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Editor in Chief

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Editor in Chief

On behalf of the *West-Northwest* staff and editors, it is our pleasure to present the first issue of the 2015-2016 academic year. In keeping with our innovative, environmentalist traditions, our journal is embracing the digital age. This is the very first issue of *West-Northwest* to be published on an all-digital format. We are very excited to be presenting you cutting-edge environmental scholarship in an environmentally friendly way.

The next few years could have dramatic impacts on the future of the environment as we know it. California continues to suffer from severe drought. Political gridlock in Washington is becoming the norm. Volkswagen was lying to the public about the emissions generated by its diesel vehicles. These types of headlines can cause frustration and cynicism. However, there are signs for hope. Earlier this year China signaled that they could finally be shifting their policies and trying to fight climate change and curb emissions of carbon gases. Automobile manufacturers like Tesla are producing electric-only vehicles that go further and further. And at the end of 2015 the nations of the world will be meeting in Paris to and try establish a binding, universal climate agreement. While it is easy to find problems with the status quo, there are many reasons to be hopeful about the future. In the spirit of optimism, we dedicate this issue to the next generation of environmental thinkers and problem solvers, with the hope that they can find solutions that promote a healthy, sustainable future for the planet Earth.

This issue covers a wide array of environmental topics. From water rights in Hawaii to the Coastal Zone Management Act to marijuana water regulations to international trade's effect on California solar energy. We hope that these discussions continue a meaningful debate about the future of the environment.

In *Traditions That Appertain: Clarifying the Differences Between Appurtenant and T & C Water Rights in Hawai'i*, Nathan Morales provides a clear framework to distinguish between appurtenant water rights and T & C water rights in Hawai'i. The article provides an overview of appurtenant water rights, an overview of T & C water rights and arguments that can be used for asserting those rights in the future.

Mila Buckner explores the application of the Coastal Zone Management Act for coastal adaptation in her article, *The Coastal Zone Management Act's Capacity to Spearhead Coastal Adaptation*. The article discusses the different aspects of an effective adaptation plan and analyzes the ability of the Coast Zone

Management Act to be amended or repurposed in order to become a comprehensive coastal adaptation plan.

In *The Grass is Greener Where You Water It: Regulating Water Use for Marijuana Cultivation to Curb California's Severe Drought*, Catherine Griffith discusses Federal and California laws on marijuana, marijuana's effects on California's watersheds and provides recommendations to curb the drought via marijuana regulations.

And finally, Kevin Armonio's article *Securing California's Solar Future: Strategies to Mitigate the Effects of the U.S.-Chinese Solar Trade Dispute on California's New Renewable Energy Goals* discusses how international trade policies with China have an effect on the California solar industry. The article also touches on federal and state policies that could increase solar energy in California.

In keeping with tradition, we have included several photographs and works submitted by our staff and friends.

Kevin Armonio
San Francisco, California
Winter 2016
