

WRRC 2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tribal Water Resilience — in a — Changing Environment

Aug. 30 - Sept. 1

Photo: David DeJong, MAR-5 site, Gila River Indian Community

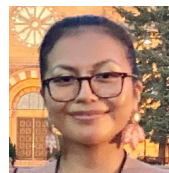
We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.

CONFERENCE SPEAKER/MODERATOR BIOS



Bidah Becker has dedicated her career to the Navajo Nation and its natural resources. She currently serves as an Associate Attorney for the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority. Prior to this position, she served as Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources from May 2013 to January 2019, as an appointee of President Begaye and Vice-President Nez, after serving 11 years as an attorney for the Navajo Nation focusing on water rights and natural resources issues. Continuing her deep interest and passion for water, she serves on the Leadership Team for the Water and Tribes Initiative in the Colorado River Basin, as a Commissioner on the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, appointed by Governor Lujan Grisham, and on the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission, appointed by Speaker Damon. Ms. Becker is a member of the Navajo Nation and lives in Fort Defiance with her husband and two children.

become a building trades and maintenance instructor for at-risk students for the Baboquivari Unified School District (BUSD) and co-organized the Alternative High School. As Director of Operations for BUSD, he oversaw school upgrades and renovations with funding from the Arizona State School Facilities Board and managed new construction funded by Impact Aid bonds. Vice Chairman Carlyle is a graduate of Haskell Indian Junior College, with an A.A.S. in Welding Technology and an A.A. in Liberal Arts, and Pittsburg State University, with a B.S. in Vocational Technical Education.



Sarah Camille Chiago is the second eldest grandchild of the late Rodney B. Lewis and Willardene Lewis. She is currently in her second year at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she is focusing on Creative Writing.



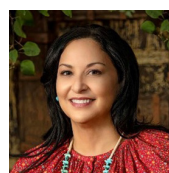
Darrah Johannes Blackwater, Indigenous Law and Policy Fellow at the University of Arizona, is from Farmington, NM and is a citizen of the Navajo Nation. She earned her law degree from the University of Arizona, studying Indigenous law, telecommunications law, and natural resource law. She spent a year of law school working on Tribal issues in Washington D.C. for the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs and the Inspector General of the Department of Interior. She is a trail runner and backpacked the 486-mile Colorado Trail through Ute homelands in July 2020 to raise awareness about Indigenous policy issues.



Karletta Chief (Diné) is an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Environmental Science at the University of Arizona (UArizona). As an Extension Specialist, she works to bring relevant water science to Native American communities in a culturally sensitive manner. In partnership with Diné College, Dr. Chief leads the NSF Indigenous Food, Energy, and Water Security and Sovereignty Program and is training 39 graduate students. Dr. Chief received a B.S. and M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Stanford University in 1998 and 2000 and a Ph.D. in Hydrology and Water Resources from UArizona in 2007.



Jerry Carlyle is serving his 4th four-year term as Vice Chairman of the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation. He was employed by the Arizona Public Service (APS) Four Corners Power Plant in Fruitland N.M. as a welder, foreman, and planner. After relocating to Phoenix, he continued with APS as a truck driver, groundman, and finally, lineman. He left APS to

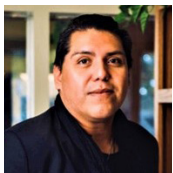


Maria Dadgar is an enrolled member of the Piscataway Tribe of Accokeek, Maryland. Throughout her career, she has been involved in advocating for public policies and legislation on behalf of Tribal nations in economic development, American Indian

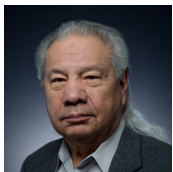
health policy, environmental justice, and American Indian education. Ms. Dadgar holds the position of Executive Director of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA), which is one of the oldest and largest inter-tribal organizations in the United States. Maria launched her career in non-profit management as Co-Founder/National Program Coordinator of Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS) at American University in Washington, D.C. Maria holds an Associate Degree in Journalism/Mass Communications from Prince George's Community College, a BA in Liberal Studies with an emphasis on Communications from American University, and an MBA from Grand Canyon University.



