

Biographies of Guest Speakers for Water Planning and Stewardship Workshop on Voluntary Agreements Terms

April 26, 2022

Jared Blumenfeld was appointed California Secretary for Environmental Protection by Governor Gavin Newsom in January 2019. As Secretary, Jared oversees the state's efforts to fight climate change, protect air and water quality, regulate pesticides and toxic substances, achieve the state's recycling and waste reduction goals, and advance environmental justice. As a member of the Governor's cabinet, he advises the Governor on environmental policy.

Jared is one of America's most innovative environmental leaders, bringing to the agency more than 25 years of environmental policy and management experience at the local, national and international levels. From 2009 to 2016, he served under former President Barack Obama as Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Pacific Southwest, a region that includes California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, the Pacific Islands and 148 tribal nations.

Previously, Jared was Director of San Francisco's Department of Environment from 2001 to 2009, first under former Mayor Willie Brown and then under Gavin Newsom. He and Mayor Newsom worked effectively to make San Francisco "the most sustainable city in the nation" by developing a municipal Environment Code that includes mandatory recycling and composting, bans on Styrofoam and plastic bags, and a 20 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

During his tenure in San Francisco, Jared also was general manager of the city's Department of Recreation and Parks and served on the governing board of the Treasure Island Redevelopment Authority.

Prior to government service, Jared led international campaigns for nongovernmental organizations. He served as Chairman of the U.N.'s World Environment Day in 2005, led the habitat protection program for the International Fund for Animal Welfare, and was Executive Director for the Natural Resource Defense Council's Earth Summit Watch from 1993 to 1995. Jared is also a former chair of the Federal Regional Council, and a founder of Green Cities California and the Business Council on Climate Change (BC3).

Jared graduated from Cambridge College of Arts and Technology, and earned a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of London and a Master of Laws from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall).

Prior to joining CalEPA, Jared founded a private consulting firm to advise clean-tech companies on strategic planning and market development. He also hiked the Pacific Crest Trail, a 2,650-mile route that stretches from the U.S.-Mexico border to the U.S.-Canada border. He continues to host an award-winning podcast on environmental topics, called [Podship Earth](#).

Jennifer Pierre is the General Manager of the State Water Contractors (SWC), overseeing implementation of the SWCs objectives and overall operations. She and her staff work to provide technical, legal, and scientific support to the SWC members to ensure a sustainable water supply from the State Water Project (SWP). Jennifer has over 15 years of experience with Delta management including but not limited to restoration planning, operations criteria development and regulatory compliance. She leads the SWC's participation in guiding and developing the framework for the state's management of water supply and ecological issues within the Delta. Additionally, Jennifer manages coordination with the CA Department of Water Resources regarding statewide water supply management, and the programs, policies and regulations affecting the SWP.

Doug Obegi is a senior attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Since coming to NRDC in 2008, Doug Obegi has worked on a variety of projects related to water-resource management in California, including the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, the proposed Bay-Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix, the review and update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, and the 2014 California Water Bond (Proposition 1). In addition, he has represented NRDC in federal court litigation regarding protections for endangered species in the Bay-Delta estuary. He is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of California's Hastings College of the Law.

Bryce Lundberg is a board member and Vice President of Agriculture at Lundberg Family Farms, a fourth-generation family business that uses organic farming practices to create thoughtfully crafted rice and quinoa products.

Bryce is a third-generation rice farmer, serves on the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, chairs the Northern California Water Association, and serves on the board of the Western Canal Water District.

He has previously served on the boards of California Certified Organic Farmers, the California Organic Food Advisory Board, and the California Rice Research Board.

As passionate advocates of organic farming, Bryce and his family tend to soil, air, water, and wildlife as carefully as their crops so they can deliver on their founding promise to leave the land better than they found it.