



WATER EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

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ANNUAL
REPORT
2022



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WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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The mission of the Water Education Foundation is to inspire understanding of water and catalyze critical conversations to build bridges and inform collaborative decision-making.



Executive Director Jenn Bowles with the late Mike Chrisman, president of the Foundation's board.



Jenn and Pat Mulroy, former Southern Nevada Water Authority general manager who delivered the keynote address at our Colorado River Symposium.



Jenn with State Water Resources Control Board Chair Joaquin Esquivel and Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot.



Jenn with Martha Guzman, EPA Region 9 administrator and a Water Leader alum.



Jenn and Board Member Bart Fisher, a Palo Verde Valley farmer, during a stop on our Lower Colorado River Tour.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION,

As the global pandemic began to wane in early 2022, we returned, albeit cautiously, to hosting in-person events and tours, expanding our programs across the West and launching new types of educational formats.

We also celebrated the 25th anniversary of our popular Water Leaders program in California with a picnic-style reunion along the American River for all classes dating back to the beginning in 1997. One of our star alums, Martha Guzman, now the director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 9, served as our keynote speaker. It was a fun and relaxing time for everyone to reconnect from their different corners of the water world.

Speaking of Water Leaders, we had for the past couple of years pondered expanding our program to the Colorado River Basin, already the subject of our educational efforts with tours, maps, layperson's guides and more. The stars aligned in 2022 as the 100th anniversary of the Colorado River Compact gave us a great reason to launch our inaugural Colorado River Water Leaders program. Our first cohort ended their program at our invite-only Colorado River Symposium by offering some great recommendations on how to approach shaping new river operating guidelines expected to be in place post-2026. Our writing team, meanwhile, unveiled our first story map, providing an online and interactive exploration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the hub of California's major water infrastructure and an important ecological and agricultural region.

While we had much to celebrate in 2022, we lost our beloved Board President, Mike Chrisman, former Natural Resources secretary for California. Mike's father, Jack Chrisman, had been our first board president in 1977, so Mike completed the water cycle by becoming our president in 2020. He passed away in October, capping a tragic year in which we lost another former board president and three former board members.

I first met Mike when I was a journalist covering water and environmental issues in Southern California, but I was unaware of his connection to the Foundation when I first accepted the job in 2014. I learned about it soon after and we connected. He became a mentor whose advice I took to heart and I have missed him dearly.

Journalists have led the Foundation pretty much since it began, as its impartiality is paramount. I worked for The Associated Press in Los Angeles and at a newspaper while my predecessor, Rita Schmidt Sudman, worked as a television and radio reporter and producer. Thus, it was quite the honor in the fall of 2022 to bestow our first award in Rita's name for excellence in water journalism to a reporter who illuminates complicated water issues in California and the West.

You can learn who got the award and more about everything noted here on the pages that follow.

As always, a huge thank you to our supporters. You helped us through the pandemic and continue to help us carry out our mission. We are grateful!

IMPACT IN 2022

WEBSITE **1,032,706** PAGEVIEWS

EMAIL NEWSLETTER **11,591** SUBSCRIBERS

SOCIAL MEDIA **12,537** FOLLOWERS

PROJECT WET **44** WORKSHOPS

763 EDUCATORS

95,172 STUDENTS

WATER LEADERS **33** PROFESSIONALS

491 GRADUATES

EVENTS **570** PARTICIPANTS

TOURS **7**

3,163 MILES

308 PARTICIPANTS



Our popular Bay-Delta Tour wraps up the trip with a hike to a point overlooking Suisun Marsh.



Participants on our Central Valley Tour learn about the importance of water for birds and wildlife during a stop at San Luis National Wildlife Refuge in the San Joaquin Valley.



Farmer Peter Nelson discusses on-farm water conservation in the Coachella Valley during the Lower Colorado River Tour.



Members of the 2022 California Water Leaders cohort held a workday at the Foundation's offices in Sacramento.



Teachers get out on the Cosumnes River near Sacramento during a Project WET workshop.



Our Northern California Tour took in Shasta Dam, a key part of the federal Central Valley Project.



Teachers who attended Project WET workshops got a chance to explore the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta during a special one-day tour in October, which included a stop at Big Break Regional Shoreline in Oakley, Calif.



Executive Director Jenn Bowles showcases some of the Foundation's maps at our Water 101 Workshop at McGeorge School of Law.



Tina Cannon Leahy, an attorney with the State Water Resources Control Board, answers questions during a presentation at our Water 101 Workshop at McGeorge School of Law.



A Water 101 participant waits to ask a question of one of the workshop presenters.



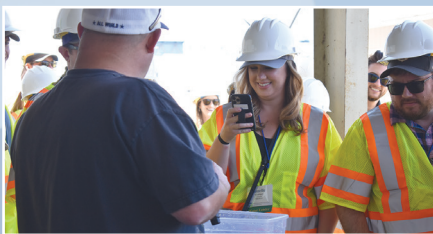
Foundation publications, like our Layperson's Guide to California Water (pictured here), are among the resources shared with participants at our events and tours.



