Town Hall

2-3 pm, February 19, 2026

- Welcome
- Leadership Update
- Stories From the Field: Online Water Courses
- Strategic Focus: Accessibility Updates
- New Hires
- Other Updates

Chat warmup
Learning about each other:

Which Olympic winter sport do you want to learn?

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Leadership Update

Vision & News - (10-15 mins)

Glenda Humiston
Vice President of UC Agriculture and Natural Resources

Kathy Eftekhari
Interim AVP, Administrative Services and Chief of Staff

Jennifer Bunge
Interim AVP, Finance & Capital Planning

Darren Haver
Interim AVP, Research and Cooperative Extension

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California Science and Health Research Bond Act SB 895 (Wiener)

Nestor Lopez

Assistant Director
Government and Community Relations

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General Obligation Bond Background

- **“General Obligation (GO) Bonds”** are debt tools used by State policymakers to raise funds for specified purposes.
- This research bond (**SB 895**) is being pursued by Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) as a legislative measure, with the intention to place it on the ballot for the Nov. 3, 2026, General Election.
- In order to qualify for the November ballot, SB 895 must be approved by both houses of the California State Legislature (with two-thirds votes) – and be signed by the Governor.
- Once the bill passes in the legislature, is signed, and placed on the ballot, **all advocacy around the bond must stop.**

Summary of the Research Bond

As currently drafted, SB 895 would authorize the issuance of **$23 billion in bonds** to 1) finance grants and loans to fund research, and **2) construct, operate, and maintain research facilities.**

Upon voter approval, SB 895 would establish the **California Foundation for Science and Health Research** within the Government Operations Agency.

Would create the California Foundation for Science and Health Research Fund and require the moneys in the fund to be used by the Foundation to award grants and make loans to **public or private research companies, universities, institutes, and organizations** for scientific research and development, in critical areas of research.

Would create the California Foundation for Science and Health Research Council. **The Council would develop the strategic objectives and priorities of the Foundation and determine the research projects that will be funded.**

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Important Highlights

- Funding priorities in the bill include agricultural, climate, emerging technologies, healthy communities, and wildfire-related research.

- The Bond aims to alleviate uncertainties in federal funding to provide long-term stability for existing and future research.

- SB 895 is supported by the University of California, the Lieutenant Governor, and UAW.

Connect with UC ANR Gov. Relations

UC ANR Government and Community Relations is developing resources to support advocacy efforts for this bill.

UC ANR staff may not go beyond approved messages, hold independent meetings with officials, or engage in any activity that could be viewed as unauthorized lobbying.

If you are interested in supporting advocacy efforts or simply learning more, please contact us or complete our survey by scanning the QR code!

Anne Megaro, Ph.D.
Director, Government and Community Relations
ammegaro@ucanr.edu
530-400-9337

Nestor Lopez
Assistant Director, Government and Community Relations, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources
nflopez@ucanr.edu
530-723-3024

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Stories from the Field

Samuel Sandoval Solís

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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California Water Course

A collaborative course

Dr. Samuel Sandoval Solis, Dr. Laura Garza Diaz,
Dr. Sooyen Yi, Dr. Erik C. Porse, Daniel Rothberg

February 2026

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCDAVIS
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

The need for Water Education in California

Audience:	Farmworkers (“PCAs”)	Elementary – High School Students	Local Elected Officials (e.g. Majors)
Content:	Hyd. 101 & Pesticide Transport	Hyd. 101 & Water in California	Hyd. 101, History & Water Policies
Objective:	Prevent Pesticide Contamination	General Knowledge – Deliver Content	History, Policies and Regulations
Organization:	Prof. Education Hours	After School Programs	Water Leadership Program

What is the California Water Course?

Objective: Provide relevant and applied education related to water science, policies and management in California

Audience: People working in the water sector (entry level) or water (self-)advocates

Characteristics:

(a) Self-guided – Materials available at all time

(b) Authenticated – Real world examples

(c) Self-interest driven – Assignments based on the interest of the participants

(d) Flipped Classroom – Theory & HW by themselves, in-person training

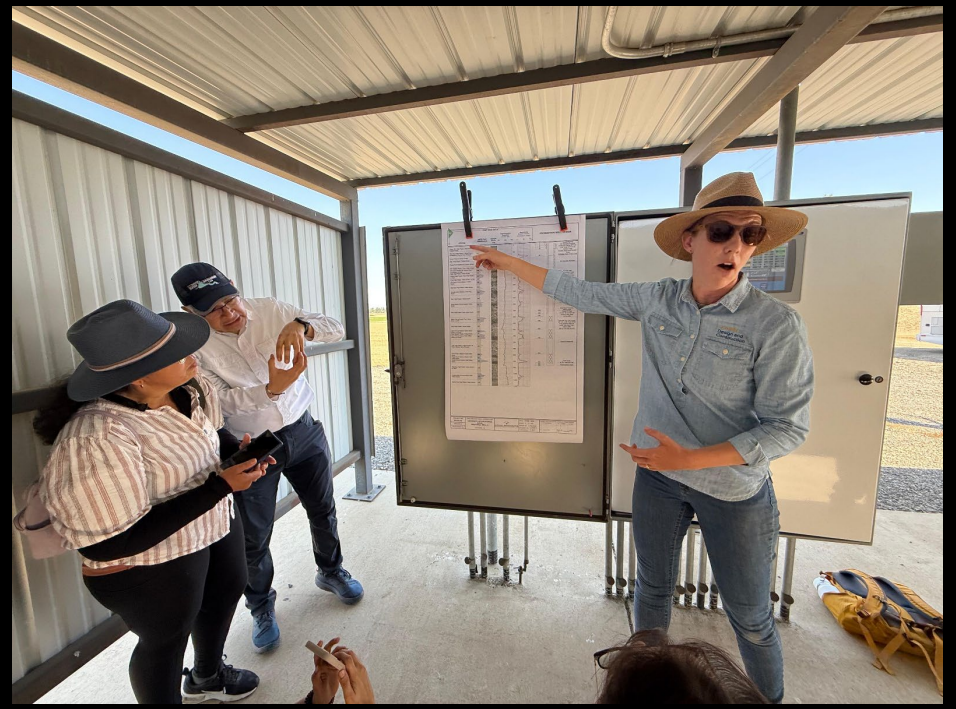
California Water Course 2025, Putah Creek
August 23rd, 2025

(e) Bilingual (English and Español)

Outcome: Certificate of Completion

Why a California Water Course?

- What would I have taught myself when I started my career at UC ANR
- I want it to be a two way conversation and a hands-on experience
- I want it to further the conversation about water beyond the basic concepts
- I want it to be tailor made to every person taking the course
- I want it to serve our water community



California Water Course 2025, Putah Creek
August 23rd, 2025

How is Delivered?

