

**Name:** Laki Tisopulos, Ph.D., P.E.  
**Title:** Executive Officer (Retired in 2022),  
**Company:** Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, California  
**City/State:** Ventura, California  
**Section:** West Coast Section  
**Join Date:** 2003

#### **Educational and Professional Credentials**

Ph.D., Chemical engineering, University of Southern California  
M.Sc., Chemical Engineering, University of Southern California  
B.S., Chemical Engineering, Technical University of Istanbul  
Professional Engineer License (CH 473), Chemical Engineering, California

#### **Biographical Summary**

Laki Tisopulos, Ph.D., P.E. is a highly motivated, energetic and results-oriented leader who has been involved in the environmental and air pollution control field for more than 35 years. He served as the Executive Officer of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District from 2019 to 2021 and as the Deputy Executive Officer and other senior and executive management positions for the South Coast Air Quality Management District from 1988 to 2019. He retired from his active public sector service in 2022 and is currently serving as an advisor, mentor, lecturer and consultant on air quality matters. The agencies he served at are the nation's premier air pollution control agencies tasked with improving air quality for more than 18 million Southern Californians. During his distinguished career, he has made numerous contributions to the air quality management and control which have brought dramatic improvements in air quality.

His body of work spans all aspects of the air quality field, including permitting, enforcement, planning, rule and policy development, outreach, budget preparation and ambient air monitoring and analysis. Of particular importance is his tireless work in developing the nation's most innovative and effective air pollution control programs, designed to improve air quality in the most challenging air-sheds and densely populated regions of the U.S.

Many of the pioneering programs that Dr. Tisopulos has worked on served as a template for and have been emulated by many other states and countries. His integrity, commitment to transparency and consensus building are among the key traits and principals guiding his work.

Dr. Tisopulos is well known and respected both nationally and internationally. He was recognized and received the Presidential Excellence and Leadership in Government Award by the Clinton Administration. He is also the proud recipient of A&WMA's S. Smith Griswold and E.R. Davis Award. He represented U.S. in India twice at the invitation of the State Department and Europe to present on air quality matters.

He is a passionate supporter of and deeply committed to the mission of the A&WMA where he has been actively involved and served in multiple capacities. He is very knowledgeable about the products and services of the Association and has exceptional team building and leadership skills.

His experience, background and qualifications coupled with his personality traits make him uniquely qualified to lead the Association and ensure that it remains the premier organization serving its members in the air quality and waste management fields at the highest possible level.

### **A&WMA Activities and Offices Held**

- A&WMA Member, 2003 to present
- A&WMA E.R. Dick Davis Award, 2019
- A&WMA S. Smith Griswold Outstanding Air Pollution Control Official Award, 2016
- A&WMA Vice President, 2013
- Director, A&WMA Board, 2011-2013
- Chair, Governance Committee, 2012 to 2013 (member since 2011)
- Member, A&WMA Finance Committee, 2012 to 2013
- Chair, A&WMA West Coast Section, 2008 – 2009
- Vice Chair, A&WMA West Coast Section, 2006 – 2007
- Board Member, A&WMA West Coast Section, 2003 to 2014
- Sponsorship Chair, 2014 International A&WMA Conference, Long Beach, CA
- Technical Program Vice Chair, 2014 International A&WMA Conference, Long Beach, CA

### **Goals/Vision for the Organization**

Tisopulos: I envision A&WMA as the premier organization dedicated to assisting its members with their professional development and decision making in the field. This vision can be accomplished by providing tangible products relevant to the current events and issues its members are facing. Such products include integrated technical and scientific information and policies that lead to sustainable practices in cleaning the air and reducing waste that could help our membership with critical decision making.

A&WMA can be highly effective and useful to its membership and enhance its pre-eminence if it immerses itself in the policy debate of current and future environmental issues and effectively communicates the outcome of such debates to its members. A&WMA can be an influential partner that provides a neutral forum that fosters an honest exchange of information and ideas between regulators, regulated community, academia and technology vendors. I strongly believe A&WMA can help shape future policies and programs as related to criteria pollutants and climate change, waste management practices and other issues relevant to its membership.

To help A&WMA reach its full potential, I believe the Association must focus on improving member benefits. Such improvement is critical to stabilizing and ultimately expanding our membership, and securing the Association's long term financial stability. The following initiatives can help accomplish this objective:

- **More Frequent and Expanded Information Exchange Venues:** As important as ACE and other specialty conferences are, A&WMA can further enhance its effectiveness and its perceived value by organizing frequent, more nimble, smaller forums of information exchange such as workshops, seminars and webinars that are focused on the professional needs of its local member units and member industries.
- **Actively Engage Local Sections and Chapters, Current and New Members:** There is tremendous talent and expertise among the ranks of our local member units that could be utilized to assist with the organization of the smaller, more frequent information exchange forums described above
- **Support and Mentor Young Professionals:** I believe A&WMA should redouble its efforts in supporting, mentoring and extending a helping hand to the next generation of young environmental professionals. To that end, I support continuing and expanding the scholarship

program, providing networking and timely information on career opportunities and arming the future problem solvers in the environmental field with the knowledge and tools to help them be successful.