

**California State University Disadvantaged
Communities Center Conference
“Environmental Justice issues within the
Coachella Valley”
July 23, 2015
Palm Desert, CA**



Welcome to the CSUSB Palm Desert

Welcome to the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus

Over twenty-five years ago, Coachella Valley civic leaders began to call for a local public four-year college. The group's efforts led to California State University, San Bernardino establishing a branch campus on the College of the Desert campus. From the beginning, our efforts were to serve local Coachella Valley students with programs that met Coachella Valley needs. In 2002, we moved to our permanent location on Cook Street. We offer our students the resources of a large, comprehensive university through the San Bernardino campus. At the same time, the Palm Desert Campus offers the supportive environment of a small campus with small classes and more opportunities for contact with instructional faculty. The faculty and staff of the Palm Desert Campus are committed to your success, committed to serving the Coachella Valley, and committed to maintaining an environment on campus that honors diversity and provides all students the opportunities to fulfill their dreams of a higher education. Come here, go anywhere!

Welcome,

Dr. Sharon Brown-Welty

Dean, CSUSB Palm Desert Campus

Palm Springs Institute for Environmental Sustainability

The mission of the Palm Springs Institute for Environmental Sustainability (PSIES) is to improve the quality of life in the Coachella Valley through research, education, and advocacy on issues pertaining to environmental sustainability.

In conjunction with PSIES, the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus hosts the Environmental and Sustainability Expo connecting middle and high school students, teachers, university professors, community members and green companies in the Coachella Valley.

WELCOME MESSAGE



Boykin Witherspoon III
Executive Director, WRPI

Dear Conference Attendees:

Welcome to the California State University (CSU) Disadvantaged Communities Center Conference. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to spend the day with us. We're here to demonstrate the capacity of multiple CSU institutes to solve water problems within the Coachella Valley. Today you'll learn about the Palm Springs Institute for Environmental Sustainability, the Water Resources Institute at CSU Palm Desert, the Water Resources and Policy Initiatives, and the Disadvantaged Communities Center with the goal of creating partnerships to improve lives in the Coachella Valley and beyond.

The Palm Springs Institute for Environmental Sustainability aims to improve the quality of life in Coachella, utilizing the power of the CSU and community partners to conduct research, education, and advocacy related to environmental sustainability. The Water Resources Institute at the CSU Palm Desert Campus maintains the Salton Sea Authority's archives of documents so that researchers, students, and the public can explore the history of this unique and important environmental area and learn from lessons of the past. This collection is available through the CSUSB PDC Library to all in a transparent manner and held in perpetuity at the Palm Desert Campus. The Water Resources and Policy Initiatives provides hands-on learning to students and partners with water faculty throughout the entire CSU system. These students may then take the knowledge and skills they've learned and return home to invest in their communities. The Disadvantaged Communities Center is dedicated to bringing technical support and capacity building to disadvantaged communities and will partner with not only the institutes within the CSU, but also California Community Colleges and the University of California. All of these institutes operate with paid CSU internships for our students and strive to empower a new generation of leaders to address our state's profound water issues.

We'd like to acknowledge and recognize the excellent, passionate work of many existing agencies and non-profit organizations in the Coachella Valley and are here to partner with you. The current drought has created unprecedented problems, but also offers the opportunity for unprecedented partnerships. We are looking to you to identify the most pressing issues so that we can work to solve the problems in the Coachella Valley together.

I encourage you to take advantage of this event by networking and looking for ways to collaborate with old and new colleagues as we work together to solve California's water problems and help lead us to a sustainable future.

I hope you enjoy the conference, and I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Boykin Witherspoon III', written over a horizontal line.

Boykin Witherspoon III

The California State University Disadvantaged Communities Center

<http://www.calstate.edu/water/disadvantage.shtml>

Vision

The Water Resources and Policy Initiatives and its partners are forming the Disadvantaged Communities Center (DACC), a new California State University (CSU) institute dedicated to supporting water-related technical assistance and capacity building in disadvantaged communities (DACs) throughout California. The CSU Chancellor's Office has approved of the establishment of this system-wide institute that will focus on providing technical, financial, managerial, and organizational assistance to DACs.