Participants on the Lower Colorado River Tour pose for a group photo beneath Hoover Dam, always a tour highlight.



Foundation board member Brian Golding with the Quechan Indian Tribe explains habitat restoration efforts on the Lower Colorado River Tour.



Participants on our Bay-Delta tour get an up-close look at Delta smelt during a stop at the UC Davis Fish Conservation & Culture Lab.



A U.S. Geological Survey scientist Michelle Sneed explains how land subsidence is monitored to our Central Valley Tour.



Farmer Joe Del Bosque discusses farming and water with our Central Valley Tour.

TOURS

Water Education Foundation tours are praised for being balanced, thorough and fun, and we entered 2022 with a full schedule of in-person field trips that offered participants a firsthand look at the water facilities, rivers and regions critical in the debates about the future of water resources. These two- or three-day experiences educated participants on pressing water issues and allowed them to interact with a range of experts representing different viewpoints.

In 2022, the Foundation conducted five tours:

Lower Colorado River, March 16-18, took participants through the Lower Basin from Lake Mead and Hoover Dam to the Salton Sea and the Coachella Valley to learn about the river's challenges and the vital role it plays in the American Southwest.

Central Valley, April 20-22, explored the San Joaquin Valley to learn about water supply and drought, groundwater, agriculture and habitat.

Bay-Delta, May 18-20, visited parts of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Francisco Bay to learn about the natural history and hydrology of the Bay-Delta system, water project infrastructure, Delta conveyance and farming.

Northern California, Oct. 12-14, toured the Sacramento Valley to learn about farming, fishery restoration and the keystone reservoirs of California's major water projects.

San Joaquin River Restoration, Nov. 2-3, traveled along the San Joaquin River to learn firsthand about one of the nation's largest and most expensive projects to restore salmon runs while reducing impacts to farmers and cities.

Private tour: Northern California Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations Tour (FIRO), July 25-28, explored watersheds in Northern California where FIRO is being used. The Foundation helped plan and execute the tour for Scripps Institution's Center for Western Weather & Water Extremes (CW3E).

Thank you to our 2022 Tour Sponsors. We could not have made the return to in-person tours without their support.

SPONSORS

Major Sponsors

Bureau of Reclamation – California-Great Basin Region
Bureau of Reclamation – Lower Colorado Basin

Trailblazer
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Traveler
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Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe

Organizations that also offered support through tour sponsorship

Central Arizona Project, Contra Costa Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Fellow Wines of Clarksburg, Friant Water Authority, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Imperial Irrigation District, Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District, Kern Water Bank Authority, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Palo Verde Irrigation District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority, San Luis Canal Company, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Stockton Area Water Suppliers, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, Valley Water, Western Canal Water District, Westervelt Ecological Services, Westlands Water District and Yuba Water Agency.

EVENTS

Water Summit

The 38th annual Water Summit, *Rethinking Water in the West*, was held on Oct. 27 at the Westin in Sacramento along the Sacramento River. Erica Gies, science journalist and author of *Water Always Wins*, gave the lunch keynote address titled: Thriving in an Age of Drought & Deluge. Mike Anderson, state climatologist with the California Department of Water Resources, gave the opening keynote: Hydrologic Extremes: Water Management in a Changing Climate.

The Water Summit featured top policymakers and leading experts who provided the latest information and viewpoints on issues affecting water statewide and across the West. Panels and presentations revolved around rethinking water management, water rights, groundwater and other related issues in light of drought and climate change.

The annual summit was followed by a networking reception, and the entire Water Summit was dedicated to our late board president, Mike Chrisman.

What participants said:

"The venue was great. The content was relevant. Plenty of breaks and network opportunities."

"Diverse group of panelists were presented. Great venue. Well organized."

Water 101 Workshop

Our *Water 101 Workshop: The Basics and Beyond* was held April 8 at McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento. This workshop gave participants the opportunity to learn about the history, geography, legal and political facets of water in California as well as hot topics such as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), water quality in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the drought emergency measures and affordable drinking water. Also available to interested workshop participants was a one-day groundwater tour on April 7 that visited cities and farms that rely on groundwater, examined a subsidence-measuring station, explored groundwater quality and recharge projects, and heard updates from agencies responding to SGMA.

What participants said:

"Your events are the most well-run I have ever attended. Everything runs right on schedule, information is plentiful, no time is wasted, breaks are sufficient, and all needs are met. Very well done."

Forecasting Workshops

The Foundation, in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources, held a pair of one-day workshops in Irvine on June 9 and Dec. 8 exploring improvements in sub-seasonal to seasonal weather forecasting and how they could improve management of water infrastructure. Speakers included Jeanine Jones, DWR's interstate resources manager; Mike Anderson, DWR's state climatologist; Sean de Guzman, DWR's chief of snow surveys and water supply forecasting; and Mike DeFlorio, Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes.



Journalist and author Erica Gies shares a laugh after signing her book, *Water Always Wins*. Gies was the keynote speaker at the Water Summit, with a talk titled *Thriving in an Age of Drought & Deluge*.



