

CENTRAL COAST WATER BOARD WORKSHOP SPEAKER BIO'S

Challenges and Solutions: The Intersection of Water Quality and People Experiencing Homelessness on the Central Coast

Keynote Speaker



Assemblymember Monique Limón was elected to the Assembly in November 2016 and represents the 37th district that includes over half of the County of Santa Barbara, as well as nearly a quarter of the County of Ventura.

Born and raised in the 37th district, Monique has worked continuously to serve her community as an educator, leader, and an advocate for causes advancing the quality of life in her community.

For Monique, education has always been a priority. A UC Berkeley graduate with a Master's degree from Columbia University, Monique served two terms on the Santa Barbara Unified School Board and as Assistant Director for the McNair Scholars Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara prior to serving in the Assembly.

Monique has worked with countless local students at Santa Barbara City College and UCSB as an advisor and mentor to help them achieve their professional and academic goals through higher education.

Women's issues are also a priority for Monique. As former Commissioner on the Santa Barbara County Commission for Women she helped connect private and public resources with women in the community. Monique has a passion for bringing community groups together and building strong coalitions among local nonprofit organizations and civic groups.

Monique's roots go deep in the 37th district. Her extended network of family and friends include a range of small business owners and important leaders in the community. Her husband, Michael Medel works at Santa Barbara City College as Director of Admissions and Records and serves as President of the 19th District Agricultural Association. Monique and Michael were both raised in the area and currently live in Goleta. Visit <https://a37.asmdc.org/> for more information.

Panel One - Overview of the Situation in California and the Roles of the State and Regional Water Boards



Dr. Laura Feinstein is a Senior Researcher with the Water Program at Pacific Institute, an Oakland-based research organization specializing in sustainable water management. At Pacific Institute, Laura's work has focused on drinking water and sanitation for disadvantaged communities, the water-energy nexus, and California water policy. She was a science and technology fellow with the California Legislature, and a California Delta Science Fellow. She holds a PhD in Ecology from U.C. Davis. Visit <https://pacinst.org/> for more information.



Whitney Reynier is the River Scientist for the Coastal Watershed Council (CWC). CWC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to transform the lower San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz, CA into a community destination by inspiring people to explore, enhance and protect this critical natural resource. Whitney runs CWC's habitat restoration and water quality improvement programs and also leads volunteer work days, community events and tours along the river. Homelessness is one of many aspects affecting the San Lorenzo River and CWC's vision for the river's future, but through unconventional partnerships, compassionate messaging and inclusive community programming Whitney and CWC are finding ways to support both a healthy river and a thriving Santa Cruz community. Visit <https://coastal-watershed.org/> for more information.



John M. Robertson has been the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's Executive Officer since 2016. Prior to his current position, Mr. Robertson worked as the Groundwater Protection Section manager overseeing most of the groundwater programs, starting in 2007. He has been with the Central Coast Water Board in various other roles since 1998, including working as the point person on the massive Avila Beach cleanup/excavation project (1998-2000). Prior to that, he worked with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board in Oakland from 1993 until 1998. Mr. Robertson started his career as a hydrogeologist in the private sector in 1987, working for a national consulting firm in hazardous waste and municipal landfill construction and compliance. He has a degree in Geology from the University of California, Davis and is a Professional Geologist. Visit www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/ for more information.

Panel Two: Strategies and Solutions



Kevin L. Faulconer is the 36th Mayor of the City of San Diego whose top priorities have been homelessness, housing, and improving neighborhood quality of life. In 2017, San Diego County was hit with a deadly Hepatitis A outbreak that hit the City of San Diego's homeless population hard.

Under Mayor Faulconer's leadership the city has taken significant action to reduce homelessness and clean up streets, canyons and the San Diego River. He's constructed new shelters, implemented new programs and expanded services that have been visited by cities across the U.S. and praised by HUD and the Administration. He is here to talk about what San Diego's doing differently. For more information, visit <https://www.sandiego.gov/mayor>



Tracy Macuga – Santa Barbara County Public Defenders Office Bio Pending. For more information, visit the County of Santa Barbara's Public Defender website at <http://countyofsb.org/defender>



Brooke Newman has been with Downtown Streets Team since its launch of the Santa Cruz Team in July 2017. Brooke plays the lead role in the management and strategic growth of the Team based in Santa Cruz County. During her tenure at DST, Brooke developed the organization's first Cal Fresh Employment Training program and organized and launched a weekly women's empowerment program.

