



## 2025 Spring Policy Symposium

### "The Price of a Drop"

May 22, 2025

7:15am - 8:15 am	<b>Breakfast</b>
8:15 am - 8:30 am	<b>Welcome: Carmelitha Bordelon, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, CA Water Association</b>
8:30 am - 9:15 am	<b>The State of Water Affordability in California: Professor Manny Teodoro, University of Wisconsin</b>
9:15 am - 10:00 am	<b>Defining Water Affordability</b> <b>Moderator: Carmelitha Bordelon, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Accounting, Suburban Water Systems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Darrin Polhemus, Deputy Director, Division of Drinking Water, State Water Resources Control Board</i></li><li>• <i>Ankit Jain, Program and Project Supervisor, California Public Utilities Commission</i></li><li>• <i>Jeremey Ho, Utilities Engineer, California Public Utilities Commission</i></li></ul>
10:00 am - 10:30 am	<b>Break</b>
10:30 am - 11:45 am	<b>Unpacking the Rising Cost of Water</b> <b>Moderator: Rik Hull, Vice President, National Association of Water Companies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Adan Ortega Jr., Chair, Board of Directors, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</i></li><li>• <i>Robert Brownwood, Assistant Deputy Director, Division of Drinking Water, State Water Resources Control Board</i></li><li>• <i>Jennifer Barrera, President and CEO, California Chamber of Commerce</i></li><li>• <i>Greg DiLorento, President Emeritus, American Society of Civil Engineers</i></li></ul>
11:45 am - 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm - 1:15 pm	<b>Legislative Solutions: Drinking Water Affordability: Assemblymember Rhodesia Ransom</b>
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm	<b>Mitigating Cost Increases</b> <b>Moderator: Willis Hon, Partner, Nossaman LLP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Regina Cullado, Customer Service Manager, Golden State Water Company Low-Income Rate Assistance</i></li><li>• <i>Bob DiPrimio, President, San Gabriel Valley Water Company Grants and Polluter Pay Strategies</i></li><li>• <i>Cathy Hongola-Baptista, Senior Director, Corporate Counsel, CA American Water Water System Consolidations</i></li></ul>

- *Cooper Cameron, Regulatory Program Manager, California Water Service Alternative Rate Structures*

**2:15 pm - 3:00 pm                      Breakout Groups: Water Affordability Solutions**

**3:00 pm - 3:45 pm                      Report Out from Breakout Groups**

**3:45 pm - 5:00 pm                      Turning Solutions into Action**

**Moderator: Allen Young, Vice President, Cobalt Public Affairs**

- *Kristyn Abhold, Assistant Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Water Solutions, Division of Financial Assistance, State Water Resources Control Board*
- *Kip Lipper, Chief Policy Advisor on Energy and Environment to the Senate Pro Tem*
- *Terence Shia, Director, Water Division, California Public Utilities Commission*
- *Evan Jacobs, Vice President, External Affairs, California American Water*
- *Greg Pierce, Co-Director of the Luskin Center for Innovation (LCI), University of California, Los Angeles*
- *Kyle Jones, Policy and Legal Director, Community Water Center*

**5:00 pm                                      Closing: John Tang, President, CA Water Association**