Basic concepts and applied knowledge

Guidebook & Videos (4 hours)

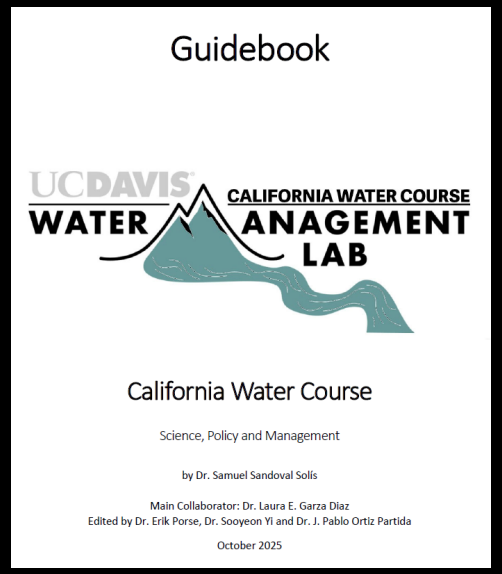
Module 1: Water Systems and hydrology

Module 2: Water Policy

Module 3: Public Comment Letter

Water System Self Assessment (16 hours)

Mod. 1, 2 and 3.


Guidebook

UCDAVIS WATER MANAGEMENT LAB CALIFORNIA WATER COURSE

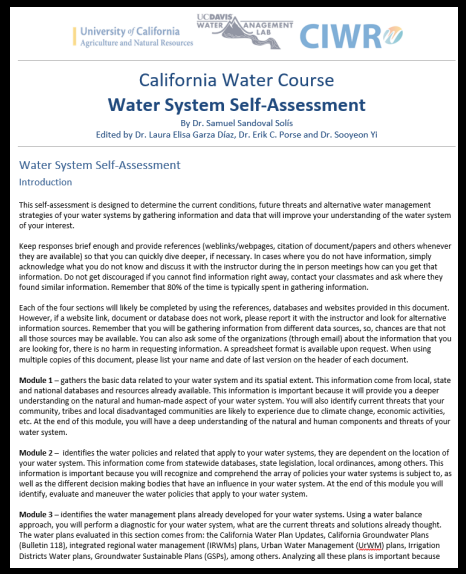
California Water Course

Science, Policy and Management

by Dr. Samuel Sandoval Solís

Main Collaborator: Dr. Laura E. Garza Diaz
Edited by Dr. Erik Porse, Dr. Sooyeon Yi and Dr. J. Pablo Ortiz Partida

October 2025


University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC DAVIS WATER MANAGEMENT LAB

CIWR

California Water Course

Water System Self-Assessment

By Dr. Samuel Sandoval Solís

Edited by Dr. Laura Elisa Garza Díaz, Dr. Erik C. Porse and Dr. Sooyeon Yi

Water System Self-Assessment

Introduction

This self-assessment is designed to determine the current conditions, future threats and alternative water management strategies of your water systems by gathering information and data that will improve your understanding of the water system of your interest.

Keep responses brief enough and provide references (weblinks/webpages, citation of document/papers and others whenever they are available) so that you can quickly dive deeper, if necessary. In cases where you do not have information, simply acknowledge what you do not know and discuss it with the instructor during the in person meetings how can you get that information. Do not get discouraged if you cannot find information right away, contact your classmates and ask where they found similar information. Remember that 80% of the time is typically spent in gathering information.

Each of the four sections will likely be completed by using the references, databases and websites provided in this document. However, if a website link, document or database does not work, please report it with the instructor and look for alternative information sources. Remember that you will be gathering information from different data sources, so, chances are that not all those sources may be available. You can also ask some of the organizations (through email) about the information that you are looking for, there is no harm in requesting information. A spreadsheet format is available upon request. When using multiple copies of this document, please list your name and date of last version on the header of each document.

Module 1 – gathers the basic data related to your water system and its spatial extent. This information come from local, state and national databases and resources already available. This information is important because it will provide you a deeper understanding on the natural and human-made aspect of your water system. You will also identify current threats that your community, tribes and local disadvantaged communities are likely to experience due to climate change, economic activities, etc. At the end of this module, you will have a deep understanding of the natural and human components and threats of your water system.

Module 2 – identifies the water policies and related that apply to your water systems, they are dependent on the location of your water system. This information come from statewide databases, state legislation, local ordinances, among others. This information is important because you will recognize and comprehend the array of policies your water systems is subject to, as well as the different decision making bodies that have an influence in your water system. At the end of this module you will identify, evaluate and maneuver the water policies that apply to your water system.

Module 3 – identifies the water management plans already developed for your water systems. Using a water balance approach, you will perform a diagnostic for your water system, what are the current threats and solutions already thought. The water plans evaluated in this section comes from: the California Water Plan Updates, California Groundwater Plans (Bulletin 118), integrated regional water management (IRWMs) plans, Urban Water Management (UWMP) plans, Irrigation Districts Water plans, Groundwater Sustainable Plans (GSPs), among others. Analyzing all these plans is important because

Hands-on Experience:

Group Meetings (20 hours)

#1: Kickoff Meeting (2 hours)

#2: Hydrology and Wat. Policies 101 (8 hours)

#3: Basic Concepts (6 hours)

#4: Self Assessment presentation (4 hours)