Cannon Michael, president of Bowles Farming Company and a Foundation board member, chats with Jennifer Harder, a McGeorge School of Law professor. They shared a Water Summit panel on *Rethinking Water Rights in Light of Drought & Climate Change*.



Nancy Vogel, deputy Natural Resources secretary for water; Placer County Water Agency General Manager Andy Fecko; Felicia Marcus, the William C. Landreth Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's *Water in the West* Program; and Yuba Water Agency General Manager Willie Whittlesey headlined a Water Summit panel on *Rethinking Water Management in a Drought-Driven West*.



Participants of our popular Water 101 Workshop get ready to learn the basics of California's complicated water system.



The 2022 California Water Leaders class.



State Water Resources Control Board Chair Joaquin Esquivel spoke to the Water Leaders class during one of their work group meetings.



Water Leader Jocelyn Lu makes a point during a work group meeting.



Water Leader Sami Harper, from the State Water Board, is at rapt attention during a presentation to the class.



Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot talks with the California Water Leaders class during another work group meeting.

CALIFORNIA WATER LEADERS

The 2022 Water Leaders cohort returned to in-person meetings as the effects of the global pandemic began to recede. The cohort of 20 professionals studied the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan and associated voluntary agreements and made recommendations on how to proceed. The class report was titled "Recommendations for the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update".

Led by Executive Director Jenn Bowles, the class is made up of up-and-coming leaders who deepen their water knowledge and strengthen their leadership skills. They are paired with an expert from the water world as a mentor, and they learn to take an active, cooperative approach to decision-making about water resource issues.

Members of the Foundation's 26th Annual William R. Gianelli Water Leaders Class were:

Andrea Abergel, California Municipal Utilities Association; **Jo Anna Beck**, Bureau of Reclamation; **Nick Blair**, Association of California Water Agencies; **Scott Boyce**, U.S. Geological Survey; **Trelawney Bullis**, AC Foods; **Brandon Chapin**, Delta Stewardship Council; **Austin Cho**, Downey Brand LLP; **Kaitlyn Chow**, Yuba Water Agency; **Rachel Duncan**, Carollo Engineers; **Samantha Harper**, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board; **Sara Harper**, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group; **Lisa Hong**, State Water Resources Control Board; **Janelle Krattiger**, Stoel Rives; **Haley Lehman**, Water Systems Consulting; **Jocelyn Lu**, Brown and Caldwell; **Emma Mendonsa**, California Department of Water Resources; **Abby Ostovar**, Montgomery & Associates; **Jake Sahl**, The Nature Conservancy; **Leta Spencer**, Westchester Group Investment Management; **Adam Witt**, Stantec.

What participants said:

"My favorite part of the Water Leaders program was being able to network and connect with all different fields of water and have a neutral space to have important discussions."



California Water Leaders pose for a group photo at Los Vaqueros Reservoir, a stop on the Bay-Delta Tour.

CALIFORNIA WATER LEADERS REUNION

We marked the 25th anniversary of our California Water Leaders program with a reunion of graduates and current Water Leaders on Oct. 26 at Camp Pollock, a rustic outdoor venue on the banks of the American River in Sacramento.

More than 100 graduates and guests gathered for a late afternoon reception and dinner that featured lawn games and ample time for conversation, giving graduates an opportunity to catch up with members of their cohort or network with others from earlier or later classes. EPA Region 9 Administrator Martha Guzman, a 2000 graduate of the program, was the guest speaker. Executive Director Jenn Bowles and her predecessor, Rita Schmidt Sudman, who launched the program, also spoke.

The reunion also provided an opportunity to hear from alumni about what they gained from the program and how it affected their careers. You can watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/TKgWbLXDTKw>



Alums and board members chat among themselves and enjoy a warm fall evening along the American River in Sacramento.



Alums Sean Maguire (left) and Martha Guzman (right) chat with Celeste Cantú, the Foundation board vice president.



Water Leader alums check out the precarious balance of the Jenga tower. Several games were a part of the reunion fun.



EPA Region 9 Administrator Martha Guzman, a graduate of the 2000 Water Leader class, was the guest speaker for the reunion.



Stan Ali, Helen Rocha and Carl Evers, all from the 2020 Water Leaders class, catch up during the reunion reception.



The program and table decoration for the reunion celebration.



L to R: Board member David Guy, former Executive Director Rita Schmidt Sudman, Water Leader alum Martha Guzman, Executive Director Jenn Bowles, alum Tina Shields, and Foundation board members Celeste Cantú and Eric Robinson.

COLORADO RIVER WATER LEADERS



Colorado River Water Leaders celebrate after presenting their project report at the Colorado River Symposium in Santa Fe, N.M.



Members of the Colorado River Water Leaders cohort pose for a photo at the base of Hoover Dam.



Members of the Colorado River Water Leaders cohort, who were selected from throughout the river basin, participate in a work group meeting at the Foundation's offices in Sacramento.



The Water Leaders pose along the river during a stop on the Lower Colorado River Tour.

