



TREADING WATER

HOW LONG CAN WE LAST?

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO IN ASSOCIATION WITH CAL HUMANITIES PRESENTS AN ADVANCED LABORATORY FOR VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY PRODUCTION
A FILM BY JESSE DIZARD "TREADING WATER" EDITED BY MATTHEW RITENOUR CINEMATOGRAPHY BY DAN BRUNS AND MATTHEW RITENOUR TECHNICAL ADVISOR DAN BRUNS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BRIAN BRAZEAL DIRECTED BY JESSE DIZARD



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OFFICIAL PRESS KIT

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PRESS KIT

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ALVA ADVANCED
LABORATORY for
VISUAL
ANTHROPOLOGY

28 MINUTES
SHORT LENGTH | DOCUMENTARY | 2013
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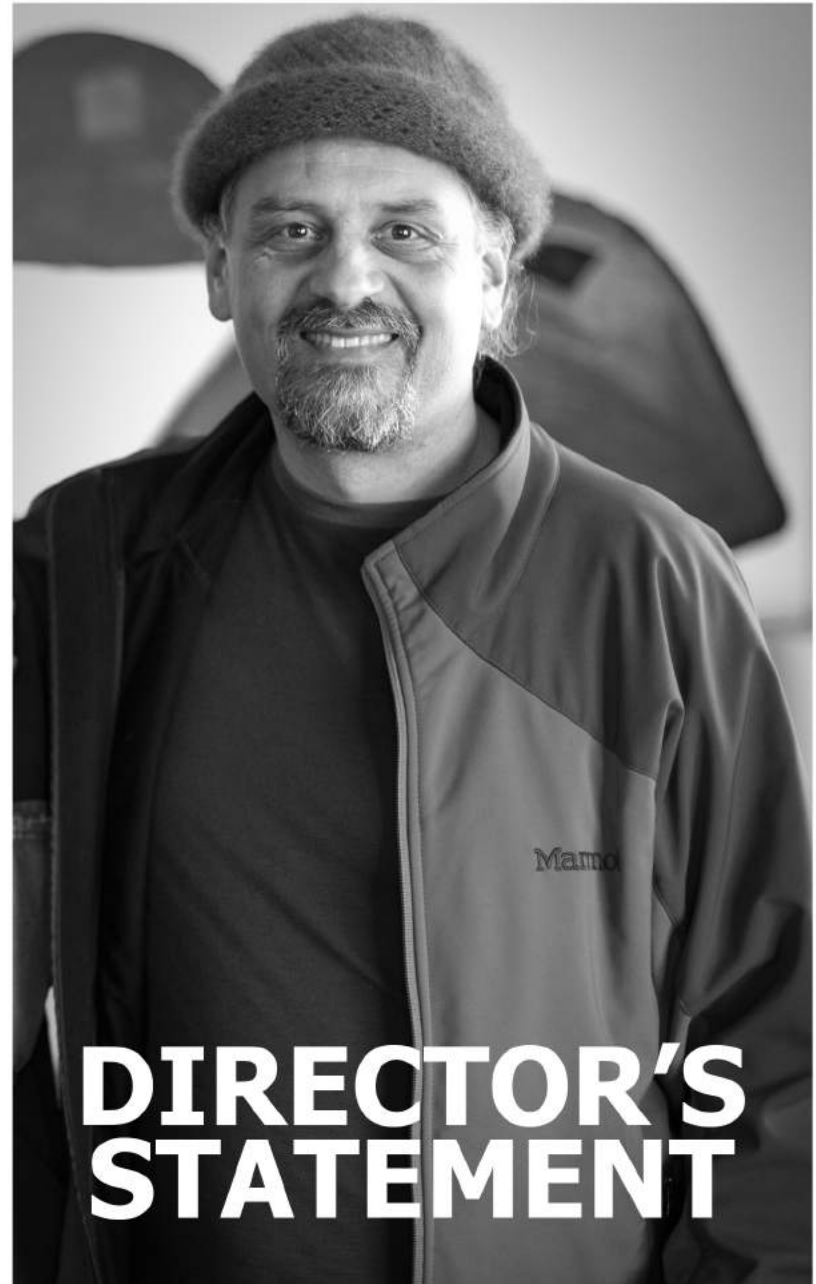
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This project evolved out of both a curiosity about all things aquatic and a conversation I had several years ago with some men, women and children who all identified themselves as California Indians, though hailing from a variety of different tribal affiliations.

If eWater is like gold as some put it, then we are in for a rude shock when and if it can no longer be found. So I set out to listen to more people and learn from them what they find most compelling and anxiety provoking when it comes to the competing demands for Northern California's most precious resource.



Jesse Dizard
Producer, Director



SYNOPSIS



Facing an uncertain future, a community confronts its reflection in the mirror of water scarcity. In the new normal of what once was the California dream, activists, commercial fishermen, farmers, local politicians and others share their anxieties and reveal their values in an effort to find common cause, if not always common ground.

Water has long been synonymous with power in the western United States and it etches a meandering, profound and inexorable story across our culture like a river cutting through the earth's crust, revealing striated layers of cultural meaning, values and identity wherever it goes. Nowhere is this more apparent than in California where shooting wars for control of water erupted less than 100 years ago, where industrial agriculture has gained dominion over America's shopping baskets, and where changes in the land have all but obliterated history.

