

Keynote: Governing California's Urban Water in the 21st Century

As this year's distinguished keynote speaker Dr. Ajami will provide an inspirational overview of the work she and her team has performed to inform water sector decision makers in the West. This will include a fascinating look at how we can use data to update our strategies related to governance, communication, and financing of California's water resource projects.

Dr. Newsha Ajami, Stanford University/San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Dr. Ajami is the director of Urban Water Policy with Stanford University's Water in the West program. She is a leading expert in sustainable water resource management, water policy, innovation, and financing, and the water-energy-food nexus. Her research throughout the years has been interdisciplinary and impact driven, focusing on the improvement of the science-policy-stakeholder interface by incorporating social and economic measures and effective communication.

Dr. Ajami is also a gubernatorial appointee to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. Before joining Stanford, she worked as a senior research associate at the Pacific Institute, and served as a Science and Technology fellow at the California State Senate's Natural Resources and Water Committee where she worked on various water and energy related legislation. She has published many highly-cited peer-reviewed articles, co-authored two books, and contributed opinion pieces to the *New York Times*, *San Jose Mercury News*, and *Sacramento Bee*. She was the recipient of the 2005 National Science Foundation award for AMS Science and Policy Colloquium and ICSC-World Laboratory Hydrologic Science and Water Resources Fellowship from 2000 to 2003. Dr. Ajami received her Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering from the UC, Irvine, an M.S. in hydrology and water resources from the University of Arizona, and a B.S. in civil and environmental engineering from Tehran Polytechnic.