



Ian James

Reporter, Arizona Republic

Ian James is a reporter with The Arizona Republic who focuses on water and the environment. He has written extensively about climate change and water scarcity in the West. He wrote an award-winning series about the problem of groundwater depletion and how it's affecting farming communities in the United States, India, Peru and Morocco. He has also written about how climate change is shrinking the mountain snowpack across the West and putting growing strains on the Colorado River.

Before joining The Arizona Republic in 2018, Ian worked for five years for The Desert Sun in Palm Springs, where he developed a specialty in explanatory and investigative reporting on water and environmental issues. He reported on air pollution, drought and local water policy in California, and helped produce a series on the shrinking Salton Sea. In one series of investigations, his reporting revealed that the U.S. Forest Service had for years allowed the bottled water maker Nestlé to pipe water out of a national forest using a permit that listed 1988 as the expiration date. In response to the stories, the Forest Service initiated a review of the company's permit.

Ian's work has won honors including an APME storytelling award, a Best of the West award for environmental reporting, three CNPA awards for environmental reporting, an American Meteorological Society science journalism award, and the Knight-Risser Prize for Western Environmental Journalism.

Ian is fluent in Spanish and previously worked for The Associated Press in Latin America, including eight years as bureau chief in Venezuela, where he covered Hugo Chávez's presidency. He also worked as a Puerto Rico-based correspondent reporting on the Caribbean.

Originally from Lafayette, California, he now lives in Phoenix.