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Federation®**
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2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MARCH 12-14, 2024
PALACE STATION HOTEL
LAS VEGAS, NV



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BOARD MEMBERS

2023/2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Past President – CASEY MENTZER

President – SABRINA DODOS

President Elect – DAVID WILLIAMS

Secretary – CODY MCDOUGALL

PWO Representative – DAVID WOZYNSKI

Treasurer – MICHAEL RAWLINS

WEF Delegate – JENNIFER MASON

WEF Delegate-At-Large – JOE NAVAS

2023/2024 CERTIFICATION BOARD MEMBERS

Chair – ADRIAN EDWARDS

Vice Chair – JOE CRIM

PETER BARATTI

JENNIFER MASON

BRIAN WATTS

JAMES KOLOSKIE

JOHN SOLVIE

Program Administrator – ASHLEY JACOBSON



NWEA AWARDS



NWEA Lifetime Achievement Award

DAN FISHER

Dan Fischer is a Las Vegas native and earned a bachelor's degree in Chemistry in 1979 and a master's degree in Environmental Analytical Chemistry in 1990 from the University of Nevada,

Las Vegas. Upon graduating, he played professional baseball for the Kansas City Royals organization. Dan then oversaw inorganic and organic environmental analyses at Lockheed Analytical Laboratory from 1991 to 1998. After a brief stint writing permits for Clark County Air Quality, Dan was hired by the City of Las Vegas in 1999 as the Laboratory Director. During his 14-year tenure with the City, he managed a diverse laboratory that included Lake Mead Water Quality Monitoring. He also became responsible for pretreatment, stormwater quality, and regulatory compliance. In 2013, Dan was hired by the Clark County Water Reclamation District as Deputy General Manager, where he has overseen Plant Operations and Maintenance, Laboratory, Asset Management, Operational Technology, and Regulatory Compliance. Dan has earned deep respect from water sector professionals across the State of Nevada and collaborates closely with the Nevada Division of

Environmental Protection. Dan has been a leader in coordinating the legislative, regulatory, and watershed efforts of the Las Vegas Valley wastewater agencies for 25 years. Dan's storied career has enhanced water quality throughout Southern Nevada, and he is highly deserving of the Lifetime Achievement Award.



NWEA Water Quality Analyst

ALEX ALBARRAN

Alex Albarran has a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences with a minor in Chemistry. He has been a chemist at the City of Henderson Water Quality Laboratory (COH WQL) since December of 2005. Prior to working for the City

of Henderson, Alex was employed at San Antonio Water System for approximately 4 years. He currently holds a Nevada Water Environment Association Wastewater Quality Analyst Grade 3 certification. Over the last 18 years, Alex has been a presenter multiple times at the Tristate Seminar.

During 2023, Alex completed the method validation of the analysis of anions by EPA 300.0 on our new ion chromatograph (IC). In the process he was able to determine analyte-specific calibration ranges that minimize the need for analyzing the same sample



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at multiple dilutions. Additionally, he improved the resolution between the target analytes. Alex also completed the development of a new in-house process control method for volatile fatty acids (VFA) analysis on the IC. He performed numerous experiments and worked with the vendor to define a method using the same column used for anions, thereby allowing the analysis of both analytes with minimal instrument modification.



***NWEA Plant Maintenance
Technologist of the Year***
JASON HAAG

Jason's strong work ethic has allowed CCWRD to maintain the highest level of equipment availability. During a catastrophic failure of the Dewatering Building Odor Control System, a fan motor

caught fire, which damaged it beyond repair. Although the system does have a redundant fan system, it is highly critical as failure of the second fan would have resulted in shutting the dewatering building down completely. Jason was able to take the lead, locate necessary replacement parts and install them all within a week allowing the system to be fully operational with minimal downtime.

His tireless efforts and can-do attitude testify to his achievements and accolades as an outstanding member of Clark County Water Reclamation District



***NWEA Young
Professional of the Year***
MONICA MORALES

Monica has helped direct several K-12th grade classroom visits and fully funded field trips for Title 1 schools, serving students from low-income households and first-generation college bound

students. She has also helped organize and volunteer for Nevada's first annual local Water Palooza at a local elementary school. She served as Vice Chair for the National WEF Water Palooza and is currently servicing as Chair to organize Water Palooza 2024 in New Orleans.

Monica holds several national awards and Los Angeles awards for her community service efforts and activities as a young professional, including a National Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Community Service STAR Award 2022, an Early Career Achievements Award from her alma mater Oregon State University College of Engineering 2022, and American Society of Civil Engineers Younger Member Large Group Award for the year she served as President of a group of 32 young professionals filling the board for the Los Angeles Younger Member Forum in 2022. She is serving as a Deputy Project Manager and Conveyance Engineer on major water reuse

projects in the Southern California area, as well as a Project Manager and Conveyance Engineer for water resources and wastewater related projects locally in Nevada and Utah.



NWEA Lifetime Service Awards
ADRIAN EDWARDS

Adrian Edwards is the Deputy Director of Utility Operations for the City of Henderson. He holds several certificates in water and wastewater and has almost 30 years in the wastewater industry. He also serves as the Chairman for the

NWEA Certification Board, helping to assure that the certification process works as smoothly and fairly as possible. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and has presented papers at several trade conferences in topics ranging from ultraviolet disinfection and membrane treatment, to asset management.



JEFF MILLS

Worked at various Clark County local government agencies for 28 years, of which, 17 years was in the wastewater industry at the Clark County Water Reclamation District. Served as the Flamingo Water Resource Center Plant Operations Manager and Centralized

Maintenance Manager. Possess a Nevada Grade IV WTPO certification and received the 5S Award in 2015. Co-hosted countless Water for People poker/bowling tournaments and fundraising events. Co-facilitated a series of NWEA inter-organizational Operations Challenge Teams and served as a liaison for NWEA/WEAU sponsored conferences.



JOE CRIM

Joe Crim proudly serves as the Public Works Director for the City of Lovelock since 1989. As the Public Works Director, he has played a pivotal role in overseeing and managing various aspects of city infrastructure, ensuring a well-functioning and sustainable environment for

Lovelock. In addition to his role as Public Works Director, he has been contributing to the Nevada Certification Board since 2005, where he currently serves as the Vice Chair. He also holds a Grade 3 Wastewater Operator Certification. As a volunteer at the Tristate Seminar, he actively participates in knowledge exchange and networking within the industry. This commitment allows him to stay abreast of the latest developments, ensuring that Lovelock benefits from cutting-edge practices in public works and utilities.