Materials are available online

Website: California Water Course

Facebook search: californiawatercourse

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/californiawatercourse/

Instagram Search: californiawatercourse

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/californiawatercourse/

Tiktok Search: californiawatercourse

TikTok: https://www.tiktok.com/@californiawatercourse

Youtube Search: Samuel Sandoval Solis

YouTube Chanel: www.youtube.com/@samuelsandovalsolis5329

California Water Course - Summer 2025

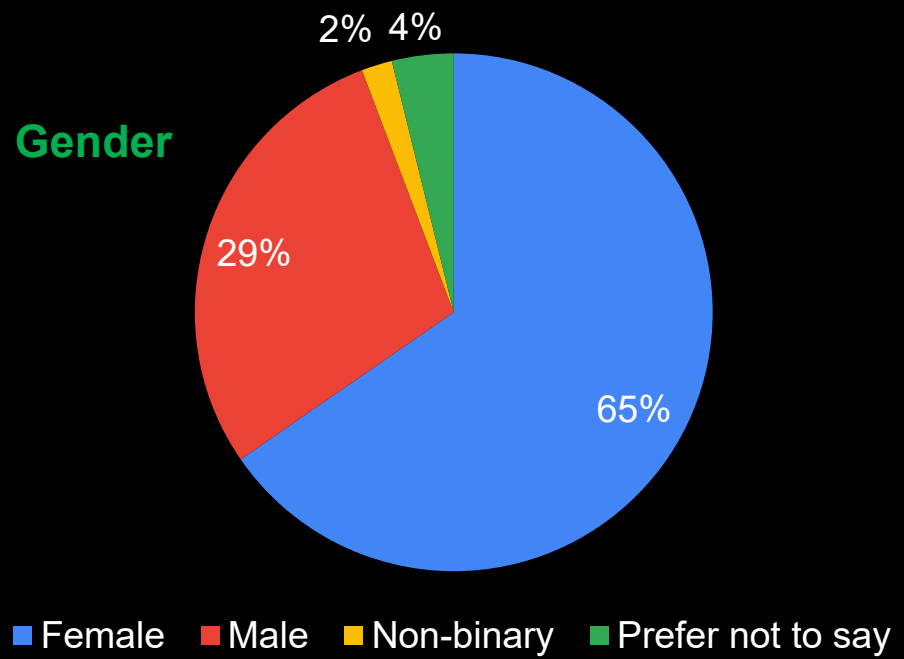
Davis, CA.

By the numbers

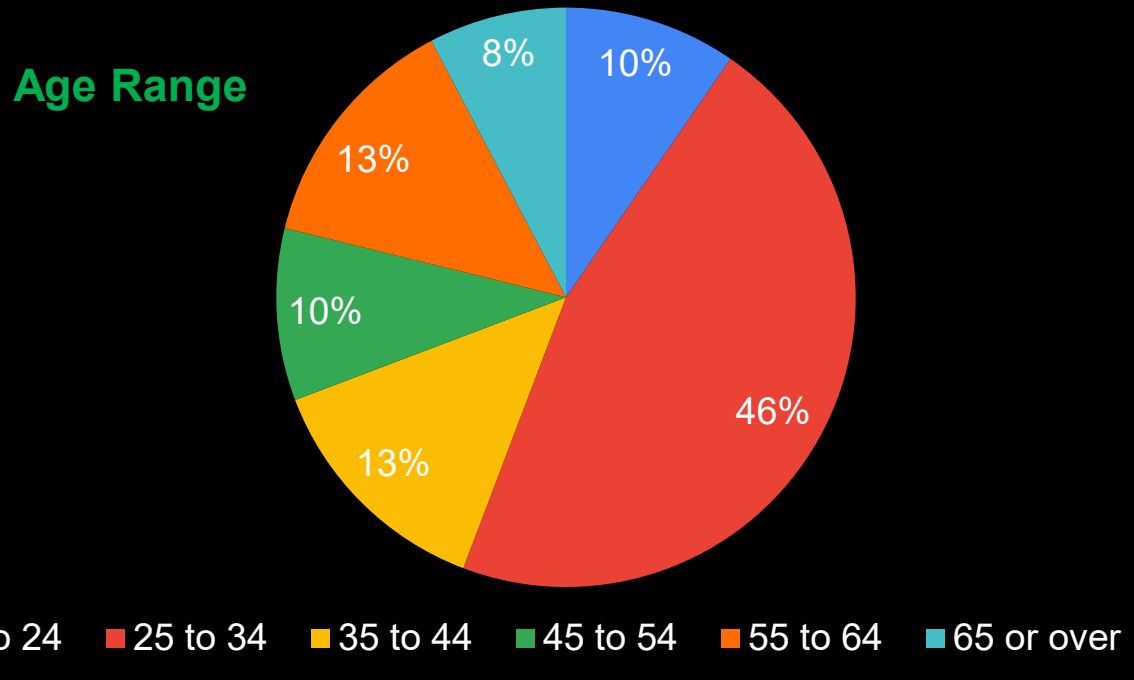
Registered 78 participants -> **52 Finished (64%)**

Of the 52 that finished:

Gender



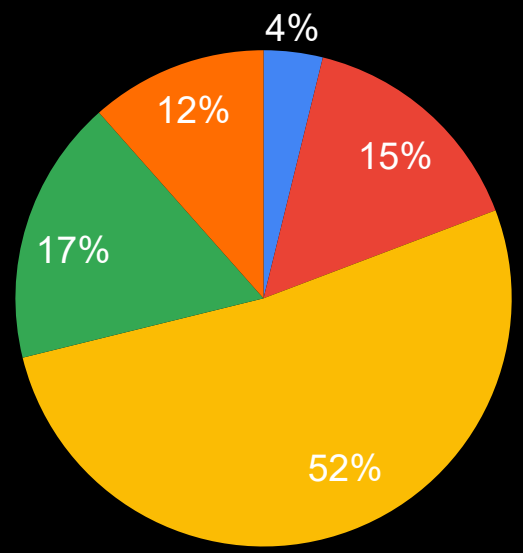
Age Range



By the numbers

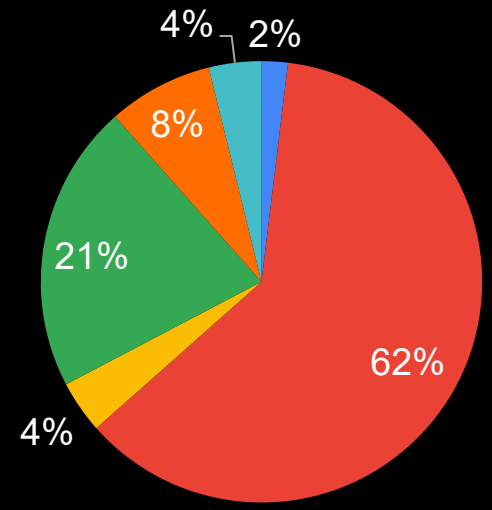
Of the 52 that finished:
Made a donation: 52%

Education



- Trade /Vocational / Technical School
- High School Diploma
- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's Degree
- Ph.D.