The Foundation launched its inaugural Water Leaders program for the Colorado River Basin in 2022, achieving a long-planned goal of extending leadership training to a critically important water basin in the West. The six-month program brought together 13 up-and-coming professionals from across the Colorado River Basin to explore ways to improve river management when new Interim Guidelines for river operations are adopted in 2026. Their report, which was presented at the Colorado River Symposium in Santa Fe, N.M., was titled *Recommendations for the Next Colorado River Operating Guidelines*.

Led by Executive Director Jenn Bowles, the class was made up of up-and-coming leaders who deepened their water knowledge and strengthened their leadership skills. They were paired with an expert from the water world as a mentor, and they learned to take an active, cooperative approach to decision-making about water resource issues.

Members of the 2022 Colorado River Water Leaders cohort were:

Sarah Baker, Bureau of Reclamation, Colorado; **Jeremy Brooks**, Bureau of Reclamation, Nevada; **Sarah Bucci**, Water Hub at Climate Nexus, Colorado; **Josh Cowden**, Stantec, Colorado; **Morgan Drake**, Washington County Water Conservancy District, Utah; **John Brooks (JB) Hamby**, Imperial Irrigation District, California; **David Isleman**, Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, DC; **Megan Martin**, Salt River Project, Arizona; **Amy Moyer**, Colorado River Water Conservation District, Colorado; **Haley Paul**, National Audubon Society, Arizona; **Sara Porterfield**, Trout Unlimited, Colorado; **Darren Sversvold**, City of Phoenix Water Services Department, Arizona; **Kenneth Wendtland**, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Nevada.

What participants said:

"I loved that the Colorado River Water Leaders program was focused around a relevant and real-world policy topic. It facilitated conversations to build understanding, empathy, and connection across the Basin."



Members of the Colorado River Water Leaders cohort enjoy a boat ride through Topock Gorge during the Lower Colorado River Tour.

"This program is fantastic. We were provided so much access to decision-makers, water users and other interests on the river to ask questions and learn. As a cohort, I also felt challenged to think big, negotiate tricky issues within our group and felt empowered to share our ideas at the Symposium. I can't think of another opportunity or program that puts participants on the stage in this way."

COLORADO RIVER SYMPOSIUM

In September, the Foundation held its 13th biennial Colorado River Symposium, *On the Edge of the Next 100 Years*.

Top speakers at the invitation-only Sept. 21-23 event included Interior Secretary **Deb Haaland**, Assistant Interior Secretary **Tanya Trujillo**, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner **Camille C. Touton**, former Interior Secretary **Bruce Babbitt**, former Reclamation Commissioner **Brenda Burman**, **Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis** of the Gila River Indian Community, former Assistant Interior Secretary for Water and Science **Anne Castle**, California Natural Resources Secretary **Wade Crowfoot**, along with **Maria-Elena Giner** and **Adriana Reséndez**, the U.S. and Mexican representatives on the International Boundary and Water Commission.

The opening panels on day one discussed the future of the 1922 Colorado River Compact and how to keep pace with climate change in the Colorado River Basin.

What attendees said:

"This year's Symposium saw some unprecedentedly blunt conversations occur in public. This is a good development for the Basin as a whole. Thank you for fostering those necessary conversations."

Day two featured remarks by Haaland, the first Native American Interior secretary, and Trujillo, a veteran of Colorado River issues. Pat Mulroy, former general manager of Southern Nevada Water Authority, delivered a keynote address urging Colorado River interests to share the pain of water-use cuts. The day also featured a Basin-wide town hall on living with a shrinking river and panels on tribal parity and partnership in basin management; the U.S.-Mexico river partnership; and solving the crisis at the Salton Sea.

On the last day, Colorado River Water Leaders offered recommendations for the 2026 river operating guidelines; a panel spoke to some hopeful signs that emerged out of Symposium discussions; and Reclamation Commissioner Touton outlined steps the agency is prepared to take to protect the Colorado River system.

The Symposium was dedicated in memory of Colorado Senior Water Judge Gregory Hobbs, a frequent panelist and participant who died in 2021.

Colorado River Project

The Colorado River Symposium is a part of the Foundation's Colorado River Project, which marked its 26th year with an annual tour along the lower Colorado River, an inaugural cohort of 13 up-and-coming Basin Water Leaders and news articles related to the Colorado River Basin.

Serving on the Advisory Committee in 2022 were: **Brenda Burman**, Central Arizona Project; **Anne J. Castle**, Getches-Wilkinson Center, University of Colorado Law School; **Michael Cohen**, Pacific Institute; **Chuck Cullom**, Upper Colorado River Commission; **John Entsminger**, Southern Nevada Water Authority; **Amy Haas**, Colorado River Authority of Utah; **Chris Harris**, Colorado River Board of California; **Robert W. Johnson**, Water Strategies LLC; **James Lochhead**, Denver Water; **Jennifer Pitt**, National Audubon Society; **Daryl Vigil**, Water & Tribes Initiative.