NWEA AWARDS



NWEA Presidential Service Award

SABRINA DODOS

Sabrina Dodos is a Utility Services Engineer with the City of Henderson. She works on asset management for the City's two wastewater treatment plants. She is a Professional Engineer in Nevada

and California, and has worked with agencies throughout the southwest. Being involved with NWEA has been one of her favorite memories.

NWEA Quarter of a Century Operators



WILLIE SMITH



ADVERIGUS TAYLOR

WEF AWARDS



Bedell Award

CASEY MENTZER

Casey is the Plant Manager at Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility. He holds a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering, a master's of Public Administration from the

University of Nevada, Reno and is a registered Professional Engineer in Nevada. He conducts the large majority of tours for the TMWRF and enjoys teaching students and community members about the amazing world of wastewater. Casey has made significant contributions to NWEA through technical programming, organizational leadership, and outreach to the community.



Burke Award

CARSON CITY WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY

This award recognizes a municipal or industrial wastewater facility for establishing and maintaining an active and effective safety program.

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Hatfield Award

CHRISTOPHER COHEN

Christopher is an Operator 2C at the City of Henderson Water Reclamation Facility and Southwest Water Reclamation Facility. Beyond his typical duties, Chris has implemented a process so that all of the projects completed by Operations are documented, stored, and easily accessible to all.



WEF Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award

RITA RASMUSSEN

Rita contributed greatly to continuing education for wastewater/laboratory personnel by teaching a BOD CEU class at Tristate 2023 and at the City of Henderson Kurt R Segler WRF. Additionally, Rita coordinated activated sludge microbiological analysis training at the COH KRS WRF for both laboratory and operations staff.

WEF Quarter Century Operator Club



ADRIAN EDWARDS



JOE CRIM



FRAISER SPEAKS



WEF Delegate

JENNIFER MASON

Jennifer is the Wastewater Operations Supervisor for the Carson City Water Resource Recovery Facility. She is a native Nevadan and has worked in wastewater treatment since 2013. She received a bachelor's in biology from the University of Nevada, Reno, where she found her passion in microbiology. Jennifer has developed a strong sense of devotion into wastewater treatment in which she received her Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Grade IV certification for the state of Nevada as well as her Professional Operator

Wastewater Treatment Class IV from Water Professionals International (WPI). Jennifer volunteers on multiple committees and is currently the Past President of the NWEA, WEF Delegate for NWEA, a certification board member for NWEA, an exam writer for WPI and an honorary Sanitary Sludge Shoveler for NWEA.



WEF Delegate-At-Large

JOE NAVAS

Currently with McCarthy Building Co. in Henderson, NV. He has completed six water infrastructure projects in three different states within the Mountain West. He was a WEF Delegate-at-Large representing the Construction Industry and NWEA. He was a member of the WEFTEC Advisory Committee and led Construction Learning Exchange at several WEFTEC conferences. He chaired the House of Delegates DE&I Committee and was a member of the WEF Board DE&I Committee.

SCHOLARSHIPS

NWEA is proud offer two scholarship types this year. The NWEA Women in Water Scholarship is a \$500 scholarship and is open to women undergraduate students, women graduate students, and women one to two years experienced professionals. The NWEA Attendance Scholarship is a \$500 scholarship and is open to undergraduate students, graduate students, and one to five years experienced professionals. Both scholarships will also include free registration/travel/hotel to the annual NWEA conference.

Thank you to the Women in Water sponsors: Coombs Hopkins Company, McCarthy, and Stantec.



Women in Water Scholarship

MAYRA SARRIA CORTES

Mayra Sarria, a Ph.D. student, is pursuing her doctoral studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in the field of Environmental Engineering. Throughout her academic journey, she has focused on areas such as bioremediation, chemical and microbial biomarkers, and microbial risk assessments. Additionally, she enjoys being the Outreach Manager of an educational program at UNLV, Tech Trekker, where she connects with K-12 students to encourage them into high-demand STEM fields.



Women in Water Scholarship

SAMANTHA TRIEST

Sam Triest is a master's student in the Civil and Environmental Engineering graduate program at the University of Nevada, Reno. Since graduating with her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering in 2022, she has been researching the carbon footprint of the Reno-Stead Water Reclamation Facility and strategies for decarbonization. In addition, Sam has been working at Kimley-Horn on civil plans for projects located at the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center, further increasing her experience. In her free time, Sam enjoys getting outside to ski, snowshoe, and mountain bike.