Pillars

Student-Centered Learning

The DACC will provide experiential learning opportunities for the students of the California Public Higher Education System including California Community Colleges (CCC), California State University (CSU), and University of California (UC) systems. Experiential learning opportunities are a proven method to increase retention and performance in college, especially for underrepresented populations. The DACC will track all student participants' persistence and performance in major, as well as their pathway progress through the CCC, CSU, and UC systems and to employment. Many of the participating students come from these DACs, and the ability to put these students back into their communities to solve real problems is invaluable to the resiliency of the students, the communities, and to California.

Partnerships

We will be engaging with partners from industry, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and academia. In collaboration with the expertise of our industry and NGO partners, faculty and student research teams will be recruited across the California Public Higher Education system to engage in identifying and implementing solutions to the various water issues each DAC faces.

These academic research teams will represent expertise from various fields—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEMS), political science, business, and design to name a few. Student recruitment will be accomplished by the academic support programs Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA), College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), and Latino Education and Advocacy Days (LEAD).

Team Embedding

DACC assistance teams will consist of faculty, students, and DACC staff. These teams will be embedded in DACs for the time necessary to complete identified projects, a period of commitment by the DACC that may span several years—though students will typically rotate through projects on an academic year basis. By embedding the teams for periods of time encompassing specific DAC projects, the success of the technology transfer should be greatly enhanced and relationships can be developed based on trust and performance.

Observations and Measurements

A key aspect of the DACC will be developing and refining the body of knowledge regarding California DACs. While the primary goal of the DACC is to provide technical assistance for developing safe drinking water supplies and wastewater disposal for DACs, the DACC will also explore other opportunities benefiting DACs such as refining—in an academically rigorous manner—existing indices such as CalEPA's CalEnviroScreen 2.0 and developing and combining multiple community data sources including public health, education outcomes, and other quality of life indicators. One of the goals of this activity will be to help the State determine the effectiveness of the substantial investments in these communities. The DACC will be able to re-measure and re-observe DACs after investments are made to help determine the changes in the community after the investment.

Palm Springs Institute for Environmental Sustainability

<http://psies.csusb.edu>

Mission

The mission of the Palm Springs Institute for Environmental Sustainability is to improve the quality of life in the Coachella Valley through research, education, and advocacy on issues pertaining to environmental sustainability.

Vision

The Palm Springs Institute for Environmental Sustainability will be the premier community partnership for providing research data, consumer information, and practical recommendations regarding quality of life through environmental sustainability in the Coachella Valley.

Primary Goals

- Procure funding for air quality monitoring
- Expand on current educational outreach to public schools
- Prioritize environmental factors that negatively affect quality of life in Coachella Valley
- Present a public awareness workshop to emphasize the five major areas in the IES proposal
- Include more community members and/or leaders in IES planning
- Emphasize the effect of air quality on human health
- Avoid duplication and emphasize collaboration among environmental entities in Coachella Valley
- Emphasize public outreach

Water Resources Institute, Palm Desert

<http://wripdc.csusb.edu/>

Mission

The Water Resources Institute has developed a special collection of water data archives for the Salton Sea watershed, housed on the Cal State University campus at Palm Desert. With strong support from the Salton Sea Authority (SSA), the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and Cal State University, this collection is maintained in perpetuity by an on-site professional archivist. It is modeled on the highly successful WRI Santa Ana Watershed collection currently housed the Cal State San Bernardino campus and is used by students and faculty for research as well as by local water agencies, regulators, and law firms.

The CSUSB Palm Desert Campus is the only accredited four-year, degree-granting university in the Salton Sea watershed and has contributed substantial resources to developing this special collection based on the SSA records. This data can be searched through internet map servers which ensure the greatest level of access by stakeholders. The WRI archivist is tasked with collecting and cataloging data, helping members and stakeholders access and use the data, as well as performing geospatial analysis on the data with input from the technical working group.

Looking toward the future, the WRI at Palm Desert is proposing to assist the Salton Sea Authority in the development of a special GIS-based collection at the CSUSB PD library; this would include the formation and facilitation of a member agency technical working group that will meet periodically to help identify data sources and to give direction to WRI staff on administrative and technical issues pertaining to the collection. The Water Resources Institute is excited to offer this collection and associated services to those interested in the Salton Sea watershed and we look forward to working with you.