Ethnicity



- Middle Eastern
- Latino(a) - Latin American - Latin American Descendent
- Prefer not to say
- Non-hispanic White / Caucasian / European Descendent
- Asian / Pacific Islander
- Black or African American

By the people

By the people

California
Water Policy

By the people

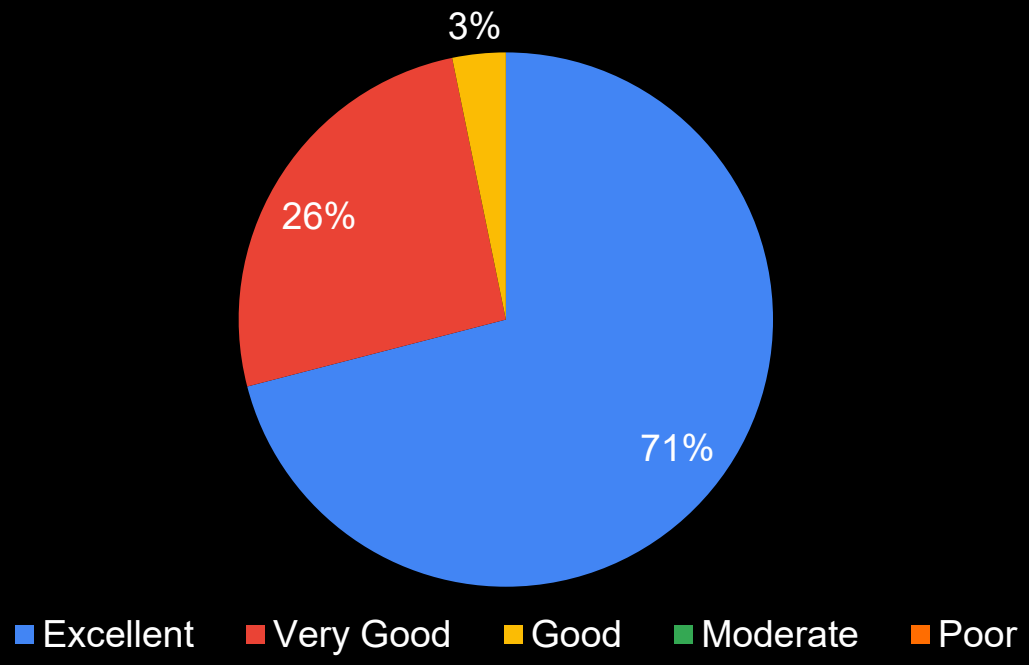
Key Outcomes

Water Advocacy:

- Maria Luisa Muñoz
- Annie Main

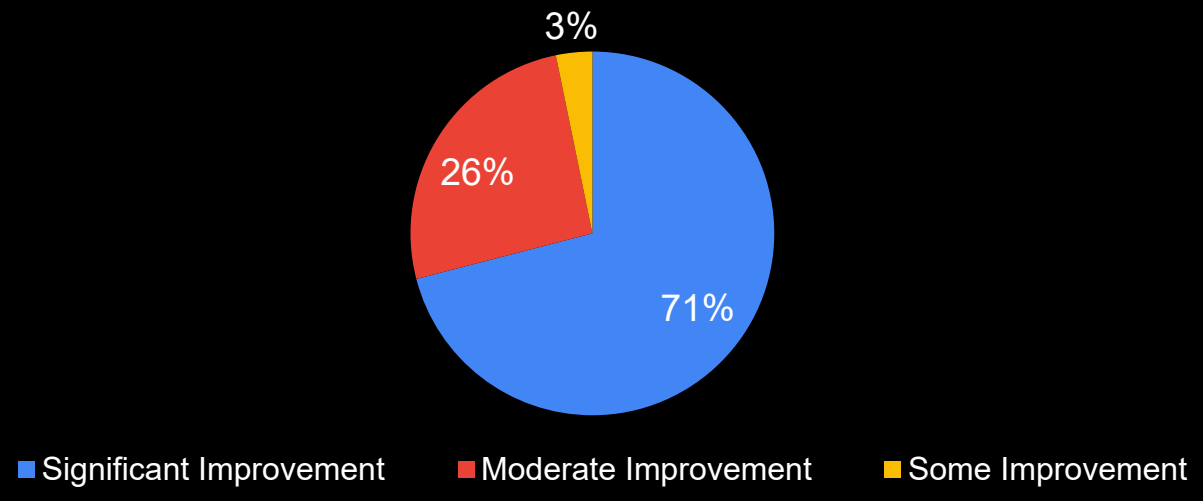
Evaluations

How would you rate the first edition of the California Water Course?

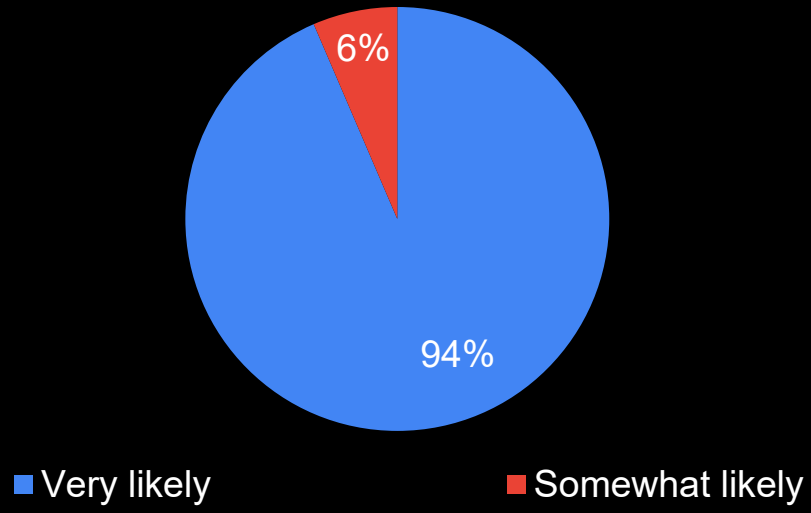


4.7 out of 5

How much did the course improve your understanding of California's water systems, policies, and management?