Attendance Scholarship

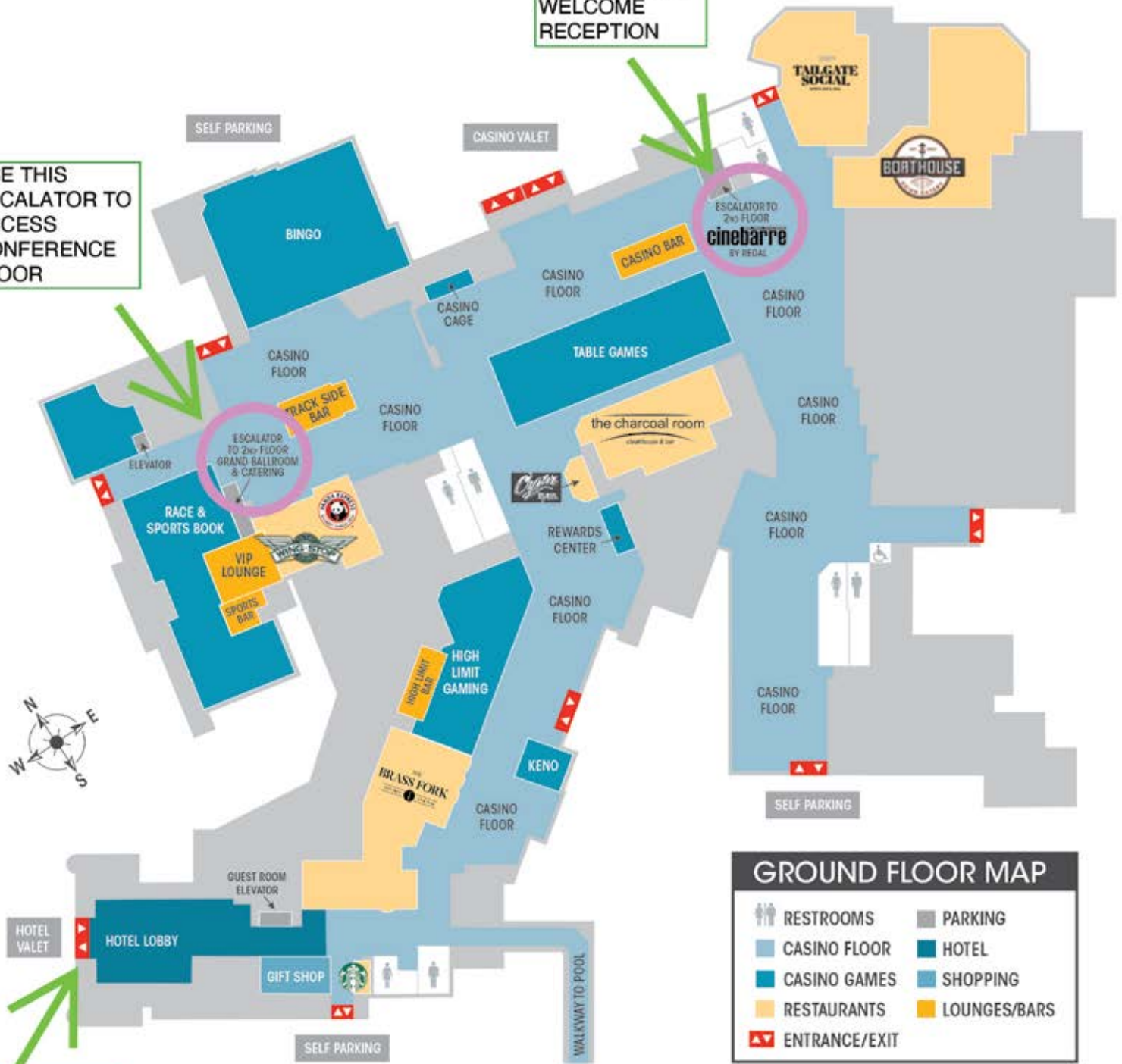
GABSON BAGUMA

Gabson Baguma is a dedicated graduate student in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, specializing in research related to hazardous waste management, water quality analysis, and environmental remediation. With a passion for sustainable solutions, Gabson is committed to making a positive impact in the field of environmental engineering.

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LOCATION OF CONFERENCE WELCOME RECEPTION

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GROUND FLOOR MAP

	RESTROOMS		PARKING
	CASINO FLOOR		HOTEL
	CASINO GAMES		SHOPPING
	RESTAURANTS		LOUNGES/BARS
	ENTRANCE/EXIT		

WEDNESDAY SOCIAL & THURSDAY TOUR PICKUP LOCATION

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

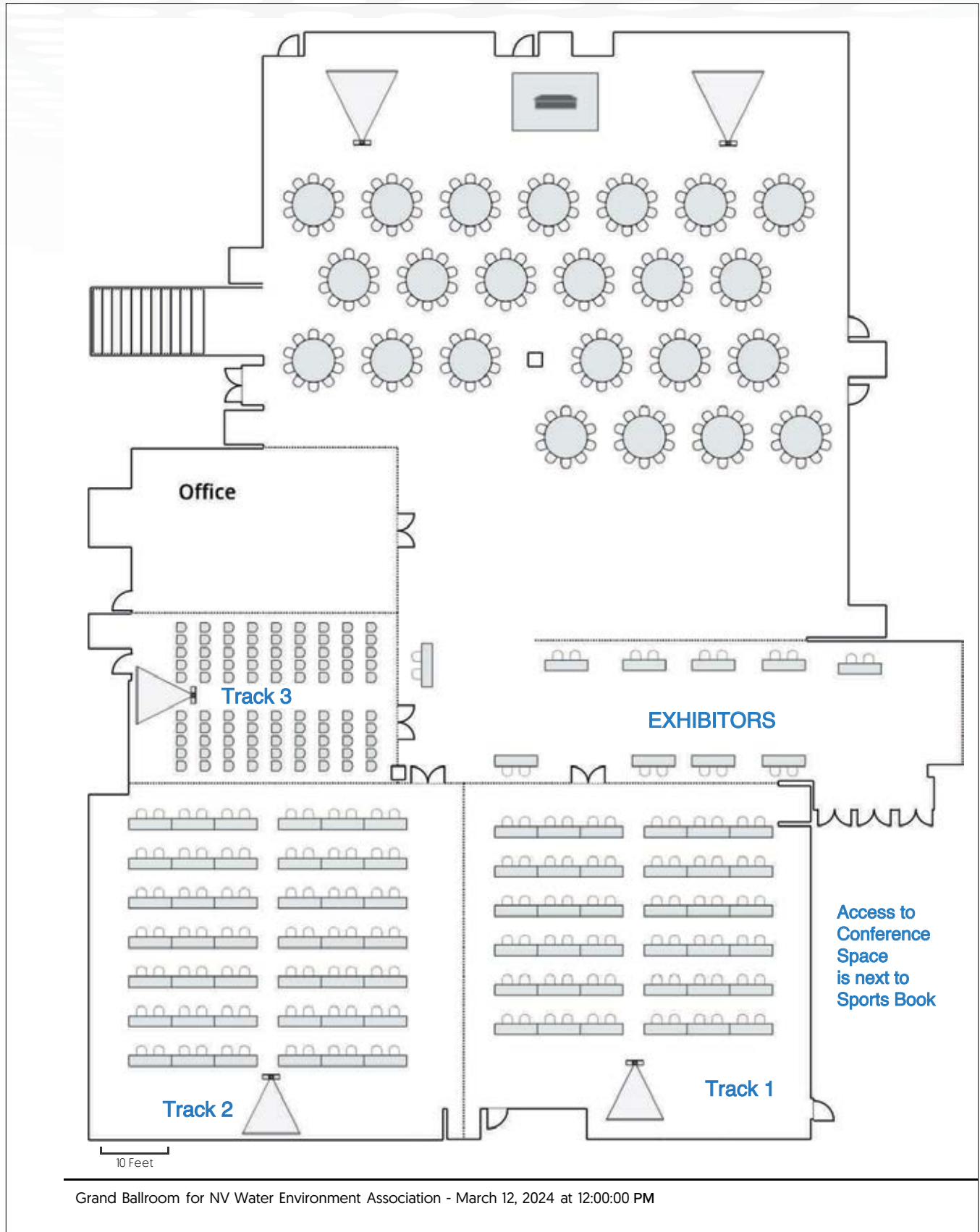
Tuesday, March 12, 2024			
7:00-8:00 AM	Breakfast/Registration		
8:00-8:15 AM	Opening Remarks		
8:15-9:00 AM	Selenium Regulation for the Las Vegas Wash; John Tennert, Regional Flood Control District		
9:00-10:00 AM	Sludge Densification: An Innovative Approach to Enhance Secondary Treatment Capacity; Chris Machado and Skylar Watnick, Stantec	The 'High-Stakes Wager' on Multiple Bypass Operations in the Entertainment Capital of the World – the Las Vegas Strip; Christopher Proudfoot and Kristianne Fallon, CCWRD	Pretreatment Case Study: Updating The City of Las Vegas Local Limits; Joshua Balentine, Brown and Caldwell and Sherri McMahon, City of Las Vegas
10:00-10:20 AM	Coffee Break		
10:20-11:20 AM	Wasting Through the Spin Cycle: A Full-Scale Demonstration of WAS Hydrocyclones to Provide Capacity Improvements; Colin Fitzgerald, Jacobs	It is Hard to be a 'Smart' Smart City; Dave Belomy, ADS Environmental Services	H2S Challenges and Innovations; R. Scott Decker, Decker Scientific
11:20-11:50 AM	Awards Lunch		
11:50-12:50 PM	Awards Lunch		
12:50-1:50 PM	Ins and outs of BOD testing; Rita Rasmussen, City of Henderson	Innovations in Wastewater Collection Remote Monitoring; Sean Hennessy, SmartCover Systems	Finally - A Fix for Leak Valves; Ben Wall, B&K Valves, and Dave Williams, CCWRD
1:50-2:50 PM	Aeration Basin Improvement for Energy Savings and Process Control; Eric Roundy and Aimee Dewan, Keller Associates	The Dollars and Sense for Adopting Optimized O&M Processes- Demonstrated Success; Jay Boyd, ADS Environmental Services	What? Water Professionals Have Feelings Too!; Keli Callahan, Stantec
2:50-3:10 PM	Coffee Break		
3:10-4:10 PM	The Alpha Team: Alpha Factor Testing for Maximum Efficiency Aeration; Ted Couch, Jacobs	Revolutionizing NASSCO Manhole Inspections: Unveiling the Power of 360-Degree Cameras and Dynamic Ex; Eric Berg and Natalie Luthy, Atkins Realis	Safety 101 for Operations and Maintenance Staff; Erin Buchanan, City of Henderson
4:10-5:10 PM	Utilizing Model Predictive Control to Maximize Aeration System Efficiency; Steven Kestel, APG Neuros	Large Diameter Sewer Cleaning Condition Assessment Project; Saul Gutierrez, Consor and Ty Nelson, City of Henderson	A Leadership Journey: Perspectives From Senior Utility Leaders; Adrian Edwards, COH, Jeff Mills, CCWRD and Dwayne Smith, Washoe County
5:10 PM	Student Poster Competition in Exhibit Hall		