For millions of years the Tuscan aquifer beneath the Northern Sacramento Valley has ensured that the regions in Mt. Shasta's shadow enjoyed abundance thanks to a well-watered ecosystem. Mountain and Valley Maidu people thrived here for thousands of years before the Gold Rush drew miners who used rivers first as sources of gold and later, in hydraulic mining, to scour away entire hillsides, changing the course of both rivers and history.

There is no more compelling story throughout the history of California than that of water. The Gold Rush came and went, the Oil Patches still pump away largely unnoticed, Silicon Valley burst on the scene, but has settled into a quiet hum. Water, on the other hand, has been of interest since before the earliest Spanish and Mexican ranchos, and has continued as a silvery thread throughout California's history. Struggles over water – to control it, to stop destructive flooding, to harness it for electricity and most of all to convey it to where the people are – have been a constant theme in California. Mark Twain's quip that 'Whiskey is for drinking, but water is for fighting over', succinctly captures the profound importance water has for Californians. Although the history of water, wealth and power has been told before many of the regional stories that coalesce into the broader narrative of water in California remain outside the public eye.

Recovering historical memory, restoring watersheds and wise management all go hand-in-hand. Documenting the water stories of tribes will add a new dimension to California's history and raise awareness of the necessity of making room at the public policy table for Native Americans in discussions of the region's and California's water future. With this engaging digital film, we hope to create an important historical record, as well as a space for public dialogue on the future of California's water, informed by its rich, and largely neglected past.



JESSE DIZARD
DIRECTOR

An anthropologist interested in natural resource problems and the ways individuals and bureaucracies respond to them, Jesse sought conversations with those intimately involved in their communities' local and regional public policy debates over water and its future.



BRIAN BRAZEAL
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

An award-winning filmmaker and photographer, Brian is the founder and director of the Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology where researchers use the tools of professional digital cinema.



FILM CREW

MATTHEW RITENOUR
CINEMATOGRAPHER

Matthew is an aspiring anthropologist and filmmaker at California State University, Chico. He hopes to use his technical skills to help his fellow scholars find a wider audience for their research, and for others to have their voices heard.



Q&A WITH DIRECTOR Jesse Dizard

"This project's target audiences are local, regional and statewide, because this basic story is common to many other communities throughout the state, not just Chico — and beyond, throughout the West and across this nation."

Jesse Dizard

What was your most interesting discovery about water issues while filming *Treading Water*? The most intriguing discovery this project achieved, among many other revelations, is the degree to which adversarial stakeholders actually share strikingly similar values. Yet tragically, many have yet to look beyond cultural differences and imagine a shared future of cooperation and coexistence.

Where was *Treading Water* filmed? Production took place in Butte, Glenn, Inyo, Lassen, Los Angeles, Modoc, Napa, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Siskiyou, and Tehama counties. The film's backdrop depicts the enormously diverse range of landscapes that make up the state of California.



*...all those [dammed] rivers and reservoirs satisfy only 60 percent of the demand.
The rest of the water comes from under the ground.*

Marc Reisner, "Cadillac Desert", 1986

Total Running Time - 28:05

MPAA - Not rated

Aspect Ratio - 16x9, pixel size 4K 3840x2160p

Year - 2013

Website - <http://www.csuchico.edu/alva/projects/2013/treading-water.shtml>

Production Company - The CSU, Chico

Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology

Television Standard - NTSC

Shooting Format - R3D

Sound Format - Stereo

Framerate - 23.976fps

Subtitles - English

AWARDS & CRITIC REVIEWS



IN THEIR OWN WORDS



"As late as my grandparent's time, there were people who would come and fish in this creek. Not too many fish today."

BOB HENNIGAN
CHICO, CA FARMER



"It took thousands of years for mother nature to accumulate the water in the aquifers, and we humans are pumping it out in mere decades."

ROBERT GLENNON
AUTHOR

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



"We've had some time. We should have looked at Mono Lake, the Owens Valley as a warning sign, but we don't teach that to children in school. We don't teach that kind of history."

ALI KNIGHT
MECHOOPDA TRIBE

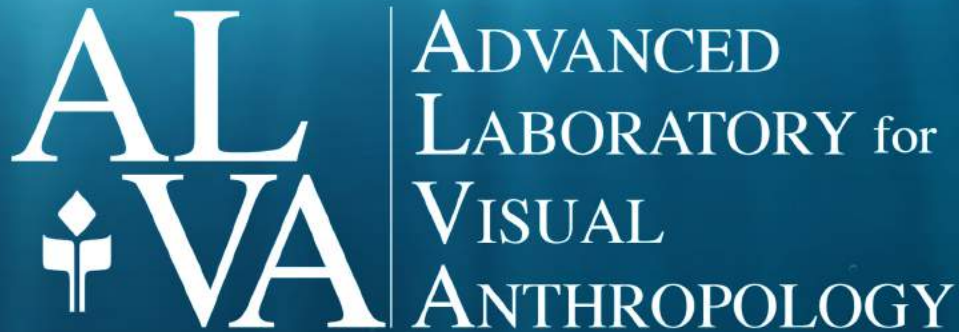


"It would really be a shame for my granddaughter to only experience what a salmon is, in an aquarium."

DUNCAN MACLEAN
SPORTS FISHERMAN

GALLERY





AN ALVA PRODUCTION 2013

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