at Austin Water, overseeing programs such as incentives, irrigation evaluations, commercial efficiency assessments, and water waste enforcement. Prior to his position with Austin Water, he spent 20 years with the Texas Water Development Board. Kevin holds a Master of Science in Natural Resource Utilization and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.



Andrew Cummings is the Manager of the Conservation and Customer Solutions department at New Braunfels Utilities. He created the "DIY Rain Barrels" presentation and has helped develop educational partnerships between NBU, the City of New Braunfels' Westside Community Center, and the New Braunfels Food Bank. He is a Master Naturalist through the Lindheimer Chapter Master Naturalist program and holds an Irrigators license with the State of Texas.

Notes:

2024 Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium is brought to you by:

