

## Speaker Biographies

### **John Anderson, Majority Staff Director, Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment, U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee**

John Anderson is the Majority Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, U.S. House of Representatives. In this position, he is responsible for the management of all aspects of the legislative process for water resources and environmental issues that come before the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The Subcommittee's jurisdiction includes water resources development, conservation and management, water pollution control and water infrastructure, and hazardous waste cleanup. Mr. Anderson directs the Subcommittee staff in its legislative and oversight responsibilities related to the civil works programs of the Army Corps of Engineers, the clean water and Superfund programs of the Environmental Protection Agency, the small watershed projects of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, all aspects of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

Mr. Anderson's responsibilities include development and drafting of legislative proposals, organization and preparation of Committee hearings and markups, drafting Committee reports, coordination with other congressional offices and committees, briefing Members, preparation for House floor action, and negotiation with the Senate during House-Senate conferences. In carrying out these duties, he coordinates regularly with government agencies, associations, and other subject matter experts and policy makers.

Mr. Anderson began his professional life as a high school biology teacher before spending 26 years with the civil works program of the Army Corps of Engineers. He served in Memphis and Savannah Districts before joining the Corps Headquarters staff in 1985. In the Corps districts, he worked in the planning offices addressing the environmental impacts of proposed projects and permit actions. At Corps Headquarters, he served in the Legislative Initiative Branch where he helped prepare the agency's annual legislative agenda and draft agency positions on bills before Congress. In addition, he served as a point of contact for congressional staff, advised senior leaders on congressional affairs, developed a congressional relations strategy for the agency, and prepared agency witnesses for congressional testimony. Either in the Corps of Engineers or on Capitol Hill, Mr. Anderson has had a hand in drafting every Water Resources Development Act since 1990.

In 1998 and 1999, he served on a detail from the Corps of Engineers to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to help in the development and passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999. After its enactment, Mr. Anderson was hired in September 1999 as a permanent committee staff member. He has been Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment since 2006.

Mr. Anderson is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina. He holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He and his wife Guiomar make their home in northern Virginia. They have three sons in the Washington, DC, area – John and Patrick work in government relations; and Richard is an engineer.



### **Sonya Baskerville, Manager, National Relations, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)**

Sonya Baskerville is the Manager for Bonneville Power Administration's Office of National Relations. In that role, she is BPA's liaison to the Department of Energy, other executive branch agencies, the Congress, energy trade organizations, and other stakeholders. Prior to coming to D.C. in 2005, Sonya was the Assistant General Counsel for Transmission from 2002-2005, representing BPA's Transmission business and managing the BPA attorneys who also provide advice and counsel to Transmission. Prior to her management position within the Office of General Counsel, Sonya was a staff attorney in the Corporate section of OGC for 10 years, where she worked on various legal issues including Columbia River Treaty, federal legislation, administrative law, resource acquisitions, federal budget, FERC Standards of Conduct, and telecommunications. Sonya earned a B.S. Engineering from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1989 and a Juris Doctor from Tulane University in 1992.

### **Roger Cockrell, Professional Staff Member, U.S. Senate Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee**

Roger joined the Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water as a Minority Professional Staff Member in June 2003. He is primarily focused on the water appropriations issues for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. Since February 2005, he has been assigned to the Majority Professional Staff to assist with preparation of Energy and Water Appropriations Bills. He is continuing in this position for the 112th Congress.

## **Roger Cockrell, *continued***

Prior to his Senate career, Roger had a 23 year career with the Army Corps of Engineers' Vicksburg District. During his Army Corps career, he worked on the full range of civil works water resource studies and projects in both the planning and project management arena. For the final three and a half years of his Corps of Engineers' career, Roger was detailed to the Senate Appropriations Committee working on water issues. He is a civil engineer and attended Mississippi State University. Roger and his wife, Anna, and their daughter Melissa make their home in Falls Church, Virginia.



## **Matthew Daly, Environment and Energy Correspondent, Associated Press**

Matthew Daly is Environment and Energy Correspondent for The Associated Press in Washington, where he covers a range of issues, from offshore drilling to endangered species, mining, Native Americans, national parks and more.

Daly was the lead Washington reporter on the BP oil spill, and traveled to the Gulf Coast twice to report stories, including a helicopter tour with Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. AP's coverage of the spill won a prestigious Polk Award.

Daly also has served as Pacific Northwest Correspondent, covering federal issues related to five states, from Alaska to Montana.

Before coming to the AP's Washington bureau in 2002, he was state Capitol reporter in Connecticut for the AP and the Hartford Courant, the state's largest newspaper.

Daly is an honors graduate of Amherst College in Massachusetts and has also worked at The Charlotte Observer and The Washington Post.

