

EPA: 2021 AND BEYOND

Co-Chairs: Dan McGovern, former US EPA Regional Administrator, Region 9; former General Counsel, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Alexis Strauss, former US EPA Acting Regional Administrator, Region 9; Member, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Week 1: Overview

Session A: Overview of EPA mission, authorities, role of Regional Office, course overview, engagement with participants and presenters.

Session B: Working with territories, tribes, and states; working in underserved communities; environmental justice and children's health concerns.

Faculty: Alexis Strauss (former EPA acting Regional Administrator, Deputy Regional Administrator), Dan McGovern (former EPA Regional Administrator, former NOAA General Counsel), Laura Ebbert (EPA Director, Tribal, Intergovernmental and Policy Division)

Week 2: Clean Air

Session A: Background and accomplishments in air pollution controls since 1963 • Foundation for air pollution control at Federal, State, and local government levels • Has the air become cleaner, and why? What problem areas remain?

Session B: Challenges in air quality, including appropriate roles for State and local governments • Challenges – climate change, economic and health concerns, international roles • Resetting priorities for EPA and States

Faculty: Dave Calkins (former EPA Region 9 Air Programs Chief, international consultant on air quality programs).

Week 3: Pesticides and Toxics

Session A: Understanding how pesticides are regulated in California • Role of EPA, CA Dept. of Pesticide Regulation, and Agricultural Commissioners • Pesticide registration: what's on the label? • The Worker Protection Standard: how are agricultural workers protected? • How can violations be reported?

Session B: How does the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) work? • Operational summary, role of federal and other agencies • Protecting communities from emerging contaminants, e.g. PFOA/PFAS • How do we diagnose and remove lead (Pb) from our communities?

Faculty: Amy Miller-Bowen (EPA Director, Enforcement and Compliance Assistance Division), Patti TenBroek (EPA Pesticides Program chief).

Week 4: Drinking Water

- What is and isn't regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act
- California's universe of public water systems, small systems, customers
- Role of EPA, State and local agencies
- In a big city, what can go wrong? (Maywood example)
- In a rural community, what can go wrong? (Oasis example)
- Tools: funding, enforcement, consolidation, reporting

Faculty: Joel Jones (EPA Deputy Director, Enforcement and Compliance Assistance Division)

Week 5: Clean Water Act programs

- How are the San Francisco Bay, the ocean, wetlands and streams protected?
- Understanding the basics of discharge permits for wastewater and stormwater
- How compliance and enforcement, including citizen suits, are used
- Local examples to illustrate the Clean Water Act tools and provisions

Faculty: Jessica Kao (EPA retired, former Assistant Regional Counsel, former Chief of Staff to the Regional Administrator)

Week 6: Climate Change: actions to confront climate change

Session A: Technical solutions to reverse global warming. Legal and policy approaches to address climate change.

Session B: Climate change and the environmental justice community. What can you do about climate change?

Faculty: Dan Reich (EPA retired, former Assistant Regional Counsel and DOJ Trial Attorney), Ken Alex (Director of Project Climate at UC Berkeley Law and was formerly a senior policy advisor to California Governor Jerry Brown).

Week 7: Contaminated Lands

Session A: The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Fundamentals: what is required of transporters, generators and disposal sites. Examples to show the effect on people's lives.

Session B: Superfund, or CERCLA (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act) Fundamentals: how this statute works, removal and remedial programs, NPL list Examples of noteworthy Superfund response actions.

Faculty: Lewis Maldonado (EPA retired, former Assistant Regional Counsel)

Week 8: NGO Panel, California focus: perspectives on EPA operations, strengths, shortcomings

Invited: BayKeeper, Save SF Bay, NRDC, EarthJustice

Q&A and closing: Dan McGovern, Alexis Strauss