

## Dan Keppen, P.E.

### SUMMARY:

Thirty-four years of experience in advocacy, association management, natural resources, power and environmental policy, facilities design, planning, economic analyses and contract administration in the public and private sectors. Well-developed written and oral communication skills. Experienced in legislative strategy, media and membership communications, outreach and education, and event / meeting planning. Twenty-five personal appearances before Congress to testify on Western water and environmental issues. Considerable experience with practical applications of state and federal environmental policies at the local level. Experienced in legislative / regulatory issues tracking, advocacy and negotiation.

### EDUCATION:

**Oregon State University**, Corvallis, Oregon.  
M.S., Civil Engineering (Water Resources)

**University of Wyoming**, Laramie, Wyoming  
B.S., Petroleum Engineering

### EXPERIENCE:

3/1/05 – Present

**President, Dan Keppen & Associates**, Klamath Falls, Oregon. This corporate firm handles key water resources policy and communications work for select clients. Serves under contract as the executive director for the **Family Farm Alliance**, a non-profit grassroots organization representing irrigation interests in 17 western states, which is now considered by many as the voice of irrigated agriculture in the West. Alliance representatives have testified over 95 times before Congress since 2005. Other projects included developing federal water policy strategy for the **Oregon Water Resources Congress** (Salem, Oregon); strategic communications planning for **Klamath Water Users Association** (Klamath Falls, Oregon); communications and outreach in the Western U.S. for **Houston Engineering, Inc.** (St. Paul, Minnesota); and public relations related to development of the \$3 million Klamath On-Project Plan for **MBK Engineers, Inc.** (Sacramento, California).

#### Key Achievements

- Helped lead the steering committee of a 230-organization coalition that secured \$8.3 billion of Western water provisions for the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- Co-founded the Western Agriculture and Conservation Coalition, which has influenced the conservation title of recent farm bills.
- Spearheaded the legislative effort that led to President Obama signing two low-head hydropower streamlining laws.
- Worked with Congress and the Trump Administration to pass and implement legislation that facilitates title transfer of federal water facilities to local entities.

**EXPERIENCE:**  
(continued)

11/5/01 – 2/1/05

**Executive Director, Klamath Water Users Association**, Klamath Falls, Oregon. Responsible for asserting the rights of 5,000 irrigators through the development and implementation of policy recommendations approved by the board of directors. Coordinated association members, a multi-state team of consultants, elected officials, and state and federal agencies in efforts to improve the viability of the Klamath Irrigation Project. Focused on coalition building and public education. Provided testimony before Congress, Oregon Legislature and California State Assembly on Klamath River policy matters, and represented the association in numerous national, regional and local public forums.

**Key Achievements**

- Worked with the Bureau of Reclamation to develop the Klamath Project Pilot Environmental Water Bank to provide over 50,000 acre-feet of additional water for environmental purposes (2003).
- Oregon Department of Agriculture “Leadership in Conservation” Award (2003)
- Honored by Governor Kulongoski for “exemplifying the spirit” of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (2004)
- Authored “The Klamath Project at 100” centennial report (2005).

9/00 – 10/01

**Special Assistant to the Regional Director, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region**, Sacramento, California. Advised and assisted the regional director with planning, managing, directing, and coordinating a variety of the Region’s water management activities in California, Nevada and Oregon. Actions focused on building partnerships with Reclamation customers, and implementation of Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) and CALFED Bay-Delta Program activities (CALFED). Developed 5-year Strategic Plan for the Region.

12/97 – 9/00

**Director of Member and Government Relations, Northern California Water Association (NCWA)**, Sacramento. Engaged on policy issues, coordinated member relations and worked closely with a wide range of government agencies, water users and environmental organizations on several issues, including implementation of CVPIA, CALFED, ESA regulations, and state legislative negotiations / appropriations.

**Key Achievements**

- Helped secure state and federal funding in support of fish screen projects for 90% of the water diverted from the Sacramento River.
- Led efforts to craft and pass into state law the “Local Groundwater Management Assistance Act of 2000”.

12/94 – 12/97

**Water Resources Engineer, County of Tehama**, Red Bluff, California. Represented the County on all water resources matters, including oversight of budgetary, technical and administrative duties for the Tehama County Flood Control & Water Conservation District.

