

# WATER & POWER

Series Pitch

Written by Andrew Schuster

## A QUICK NOTE ABOUT ME

I'm a native Californian straddling two very different worlds. I grew up in the small NorCal hippie town of Sebastopol, a town whose claim to fame for a while was having the only city council in America that was dominated by the Green Party. But for the last 10 years, I've called Orange County and LA home, which has sometimes felt like living in another country. There's a stark difference in life philosophy, a general competitiveness, and even a slight animosity between the people of Northern and Southern California. And in my experience, the animosity is stronger coming from the North. When I moved down south, my dad would joke, "You Southern Californians, taking all our water." But with the current drought, it's not really a joke anymore.

I've always been fascinated by science, history, and politics. I love stories that ground themselves in real-world issues and events, and then take them to their most fascinating and entertaining heights and hypotheticals. I grew up reading every book Michael Crichton ever wrote. I'm a huge fan of shows like "The West Wing" and "House of Cards." But I also love family dramas, and seeing how families deal with unique situations. All of this led me to the question -- what would happen if Los Angeles ran out of water? How could that happen, what would that look like, and who or what would be responsible?

## WATER & POWER

This is the story of a primal struggle over a scarce and precious resource. A resource second only to air in the hierarchy of human necessity. It's about a modern civilization trying to come to grips with a new paradigm shift, abruptly thrust upon it after years of waste, mismanagement, and arrogance. It's the story of a water crisis. The very plausible water crisis that faces Los Angeles and Southern California after a major earthquake and years of drought. It's a struggle between rich and poor. Farms versus cities. Politics against pragmatism. And at its core, this is a story about the people put in charge of solving the crisis. Chiefly, the newly minted Water Commissioner of South California, Sarah Mulholland, and her team of advisors, engineers, and security experts. Sarah is descended from the man who made modern Los Angeles possible by bringing water from the North -- William Mulholland, a revered and controversial figure. With a sense of legacy, purpose, and obsessive determination, Sarah attempts to lift the new state of South California out of its crisis, all while dealing with her own inner demons and trying to keep her family life together.

Underneath it all, the series is about power. What are we willing to do to get power? How do we make decisions once we have power? And how far will we go in order to hold onto power? The series will explore power on all levels, from the power plays we make in our family relationships to the struggle for power at the highest levels of politics. We'll watch as a mostly decent woman with noble intentions tries to take care of other people in an extremely difficult situation and finds out that having power means sometimes having to make morally questionable choices. Through the course of the series we'll follow Sarah's journey as she constantly toes the line between the heroic public servant she wants to be and the calculating, manipulative, and secretive woman she thinks she needs to be in order to achieve her goals. We'll also follow the journeys of those working under her and those working against her as they balance their own self-interests with the causes they believe in.



Rancho Mirage, California

## WATER AS CURRENCY

For the last 100 years in the U.S., clean running tap water has been taken for granted. It's been our god-given right. We turn on the sink, there's the water. Whenever we want, as much as we want. Like magic. But what if that magic ran out? What if it was never magic at all, but a complex system that's been mismanaged and misjudged for as long as we've been settled in the American West. Benjamin Franklin famously said, "When the well runs dry, we know the worth of water." So what will the worth of water be?

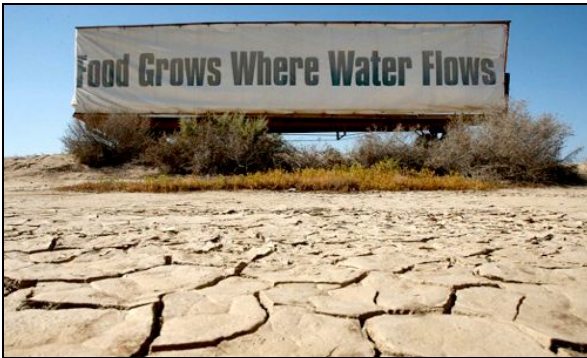


Oil and gold have had their turn as commodities we covet. But water is something we absolutely must have to survive. The series will explore that question of what happens when there's not enough water. What will we do to get it? And how do we decide who gets it? Water in the West becomes the great currency for which states will fight states, cities will fight farms, and neighbors will fight neighbors.



## A LAND OF PERPETUAL DROUGHT...

California's current drought crisis is well documented by now, but it's worth reiterating -- As of September, 2015 California was the driest it has been in 500 years.



## ... AND EARTHQUAKES

Less documented and discussed is the threat to California's complex water system in the event of a large earthquake or multiple large earthquakes. Experts estimate that if an earthquake of a magnitude 7.0 or greater struck the Los Angeles area, which is predicted to be near certainty in the next 30 years, it could take a year or more to fix the water infrastructure, while nearby reservoirs only have about a six month's supply of water. The very real scenario of an earthquake causing a severe, catastrophic, and prolonged water crisis -- coupled with the worst drought California has seen in hundreds of years is the jumping off point for the series.



## **A STATE DIVIDED**

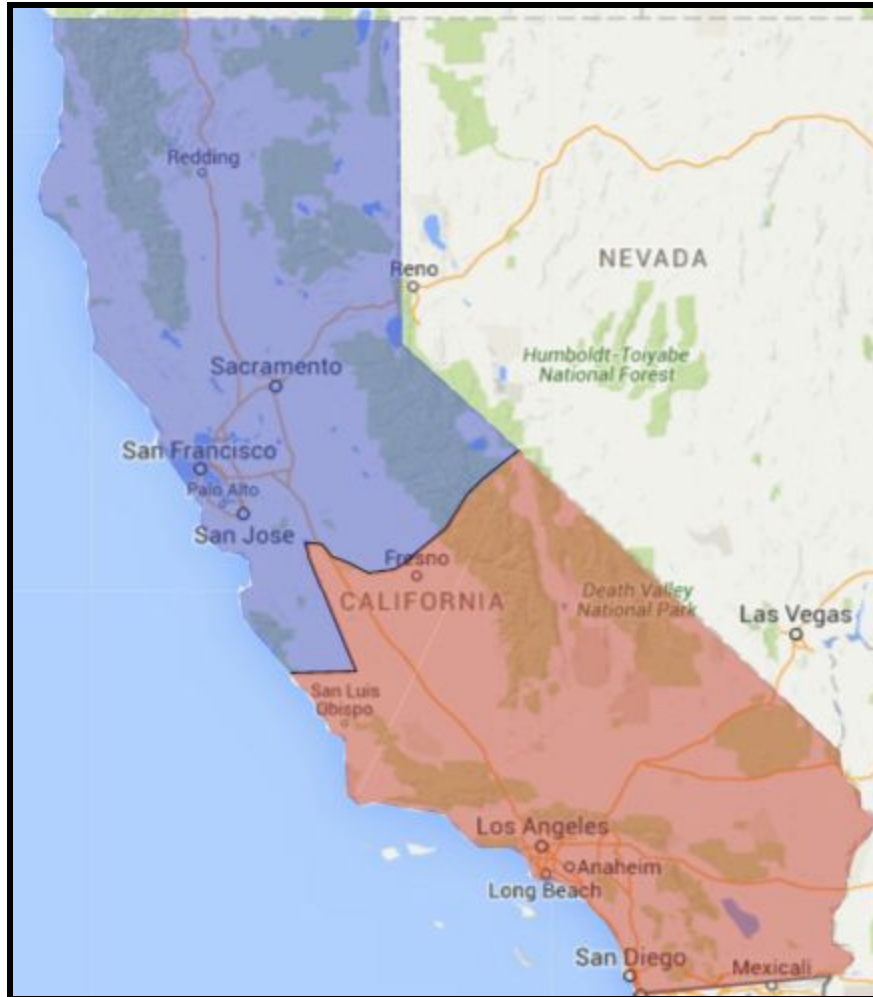
Since its admission into the United States in 1850, there have been more than 220 proposals to divide California into multiple states. Many plans call for a two state solution, while a recent proposal has advocated for splitting California into as many as six separate states. No matter the number, most plans argue that vast differences in geography and ideology lead to inefficiency in how the state is run. Proponents argue that splitting the state would allow local and state governments to manage resources more efficiently and more effectively meet the needs of local citizens.