Primary financial support for the project is provided through a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation's Upper and Lower Colorado Regions, along with contributions from supporters across the West.



Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton provided a broad outline of her agency's goals for the Colorado River and the urgent need for action to Symposium participants.



Participants on a Symposium town hall to discuss the Colorado River's future.



Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, who outlined to Symposium participants the Interior Department's efforts to protect the Colorado River System.



Pat Mulroy, former general manager of Southern Nevada Water Authority, offered pointed remarks about the need for action on the Colorado River during her keynote address.



L to R: Foundation board member Pete Silva, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Tanya Trujillo, Mexican Commissioner Adriana Reséndez and U.S. Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner, both of the International Boundary and Water Commission, and Foundation Executive Director Jenn Bowles, pose after a panel on the U.S.-Mexico partnership on the Colorado River.

PROJECT WET



Project WET coordinator Brian Brown paddles on the Cosumnes River with teachers during a Project WET workshop.



Brian Brown shares a data sheet with teachers during a special one-day tour of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.



Teachers try their hands with a Project WET activity during a Solano County workshop.



Classwork completed by teachers attending a Project WET workshop at Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

The Water Education Foundation is the California coordinator of Project WET (Water Education Today), an international teacher training program that educates about immediate water challenges on a local to global scale. During 2022 California Project WET conducted **44 professional development workshops** across the state that trained **763 K-12 educators**, who planned to use Project WET activities with approximately **95,172 students in the 2022-2023 school year**.

Brian Brown, who leads the California Project WET program, and his program partners continued to adjust to changing COVID-19 conditions throughout the year. The program began 2022 with virtual workshops but transitioned to hybrid workshops during late spring and to mostly in-person workshops for the remainder of 2022.

Examples of California Project WET trainings in 2022 include:

- A series of online, hybrid and in-person workshops focused on the drought and importance of water conservation, funded by the California Save Our Water program.
- A series of in-person teacher institutes during the summer of 2022, including three Forestry Institute for Teachers, three California Water Institutes for Teachers and a science institute for Central California education leaders through San Joaquin County Office of Education.
- Climate Change & California Water' workshops with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in Los Banos, Pacific Grove and Pala. The workshops were held in partnership with the Grasslands Environmental Education Center, Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, Environmental Volunteers and the Pala Band of Mission Indians.
- A one-day bus tour of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for veteran Project WET educators, sponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation. The tour was an advanced Project WET training with speakers from DWR, U.S. Geological Survey, U.C. Davis, Big Break Regional Shoreline and Cosumnes River Preserve providing in-depth content. In addition, Brian created an interactive guide and agenda for educators to use on the tour and back in their classrooms.
- Workshops featuring USGS California Water Science Center staff who described USGS research on Delta water quality and the impacts of drought on Central Valley wetlands.

What attendees said:

"I loved that this was geared toward teachers to bring water conservation to students. I finally feel like I went to a workshop in which I can actually use the information."

Grants Helping Project WET

California Project WET receives financial support from USGS - California Water Science Center, Bureau of Reclamation California-Great Basin Region, DWR and local funding partners. Their support, understanding and flexibility allowed the program to adjust to the fluctuating challenges of 2022 caused by the pandemic and remain in a position to deliver on our mutual water education goals and objectives.

HIGHLIGHTS

Rita Schmidt Sudman Award for Excellence in Water Journalism

The Foundation awarded its first-ever Rita Schmidt Sudman Award for Excellence in Water Journalism to Rachel Becker, who covers water resource issues for the nonprofit news website CalMatters. The award honors outstanding work that illuminates complicated water issues in California and the West. Sudman, a former radio and television reporter who led the Foundation for nearly 35 years, endowed the journalism award with \$50,000 to support and encourage coverage of water.

Becker, who brings experience covering science and climate change to the CalMatters water beat, has written about microplastics testing in drinking water, persistent drought in California and the Colorado River, cutbacks in water deliveries, disputes surrounding ocean desalination and other water resource issues. Becker said she routinely taps the Foundation's Aquaforia daily water news roundup and Aquapeda, the Foundation's online water encyclopedia, to help in her reporting.

Executive Director Jenn Bowles said it was exciting to be able to offer a reporting award from the Foundation, where its own journalism team has been producing articles, documentaries and videos for 45 years. The award includes \$1,000 cash and allows the recipient to take advantage of the Foundation's resources, such as water maps, Layperson's Guides and water tours, to beef up their knowledge and sources.

Brazilian Group Visits Foundation

On July 14, the Foundation hosted a group of nearly a dozen Brazilian officials and journalists for a brief overview of California water issues. Executive Director Jenn Bowles introduced the group to the Foundation and its mission, explained how water moves around the state and highlighted some of the key issues involving water supply, groundwater, drought and the Colorado River.

Big Day of Giving

Big Day of Giving, an annual fundraising event for nonprofits, took place again in May. The Foundation used Big Day of Giving to host an open house at our Sacramento office so guests could meet our team and learn about our programs. The event drew graduates of our Water Leaders program, Foundation Board Members and an array of guests from water resources agencies. In 2022 we raised nearly \$6,900.