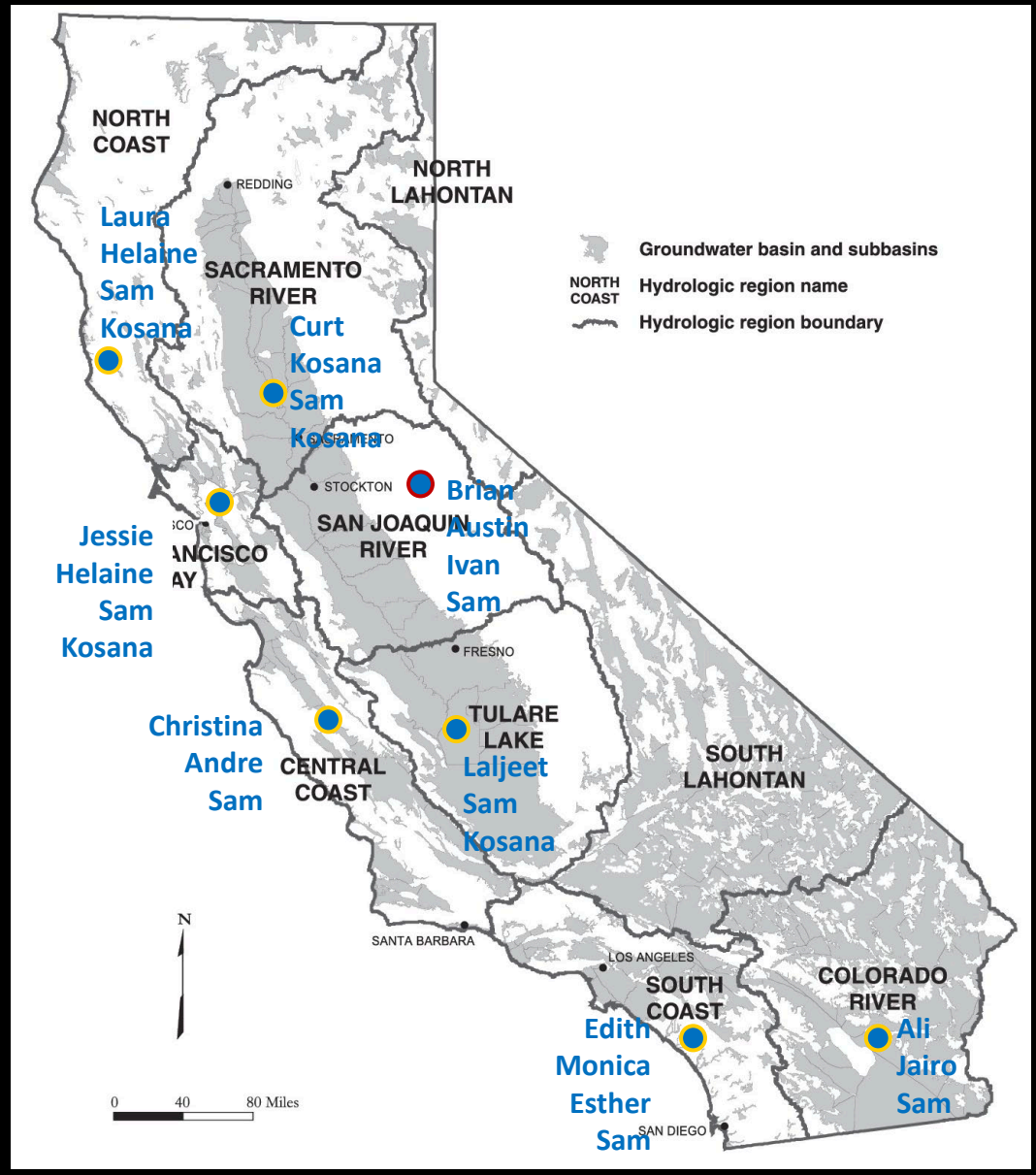


How likely are you to use what you learned in your job or community?



What's next?

- Chapters
  - NorCal: Sacramento, San Joaquin, Tulare, North Coast
  - SoCal: next year
  - Indigenous Water Guardians – Sierra Nevada
- Class 2026: Spring / Summer
  - Kickoff (Remote): **May 20**, 2026, 8:00–9:30 a.m. (1.5 hours)
  - **Field Trips (In-person): May 23, 30; June 6, 3, 2026 All Day (9 am to 4 pm) Regional Chapters**
  - Basic Concepts : July 25, 2026
  - Water System Self-Assessments : Aug/29, Sep/12 2026



Thank You

samsandoval@ucdavis.edu
watermanagement.ucdavis.edu/californiawatercourse
Facebook & Instagram: californiawatercourse
YouTube and Tiktok: Samuel Sandoval Solis

Strategic Focus

Linda Forbes

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WCAG 2.1 Accessibility Compliance by April 24

- Digital Accessibility Task Force meeting regularly to develop compliance strategy, recommend training opportunities, and provide guidance to leadership on funding/resource needs

- DeQue providing training in document accessibility to 75 people and web content creation to 50 people; these trainees will share what they learn with their networks. Also developing a roadmap and providing strategic assistance in how to manage content remediation

- IT is working to bring on a project manager and an accessibility expert to support the effort as well as ARIA video interpreting and Remediate for PDF remediation

Compliance by April 24 (continued)

- 5 templates in the communications toolkit have been remediated for WCAG 2.1 compliance. PowerPoints will be completed by February 25 and posters will be completed by March 3. **It is critical to use the templates correctly to be compliant.** Use the pre-set styles in the templates without altering them. Please reach out if you need support

- Learning and Development is sending valuable weekly tips that take about five minutes to read

- Siteimprove is available to all UC ANR employees to check the accessibility of websites. Submit a ticket to IT if you need access to Siteimprove

No new non-compliant content after March 15

- Everyone who creates content is responsible for making it accessible. Numerous free resources have been collected by UCOP, UC ANR and other UC locations to assist

- Leadership has mandated that no content can be published that is non-compliant after **March 15**. Content may be unpublished if it is not compliant

- We understand this is time-intensive and will affect productivity in other areas of your work

- Compliance policy applies to all assets produced on behalf of the university by employees, volunteers, contractors, partners, etc.

Employee Responsibilities (UCOP)

If you manage teams

- Ensure that your team is aware of the requirements, outline expectations and responsibilities and create a plan for compliance
- Evaluate your team's web presence and digital properties, and consider if inaccessible, out-of-date materials can be decommissioned or archived

If you host Zoom meetings

- Ensure your Zoom settings are updated for accessibility
- If you use visual aids, ensure color contrast requirements are met and that visual information is equivalently conveyed through your talking points

Digital content

If you create and/or distribute digital content

Learn how to achieve the WCAG 2.1 Level A and Level AA standards applicable to the content you manage and offer

Explore these quick reference accessibility guidelines and other content-specific resources and libraries available through the UC Electronic Accessibility Committee website, such as: Create Accessible PDFs, Transcripts & Captioning, eCourse Accessibility Checklist, Rich Text Editors

UC ANR EMPLOYEE NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Agriculture and Natural Resources

January 2026 | Vol. 40, No. 7

ANR Employee News is also online.

UC ANR had a large presence at the annual EcoFarm Conference in Pacific Grove.

Women, producers and applied science shape the future of sustainable agriculture at EcoFarm

By Diana Cervantes

Growers, researchers and community organizations shared a clear message at the 46th annual EcoFarm Conference: organic and sustainable agriculture in California is advancing

