Uncommon Dialogue: Marine and Coastal Impacts of Desalination in California
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SPEAKER BIOS

Newsha K. Ajami, Ph.D., Director of Urban Water Policy, Stanford University

Newsha K. Ajami is the director of Urban Water Policy with Stanford University's Water in the West and NSF-ReNUWIt initiatives. She is a hydrologist specializing in sustainable water resource management, water policy, the water-energy-food nexus, and advancing uncertainty assessment techniques impacting hydrological predictions. Her research throughout the years has been interdisciplinary and impact driven, focusing on the improvement of the science-policy-stakeholder interface by incorporating social and economic measures and relevant and effective communication. Dr. Ajami is a gubernatorial appointee to the Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board. Before joining Stanford, she worked as a senior research associate at the Pacific Institute from 2011 to 2013, and served as a Science and Technology fellow at the California State Senate's Natural Resources and Water Committee where she worked on various water and energy related legislation. She was also a post doctorate researcher with the Berkeley Water Center, University of California, Berkeley. She has published many highly cited peer-reviewed papers in predominant journals, coauthored two books, and contributed opinion pieces to the *New York Times* and the *Sacramento Bee*.

Jason Burnett, Mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea

Jason Burnett was re-elected as the Mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA in April of 2014. Jason served as Carmel-by-the-Sea's Mayor from 2012-2014 and as a City Councilmember from 2010-2012. Previously, Jason was Managing Partner of Clean Fund, a company that works to structure and secure financing for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Jason serves on multiple Monterey County Boards, including as Vice President of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority (MPRWA) Board of Directors. Previously, Jason was the Associate Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and prior to the EPA he worked for Evolution Markets, a brokerage and consulting firm. He has testified and interviewed by Senate and Congressional committees and continues to engage federal and state policy leaders on a myriad of issues. He has also been quoted in the Washington Post, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, LA Times, San Francisco Chronicle, AP, CNN, ABC, C-SPAN, and NPR. Jason is a trustee of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and member of the Board of the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Walter Heady, CA Coastal Marine Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy

Walter Heady works on projects to highlight the ecological function and ecosystem services of coastal habitats and develop creative new approaches to their conservation. He is working on a California coastal conservation assessment, researching spatial considerations of desalination in California, completed an assessment of the nursery role of West Coast estuaries, is investigating how farmer cooperatives can minimize impacts from intensive agriculture to estuaries, and provides science leadership for TNC's Coastal Resilience program. Dr. Heady held a Postdoctoral Research position at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, and received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 2012.

Tom Luster, Senior Environmental Scientist, California Coastal Commission
Tom Luster is a senior environmental scientist with the California Coastal Commission and advises the Commission on policies and projects related to desalination along the California coast. He helped develop the desalination amendment to California's Ocean Plan that the State Water Resources Control Board adopted in 2015, and he participates in several state and federal interagency working groups on desalination, including those convened by the Ocean Protection Council, the Department of Water Resources, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Tom was principal author of the Coastal Commission's March 2004 report titled "Seawater Desalination and the California Coastal Act," and in 2003 served as co-chair of the state's Desalination Task Force. His other work at the Commission includes evaluating policies and proposals related to energy and ocean resources, including offshore oil and gas, coastal power plants, and wave and wind energy projects. Tom has a M.S. in Resource Geography from Oregon State University and a B.S. in Geography from Humboldt State University.

Peter Raimondi, Professor and Chair of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UC Santa Cruz
Peter Raimondi is a professor in and chair of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UC Santa Cruz (http://research.pbsci.ucsc.edu/eeb/rclab/). He received his PhD from UC Santa Barbara in 1988 and had post-doctoral fellowships at the University of Melbourne in Australia and at UC Santa Barbara. He is the author of 100+ peer reviewed papers and technical reports on a wide range of topics, such as coral recruitment, kelp forest and rocky shore ecosystems, demography, molecular genetics, marine protected areas, wave energy, ecotoxicology, once-through cooling at power plants and desalinization facilities, nearshore oceanography and particularly design of monitoring programs.

Philip Roberts, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology
Dr. Roberts is Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. His professional interests are in environmental fluid mechanics, particularly its application to the engineering design of water intakes and ocean outfalls for disposal of wastewaters and desalination brine. He has developed mathematical models of wastewater fate and transport that are widely used around the world. He was one of only two Distinguished Scholars in the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Oceans and Human Health Initiative (OHHI) in which he conducted research on bacterial transport in coastal waters.