Board Changes

Four new members joined the Foundation's Board of Directors. They are Brian Golding, Director of Economic Development for the Quechan Indian Tribe; Sandi Matsumoto, Director of The Nature Conservancy's California Water Program; Alfred Smith II, chair of Nossaman LLP's Water Group; and Lily Lopez, Director of External Affairs at Walnut Valley Water District. Sandi, Alfred and Lily are all graduates of the Foundation's Water Leaders program.

Staff Changes

Nick Cahill joined the Foundation as our staff writer.
Kala Haley-Clark joined the staff as development director.

@RA_Becks @RA_Becks · Nov 3, 2022
I'm so, so honored to receive this award from the @WaterEdFdn -- and so grateful to @CalMatters, my editor Marla Cone, and our readers and supporters who make my coverage of the California water beat possible.

Water Education Foundation @WaterEdFdn · Nov 3, 2022
Congratulations to @CalMatters water reporter Rachel Becker, who is the first recipient of our Rita Schmidt Sudman Award for Excellence in Water Journalism honoring outstanding work that illuminates complicated #cawater issues in California & the West. 🌊📰
watereducation.org/announcement/f...



Despite COVID-19 precautions, the Foundation was able to host a group of Brazilian officials and journalists to talk about water in California and the Colorado River.



Writer Nick Cahill explains the Foundation's various publications to a guest at our open house during Big Day of Giving in May.



California Project WET coordinator Brian Brown discusses his teacher training program with (from left) Foundation board member Chris Park, State Water Resources Control Board member Sean Maguire and Foundation board member Sara Reid during our open house.

As the Colorado River Shrinks, Can the Basin Find an Equitable Solution in Sharing the River's Waters?

WESTERN WATER IN-DEPTH: Drought and climate change are raising concerns that a century-old Compact that divided the river's waters could force unwelcome cuts in use for the upper watershed

Climate scientist Brad Udall calls himself the skunk in the room when it comes to the Colorado River. Armed with a deck of PowerPoint slides and charts that highlight the Colorado River's worsening math, the Colorado State University scientist offers a grim assessment of the river's future: Runoff from the river's



WESTERN WATER

Western Water, the Foundation's online news magazine, covered an assortment of water issues facing drought-plagued California and the West.

Our monthly stories highlighted hot water topics in places like the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the Colorado River Basin, the Sierra Nevada, Southern California and the Central Valley. Our first in-depth story highlighted the growing crisis on the Colorado River, exploring how the Basin can reach an equitable solution for cutting river use amid the Southwest's unrelenting drought. Another in-depth article looked at how water managers of California's most overdrawn aquifers were reworking incomplete plans to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Our final in-depth piece recapped the major themes discussed by Colorado River leaders at the Foundation's Colorado River Symposium in Santa Fe, N.M.

As New Deadline Looms, Groundwater Managers Rework 'Incomplete' Plans to Meet California's Sustainability Goals

WESTERN WATER IN-DEPTH: More than half of the most critically overdrawn basins, mainly in the San Joaquin Valley, are racing against a July deadline to retool their plans and avoid state intervention

Managers of California's most overdrawn aquifers were given a monumental task under the state's landmark Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: Craft viable, detailed plans on a 20-year timeline to bring their beleaguered basins



Drinking water was a key theme as we spotlighted an innovative UCLA pilot program that is using new technology to remotely run treatment systems that turn contaminated groundwater into clean drinking water for isolated, disadvantaged Salinas Valley communities. And we dug into an interstate effort to build a multi-billion-dollar wastewater recycling plant that could eventually reduce Southern California's reliance on imported Colorado River water.

We explored how climate change is altering snowfall patterns in the Sierra Nevada and causing water managers in the American River watershed to replumb their systems to better handle bursts of rain instead of trickling snowmelt.

In a notebook article, *Western Water* gave an update on a first-ever Delta smelt "hatch-and-release" program that University of California, Davis researchers hope can slow the demise of the once numerous, but now nearly extinct species.

As Climate Change Erodes Western Snowpacks, One Watershed Tries A 'Supershed Approach' To Shield Its Water Supply

WESTERN WATER SPOTLIGHT: Groundwater banks, a high-elevation reservoir and improved weather forecasting are how American River water managers hope to replace the disappearing Sierra Nevada snowpack

The foundation of California's water supply and the catalyst for the state's 20th century population and economic growth is cracking. More exactly, it's disappearing.

Climate change is eroding the mountain snowpack that has

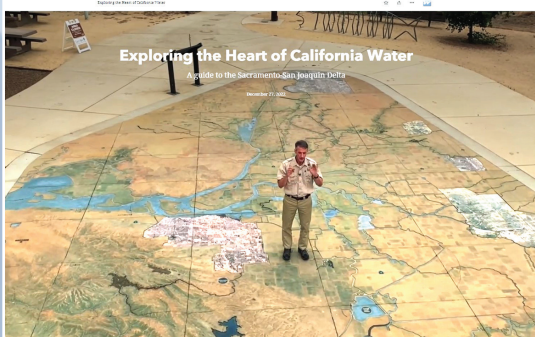


Our journalism team also interviewed a trio of newsmakers for our Q&A columns: Martha Guzman, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 9, talked about her plans to use \$1 billion in federal funding to address longstanding water needs in California and elsewhere in the West; Amelia Flores, chairwoman of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, spoke about her tribe's cultural ties to the river and efforts to sell their surplus water; and Chuck Cullom, executive director of the Upper Colorado River Commission, discussed his new role leading river negotiations for the Upper Basin states after a long career in the Lower Basin.

