



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>Silver Pearl Foyer</i>				
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Exhibitor Set-up – <i>Silver Pearl 1</i>				
1:45 pm – 4:45 pm	Mobile Workshop #1 – <i>Old Town: A Walk through California’s Origins</i>				
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<u>Navigating New Currents</u> Dreading Water in Southern California: Aquatic Resource Permitting Best Practices Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Tidepool 2	<u>Sandy Solutions</u> Open Space Compass: Navigating AB 1889 and AB 1425 General Plan Compliance Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Tidepool 3	<u>Building on Solid Ground</u> From Individual Connection to Organizational Excellence: Leadership is Built in the Large and the Small Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Silver Pearl 2	<u>Weathering the Storm</u> AEP Climate Change – Part 1 Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Silver Pearl 3	<u>Making Waves</u> Should I Stay or Should I Go? Navigating Career Transitions in Environmental Planning Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Tidepool 1
4:15 pm – 5:45 pm	<u>Navigating New Currents</u> Looking Back at 10 Years of Lessons Learned in the Regulation of Commercial Cannabis in California Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Tidepool 2	<u>Sandy Solutions</u> Emerging Endangered Species in So Cal: Project Approaches & Best Practices- A Consulting Biologist’s Perspective Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Tidepool 3	<u>Building on Solid Ground</u> Riding the Exemption Wave: The Ins and Outs of Common CEQA Exemptions Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Silver Pearl 2	<u>Weathering the Storm</u> AEP Climate Change – Part 2 Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Silver Pearl 3	<u>Making Waves</u> Exploring Careers in Environmental Review and CEQA: Pathways, Skills & Perspectives Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Tidepool 1
5:45 pm – 6:15 pm	New Member, 1st Timer – Welcome to AEP Session – <i>Tidepool 1</i>				
6:15 pm – 9:15 pm	Opening Reception – <i>Eventide Gardens</i>				
6:15 pm – 9:15 pm	AEP Jam Band – <i>Eventide Gardens</i>				

Friday, April 24, 2026

7:30 am – 6:00 pm	Registration – <i>Silver Pearl Foyer</i>
7:30 am – 7:00 pm	Exhibits Open – <i>Silver Pearl 1</i>

Friday, April 24, 2026 (Continued)

7:30 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast – <i>Silver Pearl 1</i>				
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Opening Keynote Speaker – <i>Ann Moore, 2026 Chair of the Board of Port Commissions of San Diego – Silver Pearl 2/3</i>				
9:00 am – 10:30 am	<p><u>Navigating New Currents</u> Accelerating Approvals, Safeguarding Resources: Navigating the New Landscape of Wildfire Resilience Regulations Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0 Room: Sandpiper AB</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u> The Fast and the Federal: Steering projects through Section 106 and NEPA Clearance Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0 Room: Sandpiper CD</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u> Navigating AB 130 and SB 131: Background, Insights, and Lessons Learned Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0 Room: Pelican</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u> Strategies for Weathering San Diego’s Stormwater Challenges Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Shorebreak</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u> ‘Yes, And!’: Improv Training for Environmental Planners Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Osprey</p>
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	<p><u>Navigating New Currents</u> Banking on Mitigation: Mitigation Banks and Exchanges as CEQA Mitigation Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0 Room: Sandpiper AB</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u> Transforming Midway: CEQA Challenges and Best Practices for a Landmark San Diego Project Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0 Room: Sandpiper CD</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u> Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation Planning for Sustainable Freight Network in the San Joaquin Valley Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Pelican</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u> Bridging Safety, Mobility, and Ecology: Early Engagement and Wildlife Connectivity in the State Route 67 Highway Operational Improvements Project Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Shorebreak</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u> Measuring the Immeasurable: Objectively Evaluating Subjective Topics Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Osprey</p>
12:15 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch – <i>Tacos with HELIX at the Park–Sponsored by HELIX Environmental Planning</i> <i>Location: Spanish Landing Park – East</i>				
2:00 pm – 4:45 pm	Mobile Workshop #2 – <i>Balboa Park - Planning for Preservation in Action</i>				
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<p><u>Navigating New Currents</u> Building on Sands, Landing on Shores: The Reality of CEQA Streamlining Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Sandpiper AB</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u> Meeting California’s Climate Goals: How to Mitigation VMT Impacts-A Case Study Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Sandpiper CD</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u> Reaching, Keeping, and Engaging Your Audience during Big Complex Projects Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Silver Pearl 3</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u> From Ashes to Action: Environmental Planning and Permitting Energy Infrastructure in Post-Wildfire Southern California Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Silver Pearl 2</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u> All the World’s A Stage: The Planner’s Guide to Public Hearing Presentations Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0 Room: Osprey</p>
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Take a Sponsor Break – <i>Silver Pearl 1 (Beverages and snacks provided by your sponsors)</i>				
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	<p><u>Navigating New Currents</u> Fire and Floods: What comes after the CEQA Exemption? Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Sandpiper AB</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u> Climate Change Adaptation in Practice - A San Francisco Case Study Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Sandpiper CD</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u> Setting Yourself Up for Streamlining Success: Tips and Tricks from the Trenches Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Pelican</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u> Pathways to SB 100: Achieving Clean Energy Goals in Shifting Policy and Regulatory Environment Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Shorebreak</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u> AEP Sustainability Plan and Corporate Sustainability Planning for Environmental Planning Firms Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Osprey</p>
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Awards Reception – <i>Silver Pearl 1</i>				
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	AEP 2026 Awards Program – <i>Silver Pearl 2/3</i>				

