

# Dentons Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank

## Co-hosted with Keystone Policy Center

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### Interconnected Challenges of Energy and Water Management: Addressing Water Demand and Scarcity Amidst Rising Power Needs

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

11:30am-1:00pm ET



**Welcome: Christine Scanlan**, President and CEO, Keystone Policy Center



**Opening Remarks: Clint Vince**, Chair of the US Energy practice, Co-chair of the Global Transportation & Infrastructure sector for the US Region, and Co-chair of the Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank, Dentons



**Moderator: Justin Mirabal**, Partner, Energy practice, Dentons



**Dr. Nathan Barasa Wangusi**  
Founder and CEO, BlueCredits  
*Panelist*

Dr. Nathan Basara Wangusi is a Water Resources Scientist, Environmental Sustainability Professional and Digital Government Expert who has focused his career on using technology to solve water challenges - particularly as it relates to risks to undeserved communities, and has published and patented extensively in this area. He is the founder and CEO of BlueCredits; an organization that aims at becoming the leading global marketplace for water sustainability trading, facilitating the global transition to a water-positive future. Most recently he served as the Water Sustainability Program Manager at Amazon Web Services where he led global water stewardship initiatives in the watersheds and communities where the firm operates data centers. Nathan sits on the Scientific Committee of the UNESCO Technology for Development International Conference, the Urban Water Working Group of the 2030 Water Resources Group, and the Digital Water Program Steering Committee of the International Water Association.

Nathan has served as a Senior Water Resources Scientist with the Balmoral Group, an engineering consulting group focused on delivery of engineering solutions which includes highway drainage design, complex hydraulic analysis and flood studies for water management districts, FDOT, and road agencies in Florida. Before the Balmoral Group, Nathan worked at IBM and consulted considerably with bilateral partners in the water sector such as the World Bank, USAID, and Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, as well as the governments of Rwanda, Kenya, South Africa, and the United States. He led the Ease of Doing Business Transformation work in Kenya between 2014-2018 that saw Kenya improve in rank from 137 to 61 and the creation of



	<p>online government services portals such as the Business Registration Services on eCitizen, the Movable Property Collateral Registry, the Land Information Management System, the Integrated Court Management System, iTax with the Kenya Revenue Authority, and the Kenya Single Window System for port clearance. In digital water, he led a team that created the Water Management as a Service Platform that is used to monitor water supply and assets in Northern Kenya.</p> <p>Nathan earned his PhD from the University of Florida in Agricultural and Biological Engineering with a focus in Water Resources Engineering, Entrepreneurship and Innovation. He also earned his Masters in Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Water and Wastewater Resources Engineering and Information Systems, and his BS in Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Water Resources Engineering, and International Studies in Agricultural &amp; Life Sciences from the University of Florida. He has also been the recipient of prestigious awards such as the Rotary Ambassadorial Fellowship, the National Research Foundation Award of South Africa, and IBM's Outstanding Technical Achievement Award.</p>
 <p><b>Christa McJunkin</b> Senior Director of Water and Supply System, Salt River Project</p> <p><i>Panelist</i></p>	<p>Christa McJunkin is a Senior Director of Water and Supply System with the Salt River Project, and holds a BS in Environmental Science from NAU and a Master's of Public Administration from ASU. She began her career at the Arizona Department of Water Resources, eventually becoming the manager of the Office of Assured and Adequate Water Supply. She left ADWR to become a water resource consultant with Fluid Solutions, primarily representing developers and water providers on issues relating to assured water supply requirements and water rights. Christa joined SRP in 2011 and in her current role she is responsible for leading SRP's water resource management group, water engineering and transmission group and construction and maintenance groups for SRP's groundwater wells and water delivery system.</p>
 <p><b>Marc Dettmann</b> Manager, Corporate Water Engagement, World Resources Institute</p> <p><i>Panelist</i></p>	<p>Marc Dettmann is the Manager of Corporate Water Engagement in the Water Program. He facilitates Institute's work on corporate water stewardship, and help lead research, program development, and engagement in close collaboration with the Aqueduct team, with a particular emphasis on World Resources Institute's (WRI) work with the private sector to advance collective sustainability goals. He also manages the Aqueduct Alliance, which brings together leading companies to collectively advance data, tools, and best practices around water stewardship.</p> <p>Prior to WRI, Marc worked for the Global Environment &amp; Technology Foundation where he managed the Water and Development Alliance (WADA), which was a US\$20 million, five year program that delivered water and sanitation access to over 890,000 people and empowered over 277,000 women and girls around globally.</p> <p>Marc holds a BA in Economics and International Affairs from Marquette University and an MA in Public Policy from the University of Minnesota.</p>



**Jim Oliver**  
Industrial Water Solutions  
Director,  
Black & Veatch  
*Panelist*

Jim Oliver has over 40 years of experience in water resource development and supply evaluation. His role is at Black and Veatch is global director for Black & Veatch's Industrial Water practice. Jim oversees the water supply assessments industrial customers such as energy and data center customers. He has been the technical leader in many US and international projects related to water supply sourcing, water treatment, water reuse, water disposal, water rights and water supply permitting. He has worked with municipalities, water investors and large industrial water supply customers. Based on this water supply work, Jim has developed specialized workflows to quickly evaluate water options based on supply, water quality, administrative availability and sustainability to help industrial customers understand the optimal water supply. These evaluations frequently involve present value assessments and risk evaluations based on permitting issues and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles related to water as part of the industrial water supply chain decisions. Most recent work has involved assessment of poor quality water (reclaimed, brackish or produced water) for hyperscale data center cooling and power generation development.