Few issues have been more divisive than the management of California's water resources. Historically, vast quantities of water from the mountains and rivers in Northern California have been pumped and channeled to the farms and more populous cities in Southern California. This has come at great monetary and ecological expense. Due to the current drought crisis, tensions are rising in the north, and many are calling for a drastic reduction in the amount of water sent to SoCal.

## **ORIGINS OF OUR TWO STATE SOLUTION**

Nearly 14 months before the beginning of the series, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck in Northern California on the Hayward Fault. Many of the levees along the Sacramento River Delta, the hub of California's water network, were destroyed. This resulted in the saltwater contamination of a water supply that affects 22 million Californians. President Mark Ramos declared a state of emergency and massive relief efforts went into effect. Water officials decided to severely cut back on the amount of water that would flow to Southern California, which was already feeling the effects of years of drought. A battle raged in Sacramento between the politicians of Northern and Southern California over water management and possible solutions. The gridlock was coming at the expense of the relief effort and a rapidly growing movement to split California into two states quickly gained favor on both sides of the isle and in the public eye.

Five months after the earthquake, a special election was called and a statewide referendum vote on the partitioning of California into North California and South California was held. Borders were drawn and a water sharing system that saw reductions in the amount of water sent to South California was put in place, which reached bipartisan support. The President also endorsed the plan. The measure narrowly passed, with overwhelming support in the North and split support in the South. At President Ramos' urging, Congress quickly ratified the plan and seven months after the earthquake, North California and South California were officially formed. Former Lieutenant Governor Scott Webber was elected as the first governor of South California.



The borders of North California and South California

Unfortunately, Mother Nature wasn't finished. Only two months into statehood, a massive 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck South California along the San Andreas fault, 60 miles from Los Angeles. The region was devastated. Nearly 2,000 people perished and hundreds of thousands were displaced. Another State of Emergency was declared and FEMA began to coordinate its largest relief effort in history. But as bad as the destruction was, it was soon realized that the greatest threat now to the state, and Los Angeles in particular, was its dwindling water supplies and its damaged water infrastructure. In order to avoid the mismanagement, inaction, and inefficiency of the past, and to allow for rapid action, the South California legislature moved quickly to form the South California Water Commission. This created an independent state agency, overseen by the state legislature, and folded the State Water Department, The Metropolitan Water District, and the water services of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power into the SCWC. A special election was held and three months after the San Andreas earthquake, Sarah Mulholland was elected Water Commissioner.

## THE CHARACTERS

### **Sarah Mulholland (44) - South California Water Commissioner**

Sarah is a force to be reckoned with. She's a motivated leader with a vision she believes in wholeheartedly. After years of being forced to enact someone else's plan, a plan which brought South California to its knees, Sarah is finally in a position of power. A position she believes is her destiny. Sarah won the election by a wide margin, which she believes gives her a mandate to do what is necessary to fix the water crisis. Sarah has crafted her entire career in water management to get her to this point. She's made most of the right allies. She's got the perfect last name. And she's got the model family. Sarah is a long term thinker. Unfortunately the world around her doesn't always want to go along with her plans. Which is why she has back-up plans for her back-up plans. Because ultimately, Sarah is a survivalist. If everything does go to hell, she's going to be ready. She'll be able to provide for her family without relying on anyone else. Sarah is typically blunt and decisive, but this is not to say that she doesn't think things through. Above all, she's ambitious, and revels in her power and influence. Sarah wants to be remembered and wants to leave behind a legacy.

Sarah's obsession with water goes much deeper than her career. Sarah has developed a rare paraphilia called aquaphilia, which in its broadest terms, means sexual arousal from submersion in water. For Sarah, there's a comfort, calmness, release, and sometimes sexual arousal that comes from taking a bath or swimming. She keeps this aspect of her life hidden from everyone, even her husband Michael. As Sarah's journey progresses, the desire to be in water and her aquaphilia will grow stronger as she faces more and more pressure at work.

Sarah is the great granddaughter of Hugh Patrick Mulholland, who was William Mulholland's brother. William Mulholland was the famed and controversial engineer of LA's modern water system, designed in the 1910s.



*"There it is. Take It."*

Chief Engineer William Mulholland at the opening of the Los Angeles Aqueduct.



Sarah grew up an only child in the San Luis Obispo area where her father owned several large parcels of land that he leased to farmers. Sarah's parents died in a car accident when she was 22. Sarah sold the property and attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

**Except all of that is a lie.** That's what Sarah tells people. In reality, she was born Sarah Ecklund. She grew up on a ranch outside Bakersfield, CA with her older brother Noah, and her parents Lars and Sharon. In the early years, Sarah had a rather happy childhood. Growing up on a ranch was fun. They were isolated, but Sarah and Noah were only a year apart and did everything together. Sarah was also smart and devoured every book she could get her hands on. But Lars and Sharon started fighting more and more. Lars had always been a drinker, but his drinking increased and he became a violent drunk. Sharon and Noah became his usual targets. Every year Lars was on the verge of losing the ranch. When a severe drought hit in the '80s, Lars' wells wouldn't reach the groundwater and he couldn't afford to dig deeper like many of the larger farms in the area. Lars constantly lamented that the only way to make it in this world was to be born into a privileged family, so they were all screwed. Lars began the process of selling the ranch. Sarah was 15 when her mother hung herself. Lars was devastated but kept drinking. His abuse of Noah got worse and one day when Noah was refueling the tractor, Lars started beating on him. Gasoline splashed onto Noah's shoulders and neck. Lars' cigarette fell and a Noah burst into flames. Lars finally managed to put out the fire and rushed Noah to the hospital. They both said it was an accident. But Sarah saw the whole thing. Noah ran off for several nights. One night he finally came back and shot and killed Lars. Noah made Sarah lie to the police and the police ruled the death a suicide. Sarah was 17 and Noah was 18. Noah took off and left Sarah behind. Lars had owed a lot of money to a lot of pissed off people. Sarah had nothing left after the ranch was sold and the debts were partially paid.

Luckily Sarah had a great entrepreneurial spirit. She went to work for a local drilling company that drilled wells and pumped groundwater. Sarah was out there with all the other men, drilling wells, rough-necking it. She was still reeling from the total destruction of her family and became close with the old man who owned the drilling company. He also had no family, so when he died suddenly, he left the entire company to Sarah. Sarah realized the value of water in the region and started to expand the business. Soon she was buying and selling water rights and quietly made a small fortune doing so. By the age of 22, Sarah was worth several million dollars and had never gone to college. But Sarah could never escape the stigma of her family. People always treated her differently once they found out she was an Ecklund. No one trusted her. Sarah also saw the writing on the wall. Groundwater pumping wasn't sustainable and she decided it was time to make a move. Time to get out of the valley and completely start over as someone new. Sarah has become obsessed with water and fascinated with its history in California. She became enthralled with William Mulholland's legacy as a self-made, self-taught engineer. She realized that she wanted to make something of herself, help people, leave behind her family and all the pain they caused forever, and eventually leave behind her own legacy.

