



**Legislative Committee Meeting Agenda  
Monday, January 29, 2024 - 3:00-3:30 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting**

**Agenda**

- Welcome - **Michael Hadley**, Chair, CalDesal Legislative Committee

**Events Update**

- CalDesal 2024 Annual Conference
  - February 8-9, 2024
  - Embassy Suites, Sacramento
  - Program overview (Attached)

**Legislative Update**

- Legislative session update – State Budget overview
- Update on CalDesal position bills:
  - AB 1567 (Garcia) - \$15.1B resources bond measure – SUPPORT IF AMENDED
    - Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
  - SB 366 (Caballero) – Water plan update – SUPPORT
    - Two-year bill
  - SB 867 (Allen) - \$15.5B resources bond measure – SUPPORT IF AMENDED
    - Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee
- Review of bill tracking report
  - Any additional legislation for discussion?
- Proposed Chumash Marine Sanctuary (Attached)
- Other items?

**Next Legislative Committee Meeting:  
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 – 3:00 PM**



## 2024 Annual Conference

Desal for California's Water Resiliency, Security,  
and Sustainability February 8-9 • Sacramento

# Conference Schedule

### Day 1: Thursday, February 8, 2024 – 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM

8:00 – Conference Opening and Welcome + Continental Breakfast (CalDesal Chair Mark Donovan and Executive Director Glenn Farrel)

8:15 – 9:30 – **Session 1 - The Societal Case for Desal: Economic Impacts of Water Scarcity**

- Moderator: **Brent Alspach** – Director of Applied Research, *Arcadis*
  - **Dr. Ellen Bruno**, Assistant Professor of Cooperative Extension, *UC Berkeley Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics*
  - **Janet Clements**, President and Founder, *One Water Econ*
  - **Edward Ring**, Senior Fellow, *California Policy Center*

9:30 – 9:35 – Break

9:35 – 10:25 – **Session 2 – A Conversation With Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot**

- Moderator: **Mark Donovan**, *CalDesal Chair*
  - **Secretary Wade Crowfoot**, *California Natural Resources Agency*

10:25 – 10:40 – Break

**10:40 – 11:50 – Session 3 – Advancing Water Resilience Through Desal at the Local and Regional Levels**

- Moderator: **Paul Hermann, GHD**
  - **Greg Kowalski** – *Engineering Manager, Eastern Municipal Water District and Lee Portillo – Project Manager, Black & Veatch*
  - **Robert Richardson** – *Principal Engineer, United Water Conservation District*
  - **Chris Coppinger** – *Senior Geohydrologist, United Water Conservation District*
  - **Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.** – *General Manager, Mesa Water District*

**11:50 – 1:30 – Lunch – Keynote Speaker:**

- **Peter MacLaggan**, *Former Vice President, Poseidon Water*

**1:30 – 2:45 – Session 4 – Media Perspectives on Desalination**

- Moderator: **Kathleen Ronayne, Associated Press**
  - **Steven Greenhut**, *Southern California News Group*
  - **Ari Plachta**, *Sacramento Bee*
  - **Dan Walters**, *CalMatters*

**2:45 – 3:00 – Break**

**3:00 – 4:15 – Session 5 – Offshore Desalination Advancements**

Moderator: **Tim Hogan, TWB Environmental Research and Consulting**

- **Kalyn Simon**, *Ocean Well*
- **Borja Blanco**, *Waterise*
- **Shawn Meyer-Steele**, *Oneka Technologies*
- **Peter Stricker**, *Sea Well*

**4:15 – 4:20 – Break**

**4:20 – 5:20 – Session 6 – Women in Desalination**

Moderator: **Kim Adamson, Kiewit Infrastructure**

- **Lihy Teuerstein**, *IDE Technologies*
- **Heidi Luckenback**, *City of Santa Cruz*
- **Elena Rodriguez**, *Ingeteam (Invited)*
- **Michelle Peters**, *Channelside Water Resources*

**5:20 – Wrap-up and reminder of Day 2 conference activities (Executive Director Glenn Farrel)**

**5:30 – CalDesal Reception – Embassy Suites – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Reception Area**

## **Day 2: Friday, February 9, 2023 – 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

8:00 – 9:00 – Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 9:15 – Session 7 – Current Seawater Desalination Project Updates: Doheny + Monterey + Carlsbad

- Moderator: **Mark Donovan**, Chair, *CalDesal Board of Directors*
  - **Marc Serna**, *Doheny Desalination Project*
  - **Chris Cook**, *Monterey Water Supply Project*
  - **Eric Miller**, *Miller Marine Science & Consulting*
  - **Jeremy Crutchfield**, *Water Resources Manager, San Diego County Water Authority*

9:15 – 9:45 – Session 8 – State Agency Perspective on California's Desal Future

- Moderator: **Eric Miller**, *Miller Marine Science & Consulting*
  - **Tonianne Pezzetti**, *California Department of Water Resources*

9:45 – 10:45 – Session 9 – Seawater Desalination Opportunities – A Federal Perspective

