



# 2026 Conference-at-a-Glance



## 5 Session Tracks:

- » **Navigating New Currents** (Emerging Trends in CEQA and Regulatory Updates)
- » **Sandy Solutions** (Case Studies, Best Practices and Technical Studies)
- » **Building on Solid Ground** (Streamlining, Adaptation, Resilience, and Environmental Justice)
- » **Weathering the Storm** (Regional Issues and Approaches)
- » **Making Waves: Future Innovators** (Students, Emerging Professionals, and Technical Skills Development)

## 2026 California State Conference

## Conference-at-a-Glance | 1

### Thursday, April 23, 2026

2:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Conference Registration – <i>Foyer</i>				
3:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Exhibitor Set-up				
1:45 pm – 4:45 pm	Mobile Workshop #1 – <i>TBD</i>				
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<p><b><u>Navigating New Currents</u></b></p> <p>Dreading Water in Southern California: Aquatic Resource Permitting Best Practices</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Sandy Solutions</u></b></p> <p>Open Space Compass: Navigating AB 1889 and AB 1425 General Plan Compliance</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Building on Solid Ground</u></b></p> <p>From Individual Connection to Organizational Excellence: Leadership is Built in the Large and the Small</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Weathering the Storm</u></b></p> <p>AEP Climate Change – Part 1</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Making Waves</u></b></p> <p>Should I Stay or Should I Go? Navigating Career Transitions in Environmental Planning</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>
4:15 pm – 5:45 pm	<p><b><u>Navigating New Currents</u></b></p> <p>Looking Back at 10 Years of Lessons Learned in the Regulation of Commercial Cannabis in California</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Sandy Solutions</u></b></p> <p>Emerging Endangered Species in So Cal: Project Approaches &amp; Best Practices- A Consulting Biologist’s Perspective</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Building on Solid Ground</u></b></p> <p>Riding the Exemption Wave: The Ins and Outs of Common CEQA Exemptions</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Weathering the Storm</u></b></p> <p>AEP Climate Change – Part 2</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Making Waves</u></b></p> <p>Exploring Careers in Environmental Review and CEQA: Pathways, Skills &amp; Perspectives</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>
5:00 pm – 5:45 pm	New Member, 1st Timer – Welcome to AEP Session				
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Opening Reception				
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	AEP Jam Band				

### Friday, April 24, 2026

7:30 am – 6:00 pm	Registration – <i>Foyer</i>
7:30 am – 7:00 pm	Exhibits Open

7:30 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast – <i>Exhibit Area</i>				
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Opening Keynote Speaker				
Friday, April 24, 2026 (Continued)					
9:00 am – 10:30 am	<p><a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a></p> <p>Accelerating Approvals, Safeguarding Resources: Navigating the New Landscape of Wildfire Resilience Regulations</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a></p> <p>The Fast and the Federal: Steering projects through Section 106 and NEPA Clearance</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Building on Solid Ground</a></p> <p>Navigating AB 130 and SB 131: Background, Insights, and Lessons Learned</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a></p> <p>Strategies for Weathering San Diego’s Stormwater Challenges</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Making Waves</a></p> <p>‘Yes, And!’: Improv Training for Environmental Planners</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	<p><a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a></p> <p>Banking on Mitigation: Mitigation Banks and Exchanges as CEQA Mitigation</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a></p> <p>Transforming Midway: CEQA Challenges and Best Practices for a Landmark San Diego Project</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Building on Solid Ground</a></p> <p>Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation Planning for Sustainable Freight Network in the San Joaquin Valley</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a></p> <p>Bridging Safety, Mobility, and Ecology: Early Engagement and Wildlife Connectivity in the State Route 67 Highway Operational Improvements Project</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Making Waves</a></p> <p>Measuring the Immeasurable: Objectively Evaluating Subjective Topics</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>
12:15 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch – <i>TBD</i>				
2:00 pm – 4:45 pm	Mobile Workshop #2 – <i>TBD</i>				
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<p><a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a></p> <p>Building on Sands, Landing on Shores: The Reality of CEQA Streamlining</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a></p> <p>Meeting California’s Climate Goals: How to Mitigation VMT Impacts-A Case Study</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Building on Solid Ground</a></p> <p>Reaching, Keeping, and Engaging Your Audience during Big Complex Projects</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a></p> <p>From Ashes to Action: Environmental Planning and Permitting Energy Infrastructure in Post-Wildfire Southern California</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Making Waves</a></p> <p>All the World’s A Stage: The Planner’s Guide to Public Hearing Presentations</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Take a Sponsor Break – <i>Exhibit Area</i>				
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	<p><a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a></p> <p>Fire and Floods: What comes after the CEQA Exemption?</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a></p> <p>Climate Change Adaptation in Practice - A San Francisco Case Study</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Building on Solid Ground</a></p> <p>Setting Yourself Up for Streamlining Success: Tips and Tricks from the Trenches</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a></p> <p>Pathways to SB 100: Achieving Clean Energy Goals in Shifting Policy and Regulatory Environment</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Making Waves</a></p> <p>AEP Sustainability Plan and Corporate Sustainability Planning for Environmental Planning Firms</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Awards Reception – <i>Exhibit Area</i>
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	AEP 2026 Awards Program

