



COUNCIL OF INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING AUTHORITIES

2020 CIFA SRF Workshop Online Edition

Impact of COVID-19 on Utilities: Thursday, October 29, 3:00 – 4:30 pm (ET)

Building Financial Resiliency to Weather the Storm of a Global Pandemic

Learn how utilities are managing the challenges caused by coronavirus and the subsequent shut-down of the economy. Learn how utilities in one state have been affected by the pandemic conditions and hear, first-hand, from the Chief Financial Officer of the Little Rock Reclamation Authority. Find out about online tools that measure the financial resiliency of utilities to help managers make informed financial decisions, including EPA's [Water Utility COVID-19 Financial Impact Tool](#) and the University of North Carolina Environmental Finance Center's [Resiliency Tool](#).

Moderator: Nick Chamberlain, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Panelists:

- Shadi Eskaf, University of North Carolina Environmental Finance Center
- Elsemarie deVries Mullins, University of North Carolina Environmental Finance Center
- Michael Rhoda, Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority
- John Covington, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Britney Vazquez, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Meet the Speakers:

Nick Chamberlain, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Nicholas (Nick) Chamberlain is the Team Lead for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund at EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC. He manages the development of guidance, training and the delivery of technical assistance to our stakeholder partners in government and industry. Nick has worked at the EPA since 2008 and has a bachelor's degree in Government and Politics, Environmental Science & Policy from the University of Maryland. He is currently an MBA candidate at the University of Maryland's Smith School of Business.

John Covington, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

John has been with the Environmental Protection Agency for four years as a financial analyst at the Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center. He spent most of his career working with both the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs at the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority. The last seven and half years he was the Executive Director prior to that he served as treasurer and as a financial analyst. This required him to work with SRF borrowers, review loan applications and present projects for approval. John received a Bachelor of Arts from Centre College of Kentucky in government and history and a Bachelor of Science from Western Kentucky University in accounting.

Shadi Eskaf, University of North Carolina Environmental Finance Center

Shadi Eskaf joined the Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 2004 and has worked on environmental finance projects in local, state, and national settings. Shadi leads teams conducting applied research on a range of topics, including but not limited to water and wastewater rates and rate-setting, utility finance and management, water consumption, infrastructure capital needs and funding, and utility partnerships. Shadi has a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Elsemarie deVries Mullins, University of North Carolina Environmental Finance Center

Elsemarie Mullins is a Project Director at the Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and provides trainings and technical assistance for water and wastewater providers. She has been focusing on the impact of COVID-19 on utilities but also works on projects related to affordability, financial resiliency, and rates. Elsemarie holds a master's in Geological Sciences from UNC-Chapel Hill and a bachelor's in Environmental Science from Wheaton College, Illinois.

Michael Rhoda, Chief Financial Officer, Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority

Michael Rhoda, a certified public accountant, joined Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority as Chief Financial Officer in July 2019. He is responsible for Accounting and Finance, as well as Procurement, Information Services and Risk Management-Safety. Michael has more than 35 years of experience including six years in public accounting, 24 years in telecommunications where he held various financing, marketing, operations and government affairs leadership positions and six years as owner operator of small local family-owned franchise business. Michael is a 1982 graduate of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois where he earned a B.S. in Accounting.

Britney Vazquez, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Britney Vazquez (she/they) is an experienced Environmental Protection Specialist in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Water Finance Center with a career history of working in the government water finance sector. Britney has experience in providing technical assistance to a varied audience and has led projects related to affordability, water infrastructure funding, stormwater, and agricultural issues. As a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Britney has a strong passion for community and social services.