A native Washingtonian, he is married and has two daughters.



## **Orlando Gotay, Deputy Maritime Administrator, U.S. Maritime Administration**

Orlando Gotay was sworn in as Deputy Maritime Administrator on June 2010. He joined the Maritime Administration as Senior Advisor for Maritime Policy in late 2009.

As the Agency's Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Gotay assists the Maritime Administrator by overseeing the activities of the Maritime Administration and also by spearheading various important initiatives. Mr. Gotay was instrumental in the selection and appointment of the eleventh

Superintendent of the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, and leads the Capital development strategy for the Academy.

In March 2010, he led the United States delegation to the Working Group 3 to the United Nations-sponsored Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. Mr. Gotay also lectures on a variety of maritime topics, such as the America's Marine Highway, and maritime security initiatives.

Prior to service in the Obama Administration, Mr. Gotay was Counselor to the Mayor of San Juan, Puerto Rico. He was the first General Manager of the San Juan Port Commission, a municipal entity created in 2007 to increase the city's maritime presence, foster the growth of a healthy maritime industry, and improve existing conditions at the port.

He was also the Mayor's representative before the Puerto Rico State Legislature and served as the Mayor's speechwriter, as the first City bicycle and pedestrian coordinator and the Mayor's liaison to the City Council.

Mr. Gotay also worked as an advisor at the Puerto Rico House of Representatives.

Prior to relocating back to his native San Juan, Mr. Gotay had a private tax practice in San Francisco, California. He also worked as an associate at the state and local taxation department of the consulting firm now known as PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Mr. Gotay was an officer in the U.S. Navy. He is a 1987 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD and served in the engineering departments onboard the USS Valdez and the USS Belknap, flagship of the US Sixth Fleet,

## **Orlando Gotay, *continued***

home ported in Gaeta, Italy.

After leaving the Navy, Mr. Gotay obtained a law degree and a Master of Laws in Taxation from Golden Gate University, San Francisco. He is a member of the California bar and is licensed to practice before the US Tax Court, and federal courts in the districts of Northern California and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Gotay is a technical diver, an amateur radio operator (WP4NPV); speaks four languages and is the U.S. Naval Academy information officer for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

## **Susan Gilson, Executive Director, National Association of Flood and Storm Water Management Agencies (NAFSMA)**

Susan Gilson has worked with the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies since 1989 and has served as the organization's Executive Director since 1993. She has an extensive background in water resources policy issues and works closely with the congressional staff, and officials of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency/Department of Homeland Security and others on legislative and regulatory issues.

Prior to becoming NAFSMA's Executive Director on a full-time basis in January 2008, Susan was a managing associate in the Water Resources, Transportation and Environment Practice at Carmen Group, Inc. Prior to joining Carmen Group, she was an assistant city representative for the National Center for Municipal Development, where she analyzed federal legislation and regulations on behalf of local government clients. She also worked on a special project with the Roosevelt Center for American Policy Studies. Susan graduated cum laude in 1979 from Westminster College, with a degree in political science.



## **The Honorable Doc Hastings, U.S. House of Representatives**

Doc Hastings first joined the U.S. House of Representatives in 1995 to serve Washington's 4th Congressional District. He brought with him solid legislative experience and a strong work ethic, coupled with the desire to bring the common sense traditional values of Central Washington back to Washington, D.C.

Doc and his wife Claire live in Pasco. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

After graduating from Pasco High School, Doc studied business administration at Columbia Basin College and at Central Washington University. Later, while running his family's small business, Columbia Basin Paper and Supply, Doc established himself as a leader in the local business community.

Before serving in Congress, Doc served eight years in the Washington State Legislature.

During his time in the House of Representatives, Doc has established a long record of serving the people, communities and priorities of Central Washington: he has led efforts to open new markets for local farmers; started the ongoing feasibility study for new water storage in the Yakima Basin; got the federal government engaged in finding a solution for the Odessa Subaquifer; brought the House Agriculture Committee to Central Washington to hear from local farmers and ranchers as Congress developed the Farm Bill; proposed and passed a law to protect the survivor benefits for families of soldiers killed in action; worked to enact fair trade agreements that benefit Washington state; fought attempts to ban local doctor-owned hospitals; and remains a strong defender of dams and a proponent of nuclear power.

Doc founded the bipartisan Congressional Nuclear Cleanup Caucus to promote the cleanup of nuclear waste sites like Hanford. Since then, he has earned a reputation as an effective leader on nuclear cleanup issues. Each year Doc works to ensure that Hanford's cleanup progress is accomplished as safely, quickly and efficiently as possible.

