

### 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 27



**EVENT PROGRAM** 



#### **Board of Directors**

Kent H. Stephens, Chairman Kern-Tulare Water District

Chris Tantau, Vice-Chair Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District

Clifford Loeffler, Secretary/Treasurer Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District

Edwin Camp

Arvin-Edison Water Storage District

Kole Upton
Chowchilla Water District

Tim Orman City of Fresno

George Porter
Fresno Irrigation District

Loren Booth
Hills Valley Irrigation District

Michael Brownfield

Lindmore Irrigation District

Clifford Loeffler Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District

Jim Erickson

Madera Irrigation District

Harvey Bailey
Orange Cove Irrigation District

Eric Borba

Porterville Irrigation District

Stephen Kisling
Saucelito Irrigation District

Edwin Wheaton
Terra Bella Irrigation District

Rick Borges
Tulare Irrigation District

#### Staff

Jason Phillips, Chief Executive Officer

Alex Biering, Government Affairs and Communications Manager

Don Davis, General Counsel

Doug DeFlitch, Chief Operating Officer

Chris Hickernell, General Superintendent

Chris Hunter, Director of Information Technology

Steve Ottemoeller, Water Resources Director

Jeff Payne, Water Policy Director

Don Willard. Chief Financial Officer

# FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

Kent H. Stephens

Kern-Tulare W.D. Chairman of the Board

**Chris Tantau** 

Kaweah Delta W.C.D. Vice Chairman

**Cliff Loeffler** 

Lindsay-Strathmore I.D. Secretary/Treasurer

Jason R. Phillips
Chief Executive Officer

**Donald M. Davis** *General Counsel* 

**Douglas A. DeFlitch** *Chief Operating Officer* 

Arvin-Edison W.S.D. Edwin Camp

Chowchilla W.D. Kole Upton

City of Fresno Tim Orman

Fresno I.D. George Porter

Hills Valley I.D. Loren Booth

Lindmore I.D.
Michael Brownfield

Madera I.D. Jim Erickson

Orange Cove I.D. Harvey A. Bailey

Porterville I.D. Eric Borba

Saucelito I.D.
Steven G. Kisling

Terra Bella I.D. Edwin L Wheaton

Tulare I.D. Rick Borges

Main Office 854 N. Harvard Avenue Lindsay, CA 93247 559.562.6305 March 27, 2018

Dear Attendee:

Welcome to the 2018 Friant Water Authority (FWA) Annual Meeting! Tonight, we intend to update you on our Board of Directors' and staff's activity over the past year and also provide an outlook of our most critical priorities for 2018 and beyond, such as addressing Friant-Kern Canal capacity challenges, meaningful improvements to federal water policy, and the water bond that will likely appear on the November 2018 ballot.

Last year's annual meeting – our first ever – was a tremendous success, with nearly 200 people attending from throughout the valley, including Eastside and Westside water users and growers, Friant Division district staff and directors, state and federal legislative staff, and local elected officials. Many attendees brought their families, and several remarked to FWA staff that they were able to reconnect with friends and colleagues they hadn't seen for a decade or more. We were pleased to provide a forum for members of the Friant community to reestablish the relationships that make the valley such a special place.

Much has changed since we last met in April 2017 – at that time, we were integrating several new members of the FWA staff management team, we were still assessing the scope of the subsidence on the Friant-Kern Canal, the path forward on a Temperance Flat Proposition 1 application was unclear, and we weren't certain of the new Presidential Administration's water priorities. Importantly, the Friant Division was beginning to heal from the wounds inflicted on the Eastside during the drought and "zero" allocations in 2014 and 2015 – FWA had recently welcomed back one general member (Madera Irrigation District) and two associate members (Fresno Irrigation District and Chowchilla Water District) who became full, general members of FWA earlier this year. Much progress has been made in these areas over the past 12 months upon which we look forward to reporting tonight.

As we noted last year, we firmly believe that the Friant Division is strongest when we're united, and we will continue working toward that goal in 2018. Thank you for attending, and please enjoy the evening.

Sincerely,

Kent H. Stephens Chairman Jason Phillips Chief Executive Officer

www.friantwater.org



## Annual Meeting March 27, 2018

#### **Agenda**

6:00 - Reception

#### 7:00 – Program of Speakers

#### Welcome/Introduction to Friant

Jason Phillips, FWA Chief Executive Officer

#### Comments from the Chair

Kent Stephens, FWA Board Chair

#### Accomplishments in 2017 and Future Challenges

Jason Phillips, FWA Chief Executive Officer

#### Overview of the 2018 Water Bond

Dr. Jerry Meral

#### Federal and State Priorities for 2018

Austin Ewell, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, U.S. Department of the Interior

David Murillo, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region Karla Nemeth, Director, California Department of Water Resources

