
Oakland Stormwater Finance Forum

Speaker Information

Call to Order

Dr. Ramzi Mahmood joined the faculty of Civil Engineering at California State University, Sacramento in 1994. Prior to joining the University, Dr. Mahmood worked in the engineering field with engineering consulting firms and California EPA – Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). During his tenure with California EPA he developed technology- and health-based treatment standards for land disposal of hazardous waste. He became the Director of Office of Water Program (OWP) in 1997 – an internationally recognized training development center for operators and managers of water treatment, wastewater treatment, distribution systems, and collection systems. Today, OWP provides training, technical assistance, and applied research services for a variety of water resource and water quality disciplines: drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, watershed planning, and soils and groundwater. Last year, OWP was designated as the EFC for EPA's Region 9.

Dr. Mahmood served as the Chair of Civil Engineering Department from 2003 to 2012. In 2014, Dr. Mahmood served as the interim Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, California State University, Sacramento. Dr. Mahmood holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering University of Baghdad in 1976, M.S. in Civil/Environmental Engineering 1981, M.S. in Applied Mathematics 1985, Ph.D. Environmental Engineering in 1988 from Utah State University, Logan. Dr. Mahmood is a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) in California and ABET IDEAL Scholar.

Call to Order

Jim Gebhardt is the Director of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center in Washington D.C. Prior to joining EPA, Jim was Chief Financial Officer of the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation. A former member of the Environmental Finance Advisory Board, Jim brings more than 30 years of experience in public finance, bond insurance and investment management businesses.

Session 1

Dave Smith (Moderator) is the Manager of the NPDES Permits Office at EPA Region 9 in San Francisco. Prior to moving to permits, Dave managed Region 9's Wetlands and TMDL programs, and worked on watershed planning, water quality standards, and grants management. Dave has also worked for the State of California, the Congressional Budget Office, and several environmental consultants. He also worked in real estate development and managed his family's buffalo-cattle ranch in Oklahoma. He holds degrees from UC-Berkeley and Wesleyan University.

Matt Fabry serves as Manager for the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program, a program of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County, which assists the 21 San Mateo municipalities with stormwater compliance issues. He sits on the Boards of Directors for both the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association and the California Stormwater Quality Association and has over 20 years of experience in water quality and stormwater management. Matthew has worked in municipal, regulatory, and consultant capacities, holds degrees in environmental engineering and music, and is a registered civil engineer in the State of California.

Newsha K. Ajami, is the director of Urban Water Policy with Stanford University's Water in the West program. She specializes in sustainable water resource management, water policy, innovation, and financing, and the water-energy-food nexus. Her research throughout the years has been interdisciplinary and impact driven, focusing on the improvement of the science-policy-stakeholder interface by incorporating social and economic measures and effective communication.

Dr. Ajami is a gubernatorial appointee to the Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board. Before joining Stanford, she worked as a senior research associate at the Pacific Institute, and served as a Science and Technology fellow at the California State Senate's Natural Resources and Water Committee where she worked on various water and energy related legislation. She has published many highly cited peer-reviewed articles, coauthored two books, and contributed opinion pieces to the *New York Times* and the *Sacramento Bee*. She was the recipient of the 2005 National Science Foundation award for AMS Science and Policy Colloquium and ICSC-World Laboratory Hydrologic Science and Water Resources Fellowship from 2000 to 2003. Dr. Ajami received her Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering from the UC, Irvine, an M.S. in hydrology and water resources from the University of Arizona.

Session 2

Jill Bicknell (Moderator) is a water resources engineer and manager at EOA, Inc. in Sunnyvale, CA, and serves as the Assistant Program Manager for the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP). She has worked extensively in the field of stormwater quality and flow controls, pollution prevention, watershed management, and permit compliance for over 25 years, specializing in assistance to municipal agencies with implementation of low impact development techniques, green infrastructure planning, stormwater treatment, and hydromodification management. She has also conducted numerous workshops and trainings on these topics throughout the state. Jill is currently leading SCVURPPP's efforts to develop countywide tools for green infrastructure planning and to assist member agencies with development of local green infrastructure plans. She also represents SCVURPPP on the CASQA Board of Directors, and is currently Chair of the Board.

