

Madelyn Glickfeld is the Director of the UCLA Water Resources Group for the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, or IoES.

As Co-Director of the UCLA Water Resources Group, Madelyn facilitates seminars and interdisciplinary research on a full range of water problems. She works with over 36 faculty on UCLA to find research opportunities and works with other centers and institutes across campus when water intersects with other issues. She also assists faculty in applying their research to improve water sustainability and resilience through collaborations with local, state and federal policymakers. She mentors the UCLA Graduate Student Water Resources Group who networks graduate and postgraduate students studying water in disciplines across the campus.

She has done research on the extremely complex governance of water supply, water treatment and stormwater management in Los Angeles County, originating in the 19th century up to this time. She has monitored and worked on the impacts of climate change on water supply and water quality, and is knowledgeable about government responses to the drought emergency.

Her research has also focused on safe, affordable and reliable drinking water in rural and urban disadvantaged communities. She was a part of the UCLA team led by Professor Yoram Cohen working on a pilot project to design, permit, install and now operating distributed water treatment systems in three disadvantaged rural communities in the Salinas Valley. These communities drew water from wells polluted by nearby agriculture and now have drinking water that meets water quality standards. The goal of this pilot project was to show that small water treatment systems in remote communities can be managed together remotely through smart water technology that allows management of many small water systems together. These systems are proving to be cost effective, affordable and have reliable high water quality.

Glickfeld has also examined the over 200 water systems in Los Angeles County, mapping those water systems serving disadvantaged communities for the first time. In 2020, she and colleagues completed a widely read article documenting the number and location of small water systems in areas of poverty, and the characteristics of these systems. More recently, Glickfeld and her colleagues published a widely circulated report on the 57 water systems in South Los Angeles, including the 28 systems whose customers have average household incomes that qualify the communities as disadvantaged, and eligible for funding and technical assistance.

Ms. Glickfeld's public service includes appointed positions to the California Coastal Commission for ten years, as Assistant Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency for 2.5 years, and as a member and Chair of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board for ten years, under Governors Schwarzenegger and Brown. She was also a past Heal the Bay Executive Board Member. She currently serves on the Los Angeles County North Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee, charged with reviewing and recommending grants to improve local water supply while improvement stormwater quality and providing other benefits to communities. She also serves as a Board Member for the GreenInfo Network, providing mapping and databases to organizations working for public benefit.