

PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS

2020 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Maia Bellon receives this year's AWRA-WA Service Award for "Outstanding Contribution to Washington's Water Resources"



The Outstanding Water Resources Professional Award for 2020 is being presented to Maia Bellon at this year's state conference. Maia recently returned to the practice of law after serving as the director of the Washington State Department of Ecology since 2013. At Ecology, Maia served as one of Governor Inslee's closest advisors on climate, water, toxics, and air quality issues. She was the longest-serving Ecology director in state history and led the agency to great achievements in water resources, water quality, and carbon emission reduction.

While at Ecology, Maia oversaw ten environmental programs and the Offices of the Columbia River and Chehalis Basin.

She managed a broad range of environmental challenges and opportunities including updating regulations on water quality human health criteria.

Maia was appointed by Governor Inslee as a member of the Southern Resident Orca Taskforce. She also served as the Sustainable Energy and Clean Environment Goal Council Lead for the Governor's Results Washington Office from 2013-2018.

In addition to her work as Director of Ecology, Maia has contributed to the water resources field as the deputy program manager (2010-2011) and then as the program manager (2011-2013) for Ecology's Water Resources Program. She sustainably managed the state's freshwater resources, including allocation of water and protection of instream flows and senior water rights. She promoted positive environmental and economic outcomes through innovative water supply solutions for communities, farms and fish. During this time, Maia also oversaw Ecology's Dam Safety Office and Well Construction and Licensing Program.

Prior to joining Ecology, Maia served as an assistant attorney general in the Ecology Division of the Washington State Attorney General's Office for 15 years.

When she is not working, Maia enjoys exploring the coastline of the Pacific Northwest and traveling with her family.