EVENTS

Feb. 5
Tri County Walnut Day

Feb. 6
Southern San Joaquin Valley Grape Symposium

Feb. 7
North American Regional Women Pastoralist Gathering

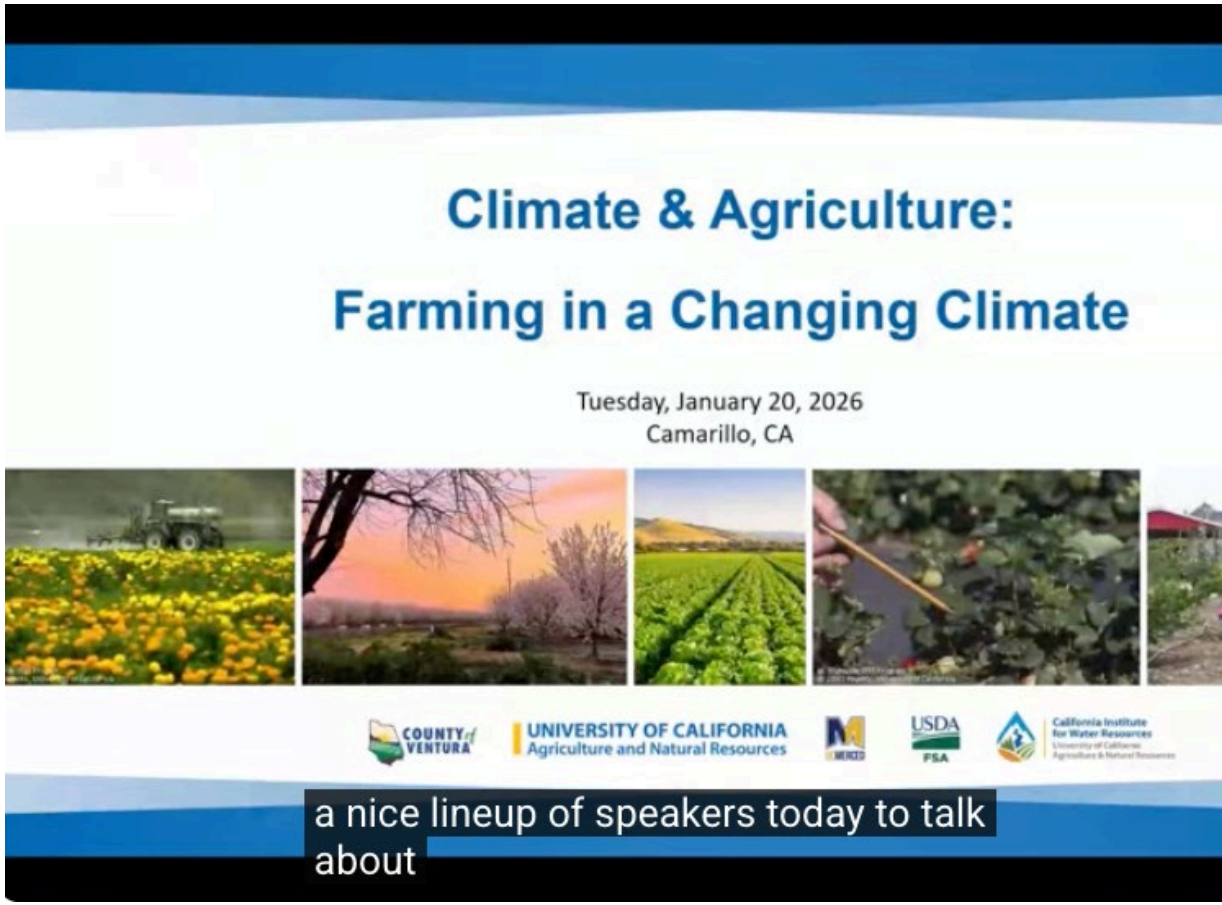
Feb. 10
California Native Plant Foods Celebration & Symposium

North San Joaquin Valley Almond Day

Videos

If you create or distribute videos
All pre-recorded videos need accurate captions. Closed captioning is preferred because it allows users to control the size and look of the captions, as well as whether they are displayed.

Pre-recorded (non-live) videos may need to include an audio description — additional narration that describes important visual details not conveyed by the main narration/dialogue alone. To help you understand why, here is an example YouTube video that needs an audio description, along with its audio description supplement.



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Websites

If you're a website developer or work with outside developers

Explore the resources available through the UC Electronic Accessibility Web Developers page

Check the websites you manage with Siteimprove and begin fixing identified issues

If you procure digital or mobile content or platforms from a vendor

Begin discussing web accessibility requirements with your vendor(s)

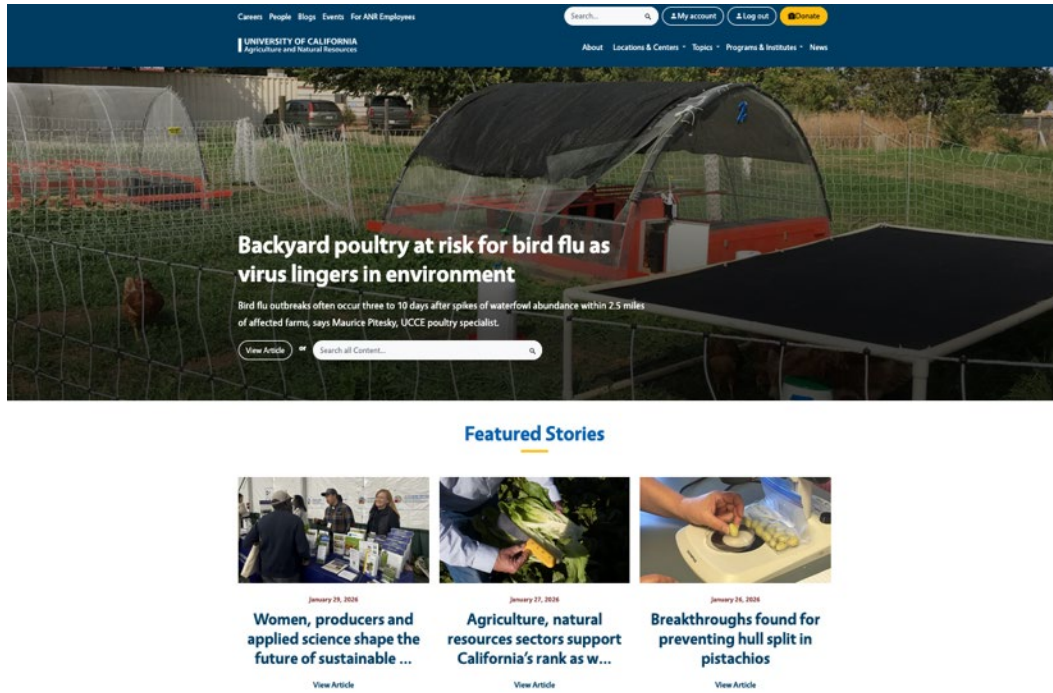
Explore the Electronic Accessibility Committee's procurement guide (PDF) and procurement-related offerings

Ensure accessibility requirements are spoken to in contracts through UC's standard Terms & Conditions

Recommended Training by Role

Web Developers | Designers

- Comprehensive WebAIM Training (Semantic HTML5, CSS, Aria)
- Headings, Alt Attributes, Descriptive Links, Color, Lists, Tables, and Closed Captions
- Mobile Accessibility
- Captioning and Alt Attributes for Images, Title (descriptive) attributes for iFrames | Video
- PDF Accessibility