Daniel Apt is founder and President of Olaunu, a surface water quality company based in San Clemente, California. He has 21 years of experience in stormwater management and water quality and specializes in Low Impact Development, stormwater capture and use, watershed planning, MS4 permit assistance/program development, BMP planning and design for developments, and stormwater training. Mr. Apt received his Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Irvine and his Master's degree from the University of Miami. Mr. Apt serves as the Vice Chair of the California Stormwater Quality Association Board of Directors, is Co-Developer of the California LID Web-portal, and is the project manager for the CASQA LID Barriers Proposition 84 Grant that developed two stormwater financial barriers white papers.

Daniel can be reached at 949-449-7980 or dapt@olaunu.com

Chad Praul, P.E. leads the Water practice area at Environmental Incentives. His career is focused on performance-driven approaches to conservation and wise use of financial resources. Chad's management experience developing conservation strategy for prominent regulatory and restoration programs as well as major environmental organizations enables him to coach teams to extraordinary achievement. Chad is a civil engineer in California and has earned degrees in Mechanical Engineering from UC Berkeley and Environmental Economics from UC Santa Cruz.

Chad aspires to pioneer a way to convert the valuable planning work that underpins TMDLs into effective implementation work that removes thousands of waterbodies from the 303d list. If we can focus on the essential core of a water quality issue, we can create a functional program to address it. If we can rationally tune the program, we can streamline unnecessary elements and maintain relevance over time. If we can shed the complexity of competing standards and monitoring requirements, we can accelerate water quality improvement.

David Smith is the Manager of the NPDES Permits Office at EPA Region 9 in San Francisco.

Session 3

Annalisa Kihara (Moderator) is a Senior Water Resource Control Engineer in the Division of Water Quality at the State Water Resources Control Board. Ms. Kihara is Chief of the Storm Water Planning Unit in the Surface Water Branch, and in that capacity she oversees projects and activities related to the Statewide Storm Water Strategy. Ms. Kihara has been with the State Water Resources Control Board for 10 years and prior to that she worked for environmental consulting firms. Ms. Kihara holds a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California Davis, and is a CA registered Professional Engineer.

Jason Drew is a Principal Scientist and the Practice lead for NCE's Watershed Science & Planning service line. His educational and professional focus is integrating the disciplines of engineering, science and planning to inform sound policy and solve complex resource challenges. Technically Jason specializes in stormwater management and restoration design. When not in the office he spends his time in the Sierra Nevada Mountains or on Lake Tahoe with his wife and three kids.

Joe Teresi recently retired after a 32-year career as the storm water program manager for the City of Palo Alto. His job responsibilities included program funding and budgeting, as well as management of the City's storm drain capital projects, floodplain regulations, and storm water quality protection program. Joe is a registered civil engineer and a graduate of UC Berkeley.

Jeffrey Albrecht is a Water Resources Control Engineer with the Stormwater Planning Unit of the State Water Resources Control Board. Jeffrey is current a project manager for the Water Board's Strategy to Optimize Resource Management of Storm Water (STORMS) Initiative.

Session 4

Bola Odusoga (Moderator) works at the NPDES Permits Office at EPA Region 9 (San Francisco) and is also a Senior Project Manager for the Water Division Sustainability team. Bola previously managed both the Nevada Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Nevada Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs. Mr Odusoga received a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineer from the University of California, Irvine and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from Cal Poly.

Joe Karkoski is manager of the Bonds Section in the Division of Financial Assistance at the State Water Board. Programs in Joe's section include Prop 1 Groundwater Sustainability and Storm Water; the Clean Beaches Initiative; and the Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools. Joe has a degree in Chemical Engineering from Michigan State University, Master in Public Policy and Administration from CSU, Sacramento and is President of the local section of the American Water Resources Association.

