

Federico Barajas, Executive Director, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

Federico Barajas is the Executive Director of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority. In this role, he oversees all activity conducted by the authority on behalf of its member agencies and represents the public face of the organization. The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Authority”) is a California Joint Powers Authority, comprised of 28 public agencies that serve water to approximately 1.2 million acres of highly-productive farmland in California’s Central Valley, over 2 million people in California’s Silicon Valley and over 200,000 acres of managed wetlands - the largest contiguous wetlands west of the Mississippi River and a critical stop for migratory birds on the Pacific flyway. The Authority operates and maintains a number of critical Central Valley Project water conveyance infrastructure facilities, including the Jones Pumping Plant, the Delta-Mendota Canal, the O’Neill Pumping Plant, and the Delta-Mendota/California Aqueduct Intertie, under an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation).

Prior to his current position, Barajas served as Deputy Regional Director for the Mid-Pacific Region at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. While at Reclamation, Barajas oversaw Central Valley Project operations and had direct oversight of all Central Valley Project offices. He cultivated excellent working relationships with federal, state and local governments, public water agencies, regulatory agencies, tribal governments and environmental groups.

During his more than 20 years at Reclamation, Barajas filled numerous leadership roles managing the critical water infrastructure serving major parts of California, Nevada and Southern Oregon. Key positions held during his tenure with Reclamation include Area Manager of Northern California Area Office, based in Shasta Lake, CA.; Deputy Manager of Central California Area Office, based in Folsom, CA.; Regional Liaison in the Commissioner's Office; and Special Assistant to the Department of the Interior’s Assistant Secretary for Water & Science in Washington D.C..

Barajas has a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering, a Master of Business Administration, and is a graduate of Reclamation’s Leadership Development Program, and the California Ag Leadership Program.

Barajas, his wife Berenice, and their two children reside in Sacramento, CA..