## Saturday, April 25, 2026

8:00 am – 6:00 pm	Registration
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8:00 am – 6:30 pm	Exhibits Open
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8:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast – <i>Exhibit Area</i>
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8:00 am – 8:45 am	Keynote Speakers
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9:00 am – 10:30 am	<p><a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a></p> <p>AI in Action: Transforming Environmental Planning Through Innovation and Insight</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a></p> <p>Proof by Induction: Addressing Induced VMT, Delivering Transportation Projects, and Addressing the Housing Crisis</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Building on Solid Ground</a></p> <p>Shortcut or Path of Least Resistance? Putting CEQA Exemptions to Work for Public Works and Infrastructure Projects</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a></p> <p>Turning the Tide: Regional Waterborne Trash Solutions in Southern California</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Making Waves</a></p> <p>LIVE AEP PODCAST TAPING* The Abundance Agenda: What part does CEQA really play and why we can't have nice things</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>
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10:45 am – 12:15 pm	<p><a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a></p> <p>CEQA Law &amp; Ethics</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a></p> <p>Noise Challenges When Permitting BESS Facilities Near Existing Residential Neighborhoods</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Building on Solid Gound</a></p> <p>Planning with Purpose: Leading Complex CEQA Efforts for Long-Range Campus Development</p> <p>*mobile workshop session also*</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a></p> <p>Leveraging and elevating Regional Capacity and Collaboration across Scales- Case Studies from San Diego</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Making Waves</a></p> <p>Making Carbon Count: What's Stored, What's Sequestered, and What It Means for Your Community</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>
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12:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch at Leisure – <i>Please enjoy the many restaurants in San Diego</i>
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2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Mobile Workshop #3 – <i>TBD</i>
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2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<p><a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a></p> <p>Moving Targets: Defensible Strategies for Dynamic Project Descriptions and Baselines</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a></p> <p>Addressing Stormwater Infrastructure Wetland Mitigation Deficit by Building Mitigation for Past and Future Impacts</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Building on Solid Ground</a></p> <p>CEQA Without Tears: Turning Analysis into Community Understanding</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a></p> <p>Tijuana River Transboundary Flows- Will they ever stop?</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Making Waves</a></p> <p>A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: From the Site Plan to a Complete Project Description</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>
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3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Take a Sponsor Break – <i>Exhibit Area</i>
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**Saturday, April 25, 2026 (Continued)**

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	<p><b><u>Navigating New Currents</u></b></p> <p>Lessons from Litigation: What Koi Nation v. City of Clearlake Means for Environmental Practitioners Doing Consultation</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Sandy Solutions</u></b></p> <p>Creating Safe Shores: Insights into the California Least Tern Maintenance and Monitoring Program at San Dieguito Lagoon</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Building on Solid Ground</u></b></p> <p>Spotlight on San Diego Infrastructure: CEQA in Action</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Weathering the Storm</u></b></p> <p>Right-Sized Planning: CEQA Qualification and Other Paths to Successful Climate Action</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Making Waves</u></b></p> <p>What I Wish I Had Known About CEQA (or things they don't teach in school or CEQA Essentials)</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>
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5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Wine and Cheese Reception – <i>Exhibit Area</i>
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**Sunday, April 26, 2026**

8:30 am – 10:00 am	Registration
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Breakfast – <i>Exhibit Area</i>
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	2026 CEQA Update
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Exhibitor Teardown