When Sarah found out that there were descendants of Mulholland who had recently passed away in nearby San Luis Obispo, she decided this would be the perfect opportunity to start over as someone new. Someone with the right last name, just like her father had said she needed. Sarah spent a great deal of money on phony birth certificates, birth records, DNA tests, and other documents proving that she was Sarah Mulholland, the couple's daughter. No one questioned her as the couple was reclusive, not well known, and estranged from the direct descendents of William Mulholland. Sarah enrolled in Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and got a degree in civil engineering. After graduation, she immediately moved to Los Angeles and got a job as an engineer with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Everyone recognized the last name Mulholland. Sarah rose quickly through the ranks and the head of water operations, John Turner, became her mentor. When John left to join the California Department of Water Resources, Sarah decided to leave too and joined the Metropolitan Water District, in order to have more of an impact on water decisions in the Southern California region.

At the MWD, Sarah got to work on several water projects but was constantly frustrated by the lack of urgency to shore up what Sarah perceived to be large threats to the water supply. Sarah rose all the way to Assistant General Manager, the MWD's youngest in history. She worked under General Manager Donald Burch. Sarah constantly championed for more drastic action but she was rebuffed by Burch and the conservative board. Meanwhile Sarah continued to wisely invest her money and also continued to bank water at several large pieces of property that she purchased.

Sarah soon met Michael, a smart and impassioned high school science teacher, when he asked her to come speak to his class. Michael was impressed by her brains and gumption just as much as her beauty. Sarah liked Michael's dedication, confidence, and compassion. Sarah also discovered a yearning for the perfect white-picket-fence family that she had never had. She saw that opportunity in Michael. Michael and Sarah got married a year later and had their first child, Audrey, a year after that. Six years later they had their son, Anthony. Anthony had a weak heart and had to be rushed to the hospital one night when he was five. This happened to be the same night as the major earthquake that hit L.A. A giant oak tree fell on their house and smashed it, but because they were at the modern hospital, they all survived. Michael and Sarah unwittingly favor Anthony and see him as a miracle.

Sarah's journey through the first season will be about her quest to solve the water crisis on her own terms and keep her power, at the expense of her family and some of her morals. But because of the nature of the crisis and her unwavering belief that she's doing the right thing and doing it for the good of the people, we'll be with her and we'll have a hard time judging her for her actions. Ultimately it will be Sarah's past and her lies that will be her undoing. Eventually she'll have to face her brother Noah and the fact that she's not been truthful to the people she loves.

## **Michael Torres (40s) - Sarah's Husband - High School Science Teacher**

A second generation Southern California native. His grandparents immigrated from Mexico and his parents were hardworking farmers in Southern California, near Temecula. Michael was the middle child and had an older sister and a younger brother. They never had a lot of money, but they had a good family life. The only traumatic experience Michael had growing up was when he was 16 and got his girlfriend pregnant. She insisted on having an abortion, despite Michael's wishes to keep the baby. Michael showed tremendous aptitude in school and Michael's parents helped him go to college at Cal State Long Beach. He was the first in his family to graduate college. Michael graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering, but didn't like working in the private sector. Michael had the opportunity to be a guest lecturer at a junior college and liked interacting with students. To his parents' disappointment, Michael got his teaching credential and began teaching high school science in Los Angeles.

Michael is a passionate teacher, one of the few who consistently goes above and beyond for his students, especially those he sees promise in. But sometimes he finds himself getting too involved in the lives of his students. Michael reached out to Sarah to come speak to his class after reading an op-ed she wrote in the LA Times about water conservation. Sarah and Michael started dating soon after. Michael was always impressed by Sarah's drive. Michael's closeness with his family was always contrasted by Sarah's lack of a family, which she never liked to talk about. But Michael's family warmly took Sarah in when they got married. Michael was thrilled when Sarah got pregnant with Audrey. He's a natural at being a dad. Michael is kind, patient, and protective of his children. He is morally defined and holds strongly onto the things he believes in. However, as Sarah gets further down the rabbit hole, Michael finds himself having to defend her, even though he may not fully believe in her cause or her methods. As the water crisis worsens, Michael will grow tired of teaching rich kids, and decides he wants to become an activist for the less fortunate. He feels that he can make more of a difference in people's lives than by teaching. His ambitions will begin to clash with Sarah's and will further disrupt their family life.

## **Audrey Torres (14) - Sarah and Michael's Daughter**

Audrey is coming of age in a world of uncertainty. Audrey remembers what things were like before the Big One and before her mother was put in charge of the water crisis. She was used to getting all the attention before Anthony was born and somewhat resents her brother. Audrey is a daddy's girl and has a special bond with Michael. What Audrey really wants is to have a normal teenage life and hang out with her friends. But she's also still reeling from the death of her best friend who was killed in the earthquake. Audrey is smart, sharp tongued, and more like her mother than she would care to admit. She knows how to push Sarah's buttons. She's a sophomore at the private high school where Michael is a teacher. When we meet Audrey she's playing more of a victim. But soon she'll realize

that's not what she wants. Audrey will start dating Governor Webber's son, Connor. This may seem like an attention grabbing move, and it is, but they genuinely like and understand each other. Nonetheless, it will be the hot gossip at school and at the capitol building. Both the Governor and Sarah will try to discourage the relationship, but there's not much they can do. Over the course of the first season, we'll see Audrey go from floundering teen to high school power player, as she manipulates her way to the top of the social pyramid, proving the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

### **Anthony Torres (6) - Sarah and Michael's Son**

Anthony is a sweet kid. He doesn't remember much about life before the Big One. He's intuitive and picks up on the moods of his family and tries to keep the peace. He is curious about the world and likes to ask a lot of questions. He has rambunctious moods and likes to build things. Anthony has a pacemaker that helps keep his heartbeat regular. Anthony provides Sarah with much needed innocence and optimism. Toward the end of the first season, Anthony will have issues with his heart again. This health scare will further increase the stakes when he's kidnapped at the end of the first season.

### **Carmen Torres (Late 60s) - Sarah's Mother-in-Law and Michael's Mother**

Carmen moved in with Sarah and Michael soon after The Big One. Carmen's husband Arturo died in the earthquake and she is still devastated about it. She's focused all her attention on her grandchildren in order to take her mind off things. Carmen is deeply spiritual and superstitious. She is hardworking, does a lot around the house, and frequently looks after Audrey and Anthony who call her 'Abuela'. Sarah appreciates Carmen's help, but also feels resentment toward her because of Carmen's bond with her kids and her husband. Carmen can be passive aggressive and judgmental of Michael and Sarah's parenting choices. Carmen's identity was always as a wife and mother and she's the antithesis of what Sarah wants for herself. As the season progresses, Carmen will become more meddling in Michael and Sarah's marriage. She'll be the voice whispering in Michael's ear, planting little seeds of doubt.