CSU Disadvantaged Communities Center Conference

“Environmental Justice issues within the Coachella Valley”

Agenda

July 23, 2015

CSUSB Palm Desert Campus, Palm Desert, CA

8:30 am	Breakfast	
9:00 am	Opening	Dr. Tomás D. Morales CSU San Bernardino President
9:10 am	Welcome	Susan Marie Weber, Palm Desert Mayor
9:20 am	Palm Desert Campus & Programs Overview	Dr. Sharon Brown-Welty, CSU Palm Desert Campus Dean
9:30 am	CSU Water Resources and Policy Initiatives & Proposed Disadvantaged Communities Center	Boykin Witherspoon, III CSU Water Resources and Policy Initiatives (WRPI)
9:40am	Break	
9:50 am	Panel <i>Environmental Justice challenges in the Coachella Valley</i>	<u>Moderator:</u> Maria Kennedy, WRPI <u>Panelists:</u> Dr. Bob Phalen, Environmental Health Sciences CSU Palm Desert Campus Dr. Jenna LeComte-Hinley, Chief Executive Officer, HARC, Inc. Dr. Philip M. Fine Deputy Executive Officer, South Coast AQMD Dr. Ryan G. Sinclair, Public Health, Loma Linda University Cástulo Estrada, Coachella Valley Water District Board
10:45 am	Break	

CSU DACC Conference Agenda

-Continued-

10:55 am	Panel <i>The impacts of the shrinking Salton Sea</i>	<u>Moderator:</u> Roger Shintaku, General Manager, Salton Sea Authority <u>Panelists:</u> Dr. Jim Noblet, Chemistry, CSU San Bernardino Jessica Lovecchio, Environmental Specialist, Imperial Irrigation District Phil Rosentrater, Deputy Director, Economic Development Agency of Riverside County Eduardo Garcia, Assemblymember, AD 56 Juan Murillo, Archivist Assistant, Water Resources Institute, CSU Palm Desert Campus
12:00 pm	Lunch	RG-205 (up main staircase on 2 nd floor)
1:00 pm	Panel <i>Tribal perspectives on the cultural uses of water in the Coachella Valley</i>	<u>Moderator:</u> Dr. Tom Long, History CSU San Bernardino <u>Panelists:</u> Guadalupe Valdivia, Youth Service Specialist, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Shawn Muir, Environmental Specialist, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians Anthony Madrigal, Tribal Grants Administrator & Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
2:00 pm	Break	
2:30pm	Presentations <i>Refinement of CalEnviroScreen mapping of disadvantaged communities</i> <i>Small community water systems</i>	Dr. Mathew Schmidlein Geography, Sacramento State Dr. Stuart Styles, Engineering, Cal Poly SLO
3:00 pm	Conspectus	Boykin Witherspoon, WRPI
3:20pm	Adjourn	

GUEST SPEAKERS



Dr. Tomas D. Morales

President, CSU San Bernardino
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Tomás D. Morales was selected as the president of California State University, San Bernardino in May 2012. He is the university's fourth president since it opened in 1965. Previously, Dr. Morales was President of the College of Staten Island, The City University of New York (CUNY), since 2007.

From 2001 to 2007, Morales served in various capacities at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, including Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Student Affairs, and professor of education. While at Cal Poly Pomona, he established the Kellogg Honors College, realigned the division of Academic Affairs and played a key role in completing a \$23 million expansion of the Bronco Student Center.

Prior to joining Pomona, Morales was Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at The City College of New York/CUNY from 1994 to 2001. From 1992 to 1994, Morales was Assistant Dean of the School of Education at the State University of New York (SUNY), New Paltz.

He holds a B.A. in history from SUNY, New Paltz, and earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in educational administration and policy studies from SUNY, Albany. Having served as an educator and administrative leader in higher education for more than 39 years, he is one of the few higher education administrators in the United States who has held senior administrative positions at the three largest public university systems in the nation: The California State University, The State University of New York, and The City University of New York.

On a national level, Morales serves as the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and as a member of the Board of the American Council on Education.

Tomás and his wife Evy have been married for 42 years. They have three grown children (sons Thomas and Omar Morales, daughter Amanda Jimenez) and three grandchildren (Isabella Rose Morales, Sophia Lily Morales and Danica Noelle Jimenez).



Susan Marie Weber

Mayor, City of Palm Desert
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Palm Desert, CA 93740

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cityhall@cityofpalmdesert.org

Susan Marie Weber grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico and attended the University of New Mexico, where she majored in education. She holds an Associate of Arts degree in Business from College of the Desert and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, with a focus on computers and operating systems, from California State University, San Bernardino.