9:00 - Adjourn



## Annual Meeting March 27, 2018

#### **Speaker Bios**

#### **Edwin Camp**

Edwin Camp has served on the Friant Water Authority Board of Directors since 2013 and also serves on the Board's Executive Committee. He is President of the Board of Arvin-Edison Water Storage District and also President of DM Camp & Sons, a third-generation family farming enterprise and John Deere Distributorship based in Bakersfield. Edwin Camp is a Bakersfield native, born in 1956, one of five children born to Don and Izetta Camp. The quest to learn his trade began early, having been raised on the farm, he spent most summers and holidays working in various areas of the operation. He attended Shafter Schools, was active in his church youth group and became an Eagle Scout before reaching high school. He has a long history of business and community involvement, including as a director and former chairman of Western Growers Association. Edwin also serves as a director or member of the Cal Poly College of Agriculture Advisory Council, the California Agricultural Leadership Program, and the Advisory Board of Kern Citizens for Sustainable Government. He is a former director of California Potato Research and Advisory Board, the National Potato Board, the Kern County Farm Bureau and the North Kern Water District board. He and his wife Kaye have two daughters and live in Bakersfield. Edwin has a Bachelor of Science in Crop Science from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, where he also served as president of the Crops Club and was a member of Alpha Zeta national professional agricultural fraternity.

#### **Austin Ewell**

Austin Ewell serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science in the U.S. Department of the Interior. In this capacity, Austin provides oversight and acts as the primary policy lead for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S Geological Survey. The USBR is the largest wholesale water supplier in the country and the USGS is the nation's premier natural science and information agency; these agencies each have a \$1B+ budget and over 5,000 employees. Austin represents Interior in key water matters including conservation, drought and infrastructure initiatives across the administration, and he directs Interior's WaterSMART initiative. He coordinates the Department's sustainable hydropower strategy and overall water policy with a specific focus on California.

Prior to joining the staff at Interior, Austin was President and General Counsel at the Ewell Group of Companies, Fresno, CA. In that capacity he managed water and land use projects including the coordination of consultants to ensure accountability of timelines and deliverables as well as managing the entitlement and regulatory processing of projects.

He lobbied state and local agencies regarding projects' land development and water acquisitions, transfers, and exchanges; monitored the legal strategy and tactical decisions concerning the establishment of environmental preserves, real estate development, land use and water related matters.

Austin earned his BA in 2000 at the University of Southern California; in 2004, he earned his JD from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

#### **Dr. Jerry Meral**

Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Meral is the director of the California Water Program at the Natural Heritage Institute. He works on funding for California water, Delta infrastructure, and a variety of other California water programs. He formerly served as Deputy Director of the California Department of Water Resources, Deputy Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, Executive Director of the Planning and Conservation Director, and Staff Scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund. He has placed 9 initiatives on the California statewide ballot, and has been involved in many statewide ballot measures affecting California water, parks, wildlife, health, and transportation. He has a Ph.D. in zoology from the University of California, Berkeley. He serves as the campaign director of the Water Supply and Water Quality Initiative Bond Act of November 2018 campaign.

#### **David Murillo**

As Regional Director for the Mid-Pacific Region, David Murillo oversees the management of Bureau of Reclamation's water projects in an area encompassing the northern two-thirds of Calif., most of western Nev. and part of southern Ore. In addition to the Regional Office headquarters in Sacramento, Calif., the Region includes five Area Offices located in Klamath Falls, Ore.; Carson City, Nev.; and Redding, Folsom, and Fresno, Calif.; and three specialized offices, the MP Construction Office in Willows, Calif.; and the Central Valley Operations Office and the Bay-Delta Office in Sacramento.

Appointed Regional Director in December 2012, Murillo is responsible for Calif.'s Central Valley Project, one of the nation's most complex and highest-profile network of dams, reservoirs, canals and hydroelectric powerplants. Extending 400 miles through northern and central California, the CVP's 20 dams and reservoirs provides an average of 5.5 million acre-feet of water annually for agriculture, municipal and industrial and environmental uses in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, California's central coast region, and southern and eastern San Francisco Bay area. The CVP's 11 hydropower plants generate about 4.5 billion kilowatt-hours a year.

Prior to joining the MP Region, Murillo served as Reclamation's Deputy Commissioner for Operations, overseeing operations in five regions across 17 western states; the Native American and International Affairs Office; and Denver's Technical Service Center, Research and Development, Power Resources Office, Dam Safety Office, and Design, Estimating and Construction.

From 2006 to 2010, Murillo served as the Power Manager for the Grand Coulee Power Office, the largest hydroelectric facility in the United States. In this position, he managed the Grand Coulee and Hungry Horse dams and power plants. Grand Coulee Dam is the key feature of Reclamation's Columbia Basin Project in central Washington, a multi-purpose project which provides flood control, irrigation, hydropower production, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.

Murillo is originally from Yakima and graduated from Washington State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering in 1984.

Murillo and his wife, Terri, have three adult children

#### **Karla Nemeth**

Karla Nemeth was appointed Director of the California Department of Water Resources by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on January 10, 2018.

DWR operates and maintains the California State Water Project, manages floodwaters, monitors dam safety, conducts habitat restoration, and provides technical assistance and funding for projects for local water needs. Nemeth will oversee the Department and its mission to manage and protect California's water resources, working with other agencies in order to benefit the State's people and to protect, restore and enhance the natural and human environments.