### **Noah Ecklund (45) - Sarah's Estranged Brother**

He's the man with the burn scar on his neck in the pilot, who leads the attacks on the Whitsett Pumps. Noah and Sarah grew up together but didn't see each other for 25 years after Noah shot and killed their father. Noah has no regrets about what he did and feels that his actions were justified. Both Sarah and Noah were deeply affected by the circumstances that led to their family's demise. Both believed that the water systems, laws, and the government failed their family. But whereas Sarah believed she could work within the system to bring change, Noah believes that the system is beyond repair and needs to be torn down, burned down, and blown up. Nature needs to take it's course. Noah is calculating, cold, smart, and enjoys riddles.

After he left home, Noah was a drifter for a time, stealing or convincing people to give him money. After a couple years of bumming around, Noah joined the Navy. He completed the Navy Seals training and was one of the stand-outs in his class. But after his first tour he was injured and later discharged after failing a mental health test. Noah moved to San Bernadino, angry and depressed. He started drinking and doing meth. Soon he was selling drugs, and was pretty good at it and somewhat successful. He fell in with Hells Angels, then a white supremacist group, but neither were quite his thing. He had a lot of radical ideas about government and wanted to act on them but he was also strung out most of the time. Noah soon hit rock bottom after he was savagely beaten by men working for his supplier after Noah was behind on payments. Then Noah saw an article about a project Sarah was working on at the MWD and her picture. Noah tracked her down and realized she was wealthy and recently married. But she hadn't taken his name, she had changed hers. Noah approached Sarah but when Sarah saw what kind of shape Noah was in, she wanted nothing to do with him. She was wealthy, starting a family, and starting a political career. When Noah tried to shake her down for money Sarah gave in and gave him \$50,000, with the stipulation that she never ever wanted to see him again. Noah promised she wouldn't. Noah paid off his debt, but kept doing drugs. But after a time, Noah realized he wanted something more in his life too. Noah finally cleaned himself up by attending AA meetings. There he met a Native American girl, Sierra, and they fell in love. Noah became fascinated with her culture and they moved back to the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation, near the border of California and Arizona, where they soon got married. Noah started farming a small plot of land but got frustrated by tribal politics. About half the tribe was getting kickbacks from a casino and half wanted nothing to do with it.

Noah and Sierra now live with a small fringe band of Chemehuevi indians in the desert in east San Bernardino County. He leads a group of young radicals, including his number two, Edward Leives. They believe they deserve reparations for being kicked off their fertile land along the Colorado River when the Parker Dam was built to serve the Colorado River Aqueduct that went to provide water for Southern California. Noah's group doesn't recognize the larger Chemehuevi's settlement with the federal government for land that was established for the reservation. Noah has convinced them that guerrilla resistance is the only way to gain recognition. Noah wants to secure water rights for his tribe so they can build their own sustainable community. Noah believes he can do this by stealing it and then blackmailing his sister. But what starts out as a practical cause for Noah, turns into a deadly campaign of anger and need for retribution. Noah and his team are skilled and practiced in combat and carrying out covert operations. Noah wants to use Sarah's power for his own gain. But he becomes frustrated when Sarah continuously ignores his more subtle ways of reaching out. Noah and his team will prepare an attack on the Diamond Valley Lake reservoir, an attack that Philip will thwart at the end of season one, but Philip will finally find out Noah's connection to Sarah. Noah's real victory will come in the form of kidnapping Anthony. This will finally get Sarah's full attention. Over the long term Noah and Sarah's diametrically opposed ideologies will drive a lot of the conflict and themes.

## **SARAH'S TEAM**

### **Donald Burch (60s) - SCWC Chief Deputy Commissioner**

Donald represents the old school way of running the water systems. He was the former General Manager and CEO of the Metropolitan Water District before the earthquake and before California split. Formerly Sarah's boss, he now works under Sarah as the Chief Deputy Commissioner.

Donald grew up in Pasadena. He was one of three sons from a well-to-do family. His father was a lawyer and his mother was a homemaker. Donald got an engineering degree from Claremont University but decided he'd try to follow in his father's footsteps and got his law degree from USC. After a couple years of practicing corporate law and hating it, Donald wound up getting a job at the MWD through his father's connections. Donald quickly rose to general counsel and then to General Manager, despite not having any practical hydraulic engineering experience. Donald was charismatic and handled politics well. He said the right things, didn't ruffle feathers, and generally maintained the status quo. When Sarah came to work at the MWD, Donald largely ignored her ideas and warnings. Still, Donald and Sarah got along well enough. After the earthquake, Donald threw his hat into the ring for Water Commissioner, but the damages to the water system and lack of preparations were pinned on him. He lost the special election to Sarah by a landslide. However Sarah quickly brought him onto her team as he has some powerful allies that Sarah wants to use. Donald has been married for over 30 years and his wife Cynthia urged him to retire. However Donald fears the boredom of retirement.

Sarah and Donald are by no means friends, but they respect each other at least at the beginning of the series. Donald is good at schmoozing and playing the game. He's often the liaison between the SCWC and the federal government. However, Sarah is careful about what she lets Donald in on. As much as he puts on a good face, Donald is irked to have to work under Sarah. He doesn't like her brash methods and her resistance to playing the game. Donald will be the loudest voice of dissent against flooding Lake Hughes. When Sarah goes through with the plan, Donald decides to resign. Throughout the rest of the first season, Donald will be courted by Reding and Governor Webber as a possible replacement for Sarah, if they can turn the tides on her. While Donald is initially resistant to them, he soon finds that he wants the top job more than he thought he did, even if it means saying and doing things he doesn't believe in.

### **Emi Tanaka (Late 30s) - SCWC Chief Policy Advisor**

Emi is Sarah's protege and confidant. Emi is extremely intelligent, but her mile-a-minute thoughts often cause her to come off as awkward. Emi grew up in a typically demanding Asian American family in Palo Alto. Her father was a physics professor at Stanford and her mother was a therapist. Emi's older brother followed in their father's footsteps and became a physicist as well. Emi got her

undergraduate degree at Stanford and then, to the family's disappointment, moved south to get her masters in civil engineering from UCLA. Though she loves her tight-knit family, Emi was glad to have some freedom and be out of their watchful eye. Emi decided to stay in Los Angeles and started working as a project engineer for the MWD. Emi's entire life became her work. She loves finding solutions to problems and willingly works around the clock to do so. This stuff is fun for her. Of course this all comes at the expense of her personal life. She doesn't have many close friends and the ones she does have are all married with children. Emi admires and envies Sarah's family life and seemingly perfect work-life balance. Though she doesn't want kids, she envies the idea of family. For now, Emi is content with being a serial dater. Fulfilling her sexual and intimacy needs and then moving on.

Sarah likes Emi because she's extremely loyal, smart, and dedicated. However Emi doesn't have the ambitions of power that Sarah has nor the people skills. She doesn't ultimately want to be the one making the final decision. But as the series progresses, Emi will have more and more doubts about her mentor and her choices. Emi's confidence in herself will grow and she will eventually find herself having to choose between her loyalty to Sarah, and furthering her own career.

### **Ruben Banks (Late 40s) - SCWC Chief Operations Manager**

Ruben controls the day-to-day flow of water to most of South California. Sarah hired him away from the California Department of Water Resources after the state split. Though Sarah knows Ruben is good at his job, they often clash because of their distinctly different personalities. Ruben is calm and cool under pressure and frequently under reacts to situations. He's a big teddy bear, loves to eat, and loves to make jokes. Ruben is very smart, but prefers to speak in practical and blunt terms.