Percy Deal has held numerous political positions in the past 43 years: as Chapter Official, one term as Navajo Nation Council Delegate, and several terms as a member of Navajo County Board of Supervisors. He was Executive Director of the Navajo Hopi Land Commission and Staff Assistant to the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council. Since retiring in 2008, he spends his time as a volunteer for the Dził Yijiin Region (seven communities) on transportation, water, and environmental issues; Peabody and Navajo Generating Station issues; drought preparedness; and long-term on going issues resulting from the 1974 Relocation Act.



Tommy L. Drennan is an elected member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Tribal Council. He is an enrolled member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (Mohave Tribe) and has worked at various levels of government (Tribal, State, and Federal) and with many agencies and organizations on matters involving natural resources and environmental protection. Councilman Drennan advocates for human rights and protections on matters of civil equality, continued expansion of LGBTQ+ rights and protections, expansion of protections for domestic violence victims and the Violence Against Women Act, indigent defense, and criminal justice reform.



John Echohawk is the Executive Director of the Native American Rights Fund (NARF). Founded in 1970, NARF considers Indian water rights to be one of the most important Native American rights issues and has been involved in nine of the 32 Indian water rights cases that have resulted in settlements. Mr. Echohawk has worked with the Department of the Interior, the Western Governors Association, the Western States Water Council, the Conference of Western Attorneys General, the Western Business Roundtable, the National Congress of American Indians, and the Joint Federal Tribal Water Funding Task Force to promote Indian water rights settlement policies favorable to Native Americans. He serves on the Boards of the American Indian Resources Institute, the Association on American Indian Affairs, the Indigenous Language Institute, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development.



N. Levi Esquerra is the Senior Vice-President of Native American Advancement and Tribal Engagement for the University of Arizona (UArizona). He is responsible for increasing entrepreneurship and economic and community development activities within Tribal communities, and he works with the various Native Nations to bring UArizona resources to the Tribes. Prior to his current position, Mr. Esquerra was employed at the Alliance Bank Economic Policy Institute on the campus of Northern Arizona University. Mr. Esquerra served as Tribal Chairman of the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe and served three additional terms as an elected member of the Tribal Council. During this time, he was instrumental in developing the Nuwuvi Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO), whose goal is to generate business development, produce revenue, spark job creation, and advance the economic self-sufficiency of Chemehuevi by creating, managing, and developing Tribal enterprises, and served as the first NEDCO Board Chairman.



Amelia Flores Amelia Flores is Mohave and an enrolled member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT). Her education includes a B.S. Degree in Education from NAU and Masters in Linguistics from the University of Arizona. As a former Tribal Librarian/Archivist she has served on numerous local, Tribal, state boards, and commissions relating to libraries, archives, early childhood education, foster care, language revitalization, and the humanities. In 2008 Mrs. Flores received the "Revitalization, Implementation and Preservation of tribal Language Award" at the annual Yuman Family Language Summit. In 2012 the Guardians of Language, Memory and Lifeways again honored Flores and CRIT with the Archives Institutional Excellence Award for demonstration of "a significant commitment to the preservation and use of documentary heritage." Mrs. Flores served as CRIT Tribal Council member from 2013 to 2020 and as Tribal Council Secretary for two terms. Mrs. Flores was elected as Chairwoman of the Colorado River Indian Tribes in 2021.



Lisa Garcia was elected to office as an Ak-Chin Indian Community Council Member in November of 2018. She was born and raised in Arizona and has lived in Maricopa all her life. As a Tribal Council Member, she represents the Ak-Chin Indian Community in all matters and takes all actions necessary to preserve and safeguard the health, safety, welfare and political integrity of the community. Lisa is a Certified Public Manager. She has served as the Ak-Chin Parks and Recreation Director and Program Coordinator, Harrah's Ak-Chin Development System Manager, Senior and Community Planner for the Ak-Chin Planning and Development Department, and Gaming License Technician for the Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Agency. Her diverse work experience and community involvement allows her to share knowledge and expertise in the areas of educational and career guidance, personal and professional development, program development, and team building with her community. She holds a B.S. in Business Administration, an A.A.S. in Recreation and Sports Management, and an A.G.S. in General Education.



