



# 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	<a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a> Dreading Water in Southern California: Aquatic Resource Permitting Best Practices <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a> Open Space Compass: Navigating AB 1889 and AB 1425 General Plan Compliance <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Building on Solid Ground</a> AEP People & Culture <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a> AEP Climate Change – Part 1 <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Making Waves</a> Should I Stay or Should I Go? Navigating Career Transitions in Environmental Planning <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>
4:15 pm – 5:45 pm	<a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a> Looking Back at 10 Years of Lessons Learned in the Regulation of Commercial Cannabis in California <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a> Emerging Endangered Species in So Cal: Project Approaches & Best Practices- A Consulting Biologist's Perspective <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Building on Solid Ground</a> Riding the Exemption Wave: The Ins and Outs of Common CEQA Exemptions <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a> AEP Climate Change – Part 2 <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Making Waves</a> Exploring Careers in Environmental Review and CEQA: Pathways, Skills & Perspectives <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>
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	<a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a> Accelerating Approvals, Safeguarding Resources: Navigating the New Landscape of Wildfire Resilience Regulations  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a> The Fast and the Federal: Steering projects through Section 106 and NEPA Clearance  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Building on Solid Ground</a> Navigating AB 130 and SB 131: Background, Insights, and Lessons Learned  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a> Strategies for Weathering San Diego’s Stormwater Challenges  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Making Waves</a> ‘Yes, And!’: Improv Training for Environmental Planners  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	<a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a> Banking on Mitigation: Mitigation Banks and Exchanges as CEQA Mitigation  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a> Transforming Midway: CEQA Challenges and Best Practices for a Landmark San Diego Project  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Building on Solid Ground</a> Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation Planning for Sustainable Freight Network in the San Joaquin Valley  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a> Bridging Safety, Mobility, and Ecology: Early Engagement and Wildlife Connectivity in the State Route 67 Highway Operational Improvements Project  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Making Waves</a> Measuring the Immeasurable: Objectively Evaluating Subjective Topics  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>
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	<a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a> Building on Sands, Landing on Shores: The Reality of CEQA Streamlining  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a> Meeting California’s Climate Goals: How to Mitigation VMT Impacts-A Case Study  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Building on Solid Ground</a> Reaching, Keeping, and Engaging Your Audience during Big Complex Projects  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a> From Ashes to Action: Environmental Planning and Permitting Energy Infrastructure in Post-Wildfire Southern California  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Making Waves</a> All the World’s A Stage: The Planner’s Guide to Public Hearing Presentations  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Take a Sponsor Break – <i>Exhibit Area</i>				
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	<a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a> Fire and Floods: What comes after the CEQA Exemption?  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a> Climate Change Adaptation in Practice - A San Francisco Case Study  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Building on Solid Ground</a> Setting Yourself Up for Streamlining Success: Tips and Tricks from the Trenches  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a> Pathways to SB 100: Achieving Clean Energy Goals in Shifting Policy and Regulatory Environment  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Making Waves</a> AEP Sustainability Plan and Corporate Sustainability Planning for Environmental Planning Firms  <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Awards Reception – *Exhibit Area*

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	<a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a> AI in Action: Transforming Environmental Planning Through Innovation and Insight <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a> Proof by Induction: Addressing Induced VMT, Delivering Transportation Projects, and Addressing the Housing Crisis <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Building on Solid Ground</a> Shortcut or Path of Least Resistance? Putting CEQA Exemptions to Work for Public Works and Infrastructure Projects <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a> Turning the Tide: Regional Waterborne Trash Solutions in Southern California <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Making Waves</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>
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	<a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a> CEQA Law & Ethics <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a> Noise Challenges When Permitting BESS Facilities Near Existing Residential Neighborhoods <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Building on Solid Ground</a> Planning with Purpose: Leading Complex CEQA Efforts for Long-Range Campus Development *mobile workshop session also* <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a> Leveraging and elevating Regional Capacity and Collaboration across Scales- Case Studies from San Diego <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Making Waves</a> Making Carbon Count: What's Stored, What's Sequestered, and What It Means for Your Community <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>
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 – <i>TBD</i>				
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<a href="#">Navigating New Currents</a> Moving Targets: Defensible Strategies for Dynamic Project Descriptions and Baselines <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Sandy Solutions</a> Addressing Stormwater Infrastructure Wetland Mitigation Deficit by Building Mitigation for Past and Future Impacts <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Building on Solid Ground</a> CEQA Without Tears: Turning Analysis into Community Understanding <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Weathering the Storm</a> Tijuana River Transboundary Flows- Will they ever stop? <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>	<a href="#">Making Waves</a> A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: From the Site Plan to a Complete Project Description <b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b>

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm      **Take a Sponsor Break** – *Exhibit Area*

**Saturday, April 25, 2026 (Continued)**

<p><b>4:00 pm – 5:30 pm</b></p>	<p><u><b>Navigating New Currents</b></u></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><u><b>Sandy Solutions</b></u></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><u><b>Building on Solid Ground</b></u></p> <p>Spotlight on San Diego Infrastructure: CEQA in Action</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><u><b>Weathering the Storm</b></u></p> <p>Right-Sized Planning: CEQA Qualification and Other Paths to Successful Climate Action</p> <p><b>Credits:</b> <b>Room:</b></p>	<p><u><b>Making Waves</b></u></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** – *Exhibit Area*

**Sunday, April 26, 2026**

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