At the start of the 112th Congress, Doc was selected by his colleagues to serve as the Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee. The Natural Resources Committee has jurisdiction over most federal land use and water policies, including national forests, national parks and monuments, wilderness areas, national scenic areas, Indian reservations and BLM lands.

## **The Honorable Doc Hastings, *continued***

Of importance to Central Washington and the Pacific Northwest, the Committee oversees the Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Reclamation irrigation projects (Columbia Basin Project and Yakima Project), endangered species recovery, federal hydropower projects, Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes (PILT) payments and firefighting on federal lands.

The Committee has a major role in producing more American-made energy, with control over hydropower, and oil and gas reserves on public lands and waters. Specifically, Doc's priorities include increasing American energy production, ensuring U.S. offshore drilling is the safest in the world, guaranteeing access to public lands for recreation and job creation, effective management of our nation's oceans, and fighting for water rights in the West. Under Doc's leadership, the Committee is dedicated to pursuing policies that both strengthen our economy and protect our nation's treasured lands, oceans and wildlife.



### **John Horsley, Executive Director, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)**

In 1999, John Horsley became Executive Director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), which advocates policies and provides technology leadership on behalf of States to improve the Nation's transportation system.

Previously, Horsley was nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate as Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation where he served from 1993 to 1999 as the Department's advocate for intermodal policies, quality of life initiatives and as liaison to State and Local Governments, US Congress, and transportation constituencies.

A native of the Northwest, Horsley was elected to five terms as County Commissioner in Kitsap County, a community just west of Seattle. He is a graduate of Harvard, an Army veteran, a former Peace Corps volunteer and Congressional aide, and did graduate study at Georgetown. He is Past President of the National Association of Counties, and was founding Chairman of the Rebuild America Coalition.

He and his wife Deanna have been married for 36 years and have two children: Adam and Jennifer.



### **Dr. Sandra Knight, Deputy Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administrator, Mitigation, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

Dr. Sandra K. Knight assumed her duties as the new Deputy Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administrator for Mitigation at the Federal Emergency Management Agency on January 4, 2010.

Dr. Knight provides executive leadership, oversight and supervision for the development and administration of regulations, policies and procedures for the Risk Reduction and Risk Analysis Divisions and Offices of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation, and Regional and Disaster Support. This includes Floodplain Mapping, Floodplain Management, Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants, Building Sciences, Mitigation Planning, Dam Safety, the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, and hazardous risk assessment methodologies.

Dr. Knight is a member of the Senior Executive Service and comes to FEMA from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), where she served as the Director of the Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation. There she was responsible for the development of corporate policies and planning strategies, to ensure scientific excellence, transparent operations, and improved performance of NOAA's research portfolio.

Prior to serving with NOAA, Dr. Knight was a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Miss., where she was the Technical Director for navigation research and responsible for directing and planning strategic, multidisciplinary research which supported the sustainable development and management of the nation's waterways infrastructure.

Following the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast, she stepped in to provide leadership support to the Mississippi Valley Division Corps of Engineers as Chief, Business Technical Division, serving as lead engineer for the Valley. During her last year with the Corps, she was on special assignment to the Corps Headquarters as the team lead

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### **Dr. Sandra Knight, *continued***

for asset management, establishing accountability and life-cycle guidance for over \$200 billion of the nation's real property assets.

She received her doctorate in Civil Engineering from the University of Memphis in 1996. She is a registered professional engineer in the state of Tennessee. She has been certified by the American Academy of Water Resource Engineers as a Diplomate, Water Resource Engineer and most recently by the newly formed Academy of Coastal, Ocean, Port & Navigation Engineers (ACOPNE) Board of Trustees as a founding inaugural Diplomate, Navigation Engineering (D.NE).

She is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Society of Women Engineers, the Women's Aquatic Network, Sigma Xi, and Fellow for PIANC.



### **Amy Larson, President, National Waterways Conference, Inc.**

Amy W. Larson is the President of the National Waterways Conference, Inc. Established in 1960, the Conference is the leading national organization to advocate for the enactment of common-sense laws and policies that maximize the economic and environmental value of our nation's water resources. Conference membership is comprised of the full spectrum of water resources stakeholders, including waterways shippers and carriers, inland and coastal port authorities, flood control associations, levee boards, water supply districts, industry and regional associations, shipyards, dredging contractors, engineering consultants, and state and local governments. Prior to joining the Conference, Mrs.

Larson served as the General Counsel of the Federal Maritime Commission, an independent agency responsible for the regulation of oceanborne transportation in the foreign commerce of the United States, and she was a member of the Senior Executive Service.

