



2027 Association of Environmental Professionals Conference

Hyatt Sonoma Wine Country, Santa Rosa, CA

April 25th – 28th, 2027

Track Summaries:

Rooted in Knowledge (Case Studies, Best Practices and Technical Studies)

This track will focus on technical studies and topics necessary to support defensible CEQA documentation. This track will cover a range of typical support studies and may be supported by case studies and other real world examples. Topics may include AQ/GHG analysis, noise evaluation, biological resources, tribal concerns, water supply, agricultural conversion, wildfire, and evacuation planning.

Tending the Vines (Students, Emerging Professionals, and Technical Skills Development)

Just as a vineyard thrives through care, patience, and connection, so too do environmental professionals. This track supports students and early-career practitioners as they grow their roots in the field—nurturing the skills, experience, and confidence to flourish. Topics may include CEQA fundamentals, professional development workshops, and student-centered discussions designed to help the next generation of practitioners harvest success in the evolving landscape of environmental practice.

Through the Grapevine (Regional Issues and Approaches)

The Bay Area Chapter spans from the Bay to the border and encompasses all the landscapes in between. This session track will primarily focus on the practice and specific issues of Northern California but is open to sessions relevant to many other regions within California. Topics may include water supply and groundwater management, urban and rural development, transportation, agriculture, wildfire, community partnerships, and coastal zone. This track provides insights into innovative strategies, best practices, and collaborative approaches to addressing the complex challenges these areas face.

Cultivating Change and Harvesting Innovation (Regulatory Updates, Resiliency Planning, and Environmental Justice)

Similar to the adaptation needed to cultivate grapes in a changing climate, environmental and planning practitioners must adapt to changing regulations on both a state-wide and federal scale. This requires innovative approaches, the development of new technologies, and engagement with community members. This session track

will focus on how to understand and navigate an ever-changing regulatory climate to create an equitable future for all. Sessions will describe best practices for engaging in meaningful community outreach, developing projects to adapt to climate change, and preserving working lands and natural resources in the context of a changing regulatory landscape.

Tannins and Transformation (Crafting Strategic Environmental Processes)

Tannins provide structure, complexity, and a grippy sensation as grapes are transformed to red wine. This track will focus on planning topics and community engagement, whether urban or rural. Topics could include historic and tribal resources, disaster resiliency planning, resource production/protection, hazard mitigation, energy, general plans and CEQA streamlining/ objective design standards.

Note: *At least one speaker on your panel is required to be an AEP member in good standing.*

Please submit your abstract online:
[\(Click here to submit abstract\)](#)

For questions: Please contact, Taylor Blanford, AEP 2027 Conference Co-Chair, Subject: 2027 AEP Conference Presentations at Taylor.Blanford@kimely-horn.com or Theresa Wallace, AEP 2027 Conference Co-Chair, Subject: 2027 AEP Conference Presentations at theresa.wallace@lsa.net.

Submission Deadline: Monday, August 31, 2026

Disclaimers: Only online abstract submissions will be accepted prior to the submission deadline, August 31, 2026. No changes to your abstract will be accepted after the online submission process is finalized. Any changes/additions to speakers, including speaker bios, must be submitted prior to December 4, 2026. We are unable to accept any additional changes after 12/4/26. If your submission has not been completed by 12/4/26, your submission acceptance will be rescinded. All submissions that plan to include an interactive component must state so in the abstract.

2027 Conference Call for Presentations