Jake Golden, is a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. He is a Water Resource Specialist with the City of Phoenix Water Services Department. He focuses on water policy, water resource planning and management, and Tribal water. Mr. Golden brings a wide range of experience and a broad perspective to water management in Arizona. He worked previously in both the private and public sectors with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Quapaw Nation of Oklahoma, and as a Graduate Research Assistant for the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center. Mr. Golden received his M.S. in Water, Society, & Policy from the University of Arizona, after receiving a dual B.A. in International Relations and History, with minors in French and Sustainability, from the University of Arkansas.



Brian Golding, Sr., is a member of the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, with 25 years of experience assisting Native American Tribal governments, organizations, and people. Mr. Golding serves his Tribe as Director of Economic Development, administering agricultural and commercial leasing, entrepreneurship, enterprise attraction, business permitting, transportation and transit program management, and infrastructure and facilities development. He works with diverse partners to restore, maintain, and enhance 380 acres comprising the Yuma East Wetlands along the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona. A member of the State Bar of California, Mr. Golding holds a J.D. degree from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. He earned a B.S. degree in City & Regional Planning from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and pursued an M.S. degree in Community Development at the University of California, Davis.



Paul Huette, Vice Chairman, Owens Valley Indian Water Commission, and enrolled member of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley, understands the interconnectedness Native American leaders need to have in their community. He is the water and wastewater operator for Big Pines and takes pride in the Tribe's award-winning water quality, which is symbolic of the essential nature of leadership as it relates to addressing people's needs. Mr. Huette continues to be an advocate in the Owens Valley water rights struggles through his role as Vice-Chairman of the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission. He has been vocal about the impacts of Los Angeles' groundwater pumping in the valley through his role on the Big Pine Environmental Protection Committee. His dedication to public service extends from regional environmental stewardship and valley-wide water management to Tribal water rights and water supply systems. He also sits on multiple Boards, including Big Pine School Board and Inyo County Water Commission, ensuring that these decision-making forums include Indigenous voices and needs. He is also a Captain in the Big Pine Volunteer Fire Department.



Michael Kotutwa Johnson, a member of the Hopi Tribe in Northern Arizona, serves as the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) Program Officer. He is a traditional Hopi farmer and practitioner and has given lectures extensively on the topic of Hopi dryland farming – a practice of his people for over two millennia – throughout his academic and professional career. Dr. Johnson's work focuses on Indigenous Agriculture Knowledge as it relates to conservation and subsistence farming. His most recent work, "Enhancing integration of Indigenous agricultural knowledge into USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service cost-share initiatives," was published in the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*. Dr. Johnson received his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona's School of Natural Resources and the Environment.



Carrie Nuva Joseph is a Postdoctoral Scholar in the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment at Arizona State University. She specializes in the chemical and biogeophysical relationships between natural and engineered landscapes that have been impacted by hazardous waste and human disturbance. Her interdisciplinary research includes climate change impacts, human exposures to anthropogenic contaminants, hydrology, and water resource management in Indigenous communities. Using a holistic lens, Dr. Joseph's work informs decision-making in science and policy to advance social equity and data sovereignty efforts in marginalized populations. Dr. Joseph is a citizen of the Hopi Nation, where she was born, raised, and currently resides.



Gwendena Lee-Gatewood is the first female elected to the highest office of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Her family is from Cibecue, Arizona. The youngest of 11 siblings, Chairwoman Lee-Gatewood is of the Nilchi'lentin Clan, born for the Tse'kine Clan. A graduate of Show Low High School and Northern Arizona University, she is married to Marty Gatewood, and they have three children.



John Blaine Lewis is Director of the Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority Board. As Director, he helped establish the STEA3M Summer Program for students in the Community eager to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Architecture, Agriculture, and Mathematics. Mr. Lewis also served on the Board of Gila River Telecommunications, Inc.



