

## CCRE Surviving Climate Whiplash Panel 7/20/2023

### Summary of first 16 Minutes

Following a welcome and introductions by C.A.R. CEO and moderator, John M. Sebree, Karla Nemeth, Director of the California Department of Water Resources, explained that water in California is regulated at the local level, which makes the work of fellow panelist Dave Eggerton, Executive Director of the Association of California Water Agencies, so important. She provided an overview of what we mean by surface water, groundwater, reclaimed water and desalinated water. The panelists explained that groundwater accounts for 40%-60% of our water supply, but there are many innovations on the horizon to optimize the storage of surface water and reclamation and desalination processes. They then addressed the topic of drought, and Dr. Erik Porse, Director of the California Institute for Water Resources, explained that while we're not technically in a drought at present, we will certainly enter one in the future and that this cycle of years-long droughts is sure to continue in California, due to climate change.

Sebree turned the focus to the title of the event, "Surviving Climate Whiplash," and explained how it refers to our fast transition from heavy, prolonged rains this winter and spring to our current entry into wildfire season. Dr. Porse discussed how our infrastructure was built in the last century for a wetter climate, how the 1980s/90s were relatively wet and then we had prolonged droughts 2012-2016 and 2019-2022. Now, we are vacillating quickly between wet and dry weather, and that's taxing the infrastructure and policies in place, which were not built for this velocity of change.

Sebree asked Jeff Schroeder, Ponderosa Homes' SVP Land Acquisition and Planning, how changes in land use can ensure the housing crisis isn't further compounded by home buyers losing access to insurance. Schroeder said that he felt the current insurance crisis was man-made, a result of policy choices and regulations primarily instituted by the Department of Insurance. He believes that policy changes could result in insurers being able to manage their risk and operate in the state successfully. Sebree reminded attending C.A.R. members that they will have an opportunity to dive into this at next week's Town Hall with Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara.

Nemeth discussed the points of the recent water resiliency plan issued by the Governor Newsome and the state. She discussed how the DWR collaborates with federal science agencies like NASA to examine weather systems and how one significant factor in the need to improve water resiliency is that the steady rise of ambient temperatures is creating a greater demand for water. An example of this is that when this year's snowpack melted, more of the water evaporated into the atmosphere than was absorbed by the ground. This means that this year a yard would need more water to keep the 'status quo' than before. The panelists explained how this trend illustrates the importance of us investing in infrastructure efficiencies, desalination and reclamation processes, and continuing to curb our water use.