

# **58<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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**

**Water Under the Dome: D.C. Insights on the Legislative and Policy Currents  
Shaping the West**

*Moderated by Dan Keppen, Dan Keppen & Associates*

*Mark Limbaugh, The Ferguson Group*

*Michael Brain, Best Best & Krieger LLP*

*Garrett Durst, Natural Resources Results*

**2:30pm-4:30pm      ETHICS TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR DISTRICT DIRECTORS**

*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.*

**5:00pm-6:30pm      EXHIBITOR RECEPTION**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 29**

**7:30am-3:00pm      REGISTRATION**

**8:00am-9:10am      BREAKFAST and PROGRAM**

**Keynote Address**

*Paul Souza, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Jennifer Quan, NOAA Fisheries*

**9:15am-12:15am      GENERAL SESSION**

**Evolving Needs for Endangered Species and ESA Compliance**

*Moderated by Jeff Payne, Westlands Water District*

*Elizabeth Nielsen, Klamath Water Users Association*

*Allison Febbo, Westlands Water District*

*Brad Cavallo, Westlands Water District*

*Paul Simmons, Paul Simmons LLC*

**A Startling Picture: Impacts of Non-Native Fish on Salmon Recovery**

*David Weisenberger, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District*

*Dana Lee, FISHBIO*

**Forest Resilience, Water Resilience: Confronting Problems and Building the Path Forward**

*Moderated by Nadine Bailey, Family Water Alliance*

*David Auchterlonie, Author*

*Andy Fecko, Placer County Water Agency*

*Dale MacDougall, Patriot Restoration Ops*

**12:15am-2:30pm      LUNCHEON and PROGRAM**

**If Not Then, Why Now? California Water Storage Policy Evolution of Political and Public  
Perception of Storage**

*Moderated by Brooke White, CVP Water Association*

*Jason Peltier*

*Ali Forsythe, Sites Project Authority*

*Bill Swanson, Stantec*

**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*