Susan Marie has a long history of involvement with the Coachella Valley business community that goes back to 1972 when she was co-owner of the Corvina Marina, a recreational business on the Salton Sea.

Since 1980, Susan Marie has provided accounting services through her business, Management Essentials, to a wide variety of local clients including architectural firms, country clubs, development companies, nurseries, medical firms, individuals, and government agencies.

For six years, Susan Marie taught Small Business Bookkeeping at College of the Desert. Since 2011, she has been the Accounting-Evening instructor at Milan Institute, Palm Desert. No stranger to community involvement, Susan Marie was a Board Member of the Palm Desert High School Foundation from 1987 to 1994. She is a past board member of Soroptimists International, NAWBO, Friends of the Indio Senior Center and Rotary Club of Palm Desert.

In 2000, Susan Marie was part of a committee that put together National Constitution Day, to educate the public, especially children, about the United States Constitution.

She continues to be active in Toastmasters and with the Palm Desert Rotary Club – which named her its Rotarian of the Year in 2010. Susan Marie also serves on the Board of the Historical Society of Palm Desert and provides volunteer notary services to seniors at the Joslyn Center.

SPEAKERS



Dr. Sharon Brown-Welty

Dean, CSU Palm Desert Campus
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Sharon Brown-Welty is the Dean of Cal State San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus. Brown-Welty, who joined Fresno State in 1993, served in a number of positions there, including as Dean of Graduate Studies, Department Chair of Educational Research and Administration, and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. Prior to arriving at Fresno State, she served at Indiana University of Pennsylvania as the Assistant Provost, the Associate Provost, and as the Assistant to the Vice President for Finance.

Brown-Welty has been published in a number of professional education journals and periodicals. She is also the author of a number of book chapters on educational leadership and has served as an editor and reviewer for professional education publications. She has also made many major presentations on educational leadership.

Working as a consultant in education for a number of public elementary and secondary schools, Brown-Welty also has served on and taken leadership roles for many Fresno State, California State University, and national committees and organizations, including the CSU Advisory Board on Education Doctorates and the Carnegie Projects on Education Doctorates.

She is a member of the American Evaluation Association, the American Educational Research Association, and has been a member of the American Association of Higher Education and the California Association of Professors of Education Administration.

Brown-Welty was initiated into Phi Kappa Phi for significant contributions made toward the promotion of academic excellence at Fresno State. Recently she received a Top Ten Women of the Year in Fresno honor, the Leadership Fresno Outstanding Alumni Award as well as the Richter Award for Leadership, and the Provost Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentoring.

Brown-Welty has a bachelor's and a master's degree in business administration from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and an educational doctorate in higher education administration and policy studies from the University of Pittsburgh.



Boykin Witherspoon III

Executive Director, WRPI, CSU San Bernardino
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Mr. Witherspoon serves as the Executive Director of the WRPI as well as the Director of Programs for the Water Resources Institute at CSU San Bernardino. His experience includes the administration of all aspects of management including program management, strategic planning and budgeting, training and publications efforts, hiring and supervision of staff, and development and oversight of contracts and grants. He acts as a liaison with community and faculty advisory boards and handles promotion with community, universities, and industry. He promotes the capacity of the CSU system and builds partnerships for addressing serious water issues, leveraging over 250 faculty and 22 water-centric institutes. Additionally, Mr. Witherspoon is a focused problem solver with international project management experience developing GIS applications in addition to applications and software for sustainable landscape architectural planning and design.

MODERATORS



Maria Kennedy

Consultant, WRPI CSU San Bernardino
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Maria Elena Kennedy has worked on behalf of disadvantaged communities for many years. Maria's work encompasses helping disadvantaged communities find the resources they need to improve their lives. These resources can include helping these communities navigate the often-complex systems of financial assistance that are available to them as well as helping them steer through complex regulatory, political and policy arenas. Currently, Maria is working with the WRPI as an advisor on disadvantaged communities.



Roger Shintaku

General Manager, Salton Sea Authority
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Roger Shintaku is the General Manager of the Salton Sea Authority, a joint powers authority consisting of the following members: Imperial County, Riverside County, Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District, and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. Mr. Shintaku is a Registered Civil Engineer and is responsible for coordinating Salton Sea restoration activities by the Authority's member agencies. He has over 30 years of public agency and private sector experience in water resources planning and development. Prior to joining the Authority, he was a partner in a Riverside County area civil engineering consulting firm.