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, March 13, 2024			
7:00-8:00 AM	Breakfast/Registration		
8:00-8:15 AM	Opening Remarks		
8:15-9:00 AM	Strategic Decision Making and the Hoover Dam; Balaji Ramakrishnan, Bureau of Reclamation		
9:00-10:00 AM	Anaerobic, Aerobic... or Both? A Brief History of Digestion Options and Optimization; Matthew Williams and Justin Wippo, Thermal Process Systems	Expanding the Biggest Little Reclaimed Water System in the World; Monica Morales, Ted Couch, and Dwayne Smith, Jacobs	Standardized Exams: Development & Passing; LeAnna Risso, Environmental Training & Consulting, LLC
10:00-10:20 AM	Coffee Break		
10:20-11:20 AM	The Old Dog Learns a New Trick: Rethinking Tertiary Processes to Achieve Ultra-low Phosphorus Limits; Colin Fitzgerald, Jacobs	Reclaimed Water Pump Station; Fernando Sarmiento, TY Lin	Designing for Biosolids Reuse; Dallin Stephens, Keller
11:20-11:50 AM	Quantification of the Carbon Footprint of the Reno-Stead Water Reclamation Facility and Operating Strategies for Decarbonization; Samantha Triest, UNR	Investigating the Potential of Surfactant to Generate Disinfection By-Products after Ozonation and Subsequent Chlorination; Gabson Baguma, UNLV	Case Study: Utilizing Floating Aerator Technology at Independent Meats; Lewis Titus, Titus Wastewater Solutions
11:50-12:50 PM	Buffet Lunch/ Women in Water Luncheon (Registration Required)		
12:50-1:50 PM	Piloting Mobile Organic Biofilm for Treatment Intensification; Austin Martin (TMWRF), Blaga Delic, Jacobs, TWMRF	How Rural Utilities Can Leverage Planning Tools to Optimize Limited Resources; Timothy Loper (Carollo), Joe Mueller Alpine Springs Country Water District, Carollo	Wastewater Surveillance 101; Jennifer Sabater, WEF
1:50-2:50 PM	What's Driving the Skyrocketing Cost of Chemicals?; Gregory Page and Jason Hock, Neo Water Treatment	Creation and Implementation of the Best Practices Guide for Quality Plan Submittals in Nevada; Ernie Buo and Leslie Long, CCWRD	Wastewater Surveillance 101; Jennifer Sabater, WEF
2:50-3:10 PM	Coffee Break		
3:10-4:10 PM	Arc Flash Risk Awareness for W/WW Personnel; Michael Houghton, City of Henderson	Facility Planning and MOP 28: What to Consider in Your Next Facility Plan; Keli Callahan and Steven Winfree, Stantec	Case Studies on Wastewater Surveillance in Nevada; Jennifer Sabater, WEF
4:10-5:10 PM	Certification Talk; Ashley Jacobson, NWEA	Regionalization for Economic Development and Watershed Protection; Dallin Stephens and Kevin Stewart, Keller	Case Studies on Wastewater Surveillance in Nevada; Jennifer Sabater, WEF
6:00-9:00 PM	Arts District Scavenger Hunt and Bar Crawl (Registration Required)		

For Wastewater Surveillance 101 & Case Studies on Wastewater Surveillance in Nevada, sessions will be taught in two hour blocks. Attending the whole block is highly encouraged.

CONFERENCE MAP



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ONEWATER ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CITY OF LAS VEGAS WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 FROM 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
BUS WILL DEPART FROM PALACE STATION HOTEL

The Water Pollution Control Facility has been online since 1952 and has expanded in 1990 and 2000 to make it a 91 MGD, class 4 facility that has met permit every single day for 25 years. Covering 140 acres, the WPCF uses Biological Nutrient Removal as its primary advanced treatment as well as 12 Digesters for reducing solids and generating gas. The WPCF treats 45 MGD daily and generates 400,000 pounds of solids every day, some of which is land applied in a new partnership to explore resource recovery options. The City of Las Vegas maintains one lift station and used to operate two remote facilities until reuse fell out of fashion. The plant operates 24/7 with three full operations shifts with maintenance coverage M-F using 4/10s.