PUBLICATIONS

Interactive: Exploring the Heart of California Water

In a new interactive format for the Water Education Foundation, we created an online tour that explores the heart of California water — the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Our story map gives readers a broad overview of the Delta's history and development, its importance as an ecological resource and water hub and the array of challenges it faces. The Delta's Native American tribes, fish and wildlife, water infrastructure and looming climate change risks are featured in the online tour. Published in December 2022, the interactive story map includes photos, maps, videos and an FAQ.



Layperson's Guide to Water Conservation

The Foundation gave a full makeover to its *Layperson's Guide to Water Conservation*, which now details how saving water has become standard practice in California and the West. This seventh edition highlights the added demands climate change, persistent drought and population growth are placing on urban and agricultural water supplies throughout the West. The 20-page guide explains the myriad ways cities, households, farmers and businesses are finding to use water more efficiently, including turf replacement programs, improved irrigation techniques, fixing leaks and replacing water-wasting bathroom fixtures and appliances. The broad overview also provides water-saving tips for homeowners, popular examples of drought-tolerant landscaping options and looks at how some Southwestern cities are stretching supplies.

IN MEMORIAM

In Memoriam

Five current or former members of the Foundation's Board of Directors passed away in 2022.

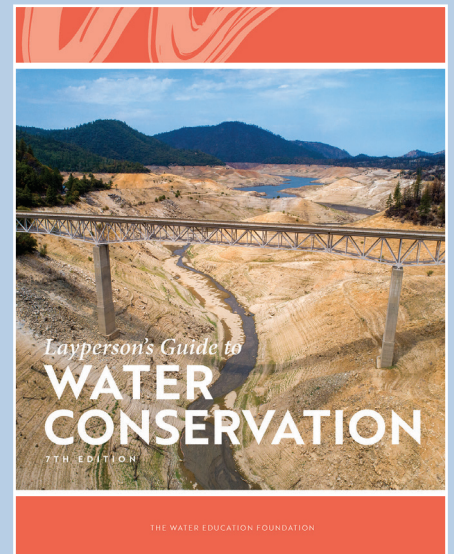
Mike Chrisman, former California Natural Resources Secretary and president of the Foundation's board, died Oct. 11. Mike joined the Foundation's board in 2017 and became board president in 2020, following in the footsteps of his father, Ira "Jack" Chrisman, who was the Foundation's first board president in 1977. Mike was owner/partner of Chrisman Ranches, a family ranching and farming business in Tulare County. He served as California Secretary of Natural Resources from 2003 until 2010. As a member of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's cabinet, he served as the governor's chief adviser on issues related to the state's natural, historic and cultural resources. Chrisman also chaired the California Ocean Protection Council and Sierra Nevada Conservancy. From 1997 to 2003, he served on the California Fish and Game Commission, where he also was Chair of the Wildlife Conservation Board. From 1994 to 1996, he served as Undersecretary for the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

William R. Mills, Jr., a former general manager of Orange County Water District and a board member of the Yorba Linda Water District, died Sept. 29. Bill was a member of the Foundation's board from 2003-2016 and was president from 2008-2016.

Jonas Minton, a senior water policy adviser for the Planning and Conservation League and a former deputy director of the California Department of Water Resources, died June 22. Jonas served on the Foundation's board from 2006 to 2014.

Edward G. "Jerry" Gladbach, a board member with Castaic Lake Water Agency and its successor agency, the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, died July 13. Jerry was a member of the Foundation's board for 21 years, from 1989 to 2009.

Anthony Saracino, a water policy consultant who served on the California Water Commission and worked for The Nature Conservancy, died July 27. Anthony was a Foundation board member from 1994 to 2011 and helped the Foundation produce its first California Groundwater Map.



Board President Mike Chrisman, a former California Natural Resources Secretary, chats with current Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot at the Foundation's 2019 Water Summit.



Former Board President and long-time board member Bill Mills, with Executive Director Jenn Bowles, on his retirement from the board.



Anthony Saracino, a long-time Foundation board member, seen in this image from the Foundation's 2011 annual report.

FUNDING SOURCES

A variety of grants from governmental agencies and other organizations helped to fund some of the Foundation’s special programs, publications and projects in 2022. The Foundation’s general activities, in turn, were supported by another primary source – annual contributions.