Saturday, April 25, 2026

8:00 am – 6:00 pm	Registration – <i>Silver Pearl Foyer</i>				
8:00 am – 6:30 pm	Exhibits Open – <i>Silver Pearl 1</i>				
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast – <i>Silver Pearl 1</i>				
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Keynote Speaker – <i>Elyse W. Lowe, Director-Development Services Department City of San Diego</i> – <i>Silver Pearl 2/3</i>				
9:00 am – 10:30 am	<p><u>Navigating New Currents</u></p> <p>AI in Action: Transforming Environmental Planning Through Innovation and Insight</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Sandpiper AB</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u></p> <p>Proof by Induction: Addressing Induced VMT, Delivering Transportation Projects, and Addressing the Housing Crisis</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Sandpiper CD</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u></p> <p>Shortcut or Path of Least Resistance? Putting CEQA Exemptions to Work for Public Works and Infrastructure Projects</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Pelican</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u></p> <p>Turning the Tide: Regional Waterborne Trash Solutions in Southern California</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Shorebreak</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u></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>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Osprey</p>
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	<p><u>Navigating New Currents</u></p> <p>CEQA Law & Ethics</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0, Ethics 1.0 Room: Sandpiper AB</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u></p> <p>Noise Challenges When Permitting BESS Facilities Near Existing Residential Neighborhoods</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Sandpiper CD</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u></p> <p>Planning with Purpose: Leading Complex CEQA Efforts for Long-Range Campus Development</p> <p>*mobile workshop session also*</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Pelican</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u></p> <p>Leveraging and elevating Regional Capacity and Collaboration across Scales- Case Studies from San Diego</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Silver Pearl 3</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u></p> <p>Making Carbon Count: What's Stored, What's Sequestered, and What It Means for Your Community</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Osprey</p>
12:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch – <i>Burgers with Baker</i> – <i>Sponsored by Michael Baker & Associates, Location: Spanish Landing Park – East</i>				
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Mobile Workshop #3 – <i>UC San Diego's Campus Transformation</i>				
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<p><u>Navigating New Currents</u></p> <p>Moving Targets: Defensible Strategies for Dynamic Project Descriptions and Baselines</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0 Room: Sandpiper AB</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u></p> <p>Addressing Stormwater Infrastructure Wetland Mitigation Deficit by Building Mitigation for Past and Future Impacts</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Sandpiper CD</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u></p> <p>CEQA Without Tears: Turning Analysis into Community Understanding</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Pelican</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u></p> <p>Tijuana River Transboundary Flows- Will they ever stop?</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Shorebreak</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u></p> <p>A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: From the Site Plan to a Complete Project Description</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0 Room: Osprey</p>
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Take a Sponsor Break – <i>Silver Pearl 1 (Beverages and snacks provided by your sponsors)</i>				

Saturday, April 25, 2026 (Continued)

<p>4:00 pm – 5:30 pm</p>	<p><u>Navigating New Currents</u> Lessons from Litigation: What Koi Nation v. City of Clearlake Means for Environmental Practitioners Doing Consultation Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0 Room: Sandpiper AB</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u> Creating Safe Shores: Insights into the California Least Tern Maintenance and Monitoring Program at San Dieguito Lagoon Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Sandpiper CD</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u> Spotlight on San Diego Infrastructure: CEQA in Action Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Pelican</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u> Right-Sized Planning: CEQA Qualification and Other Paths to Successful Climate Action Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Shorebreak</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u> What I Wish I Had Known About CEQA (or things they don't teach in school or CEQA Essentials) Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Osprey</p>
<p>5:30 pm – 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Wine and Cheese Reception – Silver Pearl 1</p>				
<p>7:00 pm – 8:00 pm</p>	<p>Exhibitor Teardown – Silver Pearl 1</p>				

Sunday, April 26, 2026

<p>8:30 am – 10:00 am</p>	<p>Registration – Silver Pearl Foyer</p>
<p>8:30 am – 9:30 am</p>	<p>Breakfast – Sandpiper Foyer</p>
<p>9:00 am – 12:00 pm</p>	<p>2026 CEQA Update – Sandpiper</p>

