



**THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION
PRESENTS**

**6 Hours
MCLE Credit**



**How Blue Is Your Valley?
Your Voice, Your Future:
A Community Conference on Water
in the San Joaquin Valley**

APRIL 24, 2015

Fresno City College

Old Administration Building (OAB)
1101 E. University Avenue, Room 251
Fresno, CA 93741

Register Online at <http://environmental.calbar.ca.gov>

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

8:45 a.m.

Registration

9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**Welcome to the “How Blue Is Your Valley” Conference
Overview of the issues addressed in the morning panels**

SPEAKER: Roger Moore, *Partner, Rossmann and Moore, Berkeley; Conference Co-Chair, Executive Committee of The State Bar of California Environmental Law Section*

Getting Information About Water

SPEAKER: Chris Austin, *Founder and Writer, Maven's Notebook Water News Website, Canyon Country*

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Valley Fever: Drought Resilience in a Warmer San Joaquin Region

Communities and farms throughout the San Joaquin Valley are coping with the consequences of prolonged drought. But the most difficult tasks may still lie ahead if, as many expect, conditions become hotter, drier, and subject to more extreme changes. Dangers include major losses in water supply, wildfires, and lower water and air quality. A diverse panel of experts will discuss present and future conditions, state and local laws and policies aiming to reduce these risks, and prescriptions for the future. They will answer questions and invite your participation.

MODERATOR: Paul Hagen, *Attorney, Isola Law Group, Arcata*

PANELISTS: Teamrat Ghezzehei, *Associate Professor, Environmental Studies, UC Merced*
Spencer Kenner, *Assistant Chief Counsel, Department of Water Resources, Sacramento*
Jennifer Buckman, *General Counsel, Friant Water Authority, Lindsay*
Debbie Davis-Franco, *Community and Rural Affairs Advisor, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Sacramento*

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

I Feel The Earth Move Under My Feet: Subsidence, Sustainable Management, and California's New Groundwater Law

This year is California's first under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, a landmark 2014 law requiring the state to step in if local agencies fail to implement new plans for sustainable groundwater management. The law will face a major test in the San Joaquin Valley, where chronic overdraft of some groundwater basins has caused land subsidence and created risks for farms and communities. This expert panel will discuss the changing role of groundwater in the valley, the interplay between state and local laws and policies, and how farms, cities and natural resources could benefit from better groundwater management.

MODERATOR: Roger Moore, *Partner, Rossmann and Moore, Berkeley*

PANELISTS: Sarge Green, *Program Director, California Water Institute, California State University-Fresno*
Phoebe Seaton, *Co-Director, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, Fresno*
Ernest Conant, *Partner, Young Wooldridge, Bakersfield*
Dane Mathis, *Senior Engineering Geologist and Chief, Groundwater and Regional Planning Section, Department of Water Resources, South Central Regional Office, Fresno*

12:45 p.m.– 1:30 p.m.

Lunch/Keynote Speaker

(Lunch Provided)

Mark Arax, Author/Journalist, Fresno



One of the finest nonfiction writers of his generation, Mark Arax combines the sharp instincts of an investigative reporter, the depth and range of a classic essayist, and a powerful sense of place that reflects his lifelong ties to the San Joaquin Valley. His reporting stands out for its skill in identifying hidden sources of power, its compassion for farmers and laborers, and its understanding of California's challenging relationship with water. His acclaimed books include *In My Father's Name*, which investigates his father's 1972 murder in Fresno, and *West of the West*, a collection of California essays described in *Publisher's Weekly* as "taking its place alongside Didion and Saroyan's great social portraits." He is also co-author, with Rick Wartzman, of *The King of California*, winner of a California Book Award and the William Saroyan International Writing Prize. A graduate of Fresno State and Columbia who has taught writing at Claremont McKenna College and Fresno State, Arax lives on a suburban farm in Fresno.

