



San Joaquin Geological Society

VIRTUAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, December 8th, 2020

Time: 6:30 PM Virtual Lecture

Place: Zoom link to follow

Our virtual lecture will be held via Zoom. Meeting link and access code to follow!

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<http://www.SanJoaquinGeologicalSociety.org/>

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Fire and Water in the Sierra **Presented by: Marie L.E. Davis, P.G.**

Abstract: The western slope of the Sierra Nevada provides water to 60% of California. With increasing frequency and magnitude, large high severity forest fires are ravaging these headwaters, impacting natural and human infrastructure and decreasing their capacity to store and release the winter precipitation which sustains reliable supplies throughout California's long dry season. An example of this situation is the 2014 King Fire, which incinerated nearly 100,000 acres of vital Sierra watershed. Hundreds of thousands of tons of burned topsoil eroded in the first rains to clog rivers and dams and reduce water quality. A unique and first-of-its-kind partnership of public and private interests arose from the ashes of King Fire, striving to reduce the risk of a similar fate to the neighboring critical watershed. The success of the French Meadows Project – a joint venture of Tahoe National Forest, Placer County and Placer County Water Agency, The Nature Conservancy, American River Conservancy, and University of California Merced – is serving as a model for other efforts to reduce risk of severe fire in the Sierra and to protect healthy, reliable watershed function for California's future.

Biography: Marie L.E. Davis is a professional geologist focusing on watershed management. With degrees in biology and earth science from UC San Diego and Davis, Marie has worked on watershed issues throughout the southwest, with major emphasis on the Sierra Nevada. She has been responsible for public water supplies for mountain communities and serves as a consultant in headwater management. Marie lives and raises wine grapes in the American River watershed with the man of her dreams, who she met in a soil pit at UC Davis, and with whom she shares immense pride in two wonderful children.

FIRE AND WATER IN THE SIERRA



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