

BIOGRAPHIES OF WORK STUDY SESSION PRESENTERS

Michael R. Markus, P.E., D.WRE, BCEE, F.ASCE, General Manager, Orange County Water District

With more than 36 years of experience, Mike is well known for his expertise in large project implementation and water resource management. In September 2007, he became only the sixth general manager in OCWD's history.

During his 26-year career at OCWD, Mike was responsible for managing the implementation of the \$480 million Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) program. This program included a \$35 million design effort and the construction of seven individual projects, which amounted to approximately \$400 million. The largest of the projects was the \$300 million, 70 million gallons per day (MGD), Advanced Water Purification Facility. This project is the largest planned indirect potable reuse project in the world and has won many awards including the 2008 Stockholm Industry Water Award, 2009 ASCE Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award, 2014 U.S. Water Prize and the 2014 Lee Kuan Yew Prize. In 2015, Mike oversaw the completion of the 30 MGD GWRS Initial Expansion. The expansion brought the total production capacity of the GWRS to 100 MGD of high-quality water, which is enough to serve 850,000 people annually.

Mike was named one of the Top 25 Newsmakers of 2007 by the Engineering News-Record, Top 25 Industry Leaders of 2014 by Water & Wastewater International and received the international 2009 Said Khoury Award for Engineering Construction Excellence. Prior to OCWD, Mike spent two years with John Carollo Engineers and eight years with Peter Kiewit Sons' Co.

Mike currently serves on the board of directors of the American Academy of Water Resource Engineers, the California Section of the WaterReuse Association and the WaterReuse Research Foundation. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and a Master of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of Southern California. He is also a registered civil engineer in the state of California.

Ashwini Kantak, Assistant Director, Environmental Services, City of San Jose

Ashwini Kantak is Assistant Director in the Environmental Services Department in the City of San Jose and oversees administrative services, the sustainability and compliance division, and a multi-billion dollar capital program for the San Jose/Santa Clara regional wastewater facility. Prior to this role, Ashwini was an Assistant to the City Manager and led the development and implementation of several citywide policies and programs related to infrastructure and environmental sustainability.

Ashwini has an undergraduate degree in Architecture from Mumbai, India, a graduate degree in Architecture from Iowa State University, and a graduate degree in Public Policy and Administration from Northwestern University. She is a licensed architect in California since 1997 and a LEED Accredited professional. She enjoys combining her educational and professional training with her interest in sustainable communities to advance the City's goals of economic growth, environmental sustainability and a better quality of life for the residents of San Jose.