

Can DESALINATION Solve California's Water Problems?

Tom Luster – analyst with the Calif. Coastal Commission

**3/25/16 (Friday), 7:30 pm
MJC West Campus
Sierra Hall 132
Free admission and Parking**



What role can desalination play in California's water portfolio? Even with the interest fostered by the biggest drought in recent state history, desalination remains a small part of California's water supply. This presentation will identify some of desalination's key benefits – for example, its ability to provide a local and reliable water source, its potential to reduce pressure on other water sources – along with some key concerns, such as its relatively high costs, intensive energy use, and its environmental effects. The presentation will also describe California's recent history with desalination projects and discuss how desalination can serve as part of California's approach to beneficial water management.

Tom Luster is an analyst with the California Coastal Commission, and advises the Commission on policies and projects related to desalination along the California coast. He was the principal author of a March 2004 report published by the Coastal Commission titled "Seawater Desalination and the California Coastal Act". In 2003, he served on a desalination work group for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and was co-chair of the state's Desalination Task Force, which was directed by the Legislature to identify opportunities and constraints on desalination in California. His other work at the Commission includes evaluating policies and proposals related to energy and ocean resources, including offshore oil and gas, coastal power plants, and others. Prior to his work at the Commission, Tom was a senior policy analyst for water quality and wetland issues in Washington State. His graduate and undergraduate work focused on water issues and resource management.



<http://www.waterlawsymposium.com/presenters/tom-luster>

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