



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	<p><u>Navigating New Currents</u></p> <p>Dreading Water in Southern California: Aquatic Resource Permitting Best Practices</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Tidepool 2</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u></p> <p>Open Space Compass: Navigating AB 1889 and AB 1425 General Plan Compliance</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Tidepool 3</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u></p> <p>From Individual Connection to Organizational Excellence: Leadership is Built in the Large and the Small</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Silver Pearl 2</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u></p> <p>Air Quality & Climate Change Workshop – Part 1</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Silver Pearl 3</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u></p> <p>Should I Stay or Should I Go? Navigating Career Transitions in Environmental Planning</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Tidepool 1</p>
4:15 pm – 5:45 pm	<p><u>Navigating New Currents</u></p> <p>Looking Back at 10 Years of Lessons Learned in the Regulation of Commercial Cannabis in California</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Tidepool 2</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u></p> <p>Emerging Endangered Species in So Cal: Project Approaches & Best Practices- A Consulting Biologist’s Perspective</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Tidepool 3</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u></p> <p>Riding the Exemption Wave: The Ins and Outs of Common CEQA Exemptions</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Silver Pearl 2</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u></p> <p>Air Quality & Climate Change Workshop – Part 2</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Silver Pearl 3</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u></p> <p>Exploring Careers in Environmental Review and CEQA: Pathways, Skills & Perspectives</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Tidepool 1</p>
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> – <i>Sponsored by Stantec and Placeworks. Beer and Wine sponsored by SWCA</i>				
6:15 pm – 9:15 pm	AEP Jam Band – <i>Eventide Gardens</i> – <i>Sponsored by Harris and Associates</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> – Sponsored by RECON Environmental				
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Opening Keynote Speaker – <i>Ann Moore, 2026 Chair of the Board of Port Commissions of San Diego</i> – <i>Silver Pearl 2/3</i> – Sponsored by Port of San Diego				
9:00 am – 10:30 am	<p><u>Navigating New Currents</u></p> <p>Accelerating Approvals, Safeguarding Resources: Navigating the New Landscape of Wildfire Resilience Regulations</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0 Room: Sandpiper AB</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u></p> <p>The Fast and the Federal: Steering projects through Section 106 and NEPA Clearance</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0 Room: Sandpiper CD</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u></p> <p>Navigating AB 130 and SB 131: Background, Insights, and Lessons Learned</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0 Room: Pelican</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u></p> <p>Strategies for Weathering San Diego’s Stormwater Challenges</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Shorebreak</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u></p> <p>‘Yes, And!’: Improv Training for Environmental Planners</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Osprey</p>
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	<p><u>Navigating New Currents</u></p> <p>Banking on Mitigation: Mitigation Banks and Exchanges as CEQA Mitigation</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0 Room: Sandpiper AB</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u></p> <p>Transforming Midway: CEQA Challenges and Best Practices for a Landmark San Diego Project</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0 Room: Sandpiper CD</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u></p> <p>Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation Planning for Sustainable Freight Network in the San Joaquin Valley</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Pelican</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u></p> <p>Bridging Safety, Mobility, and Ecology: Early Engagement and Wildlife Connectivity in the State Route 67 Highway Operational Improvements Project</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Shorebreak</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u></p> <p>Measuring the Immeasurable: Objectively Evaluating Subjective Topics</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Osprey</p>
12:15 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch – <i>Tacos with HELIX at the Park</i> – Location: <i>Spanish Landing Park – East</i> – Sponsored by HELIX Environmental Planning				
2:00 pm – 4:45 pm	Mobile Workshop #2 – <i>Balboa Park - Planning for Preservation in Action</i> – Sponsored by ICF				
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<p><u>Navigating New Currents</u></p> <p>Building on Sands, Landing on Shores: The Reality of CEQA Streamlining</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Sandpiper AB</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u></p> <p>Meeting California’s Climate Goals: How to Mitigation VMT Impacts-A Case Study</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Sandpiper CD</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u></p> <p>Reaching, Keeping, and Engaging Your Audience during Big Complex Projects</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Silver Pearl 3</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u></p> <p>From Ashes to Action: Environmental Planning and Permitting Energy Infrastructure in Post-Wildfire Southern California</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Silver Pearl 2</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u></p> <p>All the World’s A Stage: The Planner’s Guide to Public Hearing Presentations</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>				
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	<p><u>Navigating New Currents</u></p> <p>Fire and Floods: What comes after the CEQA Exemption?</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Sandpiper AB</p>	<p><u>Sandy Solutions</u></p> <p>Climate Change Adaptation in Practice - A San Francisco Case Study</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Sandpiper CD</p>	<p><u>Building on Solid Ground</u></p> <p>Setting Yourself Up for Streamlining Success: Tips and Tricks from the Trenches</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Pelican</p>	<p><u>Weathering the Storm</u></p> <p>Pathways to SB 100: Achieving Clean Energy Goals in Shifting Policy and Regulatory Environment</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Shorebreak</p>	<p><u>Making Waves</u></p> <p>AEP Sustainability Plan and Corporate Sustainability Planning for Environmental Planning Firms</p> <p>Credits: AICP 1.5 Room: Osprey</p>
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Awards Reception – <i>Silver Pearl 1</i> – Sponsored by RECON, Beer and Wine sponsored by Yorke Engineering				

Friday, April 24, 2026 (Continued)

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm **AEP 2026 Awards Program** – *Silver Pearl 2/3* – Sponsored by AECOM

Saturday, April 25, 2026

8:00 am – 6:00 pm **Registration** – *Silver Pearl Foyer*

8:00 am – 6:30 pm **Exhibits Open** – *Silver Pearl 1*

8:00 am – 9:00 am **Breakfast** – *Silver Pearl 1* – Sponsored by PlaceWorks and Albert A Webb & Associates

8:00 am – 8:45 am **Keynote Speaker** – *Elyse W. Lowe, Director-Development Services Department City of San Diego* – *Silver Pearl 2/3*
– Sponsored by Kimley Horn and Associates

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>
	<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 Gound</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>
12:15 pm – 1:45 pm	<p>Lunch – <i>Burgers with Baker</i> – Location: <i>Spanish Landing Park – East</i> – Sponsored by <i>Michael Baker & Associates</i></p>				
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<p>Mobile Workshop #3 – <i>UC San Diego's Campus Transformation</i> – Sponsored by <i>HELIX Environmental and UCSD</i></p>				
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>
	<p>3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Take a Sponsor Break – <i>Silver Pearl 1 (Beverages and snacks provided by your sponsors)</i></p>				

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 – Sponsored by Sapphos Environmental, Beer and Wine, Sponsored by GEI Consultants</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 – Sponsored by Kimley Horn and Associates</p>
<p>9:00 am – 12:00 pm</p>	<p>2026 CEQA Update – Sandpiper – Sponsored by PlaceWorks – Credits: AICP 3.0, MCLE 3.0</p>