John R. Lewis' has dedicated his life to strengthening Tribal sovereignty and upholding the government-to-government relationship between Tribes and federal agencies, the State of Arizona, and state universities. Mr. Lewis served as the Executive Director of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) 1975–2013, during a time of great political change for Tribes across the United States. In this capacity, Mr. Lewis

worked to grow the organization from a staff of one with minimal funding into one that operates more than 30 programs, such as Environmental Quality, Health and Human Services, and Nutrition and Health Research. Within Arizona, Mr. Lewis and ITCA were instrumental in successfully advocating for American Indian voting rights, establishing Tribal liaisons in state offices, developing Tribal consultation models, and organizing the Tribal Water Policy Council. Mr. Lewis continues to be an advocate and remains actively involved in cultural preservation, biomedical research, and policy.



Stephen Roe Lewis has been Governor of the Gila River Indian Community since being elected in 2014. He was raised in Sacaton, “Gu-u-Ki”, on the Gila River Indian Community. His parents are Rodney B. and Willardene Lewis. His paternal grandparents are the late Rev. Roe Blaine and Sally Lewis, and his maternal grandparents are the late Willard and Catherine Pratt. As Governor, he oversees the implementation of the Community’s Water Settlement of 2004 (the largest water settlement of its kind in U.S. history). He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Native American Rights Fund, the Executive Board for the National Indian Gaming Association, and the Board of Trustees for the Heard Museum of Phoenix. Governor Lewis advocates for renewable and green technologies guided by O’otham agricultural history and cultural teachings. He was the first Native film curator for the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, and was an Associate Producer for the groundbreaking and critically acclaimed TBS six-part feature documentary, “The Native Americans.” Governor Lewis graduated from Arizona State University with a B.S. and pursued graduate studies at John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has an eighteen-year-old son, Daniel.



Katherine Elizabeth Lewis is the daughter of Rodney B. and Willardene Lewis. She attended Arizona State University where she received her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, with a minor in American Indian Studies. She also received her Masters in Social Welfare from the University of California at Berkeley. Ms. Lewis has worked extensively in the healthcare field for the past 15 years in California and Arizona. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Gila River Health Care, the Health Care entity of the Gila River Indian Community. Ms. Lewis is an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community and has a daughter, Sarah.

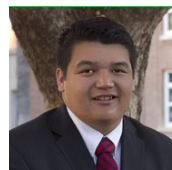


Vernon Masayesva is Director of the Black Mesa Trust. He is a member of the Water/ Coyote Clan of the Hopi Tribe and lives on Third Mesa on the Hopi Reservation in Arizona. He was Hopi Tribal Chairman from 1990 to 1994. Mr. Masayesva grew up watching Hopi land and water disappear due to unnatural occurrences. His early career as an educator, Tribal representative, and grassroots activist catapulted him into the position of prominent spokesperson against coal mining on Black Mesa. He now engages religious discourse through

public forums to far-reaching audiences in order to express concern for the future of Black Mesa. In 1998, Mr. Masayesva founded the Black Mesa Trust, a non-profit environmental organization that unites Native and non-Native advocates working to achieve sustainable water policies in and for the American Southwest. His life work manifests Hopi spiritual belief that “Water is Life” and that all of humanity needs to learn to “think like water” and use water wisely.



Sharon B. Megdal is Director of the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center, an Extension Center and research unit in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She is also Professor of Environmental Science, C.W. & Modene Neely Endowed Professor, and Distinguished Outreach Professor. The geographic focus of her water policy and management work ranges from local to international. Current research projects focus on groundwater governance, managed aquifer recharge, and transboundary aquifer assessment. Engagement efforts include Indigenous Water Dialogues and Diversifying Voices in Water Resources. Dr. Megdal endeavors to bridge the academic, practitioner, and civil society communities. Recently, she completed 12 years as an elected member of the Central Arizona Project Board of Directors, and she is active in many professional organizations. Past state-level public service activities include the Arizona Corporation Commission, the State Transportation Board, the Arizona Medical Board, and several other boards and commissions. Sharon Megdal holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University.