Dr. Tom Long

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Thomas Long, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of History at California State University, San Bernardino and the 2015 recipient of the Golden Apple Award for Teaching Excellence. He is the author of "Daily Life in the California Gold Rush" and works in museum studies, archival practices, California Indian history, and US Constitutional history. He works closely with a number of local Native American tribes and facilitates internships with students, giving them real world and academic experience. Dr. Long earned his bachelor's degree from Sonoma State, master's degree from Cal State Fullerton, and Ph.D. from UC Riverside.

PANELISTS



Dr. Bob Phalen

Environmental Health Sciences, CSUSB Palm Desert
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Robert N. Phalen, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Environmental Health Sciences at California State University San Bernardino. He is the Director of the Palm Springs Institute for Environmental Sustainability, an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents of Coachella Valley, California and other desert communities. Dr. Phalen received his doctoral degree in Environmental Health Sciences from University of California, Los Angeles. His primary areas of research include air quality, environmental monitoring (air and water), pesticides, personal protective equipment, and ergonomics. He is currently conducting research on air and water pollution issues within the Southern California region. Dr. Phalen is a co-author of the book *Air Pollution Science: A Public Health Perspective*.



Dr. Jenna LeComte-Hinley

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Dr. Jenna LeComte-Hinley is the Chief Executive Officer at HARC, Inc. (Health Assessment and Research for Communities). In this capacity, Dr. LeComte-Hinley oversees and conducts a wide range of research and evaluation services, including program evaluation, needs assessments, and representative community health assessments. Dr. LeComte-Hinley previously held the role of Director of Research and Evaluation at HARC before becoming CEO. Dr. LeComte-Hinley obtained her doctorate from Portland State University in the field of Applied Psychology. Her expertise is in the area of Occupational Health Psychology, which aims to keep workers healthy, happy, and productive. Dr. LeComte-Hinley has previously conducted research and evaluation in a wide range of fields, including health, well-being, work-life balance, supportive supervision in the workplace, green business, professional network development, gender discrimination, leadership, and informal science education.



Dr. Philip M. Fine

Deputy Executive Officer, South Coast Air Quality Management District
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Dr. Philip Fine is the Deputy Executive Officer for the Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources Division at the South Coast AQMD. In this role, Dr. Fine oversees all activities of the Division, including development of State Implementation Plans and the Air Quality Management Plan, strategies and rules for air pollution control, meteorology and forecasting, air quality evaluation, air toxics risk assessment, emissions inventories, transportation programs, and enforcement for area sources. Dr. Fine serves as SCAQMD's member for the California Air Resources Board legislatively mandated Research Screening Committee. Prior to his recent positions, Dr. Fine's responsibilities included oversight of ambient air monitoring, laboratory services, quality assurance, and source testing. Prior to joining the SCAQMD, Dr. Fine was a Research Assistant Professor at USC. He received his Ph.D. from California Institute of Technology in Environmental Engineering Science, and his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science & Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.



Dr. Ryan G. Sinclair

Assistant Professor of Environmental Microbiology, Loma Linda University
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Dr. Ryan G. Sinclair is an Assistant Professor in the Center for Community Resilience at the Loma Linda University School of Public Health. He is an environmental microbiologist who has projects in wastewater, stormwater, household hygiene, and food safety. His projects use a citizen science approach with community organizations in the Coachella Valley and other areas of Southern California. Dr. Sinclair worked as a post-doc in the National Research Council Associateship program, then research scientist at the University of Arizona Water Village. He has a PhD in water quality from Tulane University, a Master of Public Health from Loma Linda University, and a Bachelor's degree in Zoology from Brigham Young University.

PANELISTS

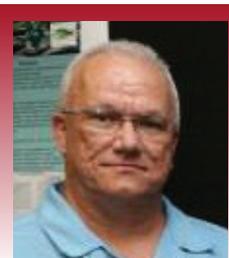


Cástulo Estrada

Coachella Valley Water District Board
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Cástulo R. Estrada was elected to a four-year term on the board in 2014. He is an Engineer-in-Training with the City of Coachella, working toward obtaining his Professional Engineer's (PE) license. The native of the Eastern Coachella Valley, a graduate of Coachella Valley High School, has a civil engineering degree from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He is certified by the state Department of Health as a Water Treatment Operator Grade T2 and Water Distribution Operator Grade D2. Cástulo is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties Branch, Newsletter Editor for the Younger Member Forum, and a member of the California Water Environment Association, Colorado River Basin Section, which honored him in 2014 with its Outstanding Young Professional award.