Ruben is a Los Angeles native. He grew up in Alhambra with working class parents. Ruben excelled in school at an early age. He always had a propensity for numbers and problem solving. He was the youngest of five brothers and sisters, but Ruben was the only one that showed an accelerated aptitude that bordered on genius. His parents didn't even understand him, but they supported him and tried to get him in the best classes and schools. Unfortunately for Ruben, his peers didn't understand him either and he was often picked on. But soon Ruben found that he could use humor to deflect some of this unwanted bullying. Ruben got a full academic scholarship to USC and got dual undergraduate degrees in chemistry and computer science. After working for several years in the lab of a pharmaceutical company, Ruben decided to switch gears and got a masters in environmental engineering from UC Berkeley. Ruben took a job at the MWD as an engineer and worked under Donald. But he was hired away by the California Department of Water Resources and moved to Sacramento. He was put in charge of managing the flow of the State Water Project. Ruben got married soon after to a waitress at his favorite local restaurant. The stress of Ruben's job and his propensity for food caused him to gain weight rapidly and he got type-2 diabetes. Ruben and his

wife divorced after three years. After the earthquakes, Ruben was keen on moving back to LA to help his family, whom he'd been financially supporting for years. He jumped at the chance to work for Sarah when Donald recommended him. He was tasked with consolidating the MWD, the water resources of the LADWP and the southern portion of the California Department of Water Resources into the South California Water Commission. It was a monumental task that Ruben is still working out. He oversees a staff of over 1,000 people.

Ruben has been financially supporting his parents and siblings for much of his adult life. Two of his brothers have been in and out of jail and his sister has four kids. And he's still paying alimony. There are financial pressures on Ruben that his salary can't fully support. With his fingertips on the controls of a vital and suddenly extremely valuable resource, Ruben will struggle all season to avoid the temptation of skimming off the top. Pleas from family members and business interests will test Ruben's loyalty and morality.

### **Philip Tedesco (40) - SCWC Head of Security**

Philip is Sarah's rock at work and always has her back. He has a quiet and imposing presence and prefers listening and observing over talking. But the words he does speak are chosen carefully and filled with surprising insight.

Philip grew up an army brat alongside two sisters. His father was killed in combat when he was 13. His mother shackled up with his father's best friend soon after. They lived in San Diego and Philip developed into a loner. His step-father wasn't abusive, he just flat out ignored Philip and his sisters. Philip's relationship with his mother grew more contentious and he joined the Army as soon as he turned 18. Philip excelled in the army and joined the Army Rangers. It was here that he received the discipline and camaraderie that he craved. After 8 years in the military, Philip left to take care of his mother who was diagnosed with lung cancer. The step-father had skipped out on her two years earlier. Philip's mother died a year later and Philip moved to Los Angeles to try to start over. Philip went to work for a large private security company, Andrew's International, and started doing security consulting for a number of large companies. He also went to Cal State Northridge at night to get his degree in management. It was here that he met Sophie, an attractive blonde that he started dating. Philip and Sophie got married two years later when Philip was 31. They had Kaylee two years after that.

Around the same time, Philip started consulting on water security for the MWD. He and Sarah worked closely together on a number of projects and became fast friends. Philip is an extremely private person, but he often found himself confiding in Sarah during their late nights at work and found her extremely easy to talk to. Philip tried to be there for his family, but he often became obsessed with his work. Things between him and Sophie quickly became strained. Philip started finding that it was easier to talk to Sarah than his own wife. But Philip was willing to fight for his



marriage and tried going to counseling with Sophie. But their marriage abruptly ended when Philip found out she had cheated on him. Philip moved out and they got divorced, but remained cordial for their daughter's sake. Philip tried to be present for Kaylee but also found himself thrown into his work more. The earthquake only intensified things. When Sarah asked Philip to be her head of security, he immediately accepted the challenge. Philip has a strong sense of loyalty and duty to Sarah, and he thinks what they are trying to do is important.

Philip's major season arc will be his obsession with trying to find the people responsible for the attacks on the Whitsett Intake Pumping Plant and the other acts of water terrorism. Philip's inability to correctly decipher the text he was sent will weigh heavily on him and he takes the failure personally. Philip will be responsible for raising a large security force to protect the SCWC's interests. We will also discover that Philip's admiration for Sarah goes deeper, as he discovers that he may be in love with her. It will take him a long time to try and act on these feelings, which will be complicated by the fact that he knows Sarah's not telling him everything. Philip's work and obsession will also come at the expense of his relationship with his daughter. At the end of season one, Philip will thwart an attack on the Diamond Valley Lake Dam, perpetrated by Noah and his team. Noah will elude him once again, but Philip will find out that Noah is Sarah's brother, which rocks his world and his view of who he thought Sarah was.

## **OTHER CHARACTERS**

### **Scott Webber (50s) - Governor of South California**

Webber is a smart but arrogant career politician. He was Lieutenant Governor before California split. He wants to restore South California to prominence, but mainly for the sake of his own legacy. This guy thrives on power and influence and won't hesitate to throw someone under the bus. Webber is connected to and influenced by a number of powerful lobby groups in California, most notably agribusiness tycoon Stuart Reding. His focus is on retaining business interests in South California and is less concerned with the welfare of the common man. Webber initially supported Sarah for Water Commissioner, but he underestimated her and how much power she would end up wielding because of the water crisis. He won't make that mistake again.

Webber grew up in a privileged family from New York. Webber's father was a hedge fund manager and moved his family to Orange County when Scott was 10. Scott grew up a beach bum, surfing and smoking weed throughout high school. Scott finally got his act together senior year and went to the University of San Francisco and majored in political science. Scott was a smart and charismatic guy and started hanging around some of his father's' wealthy friends in San Francisco. He got an internship in the mayor's office, where he got his first taste for political influence. Scott moved back to Newport Beach, deciding he wanted to try to make it in the business world. With his father and

his father's friends as investors, Scott started a semi-successful real estate holding and management company. The company expanded to Los Angeles and Scott began to get in with the political elite in the city. At the age of 30 Scott married the daughter of a wealthy Hollywood producer. He was also elected to the LA County Board of Supervisors. 5 years later Scott sold his interests in his company and ran for city council. He won by a large margin. However Scott got divorced soon after winning the election. After one term, Scott sold his business interests and ran for State Assembly and won. After two terms, Scott ran for mayor. He narrowly won and became the first republican to win the mayoral race in years. Scott married his current wife Carol and had a son, Connor. Scott threw his hat in ring for a run at governor, but an alleged sex scandal derailed his campaign. Instead, Scott ran for lieutenant governor and won. He moved his family up to Sacramento and won reelection for a second term with the help of many business interests, particularly Stuart Reding. When the earthquakes hit and the state was deciding to split, Scott had a large hand in the architecture of the split. He won the special election for Governor of South California by a large margin, thanks to a heavily funded campaign. But Scott has a secret of his own. During the night of the earthquake Webber happened to be in LA to give a speech at a fundraiser at Stuart Reding's house. Webber and his assistant were waiting in Reding's office when the earthquake struck. Webber's assistant dove under a desk, but Scott threw her out so he could get under. The assistant was crushed by a bookcase and died. Unfortunately for Webber, Reding's security camera caught the whole thing. Of course, Reding let Webber off the hook, and the incident was chalked up to a terrible tragedy. But Reding still has the footage, just in case.

