

Water Education Foundation's

# Water 101 Workshop: The Basics & Beyond

## Speaker Biographies

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### **Jenn Bowles, Executive Director, Water Education Foundation**

Jenn Bowles was named Executive Director of the Water Education Foundation in March 2014. A veteran journalist, she started her career as a reporter and editor at The Associated Press in the Los Angeles bureau for 10 years. She later became the environmental reporter at The Press-Enterprise in Riverside, garnering awards for her coverage of water issues in California during a nine-year stint. She joined Best Best & Krieger LLP in 2009 where she worked as a writer and communications strategist with some of the state's leading water law attorneys. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism and history from the University of Southern California and completed a year-long Scripps Fellowship in Environmental Journalism at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

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### **Thomas Harter, Professor of Water Resources, University of California, Davis**

Thomas Harter joined the faculty at the Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources at University of California, Davis in 1995. His research focuses on nonpoint-source pollution of groundwater, groundwater resources evaluation under uncertainty, groundwater modeling and contaminant transport. Harter's research group has done extensive modeling, laboratory and field work to evaluate the impacts of agriculture and human activity on groundwater flow and contaminant transport in complex aquifer and soil systems. Dr. Harter holds the Nora S. Gustavsson Endowed Professorship for Groundwater Resources in Agriculture, is a Distinguished Professor & Distinguished Professor of Cooperative Extension and is Chair of the Hydrologic Sciences Graduate Group. He has a bachelor's degree in hydrology from the University of Freiburg, Germany and a master's degree in hydrology from the University of Stuttgart, Germany. He received his doctorate in hydrology at the University of Arizona.

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**Jennifer L. Harder, *Professor of Law, Legal Practice, McGeorge School of Law***

Jennifer L. Harder is a professor at University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento where she serves as co-director of the JD Water & Environmental Law Concentration and Faculty Director for Online Learning, serving as faculty liaison to McGeorge's online graduate degree programs in water and government. Professor Harder is co-author of a water law casebook, *Cases & Materials on Water Law* (10<sup>th</sup> ed. 2020) and editor-in-chief for *Environmental Law News*, a biannual publication of the Environmental Law Section at the California Lawyers Association. In 2023-24, Professor Harder is serving as PPIC-Cal Trout Ecosystem Fellow with the Public Policy Institute of California, focusing on climate-smart protection of California's freshwater ecosystems. Prior to entering academia, Professor Harder served as a law clerk to Justice Alexander O. Bryner of the Alaska Supreme Court and as an attorney and partner with a Sacramento law firm, practicing water and public agency law. She is a proud 2003 alumna of the Water Education Foundation's Water Leaders program.

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**Holly Roberson, *Shareholder, Kronick Moskowitz Tiedemann & Girard***

Holly Roberson is a shareholder at Kronick Moskowitz Tiedemann & Girard, where she represents government entities, including sovereign Native American governments, state agencies, cities, counties, water districts and special districts, in the areas of tribal law, natural resources law, and water law. Her practice focuses on environmental law and policy, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) land use, water, climate change, tribal cultural resources protection and renewable energy. She has experience working with environmental laws on the national, state and local level. She possesses special expertise in tribal cultural resources, CEQA (AB 52), water and land use, TCR protection and NAGPRA/CalNAGPRA compliance. Her work on behalf of several Native American tribes has included consultation, facilitation, mediation and negotiation. She regularly provides technical assistance and training to large and small public agencies, the private sector and tribal governments throughout the state. She has previously served as land use counsel at the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research and has worked at a large AmLaw 100 international law firm and a prominent boutique law firm specializing in CEQA.

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**Pablo Garza, Chief Consultant, California State Assembly,  
Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife**

Pablo Garza is the chief consultant for the Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife in the State Assembly, where he oversees analysis of legislation, works to identify relevant policy issues for further investigation through informational/oversight hearings and advises the committee chair on policy issues related to the committee's jurisdiction. He has more than 20 years' experience working in and around the California State Legislature. Prior to becoming chief consultant, he advocated on natural resource and water policy issues on behalf of Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) as political director for its California Ecosystems Program and before that, as the associate director, state policy & external affairs for The Nature Conservancy (TNC). He formerly served on the Board of Directors for the Water Education Foundation. He holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of California, Davis and a master's degree in Latin American studies from the University of California, Los Angeles.

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**Jeff Mount, Senior Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California, Water Policy Center**

Jeffrey Mount is a senior fellow at the PPIC Water Policy Center. He is an emeritus professor of earth and planetary sciences and founding director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at the University of California, Davis. A geomorphologist who specializes in the study of rivers, streams, and wetlands, his research focuses on integrated water resource management, flood management and improving aquatic ecosystem health. He has served on many state and federal boards and commissions that address water resource management issues in the West. He has published more than a hundred articles, books and other publications, including the seminal book *California Rivers and Streams* (UC Press). He holds a PhD and MS in earth sciences from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

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**Nick Gray, Programs Director, Water Education Foundation**

Nick Gray directs the Foundation's many in-person workshops, conferences and one of the most popular programs – water tours. He plans, coordinates and implements tours of key water regions and topics across California and the Southwest, bringing attendees up close to dams and other water infrastructure, wildlife areas, farms and other sites involved in water. Before joining the Foundation in the summer of 2018, he spent 15 years involved in formal and informal science education as a teacher in the classroom and as the education director of a science museum. Since coming to the Sacramento area a decade ago, he has also been involved with regional science communication organizations, including Capital Science Communicators. He has an undergraduate degree in biology from the University of Dayton.

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