Dr. Jim Noblet

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James A. Noblet, PhD, is a Professor of Environmental and Analytical Chemistry at CSU San Bernardino, and Director of the CSUSB Water Quality Laboratory. Prior to joining CSUSB, he was a senior research scientist at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority. In the past, he has participated in several regional research studies involving such diverse issues as pesticides in the San Joaquin Valley waters, stormwater contaminants, water treatment, sources of bacterial pollution to Southern California beaches, and bioaccumulation of contaminants by marine organisms. He has over 20 years of experience in water quality, trace organic and trace metal analyses.



Jessica Lovecchio

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Jessica Lovecchio, a transplant to the Imperial Valley from San Diego at a young age, graduated with a B.S. in Geology from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2008. After returning home, she started working for the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) on the Habitat Conservation Plan Implementation Team. Her projects focused mostly on the monitoring and avoidance programs for burrowing owls, desert pupfish, and the Managed Marsh Complex. Her interest in management initiated earning her master's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Environmental Management in 2013. Her responsibilities have since expanded to include on-the-ground monitoring of air quality, continued burrowing owl and desert pupfish monitoring, and the Salton Sea Restoration & Renewable Energy Initiative. Lovecchio is also active in the community, as a past swim coach and small animal project leader for 4-H.



Phil Rosentrater

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Phil Rosentrater has been appointed to serve as the General Manager/Executive Director for the Salton Sea Authority, effective July 31, 2015. Phil previously provided advocacy support in addition to other duties at the Economic Development Agency but is now shifting his full focus to the Sea. Phil will remain employed as Deputy Director of the Riverside County EDA, where he is responsible for the Energy Division in addition to his Salton Sea duties. Phil has provided direction for the EDA Divisions of Aviation, Office of Foreign Trade, Office of Film & Television, Economic Development, Business Solutions, and EDA Marketing. Before joining EDA, Phil served as External Affairs Director for Western Municipal Water District and has served on the state legislative committees for the Groundwater Resources Association, Association of California Water Agencies, California Special Districts Association, and California Association of Sanitation Agencies. He has also served on the Legislative Task Force for the Southern California Water Committee, and is a founder of the California Groundwater Coalition, having served on its legislative committee and also with the Association of Ground Water Agencies. He holds a BA in Communications with major academic studies in Political Science and Chemistry. Prior to working for Western, Phil served as President of PR & Associates.

PANELISTS



Eduardo Garcia

Assemblymember, AD 56
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Eduardo Garcia proudly represents California's 56th Assembly District. In December of 2014 Garcia was appointed to chair the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy. In March of 2015 Garcia was appointed to chair the Select Committee on Renewable Energy Development and Restoration of the Salton Sea. He and the select committee will examine the opportunities and challenges surrounding development of renewable energy projects and the implementation of environmental restoration plans of the area. Garcia was first elected to the Coachella City Council in November 2004. In 2006 he became Coachella's first elected Mayor. Under his leadership, the city transformed into an emerging economic and cultural center. Garcia's administration set a strong foundation for the city's growth by renovating the city's parks; expanding green space; building, repairing and resurfacing streets; and revitalizing the city's downtown district. A graduate of local public schools, Garcia attended Coachella Valley High School and the UC Riverside. He also completed the "Senior Executives in State and Local Government" Public Administration program from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and earned a Master's Degree from the USC School of Policy, Planning and Development.



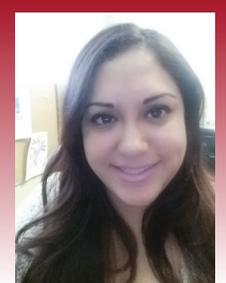
Juan Murillo

Archivist Assistant, Water Resources Institute Palm Desert
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Juan Murillo is originally from the City of Coachella, and grew up picking grapes every summer. He began his freshman year at CSU San Bernardino as a History Teaching Track student but later decided to change tracks within the History program and switched to Public & Oral History, where he found a variety of ways to make history accessible to others. He has worked as an English and math tutor for migrant students in the Coachella Valley. In March, 2014, he began an internship with the Water Resources Institute as a Student Archivist for the Salton Sea Project at CSUSB's Palm Desert Campus. Soon after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Public & Oral History, he was offered the Archivist position for the Salton Sea Repository at CSUSB, Palm Desert Campus.



