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CONFERENCE PLANNING COORDINATOR: Sue Sims

2026

California Water Policy Conference

ADAPTING TOGETHER
Water Policy for a Changing California

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026
UC DAVIS CONFERENCE CENTER

Now in its 30th year, the California Water Policy Conference is the premier event that brings together leaders from the agricultural, urban water, state government, environmental organizations, academia, and the private sector to discuss the policies and critical issues shaping California's water future.



Morning Sessions



9:00 AM | WELCOME AND TRIBAL AKNOWLWDGEMENT

Meena Westford
Director of Imported Water,
San Diego County Water Authority



9:15 AM | ONE STATE, MANY WATERS

Dr. Karrigan Börk
UC Davis Professor of Law
Director, Center for Watershed Sciences

9:45-10:45AM | SGMA’S STRESS TEST: THE NEXT DECADE

Moderator: Alex Biering, California Farm Bureau

Rhett Anderson
Self Help Enterprises

Nataly Escobedo Garcia
Leadership Counsel for Justice
and Accountability

Paul Gosselin
CA Dept of Water Resources

Eric Quinley
Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District

11:00AM-NOON | BUILDING HEALTHY WATERSHEDS THROUGH COLLABORATIONS

Moderator: Letitia Grenier, Public Policy Institute of California

Stephen Maples
Sonoma Water

Shara Sparks
Resources Legacy Group

Willie Whittlesey
Yuba Water Agency

Afternoon Sessions

12:15-1:30PM | LUNCHEON—WATER: WHAT WE’RE MISSING

Moderator: Mike Lee, San Diego County Water Authority

A CONVERSATION WITH AWARD-WINNING JOURNALISTS:



Lois Henry
CEO and Editor,
SJV News



Camille Von Kaenel
California Environmental
Reporter, POLITICO



Tom Philp
Opinion Writer,
Sacramento Bee

1:45-2:45PM | COLORADO RIVER: CRISIS AND THE CLIMATE RECKONING

Moderator: Dee Zinke, Metropolitan Water District

Brenda Burman
Central Arizona Project

Bill Hasencamp
Metropolitan Water District

Hannah Holm
American Rivers

3:00-4:00PM | FROM AUSTERITY TO ABUNDANCE

Moderator: Tracy Hernandez, New California Coalition

Meghan Hertel
CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife

Craig Miller
Western Water

Cliff Loeffler
Friant Water Authority

Michael Rincon
Physicians for Social Responsibility