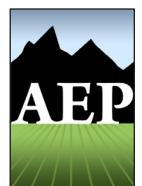




2026 Conference-at-a-Glance



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><u>Navigating New Currents</u> Dredging Water in Southern California: Aquatic Resource Permitting Best Practices Credits: Room:</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u> Open Space Compass: Navigating AB 1889 and AB 1425 General Plan Compliance Credits: Room:</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u> AEP People & Culture Credits: Room:</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u> AEP Climate Change – Part 1 Credits: Room:</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u> Should I Stay or Should I Go? Navigating Career Transitions in Environmental Planning Credits: Room:</p>
4:15 pm – 5:45 pm	<p><u>Navigating New Currents</u> Looking Back at 10 Years of Lessons Learned in the Regulation of Commercial Cannabis in California Credits: Room:</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u> Emerging Endangered Species in So Cal: Project Approaches & Best Practices- A Consulting Biologist's Perspective Credits: Room:</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u> Riding the Exemption Wave: The Ins and Outs of Common CEQA Exemptions Credits: Room:</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u> AEP Climate Change – Part 2 Credits: Room:</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u> Exploring Careers in Environmental Review and CEQA: Pathways, Skills & Perspectives Credits: 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				
Friday, April 24, 2026 (Continued)					
9:00 am – 10:30 am	<p>Navigating New Currents Accelerating Approvals, Safeguarding Resources: Navigating the New Landscape of Wildfire Resilience Regulations</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Sandy Solutions The Fast and the Federal: Steering projects through Section 106 and NEPA Clearance</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Building on Solid Ground Navigating AB 130 and SB 131: Background, Insights, and Lessons Learned</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Weathering the Storm Strategies for Weathering San Diego's Stormwater Challenges</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Making Waves 'Yes, And!': Improv Training for Environmental Planners</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	<p>Navigating New Currents Banking on Mitigation: Mitigation Banks and Exchanges as CEQA Mitigation</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Sandy Solutions Transforming Midway: CEQA Challenges and Best Practices for a Landmark San Diego Project</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Building on Solid Ground Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation Planning for Sustainable Freight Network in the San Joaquin Valley</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Weathering the Storm Bridging Safety, Mobility, and Ecology: Early Engagement and Wildlife Connectivity in the State Route 67 Highway Operational Improvements Project</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Making Waves Measuring the Immeasurable: Objectively Evaluating Subjective Topics</p> <p>Credits: Room:</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>Navigating New Currents Building on Sands, Landing on Shores: The Reality of CEQA Streamlining</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Sandy Solutions Meeting California's Climate Goals: How to Mitigation VMT Impacts-A Case Study</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Building on Solid Ground Reaching, Keeping, and Engaging Your Audience during Big Complex Projects</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Weathering the Storm From Ashes to Action: Environmental Planning and Permitting Energy Infrastructure in Post-Wildfire Southern California</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Making Waves All the World's A Stage: The Planner's Guide to Public Hearing Presentations</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Take a Sponsor Break – Exhibit Area				
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	<p>Navigating New Currents Fire and Floods: What comes after the CEQA Exemption?</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Sandy Solutions Climate Change Adaptation in Practice - A San Francisco Case Study</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Building on Solid Ground Setting Yourself Up for Streamlining Success: Tips and Tricks from the Trenches</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Weathering the Storm Pathways to SB 100: Achieving Clean Energy Goals in Shifting Policy and Regulatory Environment</p> <p>Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Making Waves AEP Sustainability Plan and Corporate Sustainability Planning for Environmental Planning Firms</p> <p>Credits: 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	Registration				
8:00 am – 6:30 pm	Exhibits Open				
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast – Exhibit Area				
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Keynote Speakers				
9:00 am – 10:30 am	<p>Navigating New Currents AI in Action: Transforming Environmental Planning Through Innovation and Insight Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Sandy Solutions Proof by Induction: Addressing Induced VMT, Delivering Transportation Projects, and Addressing the Housing Crisis Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Building on Solid Ground Shortcut or Path of Least Resistance? Putting CEQA Exemptions to Work for Public Works and Infrastructure Projects Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Weathering the Storm Turning the Tide: Regional Waterborne Trash Solutions in Southern California Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Making Waves LIVE AEP PODCAST TAPING* The Abundance Agenda: What part does CEQA really play and why we can't have nice things Credits: Room:</p>
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	<p>Navigating New Currents CEQA Law & Ethics Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Sandy Solutions Noise Challenges When Permitting BESS Facilities Near Existing Residential Neighborhoods Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Building on Solid Ground Planning with Purpose: Leading Complex CEQA Efforts for Long-Range Campus Development *mobile workshop session also* Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Weathering the Storm Leveraging and elevating Regional Capacity and Collaboration across Scales- Case Studies from San Diego Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Making Waves Making Carbon Count: What's Stored, What's Sequestered, and What It Means for Your Community Credits: Room:</p>
12:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch at Leisure – <i>Please enjoy the many restaurants in San Diego</i>				
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Mobile Workshop #3 – TBD				
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<p>Navigating New Currents Moving Targets: Defensible Strategies for Dynamic Project Descriptions and Baselines Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Sandy Solutions Addressing Stormwater Infrastructure Wetland Mitigation Deficit by Building Mitigation for Past and Future Impacts Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Building on Solid Ground CEQA Without Tears: Turning Analysis into Community Understanding Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Weathering the Storm Tijuana River Transboundary Flows- Will they ever stop? Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Making Waves A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: From the Site Plan to a Complete Project Description Credits: Room:</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><u>Navigating New Currents</u> Lessons from Litigation: What Koi Nation v. City of Clearlake Means for Environmental Practitioners Doing Consultation Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Sandy Solutions Creating Safe Shores: Insights into the California Least Tern Maintenance and Monitoring Program at San Dieguito Lagoon Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Building on Solid Ground Spotlight on San Diego Infrastructure: CEQA in Action Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Weathering the Storm Right-Sized Planning: CEQA Qualification and Other Paths to Successful Climate Action Credits: Room:</p>	<p>Making Waves What I Wish I Had Known About CEQA (or things they don't teach in school or CEQA Essentials) Credits: Room:</p>
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	<p>Wine and Cheese Reception – <i>Exhibit Area</i></p>				

Sunday, April 26, 2026

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