- Moderator: **TBD**
  - **Jack Simes**, *U.S. Bureau of Reclamation*
  - **Roger Gorke**, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
  - **Meagan Mauter**, *Research Director, National Alliance for Water Innovation*
  - **Jason Golumbskie—Jones**, *U.S. Department of Defense*

10:45 – 11:00 – Break

11:00 – 12:00 – Session 10 – Gameplanning CalDesal's Engagement in Upcoming Ocean Plan Amendment Process

- Moderator: **Eric Miller**, *Miller Marine Science & Consulting*

12:00 – Final Remarks and Conference Close (Chair Mark Donovan and ED Glenn Farrel)



October 24, 2023

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
Federal eRulemaking Portal: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

**SUBJECT: NOAA-NOS-2021-0080 – Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary**

Dear Office of National Marine Sanctuaries:

On behalf of CalDesal, California's statewide desalination and salinity management industry association, we write to share our perspectives on the Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS). Specifically, we encourage the Office of Marine Sanctuaries to ensure that the proposed CHNMS Draft Management Plan include a specific action item chapter – or stand-alone guidelines – relative to ensuring a path forward to pursue ocean water desalination opportunities within the CHNMS area in the future.

Comprised of nearly 60 organizations statewide, CalDesal (<https://www.caldesal.org/>) represents public and private sector entities, as well as non-profit organizations integrating the use of desalination to ensure a sustainable water future for California's communities and economy. CalDesal is dedicated to helping California increase its statewide water resilience which has been impacted by a changing climate, unpredictable and erratic precipitation patterns, water supply challenges, and continued population growth.

Over recent years, California's hydrologic conditions have been impacted by both high temperatures and a lack of precipitation. Even as we emerge from a strong precipitation and snowpack winter, our state's long-term ability to be water- and drought-resilient and to respond to a rapidly changing climate pattern is challenged. Water use efficiency has been a valuable tool to meet the needs of California's cyclical drought impacts. Nonetheless, the "New Normal" that we are facing with respect to our climate patterns and hydrology indicates that a broader portfolio of resiliency strategies and investments in water supply infrastructure – including recycled water, potable reuse, stormwater management, salt and contaminant removal projects, and brackish and ocean water desalination – must be made now so that we can withstand the next cycle of prolonged and damaging drought and the aridification of California. It is imperative that, as California responds to climate change challenges, aridification, a decreasing snowpack, and prolonged drought conditions within the Colorado River Basin, that we need to continue to have paths forward to pursue reasonable opportunities for ocean water desalination along California's 800-mile coastline.

CalDesal recognizes the importance of protecting coastal and marine resources by addressing critical and emerging threats, undertaking research and monitoring needs, public engagement, and effectively implementing and sustaining programs to effectuate the coastal and marine protection efforts. We also recognize that the proposed CHNMS would cover an extensive area along the Central California coastline south of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and that the area has been – and remains – sacred to Indigenous populations. The proposed CHNMS area is also important for a variety of uses, such as recreation, tourism, commercial fishing, research, and education.

To accomplish the many objectives outlined within the proposed CHNMS area, the Draft Management Plan outlines 11 specific “action plans” to provide an ongoing path forward to address important needs and opportunities within the CHNMS area, including:

- Offshore energy
- Wastewater discharge
- Marine transportation and other blue economy features

However, the Draft Management Plan is entirely silent with respect to recognizing the potential opportunities for ocean water desalination within the CHNMS area in the future. In conjunction with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Sanctuary staff developed and published “*Guidelines for Desalination Plants in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary*” in 2010. Those non-regulatory guidelines are important to help ensure that any ocean water desalination plants in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary area are properly sited, designed, and operated in a manner that results in minimal impacts to the marine environment. Importantly, the guidelines also address numerous issues associated with desalination, including site selection, construction, and operational impacts, plant discharges, and intake systems. The guidelines were developed and published with the intent of assisting regulatory agencies in reviewing proposed desalination projects and to help ensure that project proponents and designers address resource protection concerns.

Since adoption of the Guidelines in 2010, desalination technology has advanced so that modern plants are significantly more energy efficient, while emerging technologies promise to further reduce marine impacts. Future innovations will continue improving desalination as an affordable, environmentally compatible means to sustainably mitigate onshore drought stress.

**We strongly encourage that the CHNMS Draft Management Plan include a specific and stand-alone action item chapter relative to ocean water desalination – both as it relates to the potential for conventional on-shore desalination plants and to the potential for innovative off-shore**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
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**desalination projects – or a stand-alone guidelines document, consistent with the attention to desalination provided within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary area.**

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the CHNMS Draft Management Plan. For any questions regarding CalDesal's comments embodied within this correspondence, please contact me at [mark.donovan@ghd.com](mailto:mark.donovan@ghd.com) or contact CalDesal's Executive Director – Glenn Farrel – at [glennf@caldesal.org](mailto:glennf@caldesal.org) or at (916) 216-1747.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Donovan', with a stylized, flowing script.

MARK DONOVAN  
Board Chair, CalDesal