Wennilyn Fua, P.E is the unit chief of the Water Recycling/CWSRF Funding Unit in the State Water Resources Control Board's (WaterBoard) Division of Financial Assistance. She has worked for the WaterBoard for almost 18 years. Prior to working for the WaterBoard, she also worked in the private environmental sector. Wennilyn has a degree in chemical engineering from the University of San Carlos, Cebu City, Philippines.

Session 5

David Mc Kay (Moderator) is an ORISE Fellow with the EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center. At the Center he assists with the WaterCARE initiative, regional finance forums, and other research efforts. Prior to EPA, David worked on energy issues in the Oregon Governor's Office and earned an MPA from the University of Oregon.

Lesley Estes is Watershed Manager in the Department of Public Works for the City of Oakland. Lesley has served at the City of Oakland for over 24 years, creating and implementing new environmental programs and projects in the growing fields of green infrastructure, stormwater quality and watershed restoration. Her programs include watershed-based planning and management, water quality regulation implementation, habitat preservation, construction of green infrastructure and restoration projects and a \$200 million capital bond to improve water quality, create waterfront trails, restore creeks and renovate parks. Lesley chairs the Countywide Clean Water Program and has received the US EPA First place Award for Outstanding Stormwater Management, the Water Quality Control Board Award for Excellence in Management and the Oakland Heritage Alliance Partners in Preservation Award. Prior to working for the City of Oakland, Lesley worked as a Legislative Aide for the US Congress in Washington DC and as a Ranger Naturalist in Yosemite National Park.

Mitch Avalon is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He worked for the Contra Costa County Public Works Department for 35 years, the last 15 years as the Deputy Chief Engineer for the Flood Control and Water Conservation District, where he developed the "50 Year Plan", a policy to convert traditional concrete flood control channels into natural stream systems. Mitch retired in 2011 and established his own company. He currently does special projects for the Contra Costa County Flood Control District.

John Bliss is President of SCI Consulting Group which focuses on revenue and policy engineering and consulting for public agency clients including flood protection, stormwater management, parks and recreation, fire, mosquito control and cannabis. He is a licensed Professional Engineer with an undergraduate degree from Brown University and a graduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Session 6

Jim Gebhardt (Moderator) is Director of the Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Finance Center at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Scott Boardman is the Acting Executive Director of the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange (WCX), a nonprofit organization formed by California, Oregon, and Washington. In leading WCX, Scott serves as a resource to public agencies within the three West Coast states on innovative infrastructure delivery and financing mechanisms. Scott holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Georgia and a BS in political science from Clemson University. For more information on WCX, visit www.westcoastx.org or contact Scott at scott.boardman@westcoastx.org.

Jeremy Sokulsky founded Environmental Incentives (www.enviroincentives.com) in 2004 pioneering Performance-Driven Conservation® to align public and private sector objectives to create resilient water, land and wildlife resources. He led efforts to apply performance-driven conservation to Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Municipal Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) permits, as well as Habit Exchanges and Credit Systems species habitat. performance-based payment mechanisms, such as pay for success, that enable innovative financing and public private partnerships. He earned his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley and an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and is a registered Professional Engineer in California.

Holly Galavotti has a master's degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Virginia and a bachelor's degree in Biology from James Madison University. Holly has worked at the Environmental Protection Agency for 12 years. She works in the Office of Wastewater Management on the municipal stormwater permit program and coordinates with regions, states, municipalities and other stakeholders on implementing the program. Holly also works with EPA's new Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center, where she focuses on developing tools and providing technical assistance to communities on stormwater and green infrastructure financing.

Session 7

Dave Smith is the Manager of the NPDES Permits Office at EPA Region 9 in San Francisco.

Maureen Kerner is a registered professional engineer in California. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and Oregon State University, respectively. For ten years Maureen has served as a research engineer with California State University, Sacramento's Office of Water Programs, providing assistance with stormwater management, design, construction, monitoring, and data assessment, including LID implementation.