Nemeth worked at the California Natural Resources Agency as Governor Brown's deputy secretary and senior advisor for water policy since 2014. She was Bay Delta Conservation Plan project manager from 2009 to 2014.

Nemeth was environmental and public affairs director for the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District from 2005 to 2009. She was community affairs manager at Jones and Stokes from 2003 to 2005.

She has a Master's degree in public administration from the University of Washington.

#### **Jason Phillips**

Jason Phillips joined Friant Water Authority as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in 2016. In this role, he oversees all activity conducted by the authority on behalf of its member agencies and represents the public face of the organization. Prior to Friant Water Authority, Jason worked for 15 years for the Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region. His experience at Reclamation included Deputy Regional Director, Area Manager of the Reclamation's Klamath Basin Area Office, based in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and manager of several complex Programs in the Region including the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation (the federal Temperance Flat study), and the San Luis Drainage Feature Re-evaluation. Before this, he a was a project planner for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, on flood control and ecosystem restoration projects. Jason, his wife Melisa, and their three children live in Fresno. Jason received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering at Portland State University.

#### **Kent Stephens**

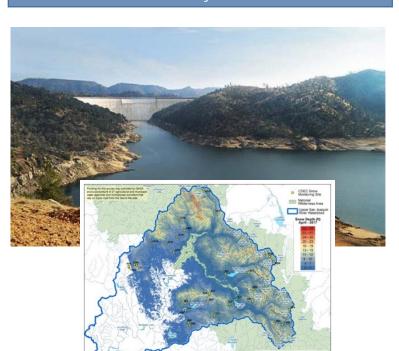
Kent Stephens first became a director for the Friant Water Users Authority, the predecessor of the Friant Water Authority, in 1998 representing Kern-Tulare Water District as its President. He became a director of the Kern Tulare Water District board in 1987. As a young boy, he first irrigated on the family farm in the Modesto Irrigation District. Following graduation from Brigham Young University in 1973 with a B.S. in Accounting Kent joined the accounting firm Arthur Andersen & Co., San Jose, California Office Tax Division servicing various agricultural clients in the State and Nation including the Salinas and San Joaquin Valleys. He obtained his CPA certificate in 1976. Kent joined with Marko Zaninovich, Inc., in 1977, currently serving as Director, Corporate Secretary and Chief Financial Officer. Marko Zaninovich, Inc., a four-generation farming family and affiliated entities farm in several Friant and state water districts.



### 2017 Accomplishments

## Critical Task: Operation & Maintenance of the Friant-Kern Canal

- 1,460,000 AF delivered to Friant contractors through the Friant-Kern Canal
- Quantified urgent challenges and formulated a response related to subsidence on the canal
- Implemented short-term actions to improve delivery ability below the subsidence area
- Initiated aggressive planning and engineering efforts in partnership with Reclamation to make long-term canal capacity upgrades
- Replaced 48 concrete panels over 9 miles to restore canal integrity
- Applied 54 tons of copper sulfate and 275 gallons of chelated copper to control aquatic weeds and invasive plants (milfoil) throughout the entire canal
- Retrofitted 2 temporary reverse-flow pump stations at Shafter and Reservoir check structures
- Developed a private 4G LTE network to move from a standard SCADA system to an Operational Intelligence system on the canal's 14 check structures and 88 delivery sites







## Strategic Plan Goal #1: Water Supply Management

- 23,000 AF of recaptured water delivered to Friant contractors or returned to Millerton Lake
- Organized group of San Joaquin Valley water agencies to evaluate feasibility of water user investment in Temperance Flat
- Launched aerial snow survey program
- Obtained \$4 M in state funding for Friant-Kern Canal facility upgrades
- Secured \$7.2 M in federal funding budgeted for Friant-Kern Canal capacity restoration
- Provided technical support to ensure 2018 Water Bond included Friant infrastructure needs
- Added specialized legal counsel to ensure full protection of Friant water rights and contracts



### 2017 Accomplishments

#### Strategic Plan Goal #2: Good Internal and External Governance

- Updated Strategic Plan to focus staff and Board of Director efforts on highest priorities
- Convened Board Retreat held to develop 2018 strategy
- Held 12 Board meetings and 10 Executive Committee meetings
- Elected new Board officers
- Increased membership to 15 with addition of Fresno Irrigation District and Chowchilla Water District
- Improved transparency and communication with directors to facilitate better decision-making





## Strategic Plan Goal #3: Outreach and Engagement

- Organized several trips to Washington DC with directors and staff to communicate and educate policy makers and lawmakers on Friant issues and priorities
- Launched Weekly Water Supply Report email
- Held first-ever Annual Meeting
- Staff elected to positions on ACWA's Federal Affairs, Legal Affairs, and State Legislative Affairs committees
- New website at www.friantwater.org
- Fact sheets produced on the Valley's water balance, Friant-Kern Canal subsidence, the Aerial Snow Observatory, and Temperance Flat
- Obtained input on priorities during 4 town hall meetings throughout the Friant service area
- Promoted Friant contractor priorities at speaking engagements that included the Water Association of Kern County, ACWA, San Joaquin River Association, Calif. State Board of Food and Agriculture, Fresno County Farm Bureau, and Leadership Porterville