Joshua Moore is General Manager of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Farms. A member of CRIT, Mr. Moore grew up on the reservation and throughout his professional career, he has been passionate about creating pathways for Indigenous young peoples to enter the field of Agriculture. He served as an Agricultural Science teacher at Patagonia Union High School for one year and then as an Assistant Agent for Pima County Cooperative Extension Service. In that position, he worked with agents Joshua Farella and Juan Arias to adapt the Peoplehood Model for positive youth development to Extension work. Mr. Moore earned a B.S. in Agricultural Technology Management and an M.S. in Agricultural Education Research from the University of Arizona College of Agriculture Life Sciences.



Katosha Nakai, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, is the founder and owner of Tribal Policy People, LLC, in which she focuses on work across Indian Country. She represents Tribal interests and those doing business with Tribes. An attorney, Ms. Nakai also leads the Phoenix office of Tucson-based Strickland & Strickland, P.C., representing Tribal interests primarily in the areas of water, natural resources, and environmental law. Prior to joining Strickland & Strickland, Ms. Nakai served eight years with the Central Arizona Project as Manager of Stakeholder Relations & Strategic Development, leading their outreach activities across diverse

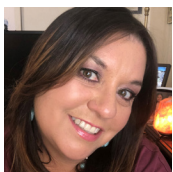
stakeholder groups and managing strategic planning development, implementation, and tracking. Ms. Nakai serves on the Board of Directors for the Center for the Future of Arizona and has served Arizona Governors in both Republican and Democrat administrations. She was appointed by Governor Janet Napolitano as a Commissioner of the Arizona Oil & Gas Conservation Commission and worked as a Policy Advisor to Governor Jan Brewer for energy, broadband, and Tribal affairs. She was Chair for Arizona's Climate Change Oversight Group and a member of Arizona's Homeland Security Senior Advisory Committee. Before her state service, Ms. Nakai practiced law and served as a law clerk to the Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which hears the vast majority of the nation's Indian law cases. Ms. Nakai earned both her J.D. and her Indian Law Certificate from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University and a B.A. degree in Mass Communications from Oklahoma City University.



Jesse Navarro is the Governmental Affairs Assistant to Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Ned Norris Jr., and Vice Chairwoman Wavalene Saunders. He is from the village of Coldfields in the Baboquivari District on the Tohono O'odham Nation and resides in Tucson. Mr. Navarro's community service projects include volunteering with the First Things First Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council and serving as a Governing Board Member for Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona. He has a Bachelor's degree in Public Management and a Master's in Administration, with an emphasis on Leadership, from Northern Arizona University.



Kyndall Noah, an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, is Project Coordinator/Communication Specialist for the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission, working to ensure that the story of Owens Valley is inclusive and told from the perspective of the Indigenous people. He has a strong background in community engagement and working with communities to address social issues. Mr. Noah graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU), the only fully federally funded Tribal College University in the United States, with a degree in Indigenous American Indian Studies. While at HINU, he interned as an Eco-Ambassador, working on a variety of environmental issues, such as assisting with the stewardship of the Haskell Wetlands and leading the development of a sustainable composting program. Mr. Noah received a Master's degree in American Indian/Alaskan Native Social Work from the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.



Teri Red Owl is an enrolled member of the Bishop Paiute Tribe. For the past 22 years, she has served as Executive Director of the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission, a Tribal consortium that provides water, environmental, and agricultural services to its member Tribes. She is at the forefront of efforts to negotiate Tribal land and water for the Bishop, Big Pine, and

Lone Pine Paiute Tribes, and advocates for environmental protection and policy change in Payahuunadü in Los Angeles, and at the state and federal levels. She has served on numerous boards, committees, and commissions, including Bishop Paiute Gaming Corporation, Inyo County Water Commission, Inyo/Los Angeles Standing Committee, California Indian Manpower Consortium, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 Regional Tribal Operations Committee, California Department of Water Resources – Water Plan Update Committee, Contributing Author Committee for 4th California Climate Change Assessment Indigenous Communities Report, Bishop Indian Utility Organization, Red Nation Celebration Institute, and Bishop Paiute Development Corporation. Ms. Red Owl has extensive experience in grant management and oversight, and has two business degrees. She is a licensed Tribal Court Advocate and lives in Bishop, California with her husband and children.



