

Water Sustainability Workshop, 12/15/2010
Speaker Bios

Mark Bernstein

Managing Director of the University of Southern California's Energy Institute; Professor of the Practice of Political Science

As Managing Director, Mark facilitates research across campus and works to engage government and corporate executives in discussions about energy and environmental research at USC. Mark's research areas span across a broad range of issues in energy, environment, and water including financing efficiency and renewable energy, climate change policy, and energy water nexus.

Prior to USC, Mark spent 8 years as a Senior Policy Researcher at the RAND Corporation. Until June of 1998 Mark spent two years as the Senior Energy Policy Analyst for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President.

Blaine Hanson

Emeritus Irrigation and Drainage Specialist with the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources, University of California, Davis.

Blaine's research activities for the past 33 years included irrigation system design, management and maintenance; salinity management in salt affected soils, soil moisture monitoring, crop water use, and water quality issues related to irrigation. He have authored or co-authored 15 manuals for growers on various aspects of irrigation. He retired on July 1 2010.

Steve Kaffka

Director of the California Biomass Collaborative; Extension Specialist in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of California, Davis; Chair, BioEnergy Work Group for the University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Dr. Kaffka participates on several advisory committees for the California Energy Commission and California Air Resources Board, including *ex officio* member of the Bioenergy Interagency Work Group. From 2003 to 2007 he was director of the Long Term Research on Agricultural Systems Project. As director he led the development of current and new projects focusing on sustainable agriculture. His commodity assignments include sugar and oilseed crops. Since coming to U.C. Davis in 1992, he has also carried out research on water quality and agriculture in the Upper Klamath Basin, and the reuse of saline drainage water for crop, forage, energy biomass feed stocks and livestock production in salt affected areas of the San Joaquin Valley. He has received meritorious service awards from the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists and the Soil and Water Conservation Society, is past president of the California chapter of the American Society of Agronomy, and past section leader for American Society of Agronomy's division on environmental quality. He has MS and

Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University in agronomy and a B.S. from the University of California at Santa Cruz in biology.

Sonia Yeh

Researcher and faculty member of Graduate Group in Transportation Technology and Policy at the Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California, Davis.

Sonia's primary research interest is to advance the understanding of future energy systems and their environmental and social impacts, and to seek policy solutions and improve the sustainability of our future energy systems. Dr. Yeh's research can be divided into four key tracks: fuels and fuel greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions regulations, sustainability, energy system modeling, and technological change and learning-by-doing. In the past year and a half, Dr. Yeh has been involved with the actual policy design and implementation of California climate policies, specifically the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32), the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) and the Sustainability Plan for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program (AB118). Dr. Yeh co-led a team of researchers from the University of California Berkeley and Davis providing technical and policy advise for the implementation of California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS). She co-directs five research teams across the U.S. studying the implementation of a national Low Carbon Fuel Standard.

Peter Cafferata

Forest Hydrologist, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Peter has his BS in Forestry from UC Berkeley and MS in Forest Hydrology from OSU. He is a Professional Hydrologist, Registered Professional Forester, and Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control. He has worked for CAL FIRE for over 29 years in Ukiah, Fort Bragg, and Sacramento and participated in the Caspar Creek watershed study since 1982. He has helped collect and analyze statewide water quality-related monitoring data since 1991. Lastly, he coordinated activities for the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Monitoring Study Group since 1994.

Tom O'Connor

Owner, H2O'C Engineering, Columbia, Missouri

Tom received his BS in Electrical Engineering and Master of Business Administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is a professional engineer and licensed water treatment plant operator in the state of Missouri. He is a member of MWWC, AWWA, and the Columbia Metro Rotary Club. He has been published in magazines (Public Works, Water Engineering and Management, and Water World) and has published a book titled, "Water Treatment Plant Performance Evaluations and Operations". He serves on the City of Columbia Water and Light Advisory Board and the City of Columbia Environment and Energy Commission.

Jim Tisher

Program Manager for the International Center for Water Technology at California State University, Fresno.

Jim is currently tasked with assisting the Mendota Advanced Bioenergy Beet Cooperative to determine if a 600,000 T/yr sugar beet biorefinery is feasible, economically viable and sustainable in the western San Joaquin Valley.

He is also assigned to the California Water Institute at Fresno State and is working with the Governor's appointed California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley leadership, elected leaders, water community, and public to develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Framework. Jim served as Director of Fuel Procurement for the permitting, construction, start up and operation of four California biomass plants for a major Fortune 500 corporation in the early 1990's. Each facility cost in excess of \$80 million and utilized over 1,000,000 tons annually of diversified biomass fuels to produce a net 100 megawatts of electrical power.

He is also Team Leader for the development and implementation of the innovative Solar and Renewable Fuels Initiative for the International Center for Water Technology. Jim is a graduate of the University of California, Davis with a B.S. in Irrigation and Fellow of the prestigious California Agricultural Leadership Program.