Webber's season long arc will be figuring out how to diminish and derail Sarah's power and influence. He will try to use Donald against Sarah after the flooding of Lake Hughes and will try to rally the State Legislature against her. However Webber will also have to team up with Sarah on certain issues to accomplish his own goals, especially with increased pressure from the President and the federal government. Webber will also have to deal with the reality of his son dating Sarah's daughter and the complicated relationship between them. In the end, Webber will have to decide whether he'll keep letting Reding push him around or will stand up to him and risk his own reputation.

### **Gail Parker (40s) - FEMA West Coast Regional Administrator**

African American, originally from Mississippi. Gail is in charge of all FEMA operations on the West Coast and is thus heading up the federal government's effort to help South California through the crisis. Gail successfully spearheaded the effort to bring relief to North California after the first earthquake. South California is relying heavily on FEMA funding, the presence of the national guard, and the emergency water supplies that are trucked into LA, so Gail has a good deal of power and can make decisions that will affect Sarah's job drastically. Gail doesn't understand California's legacy and doesn't think South California is sustainable. During the Earthquake, thousands of people were evacuated and displaced. Many have since returned, but the state of the water system

has prompted Gail to threaten more evacuations -- something that Sarah is adamantly against for political reasons and reasons of ego. Gail is a tough and pragmatic bureaucrat whose job is beginning to wear on her. She tries to remain impartial and diplomatic. Gail is unmarried and has no children. Civil service has been her life. Gail respects and likes Sarah, but doesn't always feel respected back and finds herself clashing with Sarah on many issues. Gail will soon find herself marginalized by Sarah as Sarah goes over her head to deal directly with the director of FEMA and the President.

### **Stuart Reding (60s) - Agribusiness Tycoon**

Stuart is a billionaire agribusiness owner who lives in Beverly Hills. He and his wife Marjorie own Kern Valley Farms, one of the largest farms in Kern County, and have a near monopoly on the country's production of pistachios and almonds. They also have vast alfalfa farms and own a bottled water company. They have huge political influence in both North and South California and at the federal level. They are major backers of lobbyist group Valley Farms United. They will protect their agriculture interests at all costs. They live in an ostentatious mansion and live extravagantly, even in a time of such severe water shortages. Stuart becomes a big enemy of Sarah's and vice-versa. Sarah has made it her mission to try and end the cycle of water mismanagement, waste, and backroom deals created by Big Ag corporations. Kern Valley Farms owns the controlling interest in a vast water bank that was originally intended as an emergency water supply for Southern California, but through several backdoor deals was turned private. Since the earthquakes, Reding's operations have had to rely on the water bank more, but there are still billions of gallons that he's hoarding.

What complicates Reding's story is that he's the epitome of the American dream. Born in New York to immigrant parents, Reding had a rough childhood. His father was a drunk and had ties to organized crime. Reding wanted nothing to do with his family and moved out when he was 17. Reding moved to Los Angeles and had ideas about getting into show business, but quickly changed his mind and decided to study law. He worked his way through law school at UCLA. Upon graduation he started a very successful private ambulance company, and then segued into private security. Through connections he made inside the LAPD his firm grew to one of the largest in the city. Stuart met Marjorie, the daughter of a wealthy entertainment lawyer, at a gala and they quickly got married. Marjorie already had her own successful merchandising business and the two joined forces. They stumbled into agriculture as a way to diversify their assets. They began buying orange groves in the central valley. Their big break came during the Iran hostage crisis. The embargo on Iran meant that the world's largest pistachio producer was off the market. Stuart saw the opportunity and stepped in. They started buying up cheap land from oil companies in the central valley where the oil had dried up and planted hundreds of acres of pistachios. They purchased even more farmland from drought stricken small farmers in the 80s. (Sarah's father's farm just so happens to be included in this). By the 1990s, they had amassed a farming empire of over 150 square miles. They began funding political campaigns to get the cheap water they needed to sustain their growing

operations and managed to procure the Kern County Water Bank and turn it private. Reding became the biggest private seller of wholesale water in the country.

Reding will play a major role in the first season, going from passively dismissing Sarah's threats, to doing everything he can to get rid of her. He'll hire a private investigator that will look into Sarah's past. Through the course of the season we'll come to understand how agribusiness companies like his have had a hand in creating the water crisis and how they've taken advantage of the system for years and will fight tooth and nail to preserve the status quo. And we'll see how he's pulling strings with Webber.

### **John Turner (60) - North California Director of Water Resources**

John is Sarah's counterpart in North California and is responsible for enacting water management decisions in North California. John was formerly the head of the LADWP where he was a mentor of Sarah's. John was quite fond of Sarah, but soon saw that her ambition sometimes compromised her integrity. John moved from LA to Sacramento to join the state's Department of Water Resources about eight years before the quakes. John is very smart, thoughtful, and compassionate. However he and Sarah are now rivals of sorts and must look out for the best interests of their own states. John is more old school than Sarah, and never really tried to fight the system. But he always admired Sarah's outspoken nature and idealism. John holds a civil engineering degree from Stanford. Eventually, Sarah will screw John over in a big way and effectively end his career.

### **Carina Wallace (40s) - Lower Colorado Regional Director - Bureau of Reclamation**

Carina is in charge of the management of the Colorado River. She's a Southern California native and is sympathetic to South California's problem. However she is principled and likes to play by the rules. Carina and Sarah came up together at the Metropolitan Water District. Carina considered Sarah a friend and confidant for the years they worked together. She has a loving husband and an eight-year-old son. But their son isn't biologically her husband's, which he doesn't know. This is a fact that Carina shared in confidence with Sarah years ago, that Sarah has kept in her back pocket and is finally putting to use. Sarah has blackmailed Carina into sending more water to South California. Eventually Carina will try to fight back and will tell her husband the truth, but Sarah will still manage to ruin Carina's career when it comes out that Carina was insubordinate.

## **CHARACTERS TO COME**

### **President Mark Ramos (60s) - President of the United States**

First Latino President of the United States. Was a former Senator from California. Calm and even keeled. Was instrumental in helping to split California into two states. His administration has been defined by massive natural disasters. Ramos wants to do all he can to help California return to

greatness, but doesn't always see eye to eye with Sarah on how to accomplish this. Ramos is sympathetic to farmers and wants to keep food costs from skyrocketing even more. His power is often limited by an extremely polarized congress.

### **Ann Corbett - 50s - FEMA Director**

Runs FEMA and meets with Sarah and Webber along with the President. Starts to become more of a factor as Gail falls from favor. Corbett gives Sarah the reprieve she needs to prolong evacuations but comes to regret it after Sarah floods Lake Hughes. A native of Florida, Corbett has been at FEMA for 10 years and before that she worked for the state of Florida organizing hurricane relief efforts.

### **Governor Harlon Carter - 50s - Governor of Arizona**

Carter is in the midst of dealing with his state's own water crisis. Without the attention of an earthquake, Carter feels like his state's issues have been overlooked. A staunch Republican and War hero, Carter commands respect and has an air of authority about him. He's an old war hawk and won't take too kind to Sarah's insinuations that he and his state may have some responsibility for the attacks at the Whitsett pumps. Carter, Webber, and Sarah will go toe to toe over the Colorado River in the second half of the first season.