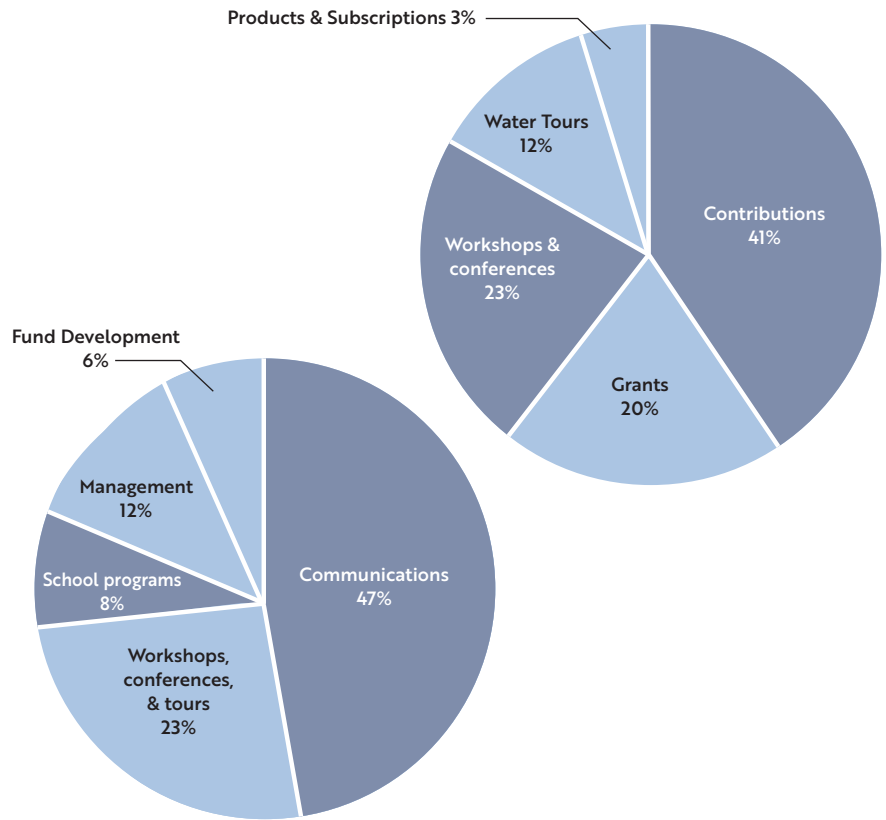
This diversity of funding helps the Foundation fulfill its mission of providing balance in all written materials, school programs, tours, workshops, conferences and publications. Reviewers and advisory groups help ensure technical accuracy, but the Foundation retains editorial control over all programs and publications – no matter what the funding source.

In 2022, grant funds provided 20 percent of the Foundation’s revenues, including support for Project WET, tours and publications.

Major contributions (see page 17 for the list) represented 41 percent of 2022 revenues and helped maintain core programs such as Western Water online, conferences, tours and the Water Leaders Program.

Additional Foundation income is derived from attendance at briefings and water tours (35 percent) and the sale of our educational materials (3 percent).

In return for all this support, the Foundation continues to serve as the source of impartial information on water issues in California and the West. We thank all the organizations and individuals for the many ways in which they support our work and help us fulfill our mission.



Foundation staff takes a holiday break along the Sacramento River. Front: Jenn Bowles, Kayla Sergent and Kala Haley-Clark; back: Doug Beeman, Brian Brown, Nick Gray and Nick Cahill.

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Foundation Board Members Celeste Cantú and Pete Silva chat with a guest during the Foundation's Colorado River Symposium.

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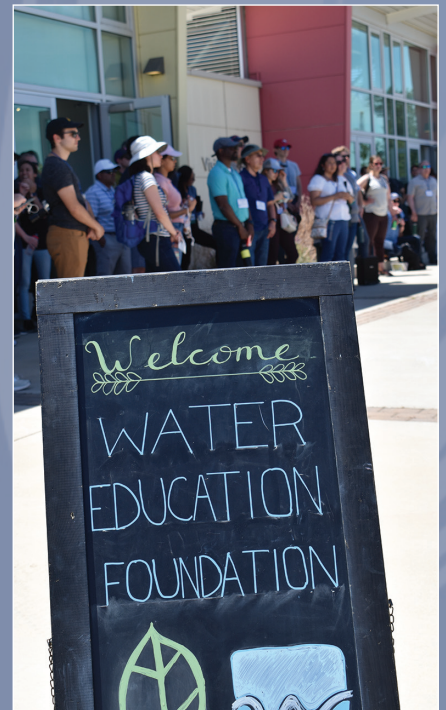
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Board Member Tom Philp chats with Jenn Bowles and Nick Cahill during the Foundation's Open House in May.



Jenn Bowles and Board Member Alfred Smith grab a selfie during a reception for Water Leaders at the ACWA Conference.



Foundation staff at the Colorado River Symposium, from left: Nick Cahill, Kayla Sergent, Jenn Bowles, Nick Gray and Doug Beeman.

MISSION:

To inspire understanding of water and catalyze
critical conversations to build bridges and inform
collaborative decision-making

VISION:

A society that has the ability to resolve its water
challenges to benefit all



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