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SPEAKER BIOS

In Alphabetical Order



ADRIAN EDWARDS

Adrian Edwards is the Deputy Director of Utility Operations for the City of Henderson. He holds several certificates in water and wastewater and has almost 30 years in the wastewater industry. He also serves as the Chairman for the NWEA

Certification Board, helping to assure that the certification process works as smoothly and fairly as possible. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and has presented papers at several trade conferences in topics ranging from ultraviolet disinfection and membrane treatment to asset management.



AIMEE DEWAN

Aimee graduated with a master's degree in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno. She was involved in publishing multiple research papers at UNR, which focused on monitoring, quantifying, and the fate

of coronavirus in wastewater systems. Since transitioning to consulting, Aimee has been involved in the planning and designing of water and wastewater infrastructure across the West.



ASHLEY JACOBSON

Ashley Jacobson has served as the Program Administrator for Wastewater Certifications for NWEA since 2015. As the Program Administrator, she plays a key role in ensuring the highest standards in wastewater certifications, contributing to the professional growth of individuals in the industry. She has extended her dedication to the industry by serving on the Board of Managers for the Tristate Seminar, representing the state of Nevada. Beyond her role in certifications, she is the proud owner of a business established in 2014. Running a small wastewater facility in the vibrant city of Las Vegas has been an exciting venture, allowing her to apply her expertise in a hands-on way.



AUSTIN MARTIN

Austin Martin is a professional engineer with a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno. He has a background in drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater treatment – focusing on product development and

performance testing. After graduating from UNR he served for three years in the Peace Corps as a Water and Sanitation Engineer in Peru. He was born and raised in the Reno-Tahoe area and serves as the Treatment Plant Engineer for the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility.



BALAJI RAMAKRISHNA

Balaji Ramakrishnan, Ph.D., P.E., is a seasoned Civil Engineer with over two decades of experience specializing in watershed modeling and reservoir operations. With a strong background in hydrology, hydraulics, and water resources engineering, Balaji

has successfully led several projects aimed at managing water resources effectively. He has conducted comprehensive modeling studies and has developed creative strategies to improve reservoir operations and efficiency. He is a licensed professional engineer and has a doctorate in Environmental Engineering from the University of Cincinnati. He is committed to providing high-quality engineering services and is passionate about finding innovative solutions to complex water management challenges.”



BEN WALL

Ben Wall has 21 plus years of experience in the Water/Wastewater Industry. He has extensive experience working for manufactures directly and as a manufacture's rep, and currently the Owner & President of B&K Valves & Equipment, Inc.

Prior to starting B&K Valves & Equipment, Inc. he was the Western Regional Sales Manager for Keystone Valve Products



CHRIS MACHADO

Chris is one of Stantec's wastewater practice leaders with 22 years of experience. His work includes wastewater treatment process design, facility assessment and planning, process optimization, design management, engineering services during construction,

research, and development. Chris is specialized in biological nutrient removal (BNR) and has participated in several BNR design, planning, and evaluation projects involving both nitrogen and phosphorus removal. During the 16 years that Chris lived and worked in Nevada, he provided services to Clark County Water Reclamation District, City of Las Vegas, City of North Las Vegas, Carson City, City of Reno, City of Sparks, and the City of Winnemucca. He has contributed as technical lead, process engineer, and project manager in several wastewater projects in the West.



CHRIS PROUDFOOT

With over 22 years in construction, Christopher Proudfoot is an experienced professional specializing in underground utilities and paving. Currently pursuing a construction management degree, he combines hands-on expertise from private and public sectors. As a project manager, superintendent, and foreman, Chris excelled in planning, execution, and leadership. Transitioning to the public sector at Clark County Water Reclamation District, he supervises the Development Services Inspection group, ensuring safety and quality in public infrastructure projects. Renowned for dedication and professionalism, Chris Proudfoot consistently delivers exceptional results in his career



COLIN FITZGERALD

Colin is a Senior Wastewater Technologist and Jacobs Wastewater Lead for their West Central Geography. Colin holds M.S. and B.S. degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and a B.S. in Physics from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. His career focuses on biological nutrient removal, side stream treatment, tertiary treatment, and process control.



DALLIN STEPHENS

Dallin brings over a decade of municipal and industrial wastewater treatment experience, including planning, designing, and providing construction services for various processes. He has extensive experience in several wastewater treatment processes, including liquid and solids treatment, water reuse, energy recovery, chemical treatment, and odor control. Many projects he has designed have included innovative solutions to challenging problems. Dallin holds a master's degree in civil engineering from Utah State University and is a licensed professional engineer in Nevada, Idaho, Utah, and Oregon.



DAVID BELOMY

Dave Belomy has been helping clients solve challenges associated with high-tech applications for over 35 years. He has a chemistry degree from the University of California at Davis, and an M.B.A from Santa Clara University. Dave is currently the Western Regional Sales Manager for ADS Environmental Technologies, helping utilities throughout the Western US and Canada obtain flow, level and rain monitoring data, which is then used for model calibration and capacity planning; wet weather I&I analysis and CSO regulatory compliance; operational control of SSO prevention, blockage prediction and cleaning optimization; and billing.



DAVID WILLIAMS

David is the Centralized Maintenance Manager for the Clark County Water Reclamation District in Southern Nevada. He has been in the maintenance department for the district for 13 years where he started as mechanic and worked through as supervisor before becoming the manager for the entire district. In his positions he has been responsible for maintaining the functionality and readiness of the plant and all of its processes.



DWAYNE SMITH

Dwayne is the Director of Engineering and Capital Projects Division for the Washoe County Community Services Department and in this position also serves as the Washoe County Engineer. He is responsible for engineering oversight of all public works under the authority of the Washoe County Commission and for overseeing the planning and implementation of all capital improvement projects related to the County's building, transportation, parks, and utility infrastructure. As the Washoe County Engineer, Dwayne is responsible for the engineering review, conditioning, and approval of all new development within the County. In addition, Washoe County's wastewater, reclaimed water and storm water utilities are under his responsibility.

Dwayne has a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Northern Arizona University and is a registered Professional Engineer in both Arizona and Nevada. He has over 25 years of experience in the fields of construction and engineering. He moved to Reno in 2006 to join the Washoe County Department of Water Resources and has served the public in several roles since then.



