

Full Biographies for Roundtable Panelists: “Drinking Water: A Crisis in Every State”

Elin Betanzo, Safe Water Engineering

Elin Betanzo leads Safe Water Engineering, a small firm working to improve access to safe drinking water through engineering and policy consulting. In August of 2015, Elin played a critical role in uncovering the Flint Water Crisis by encouraging pediatrician Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha to conduct a study that discovered elevated lead levels in children living in Flint, Michigan. Elin continues to raise awareness of lead in drinking water and improve public health protection of safe drinking water regulation and legislation at the federal and state levels.

Elin spent nearly 10 years at the Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water developing and implementing regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and serving as the National Tribal Drinking Water Coordinator. She also was a hydraulic engineer and water planning manager at the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission where she led water system master planning and hydraulic modeling. She spent five years at the Northeast-Midwest Institute researching water quality issues and leading the Safe Drinking Water Research and Policy Program.

Elin holds a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from Virginia Tech and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Carnegie Mellon University. Elin is a Professional Engineer registered in Maryland and Virginia, and a certified water system operator. In 2014 she was appointed to the Federal Advisory Committee on Water Information.

Mary Beth Haller, Esq. Bureau of Environmental Health, Baltimore City Health Department, Assistant Commissioner

Ms. Haller, has served as Assistant Commissioner of Environmental Health in the Division of Disease Control for the City of Baltimore’s Health Department since February 2012. She is responsible for two program areas: the Office of Animal Control and the Office of Environmental Inspection Services, which includes Plan Review, Ecology & Institutional Services and Food Control.

Ms. Haller has served as an Environmental Compliance Manager in the Office of Health and Safety at Baltimore City Public Schools, and between 2002 and 2004 she worked for Baltimore City Health Department as a Special Assistant City Solicitor trying cases for the Mayor and City Council filed against property owners who failed to comply with abatement orders to remove lead-based paint in households where children had experienced elevated blood lead levels. She also served as the Director of Baltimore’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and concurrently as the Mayor’s Lead Coordinator.

Chris Sturm, Managing Director, Policy and Water, New Jersey Future

Chris directs New Jersey Future’s water programs to upgrade urban water infrastructure, mainstream green infrastructure, and facilitate Jersey Water Works. She also leads New Jersey Future’s policy development and advocacy across a host of issues including sustainable infrastructure, climate resilience, regional planning and incentives for compact, equitable growth. She spearheads collaborative efforts to reshape land use policies and public investments so that they strengthen communities. Chris is a member of the Clean Water Council of New Jersey and the U.S. Water Alliance. Her career experience includes serving as the assistant director of the

Capital City Redevelopment Corporation, as well as working for the MSM Regional Council (now PlanSmart NJ), the Eagleton Institute, and the Office of State Planning. She holds a master's degree in Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, where she concentrated in Urban and Regional Planning.

Dr. Marc Edwards, Virginia Tech

Dr. Edwards is an expert in the issues of water treatment, corrosion, arsenic removal, and applied aquatic chemistry. An expert on water treatment and corrosion, Edwards's research on elevated lead levels in Washington, DC's municipal water supply gained national attention, changed the city's recommendations on water use in homes with lead service pipes, and caused the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to admit to publishing a report so rife with errors that a congressional investigation called it "scientifically indefensible". He is considered one of the world's leading experts in water corrosion in home plumbing, and a nationally recognized expert on copper corrosion. He is also one of the lead scientists in the Flint water crisis.

Joaquin Esquivel, California State Water Resources Control Board

Joaquin Esquivel, was appointed to the State Water Resources Control Board by Governor Jerry Brown in March 2017. Previously, he served as assistant secretary for federal water policy at the California Natural Resources Agency in the governor's Washington, D.C. office, where he facilitated the development of policy priorities between the agency, the Governor's Office, the California Congressional delegation, and federal stakeholder agencies. For more than eight years prior to that he worked for US Senator Barbara Boxer of California, most recently as her legislative assistant covering the agriculture, Native American, water, oceans, and nutrition portfolios, in addition to being the director of information and technology. He brings this experience to the PPIC Water Policy Center Advisory Council. He was born and raised in California's Coachella Valley. He holds a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara in English.