

58th ANNUAL MID-PACIFIC WATER USERS' CONFERENCE

January 27-30, 2026

Silver Legacy, Reno, NV

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

Schedule will be updated periodically and posted on our website:

www.wateruserconference.com

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

5:00pm-7:00pm CVPWA WUC RENO RECEPTION
Rum Bullions. Hosted by Central Valley Project Water Association

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

7:30am-2:30pm REGISTRATION

8:00am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:30am-12:00pm CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL SESSION

Welcome Address

Chris Dahlstrom, Santa Ynez River WCD ID #1 (ret.)

Keynote Address

Scott Cameron, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation (virtual)

Bureau of Reclamation Regional Director Address

Adam Nickels, Acting Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation

Voices from the Field: Area Managers Unplugged

Moderated by Brooke White, CVP Water Association

Elizabeth Hadley, Northern California Area Manager

Lee Mao, Central Coast Area Manager, Acting

Rain Emerson, South Central California Area Manager

Laurie Nicoles, Lahontan Basin Area Manager, Acting

Alan Heck, Klamath Basin Area Manager

Leave your Pitchfork at the Door: The Story of the Great Valley Farm Water Partnership

Moderated by Anthea Hansen, Del Puerto Water District

Mary Hildebrand, Hildebrand Farms

Cliff Loeffler, Loeffler Farms

Russ Ryan, Metropolitan Water District

Sarah Woolf, Water Wise

Modernizing Environmental Review: CEQA, NEPA and the Future of Water Projects

Moderated by Anthea Hansen, Del Puerto Water District

Richie O'Connell, U.S. House Natural Resources Committee

Pablo Arroyave, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

James Moore, Remy Moose Manley LLP

12:15pm-2:00pm	LUNCHEON and PROGRAM
	<p>Water Under the Dome: D.C. Insights on the Legislative and Policy Currents Shaping the West</p> <p><i>Moderated by Dan Keppen, Dan Keppen & Associates</i> <i>Mark Limbaugh, The Ferguson Group</i> <i>Michael Brain, Best Best & Krieger LLP</i> <i>Garrett Durst, Natural Resources Results</i></p>
2:30pm-4:30pm	ETHICS TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR DISTRICT DIRECTORS <p><i>Brian Hughes and Sergio Rudin, Best Best & Krieger LLP. This two-hour session will fulfill California state law requirements that all public officials receive ethics training every two years.</i></p>
5:00pm-6:30pm	EXHIBITOR RECEPTION
<u>THURSDAY, JANUARY 29</u>	
7:30am-3:00pm	REGISTRATION
8:00am-9:10am	BREAKFAST and PROGRAM
	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p><i>Paul Souza, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Jennifer Quan, NOAA Fisheries</i></p>
9:15am-12:15am	GENERAL SESSION
	<p>Evolving Needs for Endangered Species and ESA Compliance</p> <p><i>Moderated by Jeff Payne, Westlands Water District</i> <i>Elizabeth Nielsen, Klamath Water Users Association</i> <i>Allison Febbo, Westlands Water District</i> <i>Brad Cavallo, Westlands Water District</i> <i>Paul Simmons, Paul Simmons LLC</i></p>
	<p>A Startling Picture: Impacts of Non-Native Fish on Salmon Recovery</p> <p><i>David Weisenberger, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District</i> <i>Dana Lee, FISHBIO</i></p>
	<p>Forest Resilience, Water Resilience: Confronting Problems and Building the Path Forward</p> <p><i>Moderated by Nadine Bailey, Family Water Alliance</i> <i>David Auchterlonie, Author</i> <i>Andy Fecko, Placer County Water Agency</i> <i>Dale MacDougall, Patriot Restoration Ops</i></p>
12:15am-2:30pm	LUNCHEON and PROGRAM
	<p>If Not Then, Why Now? California Water Storage Policy Evolution of Political and Public Perception of Storage</p> <p><i>Moderated by Brooke White, CVP Water Association</i> <i>Jason Peltier</i> <i>Ali Forsythe, Sites Project Authority</i> <i>Bill Swanson, Stantec</i></p>

Klamath's New Chapter: Leveraging Legal and Policy Developments, Advancing Solutions, and Honoring Commitments

Moderated by Elizabeth Nielsen, Klamath Water Users Association

Scott Seus, Klamath Water Users Association

Brittany Johnson, Somach Simmons & Dunn

Adam Nickels, Bureau of Reclamation

2:30pm-4:30pm

WORKSHOP: Canal Flow Rate Measurement

Stuart Styles, Cal Poly ITRC

6:00pm-9:00pm

Dinner and Bowling at the National Bowling Stadium

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

8:30am-11:30am

BREAKFAST and PROGRAM

Keynote Address

Aubrey Bettencourt, Chief, National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (invited)

Bowling Awards

Meet the Cal Poly Scholarship Students

Revisiting 2025/2026 Water Supply Outlook

Randi Fields, Central Valley Operations

Dave Felstul, Klamath Basin Area Office

Maggi Kraft, Lahontan Basin Area Office

Rufino Gonzales, South Central California Area Office