ERIC BERG:

Eric Berg is a water and wastewater engineer. He has found engineering to be rewarding and a constant learning journey. He has enjoyed the ride so far and looks forward to how he can provide utility to the clients he serves by thinking creatively and providing out of the box infrastructure solutions. Although Eric's engineering experience thus far has primarily been with the design of water storage reservoirs, pipeline, and pump stations, when he was given the opportunity to lead a condition assessment project for manholes and piping at Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility, he was excited to take on the challenge. Eric has learned so much while working on this project and is now wanting to pursue more wastewater treatment engineering work. Outside of work, Eric is an outdoor enthusiast, avid gardener, and fish keeper.

SPEAKER BIOS



ERIC ROUNDY

Eric has nearly 20 years of experience in designing and evaluating wastewater treatment systems. He has been responsible for the treatment process evaluation and equipment selection for hundreds of wastewater plants. Eric has a master's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and a master's degree in business administration from Mississippi State University. He is a licensed professional engineer in five states, including Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.



ERIN BUCHANAN

Erin Buchanan is a Safety Officer with the City of Henderson, who believes in the power of occupational safety. She began her journey in the safety industry, by going to work for the State of Nevada, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as an Enforcement Officer. She later transitioned to a Safety Consultant for the State of Nevada, Safety Consultation and Training Section (SCATS). Erin has been with the City of Henderson for approximately five years, with a focus of supporting the Department of Utilities Services. Erin is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) and has a wide range of knowledge on various industries. Erin was born and raised in Southern Nevada, and has a bachelor's in Environmental Studies, from the University of Nevada Las Vegas.



ERNIE BUO

Ernie is a Senior Civil Engineer at the Clark County Water Reclamation District (CCWRD) in Las Vegas, Nevada. He has actively held the position since May of 2016. Ernie Buo was one of the volunteer members of the 'Nevada Quality of Plan Submittals Task

Force' organized by the Nevada Board of Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors (NVBEPLS) to collaborate, draft, and finalize the 'Best Practices Guide for Quality Plan Submittals.' Ernie holds a degree in Civil Engineering and a master's degree in business administration (MBA). Ernie has over 20 years of progressive experience designing water and wastewater infrastructure and reviewing civil improvement projects submitted by the development community in Las Vegas, Nevada to ensure conformance to design standards



FERNANDO SARMIENTO

Fernando Sarmiento is a Vice President and Southwest Area Water Sector Manager for Greeley and Hansen, with 29 years of experience in the fields of water, wastewater, and stormwater engineering. His experience includes planning, feasibility studies, design, and project management of complex, multi-disciplined projects. He is a Board-Certified Environmental Engineer and has served as program manager, project director, project manager, and design engineer on numerous projects. Fernando is also a certified Project Management Professional with experience in establishing and utilizing highly effective project communication procedures and controls to optimize adherence to project goals, budget, and schedule.



GABSON BAGUMA

Gabson Baguma is a dedicated and enthusiastic individual with a solid academic foundation in chemistry. Holding a BSc. in Industrial Chemistry from Kampala International University, Uganda, he showcases a strong commitment to academic excellence. Currently pursuing a master's in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) and aspiring to embark on a Ph.D. journey, Gabson is passionate about advancing his knowledge in the field. Having worked as a quality assurance officer at a water bottling company in Uganda and serving as a teaching assistant at Kampala International University, Uganda, Gabson has honed both his practical and pedagogical skills. As a Graduate Research Assistant at UNLV, he is immersed in cutting-edge research focused on emerging contaminants in water and wastewater. Specifically, his current research, supervised by Dr. Erica J. Marti, explores the potential of surfactants to generate disinfection by-products after ozonation and subsequent chlorination. Gabson's dedication to innovative solutions in environmental engineering, particularly in water and wastewater treatment, positions him as a promising contributor to the field.



GREG PAGE

Greg studied petroleum engineering at Colorado School of Mines and worked in the energy sector for several years before finding his way to the wastewater water treatment industry. He has been with Neo Water treatment for four years. He enjoys singing in a rock band, and exploring the outdoors with his sons, Gregory, and Everett.



JASON HOCK

Jason is a Chemical and Biological Engineer from the University of Colorado. He has 5 years of experience in dewatering chemicals development and working to develop better wastewater coagulants. He recently took on the role of General Manager for Neo Water Treatment, subsidiary of Neo Performance Materials.



JAY BOYD

As the Director of Market Development for ADS Environmental, Jay has dedicated his 40-plus-year professional career to developing application solutions, bringing of innovations to market. Jay has spoken at more than 50 national and state conferences.

He has published papers on I&I Assessment, cleaning optimization utilizing smart technology, collection system odor control, and smart technology in water. He has a degree in biology with extensive graduate studies in business and technology development. As a WEF member, he participates in the WEF Intelligent Water Technology Committee and California WEA.



JEFF MILLS

Worked in local government for 28 years, of which, 17 years was in the wastewater industry at the Clark County Water Reclamation District. Served as the Flamingo Water Resource Center Plant Operations Manager and Maintenance Manager. Possess a Grade IV WTPO and received the 5S Award in 2015.



JENNIFER SABATER

Jennifer Sabater is a manager in the WEF's Wastewater Surveillance Program, where she develops training materials, workshops, videos, webpages, and other materials related to the use of wastewater testing to inform public health action. Previously, she

conducted research on water quality and antibiotic-resistant bacteria and collaborated on public education projects with government agencies. Jennifer holds a master's degree in biology and is certified by the American Society for Clinical Pathology as a medical laboratory scientist in microbiology.



JOE MUELLER

Joe Mueller is the General Manager of the Alpine Springs County Water District. Mr. Mueller has 33 years of Management and Operations experience in professional engineering firms and local municipalities. Mr. Mueller is a graduate of the Water

Environment Federation Water Leadership Institute, and his certifications include California Nevada Grade V Advanced Water Treatment, California Grade V Wastewater Treatment, California Grade III Water Treatment, California Grade III Water Distribution, and California Water Environment Association Laboratory Analyst.



JOHN TENNERT

John Tennert is currently the Environmental Mitigation Manager for the Clark County Regional Flood Control District (District) where he is responsible for coordinating the environmental compliance activities of the District on behalf of its member agencies.

John has worked in local government in the Las Vegas Valley for more than 20 years, focused on environmental and regulatory policy. John holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy from Virginia Tech.



