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Editor in Chief Note

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Editor in Chief Note

Dedicated to the Founders of Volume 1, Number 1, Spring 1994:

Whatever you can do,
or dream you can,
begin it.

Boldness has genius,
Power, and magic
in it.

- Goethe

On behalf of the *West-Northwest* editorial board and staff, it is our pleasure to present the issue for the 2016-2017 academic year. This is the third issue of *West-Northwest* to be published on an all-digital format. We have received positive responses to the digital format, and look forward to continuing this environmentally friendly version of the journal.

The public debate regarding the state of our environment continues to change as we move forward in the 21st century. As a nation we are under new leadership in the White House, so after eight years of the same administration, there will be interesting times as new laws and regulations are both passed and repealed.

California has recently emerged from one of the harshest droughts in its history. The drought has impacted life as we know it ranging from wildlife, crop yields, and the sight of browning, dead lawns across the state. Despite emergency regulations imposed by Governor Brown, California nevertheless suffered heavy economic damages. Volume 23 focuses on the effects of this drought, and specifically the government's response on both the state and federal level. As always, we hope these discussions continue a meaningful debate about the future of the environment.

In *Managing California's Water: A Look at the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014*, Matt Brown analyzes various provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014, and discusses how the state may ensure its successful implementation in future decades to come.

In *A Battle Between Farmers and Environmentalists: A Critique Exploring the Implications of the Westlands Water District Drainage Settlement*, Morgan McGill explores the settlement agreement between Westlands and the federal government. The topic has been one of the thorniest issues in California water policy regarding the highly polluted runoff

from the west side of the San Joaquin Valley, and who should be responsible to pay for the expensive solution.

We are pleased to present four case studies written by John Ugai, *Conjunctive Use on the Yuba: Lessons from Drought Management in the Yuba Watershed*, and *Regulating with Reasonable Use: Lessons from Drought Management in the Russian River Watershed*; Elizabeth Vissers, *Low Flows, High Stakes: Lessons from Fisheries Management on Mill, Deer, and Antelope Creeks during California's Historic Drought*; and Philip Womble's, *Ad-hoc Drought Management on an Overallocated River: The Stanislaus River, Water Years 2014-15*. In various ways, these articles evaluate the environmental effects of the 2012-2016 drought on the particular river systems discussed by each author.

Additionally, this issue includes a note by Ylan Nguyen, entitled *Constitutional Protection for Future Generations from Climate Change*. This topic explores climate change as it impacts future generations.

After 23 years of publishing under the name of *West-Northwest*, Volume 24 and beyond will be known as the *Hastings Environmental Law Journal* ("HELJ"). We are truly thankful for the founders of Volume 1, Number 1, for establishing such a great publication focusing on environmental law and policy.

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the following:

Founding Editors/Editors-in-Chief of West-Northwest
Greg Neil Sarab
Karen M. Scanlan
Deanna Spooner

and especially
Professor Brian Gray, to whom Volume 1, Number 1 was dedicated.
Professor David Takacs
Professor Dave Owen
Professor Paul Cort

plus
MJB:
To Mom & Dad; and John

MBM:
To My Family, Taylor;
and the People of the Central Valley

Matthew J. Brown and Morgan B. McGill
San Francisco, California
Summer 2017
