

# COHORT 2021 DIRECTORY

## TEAM 3: TELETEAM

\*Facilitator \*\*Assistant Facilitator



**Emmanuel Asinas, DWR**

Emmanuel Asinas is a highly motivated research manager and innovative economist with extensive experience in management, administration, and academic research and teaching. He has demonstrated ability to manage multidisciplinary teams, and network effectively with other state, federal and local government agencies, academic institutions, consultants, environmental groups, and other stakeholders to develop collaborative partnerships and innovative solutions to address water management and policy issues.

Emmanuel currently serves as the Chief of Economic Analysis (aka Chief Economist) in the Department of Water Resources. He has overall responsibility for evaluating the economic benefits and costs of water management programs, projects, plans, regulations and policies to ensure the sustainability of California's water resources for the benefit of the State economy, its people and the environment. Prior to joining DWR, Emmanuel worked in Canada as Senior Economist for the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Senior Policy and Program Advisor for the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and Economist for the Ministry of Natural Resources. He was also an adjunct professor for Queens University and Ryerson University in Canada, teaching Ecological Economics and Natural Resource Economics, respectively. Emmanuel holds a PhD degree from Texas A&M University and a Master of Science degree from the University of Georgia, specializing in natural resource economics, environmental economics and forest economics.



**Kimberly Gazzaniga, DWR**

Hi. My name is Kim Gazzaniga I am a proud member of Team 3: TeleTeam and am very excited to be a part of Cal IPGCA Cohort 2021. First, a little about myself: I grew up in Berkeley, California, went to UC Davis to become a veterinarian, did almost everything but study, came out with a a job in biotech. After a few years, I traded pipettes and lab coats for fishing nets and muck boots.

I got married, had three kids, took some time off, and I have been with the Department of Water Resources now for almost 19 years as an environmental scientist. I don't get out in the field much anymore, but I still love what I do. Why is that? As I whittle down into my "why," I am finding that "creating new things" is revealing itself. Looking back at my life, whether its related to home, school, or work, I have felt most accomplished, focused, and confident when I am creating something new.



**Jonathan Lorange, DMV**

My name is Jonathan Lorange I have worked with the DMV for about 20 years. I am married with 3 kids, 2 grandkids. When I am off work I enjoy running Spartan races.



**David Rizzardo,\*\* DWR**

David Rizzardo is a licensed professional civil engineer with 24 years of experience focused in water resources engineering with an emphasis on hydrology, hydrologic forecasting, and upper watershed and climate monitoring. David has been with the California Department of Water Resources for over 20 years primarily working in the Department's Hydrology Branch focusing on flood and drought emergency response, real time and seasonal runoff forecasting, and directing the statewide California Cooperative Snow Surveys program. David has been a supervisor and manager for over 15 years managing multi-agency and multi-discipline programs and teams in the successful collaboration of both technical and programmatic efforts.

He has been instrumental in driving progressive change to water management practices and embracing and implementing emerging technologies such as the Airborne Snow Observatory to improve water supply forecast accuracy. In his spare time, David is a youth competitive soccer coach volunteering his time to mentor young athletes in achieving their individual and team goals on and off the pitch. David was a member of Team Cal-Together in the 2019 Cal-IPGCA cohort and serves as an Assistant Facilitator for TeleTeam in Cohort 2021.

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**Mitchel Russo, DWR**

Hello. My name is Mitch Russo of Cohort '21 Teleteam. In my work for the Department of Water Resources, I lead flood management professionals who work with other dedicated individuals and organizations to provide flood warning, response, and mitigation efforts, and protect the lives and livelihoods of all Californians.



**Aman Thiara,\*\* Cal OES**

I am a proud member of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES family). Three years ago, when I joined state service, I had the privilege to become a part of Cal OES and Cal-IPGCA who provide me amazing opportunities to make a difference. I assist and support the development and maintenance of the CalOES Workforce and Succession Plans and am ardent in serving the CalOES mission. I believe with practice each of us can become an expert in what we do. My goal is to become the best version of myself.

My why is to make my grandma proud. My grandma always said, "Everything is possible. Believe in yourself, do your best, and work hard for what you love." When we have a strong desire to make a difference then it's not about us only, it's about all of us, and it's about our people. I am empathetic about people, passionate about the representation of the human perspective, and possess the skills to bring this passion to life. I am a proud mom of my two beautiful and amazing daughters. In my spare time, I enjoy volunteering within the community, attending cultural events, watching TV, shopping with my husband, and taking short walks with my family. I also love making and eating different kinds of food.



**Richard Zmuda, DWR**

I'd like to introduce myself. I am a lifelong learner with a balanced set of interpersonal, analytical, and communication skills sharpened through 50+ years of achievements in operations management, consulting, adult education, and State service. Along the way I've earned two advanced degrees, MBA and Doctor of Management. I attribute my enduring professional (and personal) success to my facilitative style of managing, advising and teaching.

I am the proud father of five adult children (3 sons, 2 daughters) and enjoy being the grandfather for 10 grandkids (3 boys, 7 girls). Active engagement in church-based community service keeps my personal batteries charged. I feel honored and privileged to serve DWR's diverse constituents, especially members of the State's Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise business community.