### **Cesar Hernandez (50s) - Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner**

Cesar is the head of the Federal Bureau of Reclamation, which is in charge of "Managing Water in the West." Controls policy decisions on all western federal water projects, including the Central Valley Project, which delivers 7 million acre-feet of water annually throughout California, 70% of which goes to farms. Home state is New Mexico. Unsympathetic to California's problems. Out of touch, stubborn, desires respect, clashes with Sarah.

### **Edward Leivas (30s) - Noah's Partner**

Chemehuevi Indian and Noah's number two. Estranged from his family and the majority of his tribe. Agrees with Noah's mindset that the west has become corrupt, even his tribe and their casino. Wants to see the downfall of the society that changed his people so drastically. Served in the US army for four years. An explosives expert.

### **Sierra Ecklund (30s) - Noah's Wife**

A beautiful Chemehuevi Indian woman who met Noah in AA. She was originally estranged from her family until Noah insisted they move back to the reservation. However after clashing with Sierra's parents, Noah decided they'd form their own separatist tribal movement and Sierra supported him. While Sierra is initially supportive of her husband's ideals, the violence and terror tactics he's now

using are concerning to her. She discovers she doesn't really know her husband like she thought she did, but can't seem to find the courage to speak up.

### **Connor Webber (16) - Governor Webber's Son**

Governor Webber's son, fun-loving, high functioning stoner, doesn't get along with his dad. A bit of a lone wolf. Surprisingly comfortable with himself for his age. Starts to date Audrey, at first to piss off his dad, but realizes he really cares about her.

### **Lily Reding (14) - Stuart Reding's Daughter**

One of the most popular freshmen in Audrey's class. Fake, spoiled, Audrey's frenemy. She ostracizes Audrey from the rest of her classmates because of her dad's opinion of Sarah.



## SEASON ONE - MAJOR STORYLINES

### PILOT RECAP

In the pilot episode, the water crisis facing South California turned dire when the Elizabeth Tunnel, a critical section of the damaged LA Aqueduct, collapsed. Sarah and her team at the South California Water Commission were depending on its reopening to provide much needed water to Los Angeles. With less than two weeks of water left, and up against FEMA's threat of forced evacuations, Sarah blackmailed a former colleague into releasing more water to South California from the Colorado River. Sarah also ruffled the feathers of Governor Webber and his main benefactor, Ag billionaire Stuart Reding, over her desire to regulate water used for agriculture. Sarah learned from FEMA's Gail Parker that the President is considering taking more direct oversight over the crisis, threatening Sarah's power. This prompted Sarah to instruct Emi to prepare their plan of last resort. Meanwhile, Philip, Sarah's head of security, chased a lead up to a massive shared reservoir on the border of North and South California, where he expected domestic water terrorists to attack. But Philip eventually realized he was in the wrong place. His realization came too late however, and masked gunmen attacked the Whitsett Pumping Plant on the Colorado River, and destroyed the pumps that deliver water to South California. In the final scene, Sarah and her team watched the surveillance footage from the attack in shocked horror, as the gunman held up a sign reading "Stop Lying Sarah."

### EPISODE TWO AND BEYOND

After the attack on the Whitsett Pumping Plant, Sarah and her team must deal with the fallout. It's going to take more than a month to replace the turbines and get the pumps back online. In the meantime, South California has lost its largest source of water again. Sarah also talks to the FBI about the gunman and his sign and she insists that she has no idea who he is. Probably just some wackjob or terrorist trying to insight panic. However we learn via pictures that Sarah privately looks at in her underground bunker that she does know the gunman, and very well. Philip asks her to level with him about the gunman, but Sarah maintains her ignorance. Philip wants to lead a full investigation into the attacks, disappointed that he was duped and determined to get justice. But Sarah insists that he focus his energy on protecting their infrastructure. The Whitsett attack gives Sarah the leverage she needs to raise a substantial security force. Despite objections from Governor Webber who wants to limit Sarah's power, the state legislature unanimously approves funds and permissions for Sarah to hire large security forces to protect water projects. Philip is now in-charge of this force. The Governor feels increasingly like he's sitting on the sidelines of his own state.

With the reservoirs at critically low levels and Gail threatening evacuations, Sarah goes over Gail's head to appeal to the Administrator of FEMA and the President. Sarah convinces them that the federal government is failing their state and they are about to have another Katrina on their hands. They pledge more aid, with the condition that if Sarah can't improve conditions quickly, they'll be

taking drastic action that includes evacuations and direct oversight of the South California Water Commission. Despite additional federal support and increased groundwater pumping, hiccups in the water distribution system cause several days of no water being distributed in Los Angeles. Riots and water crimes intensify. Several deaths result from the riots and dehydration, which receive national attention. Sarah tries to get the feds to compel North California to send more water south, but she can see that it will be dragged out and it's likely that it will ultimately be deemed that the North's resources aren't sufficient either.

With no other immediate options, Sarah and her team finally enact Emi's plan. Philip and his security forces quickly mobilize and evacuate the town of Lake Hughes, near the Elizabeth tunnel. The Elizabeth tunnel construction crew and equipment are pulled and a new construction project quickly mobilizes on the other side of the valley. Philip is nearly certain the the whole valley has been evacuated, but Donald points out to Sarah that there's no way to be certain. Donald is outraged by the audacity of the plan. Sarah gives the go-ahead anyways and we see the water from the northern section of the LA aqueduct shoot up at the former construction site and the entire valley is flooded to make one large reservoir, allowing the water to pass into the other side of the Elizabeth tunnel and onto LA. Donald resigns over the action.

After the flooding of Lake Hughes, Sarah and her team must deal with the fallout of their actions. Initially there appear to have been no casualties, and despite a grueling deposition and slap on the wrist by South California's legislative oversight committee, public support temporarily swings back into Sarah's favor. Water returns to the LA basin homes and the riots and violence subsides.

Philip becomes obsessed with trying to find the gunmen that destroyed the water pumps on the Colorado, despite Sarah's request to let it go. Sarah also ignores several other more subtle attempt by the Whitsett gunman to contact her.

With some stability and momentum, Sarah renews her quest to regulate agriculture. She orchestrates a publicity campaign against Stuart Reding and other big ag-corporations in an attempt to shed light on the wasteful agriculture consumption of water and targets Reding's businesses. Reding meanwhile will mount his own counter publicity campaign against Sarah, as he continues to buy up water, and buy up state politicians. He'll also hire an investigator to privately dig deep into Sarah's past. The investigator will slowly go back chronologically in time, and while the investigation won't turn up much this season, it will have explosive consequences in future seasons. The Governor meanwhile will turn to Donald and try to get him to reveal any malfeasance on Sarah's part as a means of getting her removed from office.

With the Colorado River pumps still inoperable, Sarah's Ag regulation push is soon derailed by a return to critically low water supply levels that are now greatly affecting the San Diego area as well as



LA. An explosive news report that finds inequality in the water distribution between the wealthy and the poor causes people to take to the streets again and a class war breaks out. The poor begin to ransack wealthy areas. Forced evacuations are back on the table. But Sarah and her team finally get the Whitsett pumps back online, which eases the tension again.