JOSHUA BELENTINE

Joshua Belentine serves as the Pretreatment Program Technical Lead for Brown and Caldwell supporting pretreatment programs across the U.S. and Canada. His professional background is diverse, including managing a large municipal pretreatment program with over 100 permitted

SIUs and a contractor for the U.S. EPA and various states performing pretreatment compliance audits and developing guidance manuals. He has a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Memphis, an Executive Master of Business Administration from the University of Alabama, and holds Grade 4 Wastewater Operator Licenses in Tennessee and Arizona.



JULIA SEMMENS

Julia Semmens is a staff engineer at Carollo Engineers, Inc. and was the project engineer for the Alpine Springs Country Water District Water and Wastewater Master Plan. Ms. Semmens has worked on water, wastewater, stormwater, and recycled water master plans throughout

the country. As a Tahoe native, she has a deep connection to the local community and is invested in improving water infrastructure for rural communities throughout the region.

SPEAKER BIOS



JUSTIN WIPPO

Justin is the Engineering Manager for Thermal Process Systems studied chemical engineering at Purdue University with a period abroad at the University of Queensland in Australia, earning his bachelor's in chemical engineering in 2017.

Soon after, he joined TPS and has been working on the development of new process, including the ExCalibAer Anaerobic Digester Optimization process. His appreciation for sustainability goes beyond his career, so when he is not traveling to hike in the mountains, he spends his spare time doing preservation and restoration projects at local nature preserves.



KELI CALLAHAN

As a senior principal and business development leader, Keli is responsible for business development, account management, strategic planning, and project support and execution across Stantec's US Mountain West region.

She also provides regional staff development and mentoring support, creating new programs to enhance and expand the team's technical and non-technical skills.



KEVIN STEWART

Kevin grew up in Texas and attended the University of North Texas, graduating in 2019 and 2020 with degrees in ecology and chemistry, respectively. He moved to Nevada in 2021 to attend graduate school at UNR, graduating with a master's in civil and environmental engineering in 2022. His master's thesis focused on drinking water disinfection by-product mitigation. Kevin has been working at Keller Associates since January 2023.



KRISTIANNE FALLON

Kristianne Fallon is an ambitious engineer with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from San Francisco State University (SFSU) and five years of industry experience.

She began her career in the private sector, then transitioned to the public sector as an Associate Engineer at the Clark County Water Reclamation District (CCWRD). With a wealth of field experience and a solid foundation in engineering knowledge, Kristianne is a dynamic and forward-thinking engineer who offers fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to improve quality, effectiveness, and efficiency for the CCWRD organization.



LEANNA RISSO

LeAnna Rizzo is the Owner and Managing Member of Environmental Training & Consulting (ETC), LLC based out of Las Vegas, Nevada. She has more than 35 years of experience in the water and wastewater industry, working primarily in the operations and laboratory disciplines, as well as consulting

and teaching wastewater classes at the College of Southern Nevada. In addition to her work responsibilities, LeAnna has been very active with Water Professionals International (WPI, formerly the Association of Boards of Certification) where she participates on the Scheme (Exam Development) Committee and serves as the Wastewater Treatment Commissioner on the Certification Commission for Environmental Professionals (C2EP). LeAnna holds a Grade IV Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator and a Grade IV Water Quality Analyst certification from the State of Nevada but is most proud of her Wastewater Treatment Professional Operator IV Certification from the C2EP.



LESLIE LONG

Leslie Long is the Manager of the Development Services Group at the Clark County Water Reclamation District in Las Vegas, Nevada. Leslie Long is a seasoned professional with over 30 years of expertise in the municipal utility sector and has obtained degrees in civil engineering and

a master's in public administration, both from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada. As the Manager of Development Services, she plays a pivotal role in guiding the District's initiatives towards effective government and the design and construction of sound infrastructure. Beyond her professional achievements, Leslie is committed to nurturing the next generation of leaders for the Clark County Water Reclamation District which underscores her belief in the importance of knowledge transfer and the cultivation of a brighter, more sustainable future.



LEWIS TITUS

Lewis Titus boasts an impressive career spanning nearly four decades in the pipeline and wastewater industries. His extensive background includes diverse roles such as a millwright in the wood products sector, a high-pressure, large-diameter natural gas pipeline maintenance technician for

Pacific Gas & Electric, and a heavy maintenance apprenticeship focusing on corrosion control. In the year 2000, Mr. Titus established Titus Wastewater Solutions, Inc. (TITUS), marking a pivotal moment in his professional journey. TITUS specializes in providing innovative solutions tailored to address prevalent challenges within the wastewater industry. The company's product lines are meticulously engineered and manufactured to combat issues like odor, FOG, sludge accumulation, corrosion, efficiency improvement, safety enhancement, and security.



MATT WILLIAMS

Matt is a Regional Sales Manager and Product Manager at Thermal Process Systems and has worked in the water and wastewater industry for over 19 years, serving in various roles in manufacturing and consulting with an emphasis on

Biosolids. He was the lead author for the Stabilization chapter of the WEF Manual of Practice 8 - Design of WRRFs. Matt earned his B.S. and Master of Engineering degrees in environmental engineering from Cornell University.



MICHAEL HOUGHTON

Michael Houghton, PE is a senior electrical engineer with nearly 40 years of improving the design, installation, operations, and maintenance practices of electrical distribution systems in the municipal water/

wastewater utility and upstream petroleum industries. Michael believes the evolution of intelligent electrical power assets will result in higher levels of safety, process reliability, asset life cycles, and lower costs. Michael is currently responsible for providing technical support and guidance for system design, maintenance practices, and asset life cycle management, for City of Henderson, Utility Services water and wastewater processes. Previously, he had various responsibilities for electrical systems design and maintenance processes in large heavy oil production facilities in California and international. Michael holds certifications in asset management planning and governance; electrical safety and maintenance; and six sigma quality. He holds a bachelor of science degree in Electronic Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He is a registered electrical power and control system engineer in Nevada.



MONICA MORALES

Monica Morales is a Water Resources Engineer for Jacobs based in its Reno, Nevada Office. She earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in civil engineering from Oregon State University and has ten years of experience

in water resources planning, water and wastewater facility and conveyance design, and engineering services during construction in California, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon and Utah. She is actively working on OneWater projects to help solve future droughts in Southern California as well as locally protect water resources in Nevada through the use of potable reuse, reclaimed water, and effective wastewater treatment.