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Introduction to Afternoon Session

Recap of the morning panels and overview of the afternoon panels

K. Eric Adair, *Partner, Hinson Gravelle & Adair, Valencia; Conference Co-Chair, Executive Committee of California State Bar Environmental Law Section*

1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

The Human Right to Water: Providing Safe Drinking Water for Disadvantaged Communities

California was the first state in the country to explicitly recognize the human right to safe, clean, affordable and accessible drinking water. Yet some communities in the San Joaquin Valley, mostly rural and low income, still face daunting challenges attempting to deliver on that promise and overcome financial and bureaucratic hurdles. Meanwhile, Californians are reviewing a State Drinking Water Plan and considering how to invest water bond funding. This panel provides practical discussion of water rights, basic human rights, and continuing efforts to secure safe drinking water.

MODERATOR: Mark Keppler, *Executive Director, Maddy Institute; TV/Radio Host, Maddy Report; and Professor of Public Affairs, California State University – Fresno*

PANELISTS: Laurel Firestone, *Co-Director, Community Water Center, Visalia*
Dee Dee D'Adamo, *Member, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento*
William Thomas, Jr., *Of Counsel, Best, Best and Krieger, Sacramento*

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Fracking in the San Joaquin Valley: What Does It Mean to You and Your Water Supply?

California is the nation's third-largest producer of crude oil, with nearly all coming from fields in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Hydraulic fracturing (fracking), a method of stimulating greater oil production, has been heralded as a possible source of economic growth and energy independence, and also criticized for potential impacts to the environment and human health. A critical concern for San Joaquin Valley residents is fracking's use, and potential contamination, of precious water resources. Our expert panelists will discuss potential and actual risks of fracking and explain state and local efforts to regulate the practice and protect water supplies.

MODERATOR: K. Eric Adair, *Partner, Hinson Gravelle & Adair, Valencia*

PANELISTS: Caroline Farrell, *Executive Director, Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, Delano*
Jonathan Bishop, *Chief Deputy Director, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento*
Peter Duchesneau, *Partner, Manatt Phelps & Phillips, Los Angeles*
Catherine Engberg, *Partner, Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, San Francisco*

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

The deadline to pre-register is **Friday, April 17, 2015.**

ON-LINE REGISTRATION:

Register online at <http://environmental.calbar.ca.gov>

MAIL:

Mail to

Program Registration
The State Bar of California
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

FAX:

Fax to (415) 538-2368. Credit card payment is required.

CANCELLATIONS/REFUND:

Requests must be received in writing by **Friday, April 17, 2015.**
A \$25 processing fee will be charged. Refunds will not be available after **Friday, April 17, 2015.**

ON-SITE REGISTRATION:

On-site registration is subject to availability. Call to confirm space availability.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE:

For special assistance, please call (415) 538-2582.

MCLE:

The State Bar of California and the Environmental Law Section are State Bar of California approved MCLE Providers.

QUESTIONS:

For registration information call (415) 538-2508. Telephone registrations will not be accepted. For program content and/or Section information call (415) 538-2582.

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REGISTRATION FORM

Note: One registrant per form. Photocopies may be used.

Bar Number: _____

Name: _____

Firm: _____

Firm Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

(Required for email confirmation)

Your name and address may be disclosed

_____ Check here if you do not want your information released

REGISTRATION FEES (DUE by Friday, April 17, 2015)

- \$50** Environmental Law Section Members
- \$65** Non-Section Members
- \$25** Government/Non-Profit Attorney
- \$10** General Public (no MCLE credit)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED OR TO BE CHARGED \$ _____

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION (VISA/MasterCard Only)

I authorize The State Bar of California to charge my program registration to my VISA/MasterCard account. (No other credit card will be accepted.)

Account Number: _____
(VISA or MasterCard only)

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

Deadline: In order to pre-register, your form and check, payable to The State Bar of California, or credit card information, must be received by **Friday, April 17, 2015.**

Register Online: <http://environmental.calbar.ca.gov>

Mail To: Program Registration, The State Bar of California,
180 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Fax To: Program Registration at 415-538-2368. In order to fax your registration, credit card information is **MANDATORY.**
(Photocopies of checks will NOT be accepted.)

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