The political backbone of the second half of the season will be the fight over the Colorado River, which will involve South California, Arizona, Nevada, Mexico, and Native American tribes all fighting for control of the dwindling and over-tapped resources. This will play out on a national stage with the President weighing in and Sarah going to Washington to make her case for South California. Violent flare-ups will occur along the borders of the competing states. Governor Webber will finally work as Sarah's ally in the fight for the Colorado, but mostly as a means of trying to distract her from her crusade to regulate farming. During this time Sarah tries to get Carina Wallace to provide extra allotments to California under the table. But Carina refuses to work with Sarah and even admits to her husband her secret about their kid. However Sarah exposes their previous deal and sparks an international incident with Mexico. Carina is fired.

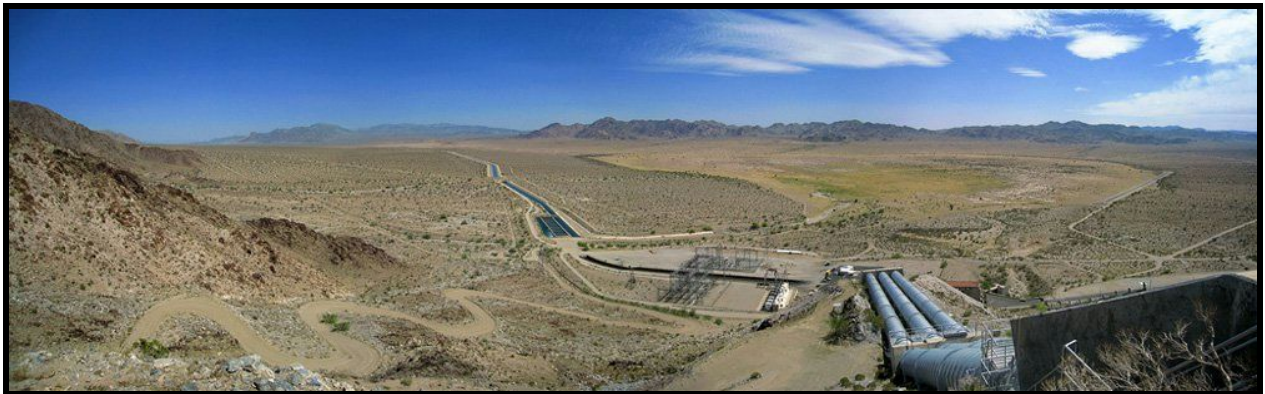
An issue with San Diego's desalination plant, that may or may not be foul play, puts more pressure on Sarah and Philip. Philip continues to be eluded by the water terrorist that he's trying to bring down. Meanwhile, it's discovered internally that an elderly couple was killed during the flooding of Lake Hughes. Sarah decides to keep the incident covered up, and even keeps it from Philip.

With the debate over the Colorado dragging on in congress, Sarah renews her Ag-regulation push. However entities from the Federal government will try to step in and prevent Sarah from regulating agriculture. They say they want to protect the nation's most productive food growing land and prevent food prices from spiraling out of control even further, but really it's about protecting Reding Reding and big-Ag business interests. Still, Sarah pushes her plan in the state legislature and calls for a vote. Public opinion to regulate agriculture is in Sarah's favor as she presents evidence that the regulations would help the cities avoid more water outages. The Governor must weigh the pros and cons of vetoing the plan should it pass. We learn that Reding has huge leverage over Webber in the form of surveillance footage showing Webber causing the death of his former assistant on the night of the earthquake.

Finally Congress prepares to vote on a plan that would end the fight over the Colorado by redistributing all of Mexico's allotment to South California, Nevada, and Arizona. On the precipice of this victory for Sarah and her team, Philip learns about an impending attack on South California's largest reservoir. Philip is able to thwart the attack, but finds out that the mastermind of these attacks is Sarah's brother, Noah, who escapes Philip's grasp. At the very end of the season finale Sarah's son Anthony is kidnapped by an unknown party.

## SEASON ONE MINOR ARCS:

- Sarah's homelife becomes more turbulent. Audrey starts dating Governor Webber's son, which becomes a huge point of conflict. Michael begins to worry about Sarah's stress and deteriorating state. Michael also finds out about Sarah's secret basement next door.
- Anthony's health issues will increase toward the end of season one, raising the stakes when he's eventually kidnapped.
- We learn more about Sarah's obsession with water, her aquaphilia, and her survivalist mentality. We learn Sarah has secretly stashed massive amounts of water for herself in case of emergency at several underground reservoirs on property she owns in the central valley.
- Ruben faces increasing financial pressures as he takes care of his extended family. With his fingertips on the controls of a vital and suddenly extremely valuable resource, Ruben will struggle all season to avoid the temptation of skimming off the top. Pleas from family members and business interests will test Ruben's loyalty and morality.
- We will discover that Philip's admiration for Sarah goes deeper, as he realizes that he may be in love with her. It will take him a long time to try and act on these feelings, which will be complicated by the fact that he knows Sarah's not telling him everything. Philip's obsession over catching the water terrorists and over his work will further strain his relationship with his daughter and ex-wife.
- We'll come to understand how agribusiness companies like Reding's have helped to create the water crisis and how they've taken advantage of the system for years and will fight tooth and nail to preserve the status quo. And we'll see how he's pulling strings with Webber.



## **SEASON TWO AND BEYOND:**

Season two begins with Sarah finding out that her brother Noah has kidnapped her son. She has to navigate the complexities of getting her son back without revealing to anyone who has him. She is forced to level somewhat with Philip about the fact that Noah is her brother, but she won't reveal everything about her past.

Meanwhile Congress passes the new Colorado River Compact that legally gives South California more water from the Colorado River, at the expense of Mexico.

But the legislature votes down Sarah's plan to regulate agriculture thanks to a media blitz by Reding.

Anthony is safely returned to Sarah by Noah. In exchanged for Anthony and his silence, Sarah agrees to provide a significant amount of water and money to the indian tribe he's married into. Emi starts to notice the diverted water and starts to lose her faith in Sarah. Emi begins to build a case against Sarah.

Michael will grow tired of teaching rich kids and will decide to become an activist for the poor and disenfranchised, which causes conflicts with Sarah's work.

A major arc will be the Water War between North California and South California. Despite the resolution of the Colorado River compact, more pressure will be put on the water system as citizens and businesses flock back to South California. Sarah and South California go to bat with her old mentor John Turner and the North. Sarah finds a way to enact her plan to take water from Lake Tahoe. She throws her old mentor Turner under the bus.

Philip finds out that Sarah covered up deaths in the flooding of Lake Hughes and feels betrayed.

Another major arc will be the battle between brother and sister and their ideology.

Eventually Michael finds out that Sarah is not actually a Mulholland and he doesn't know who she is. South California is finally stabilizing thanks to Sarah's projects, but she's lost the respect of her team and is losing her grasp on power.

Sarah finally gets her Ag regulations passed and Governor Webber decides to stand up to Reding and sign the bill into law, despite threats of being exposed. Furious, Reding exposes Webber's secret and also exposes Sarah as a fraud. Sarah is forced to resign

Michael takes the kids and he and Sarah separate. Sarah retreats back to her land and her family's old ranch, where she's stored a ton of water. Emi takes over control of the SCWC.

Eventually Sarah finds the strength to regroup, and goes to settle the score with her brother once and for all.

Sarah finally decides to face her humiliation and missteps head on as she tries to get back in with her family and get her job back. Because everyone loves a comeback. Her new idea -- create a water system that will redistribute water from Alaska and Canada across North America...