Mrs. Larson is a graduate of Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, and the Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. She is a member of the bar in the District of Columbia and Maryland, and is admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Mrs. Larson is a member of the Board of Governors of the D.C. Chapter of the Propeller Club of the United States. In addition, she is a member of the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association and the Maritime Law Association.



### **Susan Monteverde, Vice President for Government Relations, American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA)**

Ms. Monteverde joined AAPA in 1999 to serve as the head of the Government Relations Department. She is responsible for planning, developing and conducting AAPA's legislative and regulatory affairs program in cooperation with AAPA President, AAPA Committees, the AAPA Legislative Policy Council, and the other government relations staff.

Prior to joining AAPA, Ms. Monteverde was Department Head for Environmental and Public Affairs for the American Chemical Society where she determined the strategic direction for the Society's government relations program and managed part of its implementation. Ms. Monteverde also worked in the government affairs operation of the National Solid Waste Management Association and the Miller Brewing Company.

Ms. Monteverde holds a B.A. in Political Science from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

### **Mike Pfenning, Program Development Branch Chief, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Headquarters**

Michael F. Pfenning is the Program Development Branch Chief within the Civil Works (CW) Program Integration Division of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Mike is responsible for creating, establishing, and prescribing budget guidance, as well as overseeing division-level project and programs management involving CW projects. He leads the defense of the results of CW program development, review and analysis, presenting rationale for recommendations made to Corps senior leaders, the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) (ASA(CW)), the Office of Management and Budget, and the Programs Community of Practice at large. Mike is responsible for providing a wide range of qualitative and quantitative methods for the assessment and improvement of CW program effectiveness.

## **Mike Pfenning, *continued***

Prior to joining USACE, Mike retired from Active Duty with the US Army in May 2010. In his last assignment on Active Duty, he served as the Executive Officer for the ASA(CW) from August 2008 to April 2010. Mike commanded the Gulf Region Division-North District from July 2007 to July 2008. Before this command, he served as the 61st district engineer and commander of the St. Paul District. While serving as the St. Paul District commander, Mike spent six months, during two separate tours, deployed to New Orleans as the Task Force Hope operations officer in support of recovery efforts for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Born in Vermont, Mike was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers upon graduation from the United States Military Academy (USMA) in 1980. He earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from the USMA, as well as a master of science and doctorate in operations research from the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado.

His military education includes the U.S. Army Airborne and Ranger schools, the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced courses and the Command and General Staff College. Mike also served as the Military Fellow, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C.

Mike's significant military awards and decorations include: the Military Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster; Army Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters; Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster; Silver de Fleury Medal; and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Mike is married to Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Ginni Guiton, and they have three children, Elizabeth, Brian and Benjamin.



## **U.S. Representative Greg Walden, U.S. House of Representatives**

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden represents the people of Oregon's Second Congressional District, which includes twenty counties in central, southern and eastern Oregon. Greg, who grew up on a cherry orchard in The Dalles, owned a small business in Oregon with his wife for nearly 22 years. He knows what it takes to create jobs, sign the front of a payroll check, and grow the food we eat.

He and his wife, Mylene, live in Hood River where their son, Anthony, attended public school before starting college in fall 2008. The Waldens are an active family that enjoys taking advantage of Oregon's vast outdoor recreational opportunities including skiing, kayaking and hiking.

Greg firmly believes that Congress must stop the wasteful spending of taxpayer money on government takeovers and new spending programs that don't produce jobs, but leave our kids and grandkids with staggering debt.

He has a deep commitment to the diverse and beautiful Second District of Oregon, and addressing the issues that most concern its citizens, including creating sustainable new jobs and economic opportunities, promoting forest health, and increasing rural health care access.

Greg is chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. The telecommunications industry supports about 50,000 jobs in Oregon, including nearly 10,000 in Oregon's Second District. Greg has served as chairman of the House Republican Leadership since February 2010 and is a deputy whip.

## **Michael Weiss, Deputy Associate Director, Ocean & Coastal Policy, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)**

Michael Weiss is the Deputy Associate Director for Ocean and Coastal Policy at the Council on Environmental Quality. Mr. Weiss has over 17 years of federal service in law, policy, and management. A graduate of the Cardozo School of Law, New York, Mr. Weiss served as an attorney/advisor in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of the General Counsel 1992-2000. In this capacity Mr. Weiss provided legal advice and support on a variety of NOAA programs and initiatives, including National Marine Sanctuaries, coastal zone management, nautical charting, and natural resource response and restoration. In 2000, Mr. Weiss served at the Council on Environmental Quality providing key support on ocean issues, including the development of the Executive Order 13178 establishing the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve and Executive Order 13158 on marine protected areas. In 2001, Mr. Weiss became the Deputy Director of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, overseeing 13 national marine sanctuaries and one marine national monument.