



Stanford Experts on Drought

Not for broadcast or publication.

Stanford scholars with expertise on drought impacts, water resources, water quality and issues related to freshwater and climate change are available to comment for coverage of these issues in the Western U.S. and elsewhere.

For assistance locating scholars, contact:

- Rob Jordan: rjordan@stanford.edu, (415) 760-8058
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Water Resources and Management

[Newsha Ajami](#)

Newsha Ajami is a hydrologist and expert on sustainable water resource management, water policy, the water-energy-food nexus and understanding hydrological predictions. She is the director of Urban Water Policy with Stanford's Water in the West and NSF-ReNUWIt initiatives. Ajami is a gubernatorial appointee to the Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board and formerly served as a science and technology fellow at the California State Senate's Natural Resources and Water Committee. Ajami is also a senior research engineer for the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.

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[Felicia Marcus](#)

Felicia Marcus is an attorney and water policy expert with over 35 years of water expertise in federal, state and local organizational management, policy development, program implementation and public engagement. Marcus serves as an Obama Administration appointee to the Commission on Environmental Cooperation-Joint Public Advisory Council, is a founding member of the Water Policy Group and recently served as chair of the California State Water Resources Control Board. She is the William C. Landreth Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's Water in the West Program.

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Climate and Drought

[Noah Diffenbaugh](#)

Noah Diffenbaugh is an expert on the climate system and understanding the influence of climate change on extreme events, including droughts and extreme rainfall. He has served as a lead author for Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and has provided testimony and scientific

expertise to the White House, the governor of California and U.S. congressional offices. Diffenbaugh is a professor at Stanford's School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences and the Kimmelman Family Senior Fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.

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Water Law and Policy

Buzz Thompson

Barton "Buzz" Thompson, Jr., is a leading expert in environmental, water and natural resources law and policy ranging from the future of endangered species and fisheries to the use of economic techniques for regulating the environment. Thompson is chairman of the board of the Resources Legacy Fund and the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, a California trustee for The Nature Conservancy, and a board member of both the American Farmland Trust and the Sonoran Institute. He previously served as a member of the Science Advisory Board for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He is a professor at Stanford Law School, faculty director for Stanford's Water in the West program, founding director of the law school's Environmental and Natural Resources Program, founding co-director and senior fellow of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, and a senior fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies.

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Groundwater

Rosemary Knight

Rosemary Knight is a geophysicist and expert on groundwater evaluation and management, remote sensing and hydrology. Knight works in partnership with groundwater managers in the western U.S. using laboratory and field experiments and computer modeling to develop new methods for acquiring, processing and interpreting groundwater data. Knight is the George L. Harrington Professor in the School of Earth Sciences and an affiliate of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.

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Steven Gorelick

Steven Gorelick directs Stanford's Global Freshwater Initiative with past and active projects in India, Mexico, Vietnam and Jordan. Gorelick has published extensively in the areas of groundwater management, water security, water resources vulnerability in developing regions, optimal remediation design, hydrogeophysics, ecohydrology and global oil supply and demand. Gorelick is the Cyrus F. Tolman Professor in the Department of Earth System Science and a senior fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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Scott Fendorf

Scott Fendorf is a soil scientist and biogeochemist with expertise in the chemical and biological processes involved in groundwater quality, including how drought and over pumping can contribute to

water contamination. His research in areas ranging from the Western U.S. (primarily California) to South/Southeast Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Vietnam) has revealed how naturally occurring contaminants such as arsenic, chromium, and uranium enters groundwater, including the impacts of climate and management. Fendorf is the Huffington Family Professor of Earth Science at Stanford, the founding chair of the Earth System Science Department, and Senior Associate Dean in Stanford's School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Science. He is also a Senior Fellow in the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.

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Additional Stanford experts can be found at
<https://experts.stanford.edu>