Brooke currently serves as a member of two advisory bodies for the City of Santa Cruz, the Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) and the Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women (CPVAW) which she served as Chair for two years. She received her B.A. from the Eugene Lang College at the New School University. She holds a M.P.A. from the Baruch School of Public Affairs. Prior to her work with DST, Brooke has held leadership positions in a variety of nonprofit organizations including; Executive Director of Birchbark Foundation and Administrative Manager of the World Trade Center Health Program in Queens, New York. Visit <https://www.streetsteam.org/index> for more information.

Panel Three: Funding and Collaboration



Helene Schneider joined USICH in January 2018 after serving over 17 years in municipal government, as mayor, city councilmember, and housing authority commissioner for the City of Santa Barbara, California. In her local elected role, Helene focused on affordable housing policies and best practices in ending homelessness and served as policy council chair on the countywide homelessness collaborative board, chaired the U.S. Conference of Mayors Hunger & Homelessness Task Force, and served on the League of CA Cities Board of Directors.

She earned a professional certification in human resources management from UCLA Extension and a BA from Skidmore College. For more information, visit <https://www.usich.gov/>



Emily Allen is the Program Director of Homeless and Veterans Impact Initiatives for the Northern Santa Barbara County United Way. These projects include the Home for Good Santa Barbara County Coordinated Entry System, the AmeriCorps Partnership for Veterans and People Experiencing Homelessness, the Common Ground volunteer program and Mission United (for veteran and veteran families). Prior to that she worked at the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County as the Managing Attorney of the Homeless Education and Legal Project where

she did legal outreach to people experiencing homelessness. She has been continually working with people experiencing homelessness since she was in law school. She graduated from Loyola Law School in 2004. She was Chair of Loyola's Public Interest Law Foundation, clerked at the California Women's Law Center and was the outstanding Woman Law Graduate of Loyola Law School in 2004. She served as an AmeriCorps VISTA at the UCLA with the BruinCorps tutoring program and graduated from Scripps College in 2000. She grew up in Santa Barbara, California. Visit <https://www.liveunitedsbc.org/> for more information.



Sibley Simon is a social entrepreneur, a co-founder of the 180/2020 Initiative to end veteran and chronic homelessness in Santa Cruz County, and a former award-winning technology innovator. As President of New Way Homes and Managing Director of Envision Housing, he works to help address our region's housing crisis by developing new workforce and affordable housing without government construction subsidy. He also serves as Treasurer of Housing Matters

(formerly the Homeless Services Center) in Santa Cruz. Visit <https://www.newwayhomes.org/> for more information.



Lahela Mattox is currently the Director of Local Partnership Programs for the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council. She has been with the Council since August 2018. She is responsible for establishing and building relationships with local government representatives and administering the Homeless Emergency Aid Program and the Housing Homelessness Assistance and Prevention Program.

Prior to this role, Ms. Mattox has held a variety of positions on the Council, which include starting her career with the Council as the Local Government Liaison and then elevated to Grant Manager for the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP). She was able to successfully execute and implement the \$500 million emergency block program. Ms. Mattox has more than 20 years of experience in direct services and program management in social services, mental health services, and other related fields, both in Hawaii and California. Most recently, Ms. Mattox was the Chief of the Certification Unit with the Department of Health Care Services, Mental Health Services Division, Program Oversight and Compliance Branch. She has spent her career working with some of the most vulnerable populations and is passionate about building partnerships and working collaboratively to build stronger communities.

Ms. Mattox holds a Master of Arts-Counseling degree from Chapman University, Sacramento Campus and a Bachelor of Arts-Psychology degree from Hawaii Pacific University. Visit <https://www.bcsd.ca.gov/hcfc/> for more information.