NATALIE LUTHY

Natalie Luthy is a water infrastructure intern with AtkinsRealis. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Nevada Reno. Natalie helped lead a site-wide sanitary sewer manhole assessment and

rehabilitation project at Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility, as well as a lift station rehabilitation project, both in Reno, Nevada. Prior to AtkinsRealis, Natalie was an intern at Lithium Nevada and was employed at the Desert Research Institute in Reno, Nevada. She has background in data analysis, infrastructure condition assessments, NASSCO assessments, and sewer infrastructure.



R. SCOTT DECKER

R. Scott Decker is the President of Decker Scientific and former President of Envirozone Systems Corp. Which specializes in the development of chemical and equipment solutions in the oil and gas industry and in wastewater. Scott has many patents and

patents pending technologies that he has contributed over the 35 years he has worked in the environmental industry.

He has built production plants in the feed ingredient industry, wastewater and air pollution systems for numerous companies, life support systems for world renowned aquariums such as Monterey Bay, critical water treatment systems for the Brookhaven National Laboratory super collider, Coast Guard research vessels, consulted for the government on oxygen systems for specialized aircraft, as well as oxygen and ozone technology development for municipal sewer collection systems. Currently he is producing patent pending chemistry and delivery systems for oil and gas WW pipeline treatment in Saltwater disposal systems H2S removal and descaling.



RITA RASMUSSEN

Rita holds the position of Laboratory Supervisor in the City of Henderson Water Quality Laboratory. Her main duty is to coordinate and oversee compliance and process control testing for wastewater, and laboratory staff. Other duties overseeing

the laboratory's training and preventive maintenance programs, updating and maintaining laboratory SOPs, updating and developing laboratory testing methods/equipment/instrumentation, and overseeing the lab's Las Vegas Wash sampling program. Rita has a bachelor's degree in biological sciences with an emphasis in environmental science and has over eighteen years of experience working in the City of Henderson Water Quality Laboratory. She holds certification as a Wastewater Quality Analyst – Grade 3

SPEAKER BIOS



SAMANTHA TRIEST

Sam Triest is a master's student in the civil and environmental engineering graduate program at the University of Nevada, Reno. Since graduating with her Bachelor of Science in environmental engineering in 2022, she has been researching the

carbon footprint of the Reno-Stead Water Reclamation Facility and strategies for decarbonization. In addition, Sam has been working at Kimley-Horn on civil plans for projects located at the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center, further increasing her experience



SAUL GUTIERREZ

Mr. Gutierrez has 17 years of experience in water resources projects. He holds a PE license from the state of Nevada, a bachelor's in civil engineering (2005), a master's in water resources (2007), and most recently an MBA in management (2021).

Most of his years of experience have been dedicated to the design, data management, and assessment of public infrastructure in water resources projects. He has implemented his knowledge in database management by using multiple assessment computer programs and GIS computer software such as ArcMap and ArcInfo programs. Saul has managed multiple assessment projects for stormdrain and sewer water public infrastructure for different clients in different government entities and for multiple-year projects in Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico. These assessment projects have helped to rehabilitate several multi-million-dollar projects in the public sector throughout the years.



SEAN HENNESSY

Since late 2023, Sean Hennessy has served as SmartCover's N. California and N. Nevada Regional Sales Manager. Sean embarked on his professional journey as an Inside Sales Engineer for a manufacturer's representative, steadily advancing to the

role of Territory Manager in the dynamic Bay Area. Throughout his career, Sean has demonstrated his expertise by assisting clients in overcoming some of the most formidable challenges encountered by professionals in the industrial and water industry. Currently, Sean's mission involves collaborating with clients in Northern California and Nevada, leveraging his expertise to address complex wastewater and water collection system issues through the implementation of advanced remote monitoring systems. Sean resides in Folsom, CA.



SHERRI MCMAHON

Sherri McMahon has over 32 years of experience in the environmental industry during which time she has managed projects and programs for both the private and public sectors. Her experience has given her the privilege of working

throughout the country on high profile projects/programs including the Nevada Test Site, Sunrise Landfill, Hoover Dam Bypass Bridge and the Space Shuttle Columbia Recovery Project. Currently, Sherri is the Environmental Compliance & Enforcement Administrator for the City of Las Vegas where she administers all programs related to the various applicable environmental laws, regulations, and permits including Pretreatment



SKYLAR WATNICK

Skylar is an Environmental Engineer in Training with Stantec. She specializes in wastewater treatment projects focusing on Biological Phosphorus Removal (EBPR). Her EBPR experience includes managing EBPR stability studies, including stability bioassay

experiments in a laboratory setting. Skylar has also contributed to facility planning, alternative analysis, sidestream treatment evaluation, facility rehabilitation design, pilot systems design, and anaerobic digestion predesign.



STEVEN KESTEL

Steven Kestel has spent the last 17 years working as a process and controls engineer in the wastewater treatment industry. Since joining APG Neuros two years ago, he has lead development of APG Neuros' Model Predictive Control based aeration control

system. He has participated in control system installations at global facilities ranging in size from 1 MGD to greater than 750 MGD. His primary interests are modeling, simulation, and automation of the wastewater treatment process and how to incorporate these fields into practical control systems to improve process performance and efficiency.



STEVEN WINFREE

As a Civil and Environmental Engineer, Steven has more than 12 years of experience in the design and construction of treatment processes and site layouts for greenfield construction as well as the rehabilitation of existing treatment

processes and pumping stations. Key experiences include UV disinfection for water and wastewater facilities, UV advanced

SPEAKER BIOS

oxidation, and chemical disinfection, as well as solids handling processes including anaerobic digestion, co-digestion systems, thickening and dewatering processes and sludge pumping stations. Steven has fulfilled multiple roles on design projects throughout his career, including process engineer, project engineer, design coordinator and Project Technical Lead.



TED COUCH

Ted is a Process Engineer and Project Manager for Jacobs based in Redding, California. He is the current President of the Northern California Chapter of the WaterReuse Association, and past-president of the North Sacramento Valley Section of

the California Water Environment Association. Ted has a BA from Pomona College, and an MS degree in Water Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Ted specializes in pilot testing, conceptual engineering, and detailed design delivery for wastewater and water reuse facilities.



TIM LOPER

Tim Loper is Carollo Engineer's Chief of Infrastructure Planning and has worked with municipal agencies across the country to develop implementable capital improvement plans for over 20 years.



TY NELSON

Ty has worked with the City of Henderson in the Department of Utility Services for 5+ years. Prior to the working with the City, Ty has as over 15 year of experience spread between the consulting world, general contracting, and the mining industry. In addition to being a licensed engineer, Ty is also NASSCO certified and AMPP Level 2 Certified (previously NACE 2) for coating inspections.



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