Camille Calimlim Touton is Deputy Commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and on June 14, 2021, President Biden nominated her to the position of Commissioner. Her nomination is awaiting confirmation by the Senate. Prior to her appointment as Deputy Commissioner, she served as Professional Staff for the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and was the staff lead on the resiliency provisions enacted as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020. In addition, she served as Professional Staff for the Department of the Interior's congressional authorization committees: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and House Natural Resources Committee, after serving as Interior's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science during the Obama administration. DC Touton holds a B.S. in Engineering (Civil), a B.A. in Communication Studies, and a Master of Public Policy.



Rebecca Tsosie is a University of Arizona (UArizona) Regents Professor at the James E. Rogers College of Law. Professor Tsosie, who is of Yaqui descent, is a faculty member for the Indigenous Peoples' Law and Policy Program at UArizona, and she is widely known for her work in the fields of Federal Indian law and Indigenous peoples' human rights. Prior to joining the UA faculty, Professor Tsosie was a Regents' Professor, Vice Provost for Inclusion and Community Engagement at Arizona State University, and Executive Director for ASU's Indian Legal Program. She has published widely on sovereignty, self-determination, cultural pluralism, environmental policy, and cultural rights. Professor Tsosie serves as a Supreme Court Justice for the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and as an Associate Judge on the San Carlos Tribal Court of Appeals. She received her B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles.

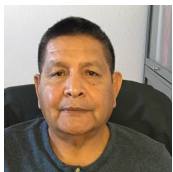


Nikki Tulley is a member of the Navajo Nation. She is a PhD Candidate in the University of Arizona Department of Environmental Science, with a concentration in Hydrosience. Her research focuses on ensuring that people living in Indigenous

communities have access to clean drinking water to sustain their way of life in an ever-changing environment through sustainable practices, water policies, and water management.



Crystal Tulley-Cordova is a Principal Hydrologist in the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources – Water Management Branch. She has worked collaboratively with Navajo Nation partners on water-related research since 2013. Her work focuses on protecting and managing water resources in the Navajo Nation and developing sustainable projects to provide access to safe water for Navajo residents now and for generations to come.



Selso Villegas is the Executive Director for the Water Resources Department of the Tohono O'odham Nation, located in Southern Arizona along the U.S./Mexico border. His department is responsible for protecting and managing the Nation's water resources. His main objective is to make sure that the residents have clean water to drink now and into the future. He received his B.S., M.S., and PhD in Science from the University of Arizona.



Timothy Williams was elected Chairman of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe in 2007, and in 2019, was elected to his fourth term. As Chairman, he continues to work with Tribal officials and the administration on growth plans that benefit the regional economy and the Tribe's membership. Chairman Williams served in the United States Marine Corps from 1999-2003 and is a Doctoral of Education Candidate at the University of Southern California. He holds a Master of Legal Studies from the University of Oklahoma and a B.S. in Finance and Management from Northern Arizona University.



Noah Williams is a member of the Bishop Paiute Tribe and grew up in Owens Valley. He serves as the Water Program Coordinator for the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley. As Water Program Coordinator, he upholds the Big Pine Paiute Tribe's Water Quality Standards, he implements the Tribal Non-point Source Management Plan, considers requests for section 401 certification, conducts bioassessments and water monitoring, develops outreach and education material, and manages water program funding. Mr. Williams is an experienced researcher with a background in public engagement, environmental law and policy, and science/technology communication. He earned a B.A. in Environmental Communication from California State University Channel Islands in 2019.



Ofelia Zepeda is Tohono O'odham and a Regents Professor of Linguistics at the University of Arizona. She is the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship for her work in American Indian language education, maintenance, and recovery. Dr. Zepeda has published four books of poetry, *Ocean Power: Poems from the Desert*, *Jewed I-hoi/Earth Movements*, *Where Clouds are Formed*, and *Aligning our World*, with French translation and linotype artwork by Pierre Cayol. She is currently the poet collaborator on *The Place Where Clouds Are Formed*, a photographic essay with Gareth Smit and research fellow Martin Zicari. In 2021, her work appeared in *When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through*, edited by Joy Harjo, U.S. Poet Laureate.



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