

California Water Law Symposium

Saturday, February 2nd, 2019, 9-5PM

Title: **Thirsty for Justice: Representation of small rural drinking water in SGMA implementation**

Presenter: **Adriana Renteria, Regional Water Management Coordinator**

Organization: **Community Water Center**

DRAFT presentation outline:

- Introductions
- Presentation goals/ overview
- Community Water Center—who we are & what is our strategy
- Why is groundwater so important for small rural communities?
 - Show HR2W
 - Groundwater quality
 - Groundwater supply
 - People most impacted are people most vulnerable
- Who governs groundwater for small rural unincorporated communities?
 - Local water board representation
 - TMF Challenges
- Participation in SGMA governance –Kristin study
 - Half of DACs are subject to SGMA
 - Less than 20% of DACs are direct members/representatives on their GSAs
- What are the different ways that small rural communities are or are not included in governance?
 - Kings River East GSA
 - Rotating seat for the drinking water providers on GSA board
 - AC has seat for EJ group
 - pros/cons
 - East Kaweah GSA
 - MOU with Plainview Mutual Water Company to have an at large representative on the GSA board
 - AC has a seat for MWC, 2 EJ groups, enviro groups, more
 - pros/cons
 - Lower Tule / Pixley
 - MOU with the 5 drinking water communities
 - Boards of the irrigation districts are the boards of the GSAs
 - Seat for two dw communities on the Groundwater Planning Commission
 - pros/cons
 - East Tule GSA
 - Seat for Tulare County on the GSA board

- Two seats for CSDs on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee board
 - pros/cons
- Challenges across the board
 - Limited capacity of local water board members (both technical & time capacity)
 - GSAs dominated by large agricultural interests and irrigation districts (power dynamics)
 - Limited community engagement (unclear how water board works, new terminology)
 - Quick timelines
- Key takeaways
 - Importance of equitable representation in local water boards
 - Importance of building capacity of local water board members
 - Importance of proactive engagement by GSAs
 - Importance of community voice & power in pushing for changes in representation
 - Importance of young people of color studying law and being community lawyers
- Thank you & contact info