Guadalupe Valdivia

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Before coming to live at the Coachella Valley, Guadalupe Valdivia was a McNair Scholars Program Coordinator at California State University, San Bernardino. She was also a former health scholar for the Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions Program. Guadalupe volunteers at several non-profits, has obtained training and conducted research on the topics related to health and educational disparities. Guadalupe is now a doctoral student in the Educational Leadership Program at CSUSB and she is a Youth Service Specialist at Torres Martinez Tribal-Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Her goal is to prepare the next generation of tribal leaders by creating culturally sensitive programs that embrace education, character development, and leadership skills. She created the "Agents of Change for Social Justice" Program with the goal of empowering Native youth to work towards improving the Torres Martinez Nation by taking action in community issues.



Shawn Muir

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Mrs. Muir joined Twenty-Nine Palms Tribal EPA in 2010 as an Environmental Scientist. Her education in the field of biology and her laboratory skills have contributed to the Tribal EPA laboratory's capabilities. After executing a superfund research and development project in coordination with UC San Diego scientists, she focused on operating the Tribal environmental programs including water pollution prevention, nonpoint source, solid and hazardous waste management, food safety, endangered species, public health and Brownfields. As an Environmental Specialist, Mrs. Muir currently manages surface and ground water sampling events, analytical laboratory activities, the Tribal desert tortoise awareness program, public health inspections, data analysis, and compliance reporting. She also conducts environmental planning, grant writing, and program development. In addition, she coordinates Tribal environmental efforts with multiple federal, state, and regional agencies to protect human and environmental health on the Reservation.

PANELISTS



Anthony Madrigal, Jr.

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Mr. Madrigal joined the Twenty-Nine Palms Tribal EPA in August 2008 as an Environmental Scientist and Cultural Resources Specialist. His previous experience as the Environmental Director for the Cahuilla Band of Indians brought valuable insight to Twenty-Nine Palms Tribal EPA. Mr. Madrigal has been involved in multiple projects of the Tribal EPA including surface and ground water sampling, water quality analysis, GPS, GIS and compliance reporting. He has also overseen the execution of multiple cultural and environmental studies on the Reservation. In addition, Mr. Madrigal was designated the Tribal Emergency Response Manager (ERM) in 2011. As the ERM, Mr. Madrigal facilitated and chaired the Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) to oversee emergency preparedness on the Twenty-Nine Palms Reservation. He also developed and implemented the Tribal Emergency Response Plan. In 2012, Mr. Madrigal was designated the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), following his work which allowed the Tribe to assume responsibility (previously delegated to the California Historic Preservation Office) to ensure the National Historic Preservation Act is applied and enforced on the Reservation and within the Tribe's traditional use territory. In his most recent appointment as Tribal Grants Administrator in 2013, Mr. Madrigal has been assigned all grant management and writing responsibilities for the Tribe.



Dr. Mathew Schmidlein

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Mathew Schmidlein is an Associate Professor of Geography at California State University, Sacramento. He received his PhD from the University of South Carolina in 2008. His main research focuses on modeling social vulnerability to natural hazards. This involves identifying disadvantaged communities and their locations relative to potential hazard impact areas. He has published over 20 reports and peer-reviewed papers assessing, developing, and applying methods for identifying disadvantaged/vulnerable communities in both natural hazards and public health contexts.



Dr. Stuart Styles

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Stuart Styles is Director of the Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC) and Professor in BioResource and Ag Engineering at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) and is also a professor in the Cal Poly BioResource and Agricultural Engineering Department. He teaches water resources classes for Cal Poly and numerous short courses for irrigation professionals through the ITRC. His current research interests include flow measurement technologies, irrigation system performance and irrigation modernization. Dr. Styles has three decades of field experience in irrigation as a consultant and engineer. He has a Doctorate in Engineering from UC Davis.

Thank you for attending today.
We hope this conference provided you with valuable
information and connections with colleagues.
Special thanks to the DACC Conference Planning Team!

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