



# 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 – Foyer				
3:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Exhibitor Set-up				
1:45 pm – 4:45 pm	Mobile Workshop #1 – TBD				
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<p><b><u>Navigating New Currents</u></b> Dredging Water in Southern California: Aquatic Resource Permitting Best Practices</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><b><u>Sandy Solutions</u></b> Open Space Compass: Navigating AB 1889 and AB 1425 General Plan Compliance</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><b><u>Building on Solid Ground</u></b> From Individual Connection to Organizational Excellence: Leadership is Built in the Large and the Small</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><b><u>Weathering the Storm</u></b> AEP Climate Change – Part 1</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><b><u>Making Waves</u></b> Should I Stay or Should I Go? Navigating Career Transitions in Environmental Planning</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>
4:15 pm – 5:45 pm	<p><b><u>Navigating New Currents</u></b> Looking Back at 10 Years of Lessons Learned in the Regulation of Commercial Cannabis in California</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><b><u>Sandy Solutions</u></b> Emerging Endangered Species in So Cal: Project Approaches &amp; Best Practices- A Consulting Biologist's Perspective</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><b><u>Building on Solid Ground</u></b> Riding the Exemption Wave: The Ins and Outs of Common CEQA Exemptions</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><b><u>Weathering the Storm</u></b> AEP Climate Change – Part 2</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><b><u>Making Waves</u></b> Exploring Careers in Environmental Review and CEQA: Pathways, Skills &amp; Perspectives</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</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 – Foyer
7:30 am – 7:00 pm	Exhibits Open

7:30 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast – Exhibit Area				
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Opening Keynote Speaker				
<b>Friday, April 24, 2026 (Continued)</b>					
<b>9:00 am – 10:30 am</b>	<p><a href="#"><b>Navigating New Currents</b></a> Accelerating Approvals, Safeguarding Resources: Navigating the New Landscape of Wildfire Resilience Regulations</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Sandy Solutions</b></a> The Fast and the Federal: Steering projects through Section 106 and NEPA Clearance</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Building on Solid Ground</b></a> Navigating AB 130 and SB 131: Background, Insights, and Lessons Learned</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Weathering the Storm</b></a> Strategies for Weathering San Diego's Stormwater Challenges</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Making Waves</b></a> 'Yes, And!': Improv Training for Environmental Planners</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>
<b>10:45 am – 12:15 pm</b>	<p><a href="#"><b>Navigating New Currents</b></a> Banking on Mitigation: Mitigation Banks and Exchanges as CEQA Mitigation</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Sandy Solutions</b></a> Transforming Midway: CEQA Challenges and Best Practices for a Landmark San Diego Project</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Building on Solid Ground</b></a> Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation Planning for Sustainable Freight Network in the San Joaquin Valley</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Weathering the Storm</b></a> Bridging Safety, Mobility, and Ecology: Early Engagement and Wildlife Connectivity in the State Route 67 Highway Operational Improvements Project</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Making Waves</b></a> Measuring the Immeasurable: Objectively Evaluating Subjective Topics</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>
<b>12:15 pm – 1:45 pm</b>	<b>Lunch – TBD</b>				
<b>2:00 pm – 4:45 pm</b>	<b>Mobile Workshop #2 – TBD</b>				
<b>2:00 pm – 3:30 pm</b>	<p><a href="#"><b>Navigating New Currents</b></a> Building on Sands, Landing on Shores: The Reality of CEQA Streamlining</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Sandy Solutions</b></a> Meeting California's Climate Goals: How to Mitigation VMT Impacts-A Case Study</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Building on Solid Ground</b></a> Reaching, Keeping, and Engaging Your Audience during Big Complex Projects</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Weathering the Storm</b></a> From Ashes to Action: Environmental Planning and Permitting Energy Infrastructure in Post-Wildfire Southern California</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Making Waves</b></a> All the World's A Stage: The Planner's Guide to Public Hearing Presentations</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>
<b>3:30 pm – 4:00 pm</b>	<b>Take a Sponsor Break – Exhibit Area</b>				
<b>4:00 pm – 5:30 pm</b>	<p><a href="#"><b>Navigating New Currents</b></a> Fire and Floods: What comes after the CEQA Exemption?</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Sandy Solutions</b></a> Climate Change Adaptation in Practice - A San Francisco Case Study</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Building on Solid Ground</b></a> Setting Yourself Up for Streamlining Success: Tips and Tricks from the Trenches</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Weathering the Storm</b></a> Pathways to SB 100: Achieving Clean Energy Goals in Shifting Policy and Regulatory Environment</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Making Waves</b></a> AEP Sustainability Plan and Corporate Sustainability Planning for Environmental Planning Firms</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> Room:</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	<b>Registration</b>				
8:00 am – 6:30 pm	<b>Exhibits Open</b>				
8:00 am – 9:00 am	<b>Breakfast – Exhibit Area</b>				
8:00 am – 8:45 am	<b>Keynote Speakers</b>				
9:00 am – 10:30 am	<p><a href="#"><b>Navigating New Currents</b></a>            AI in Action: Transforming Environmental Planning Through Innovation and Insight  <b>Credits:</b>  <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Sandy Solutions</b></a>            Proof by Induction: Addressing Induced VMT, Delivering Transportation Projects, and Addressing the Housing Crisis  <b>Credits:</b>  <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Building on Solid Ground</b></a>            Shortcut or Path of Least Resistance? Putting CEQA Exemptions to Work for Public Works and Infrastructure Projects  <b>Credits:</b>  <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Weathering the Storm</b></a>            Turning the Tide: Regional Waterborne Trash Solutions in Southern California  <b>Credits:</b>  <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Making Waves</b></a>            LIVE AEP PODCAST TAPING* The Abundance Agenda: What part does CEQA really play and why we can't have nice things  <b>Credits:</b>  <b>Room:</b></p>
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	<p><a href="#"><b>Navigating New Currents</b></a>            CEQA Law &amp; Ethics  <b>Credits:</b>  <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Sandy Solutions</b></a>            Noise Challenges When Permitting BESS Facilities Near Existing Residential Neighborhoods  <b>Credits:</b>  <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Building on Solid Ground</b></a>            Planning with Purpose: Leading Complex CEQA Efforts for Long-Range Campus Development            *mobile workshop session also*  <b>Credits:</b>  <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Weathering the Storm</b></a>            Leveraging and elevating Regional Capacity and Collaboration across Scales- Case Studies from San Diego  <b>Credits:</b>  <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Making Waves</b></a>            Making Carbon Count: What's Stored, What's Sequestered, and What It Means for Your Community  <b>Credits:</b>  <b>Room:</b></p>
12:30 pm – 1:45 pm	<b>Lunch at Leisure</b> – <i>Please enjoy the many restaurants in San Diego</i>				
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<b>Mobile Workshop #3 – TBD</b>				
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<p><a href="#"><b>Navigating New Currents</b></a>            Moving Targets: Defensible Strategies for Dynamic Project Descriptions and Baselines  <b>Credits:</b>  <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Sandy Solutions</b></a>            Addressing Stormwater Infrastructure Wetland Mitigation Deficit by Building Mitigation for Past and Future Impacts  <b>Credits:</b>  <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Building on Solid Ground</b></a>            CEQA Without Tears: Turning Analysis into Community Understanding  <b>Credits:</b>  <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Weathering the Storm</b></a>            Tijuana River Transboundary Flows- Will they ever stop?  <b>Credits:</b>  <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><b>Making Waves</b></a>            A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: From the Site Plan to a Complete Project Description  <b>Credits:</b>  <b>Room:</b></p>

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

## 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