**EXPERIENCE:**  
(continued)

**Key Achievements**

- Developed a coordinated county-wide AB 3030 groundwater management plan.
- Managed flood response and recovery efforts associated with three federal flood declarations on the Sacramento River and its tributaries.
- Organized a series of meetings for over 100 representatives from seven Northern Sacramento Valley counties for the purpose of developing a unified response to the CALFED process. As appointed coordinator for the group, oversaw actions that led to county adoption of all or parts of several position papers.

1/89 – 12/94

**Project Engineer, Klein Consulting Engineers,** Forest Grove, Oregon. Provided master planning, design and construction management of dams, public water and flood control systems, and private irrigation systems. Extensive involvement with day-to-day development of water resources consulting business.

**Key Achievements**

- Developed master water distribution and storage plan and 20-year capital improvement schedule that was adopted by the Fairview Water District, which provides raw milk to the Tillamook Creamery.
- Developed comprehensive feasibility study that addressed long-term water supply and treatment concerns and evaluated development alternatives for north Tillamook County area.
- Proposed a strategy that allowed the rural community of Banks, Oregon to opt out of a potentially expensive and ineffective regional urban stormwater quality program.

**PROFESSIONAL  
REGISTRATION:**

Registered Professional Civil Engineer, California

**KEY AWARDS  
& APPOINTMENTS:**

- WA State Water Resources Assoc. "Water Statesman" Award (2022)
- Four States Irrigation Council "Headgate" Award, presented by Kansas agricultural water users (2022)
- Klamath Water Users Association Distinguished Service Award (2010)
- John W. Keys III Award for "Building Partnerships and Strengthening Relationships", Awarded by the Commissioner of USBR (2009)
- California Senate "Resolution of Commendation" (2005)
- *Tri County Courier* "Person of the Year" (2004)
- Klamath County Chamber of Commerce "First Citizen" (2004)
- Klamath County Rotary Club Paul Harris (+8) Fellow
- Klamath County Rotary Club Board of Directors (2018-present)
- President, Klamath County Chamber of Commerce (2015)
- Senior Fellow, American Leadership Forum of Oregon (Class XXIII)

**KEY AWARDS  
& APPOINTMENTS:**  
(Continued)

- U.S. Water Alliance Board of Directors (2012-2014)
- Irrigation Association Board of Directors (2009-2012)
- CVPIA Restoration Roundtable (1995-1999)

**SELECT OTHER  
APPOINTMENTS:**

- Blue Zones Project Food Policy Committee
- CALFED Bay-Delta Program Ecosystem Roundtable
- Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture Rice Habitat Committee
- California DWR Off-Stream Storage Advisory Committee
- Johnson Foundation "Charting New Waters" Initiative
- Klamath County Natural Resources Advisory Committee
- Sacramento River Conservation Area TAC (Chair)

**SELECT  
PUBLICATIONS  
AND REPORTS:**

- "Sacramento Valley Water Suppliers and the CALFED Bay-Delta Program", American Society of Civil Engineers International Water Resources Engineering Symposium, Seattle, Washington, 1999.
- "Land Acquisition for Habitat Protection in the Sacramento Valley", NCWA, Sacramento, California, 1999.
- "Groundwater Management in the Upper Klamath Basin – A Local Perspective", *Hydrovisions*, Summer 2002.
- "Proactive Conservation Efforts Undertaken by Klamath Water Users", KWUA, Klamath Falls, Oregon, 2003.
- "The 2014 Drought and Water Management Policy Impacts on California's Central Valley Food Production". *Coauthored with Dr. Tricia Dutcher, this peer-reviewed article was published in 2015 in the Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences.*
- "Securing the Future of Western Agriculture - the Perspective of Western Producers", 2014. *Published in cooperation with Agree, co-authored by Alliance President Pat O'Toole.*
- "Endangered Species Act Implementation in the Western U.S. - Looking for Answers to Modernize and Improve the ESA for Species and People", 2014 (Family Farm Alliance)
- "Innovations in Agricultural Stewardship: Stories of Conservation & Drought Resilience in the Arid West", 2015. *Co-authored with the National Young Farmers Coalition with funding support from the Walton Family Foundation.*
- "Colorado River Basin Water Management - Principles and Recommendations", 2015. (Family Farm Alliance)
- "The Argument for the Prior Appropriation Doctrine to Allocate Water in the Western U.S.", 2015. (Family Farm Alliance)
- "Western Farmers and Ranchers as Problem Solvers", 2016. (Family Farm Alliance).