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Recommended Training by Role (continued)

Content Creators

- Web Design Accessibility
- Writing Accessible Content
- Captioning and Alt Attributes for Images, Title (descriptive) attributes for iFrames | Video
- Video Closed Captions
- PDF Accessibility

Admin Support

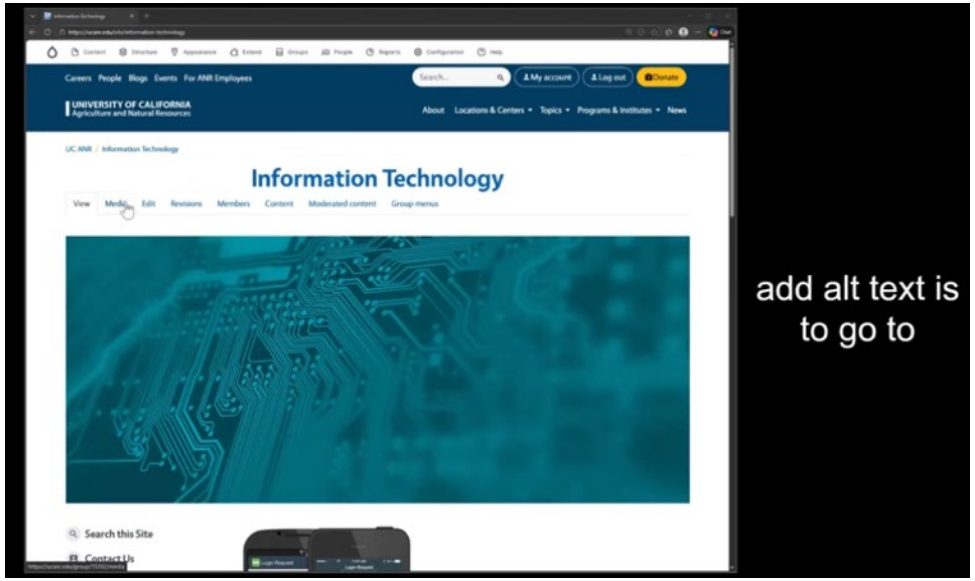
- Microsoft Documents Accessibility
- PDF Accessibility
- Broad Overview of Digital Accessibility for Office Workers
- Basic Web Accessibility
- Accessible Forms

Explainer Videos

Two 10-minute videos are available on Box

- 3 Things to Improve Accessibility Now
- How to Use Siteimprove

https://ucdavis.box.com/s/3c1o0cvneuoh30e3jvx3zjavxz123ucw



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Helpful Siteimprove Tip Sheets

Quick Tips for Creating Accessible Documents (pdf)

Quick Tips for Creating Accessible Websites (pdf)

Quick Tips for Creating Accessible Videos (pdf)

Quick Tips for Creating Accessible Emails (pdf)

Quick Tips for Creating Accessible Social Posts (pdf)

Quick Tips for Creating Accessible Virtual Learning (pdf)

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Highly Recommended PDF Training

Instructor

Chad Chelius
Adobe Certified Instructor, Conference Speaker, Published Author

✓ Following on LinkedIn

Related to this course

Exercise Files · Show all

Certificates · Show all

Course details

8h 16m · Intermediate · Updated: 4/10/2025

4.9 ★★★★★ (929)

LinkedIn Learning

[Creating Accessible PDFs]

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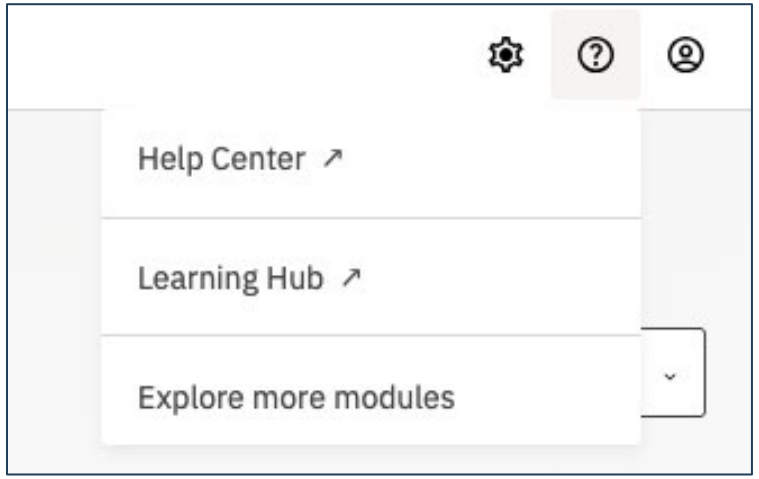
Siteimprove Training Modules

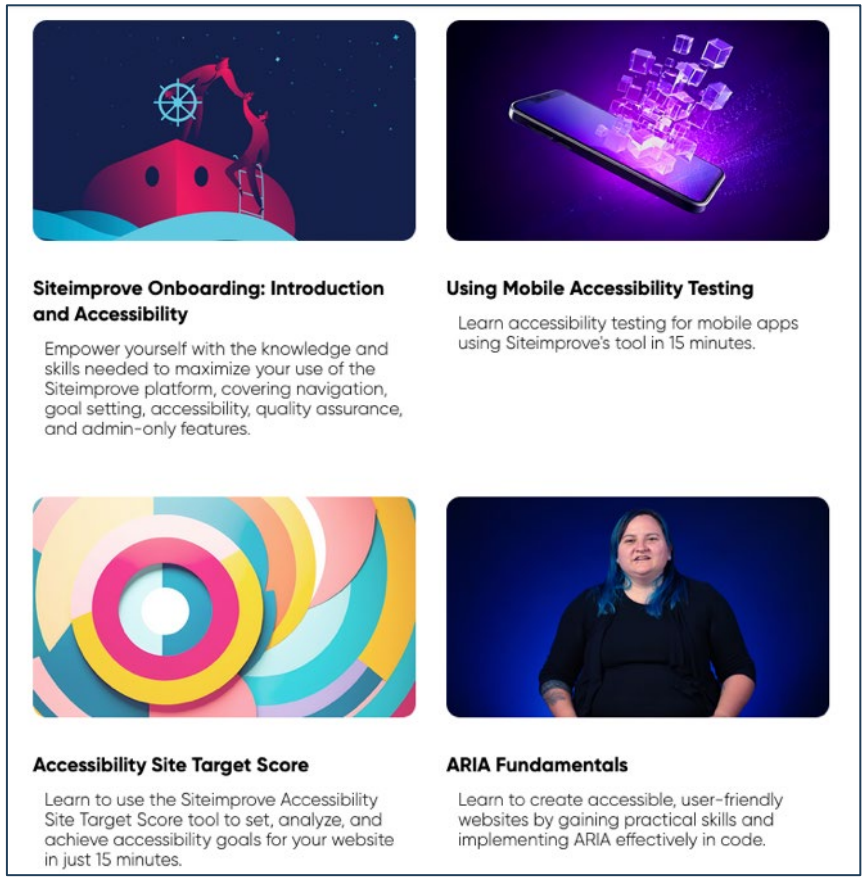
45 foundational courses

DATF recommended sessions

- Fundamentals of Alt Text
- Accessibility for Content Contributors
- Onboarding: Introduction and Accessibility
- Accessibility for Marketing Emails

Choose “Learning Hub” under the ? Menu





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In Summary

- We are all responsible for learning these new skills and making a good faith effort to comply with policy
- Tools and resources are available to help us, and more are on the way
- Do not create non-compliant content after **March 15**

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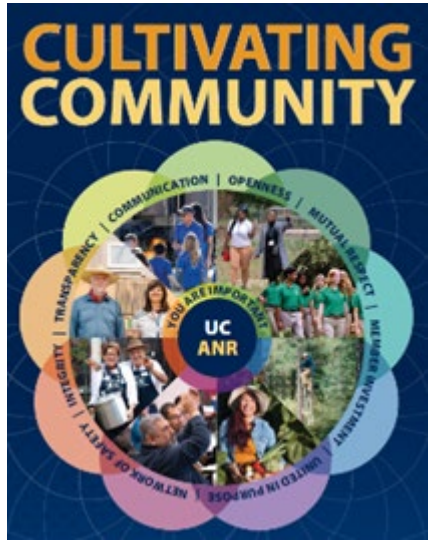
Principals of Community Spotlight

Elizabeth Moon

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Principles of Community Highlight: Network of Safety



We strive to create healthy, trusting environments across all ANR locations, so all members are safe in their professional community and can securely use digital resources and communication platforms.

"As we work on shaping the culture of our communities, we have to build them with the idea that the first function of community is support." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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Actions to Support: Caring for yourself is a vital first step

- Engage in regular training & workshops on issues of Principles of Community, Cultural Competence, and inclusion
- Create unit/team systems that promote collaborative engagement of every member
- Provide time for team members to share about their outside work lives and participate in fun team-building activities
- Hold the Principles of Community as the standard for how team members are expected to interact with others
- Display the Principles of Community
- Stand/Speak up when colleagues' words and actions are not respectful and inclusive of others.
- Provide a safe space for colleagues to take a breath or have time to regulate
- Share resources available for mental health support

Upcoming WIB Events

28 Days of Black History: Learning Together

Website: https://www.28daysofblackhistory.com/

ANR Conversation

When: Friday, February 27, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://ucanr.zoom.us/meeting/register/lUbjDzPrSWiiXzITQqaV6w

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In the Media

- **Crystal Whitelaw** told Ag Alert story SAREP offers support for small and mid-sized farms doing vertical integration
- **Yu-Chen Wang**, **Dylan Beal** & **Richard Smith** told Ag Alert impatiens necrotic spot virus is back in Salinas lettuce
- **Edith de Guzman** told The Guardian there are many dimensions of wildfire resilience in Los Angeles County
- **Keith Taylor** told CalMatters about "Smart Grid," local producers generating & distributing energy
- **Lilian Thaoxaochay** co-authored a Sacramento Bee op-ed about how small farmers are innovating with help from UCCE
- **Daniel Swain** was quoted by LA Times about warm winter melting California's snowpack. KQED on Nvidia's open-source AI weather models. Fresno Bee & CBS News quoted him on January storms. Other outlets used the stories
- NBC Bay Area and Forbes featured **Matteo Garbelotto** and his service dog S'Abba for carrying the Olympic torch in Italy

Link to view More UC in the news

Missy Gable told ABC7 Bay Area plants take years to grow so growers may never regain their investment in stolen plants.

New Hires: Welcome to UC ANR

November 18, 2025 – February 17, 2026

First Name	Last Name	Location
Ahmed	Ayoub	KEARNEY REC
Ivan	Aguilar Acosta	UCCE SAN MATEO COUNTY
Jannike E	Allen	ANR FIRE NETWORK
Leigh	Ambrose	UCCE MENDOCINO COUNTY
Christian	Banderas	INTERMOUNTAIN REC
Carrie	Brown	UCCE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Luis	Bucio Navarro	DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
Jared	Capper	IT SERVICES
Jesse Lee	Cormier-Adams	DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
Jonathan	Dale	ANR CE SPECIALISTS UCLA
Liam	Geary	UCCE MENDOCINO COUNTY
Gabe Steffen	Goff	UCCE HUMBOLDT
Ryner	Hernandez	UCCE STANISLAUS COUNTY
Jennie	Lane	UCCE LAKE COUNTY
Joaquin Virote	Lemieux	STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS
Randy Allan	Livingston	IMM OFFICE AVP - BUS OPS
Nestor	Lopez	GOVT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Ahmed Ayoub

Nestor Lopez

Mohammad Maharlooei

New Hires: Welcome to UC ANR

November 18, 2025 – February 17, 2026

First Name	Last Name	Location
Barbara Jill	Loverin	LINDCOVE REC
Shelley	Magana	CALIFORNIA STATE 4-H OFFICE
Mohammad	Maharlooei	ANR CE SPECIALIST UCM
Linda M	Manton	VICE PROVOST ACAD PERSNL & DEV
Andrea Gabriela	Monroy Borrego	SOUTH COAST REC
Sara	Ohadi	UCR CE BOTANY & PLANT SCIENCES
Jose Ramiro	Ortiz Pellegrin	UCCE FRESNO MADERA MCP
Andrea	Pesce	OFFICE OF INNOVATION
Edna	Ramirez Marin	UCCE KERN COUNTY
Ariel	Rivers	UCCE CENTRAL SIERRA NEVADA MCP
Anderson	Safre	KEARNEY REC
Jasmeet	Singh	EH&S / RISK SERVICES
Kendra	Stromness	STATEWIDE PROGRAM OPERATIONS
Jodi	Tannaci	UCCE SISKIYOU COUNTY
Kristi	Teplitz	IT SERVICES
Nerei	Vega	UCCE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
Karen	Warburton	UCCE CAPITOL CORRIDOR MCP
Jared	Wood	UCCE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
Janine	Woods	VICE PROVOST UCCE
Mia	Yancich	ANR CE SPECIALISTS UCLA
Ricardo	Zubia	UCCE FRESNO MADERA MCP

Karen Warburton

Anderson Safre

Janine Woods

THANK YOU!

Next town hall is March 19

To see previous town hall presentations, visit
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Agriculture and Natural Resources