



2025 Conference Call for Presentations



2025 AEP State Conference Session Track Summaries

Seeds of Change, Waves of Progress

Zachari Dunes on Mandalay Beach, Oxnard.
April 6-9, 2025

All sessions will be required to include an interactive component and tangible lessons learned/key takeaways, along with a DEI component. Interactive components may include, but would not be limited to, providing a prompt or other activity that requires participants to discuss or collaborate with other participants, asking attendees to weigh in on a topic by raising their hands, standing, or moving to certain areas in the room, and/or building in questions into the presentation to solicit input directly from the session participants.

Session Track Name: Bananas for CEQA (Emerging Trends in CEQA and Regulatory Updates)

Are you bananas for CEQA? This track focuses on expanding practitioners' CEQA foundation and knowledge. These "Bananas for CEQA" panels will address the nuts and bolts, best practices, and emerging topics- from writing the perfect mitigation measure to tiering and streamlining. Panels on this track may also discuss the nuances of project permitting requirements and any other relevant updates.

Session Track Name: Beet the Heat (Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience)

Description: Beets thrive in cool weather, but we've seen unprecedented heat waves in recent years due to climate change. This track focuses on adaptation and resilience not only for beating the heat, but also living with wildfire, planning for sea level rise, and building for flooding and landslides. Sessions will describe best practices and lessons learned for helping our communities, working lands, and natural resources adapt to changing conditions and hazards due to climate change.

Session Track Name: Harvesting Progress: Cultivating Innovation Across Fields (New Tools, Case Law, CEQA Streamlining, AI)

Description: This session track explores cutting-edge advancements and changes in the environmental field, including new approaches, technologies, and applications. Join us for an engaging discussion on the forefront of environmental innovation and discover how these novel approaches, technologies, and applications are driving positive change in the environmental sector and shaping the future of environmental planning and science.

Session Track Name: Watering the Plants, Flooding and Fields (Coastal Development, Water Supply, and Stormwater Management)

Description: "Watering the Plants, Flooding the Fields" focuses on water-related topics, including stormwater management, water supply, flood control, groundwater management, drought response and conservation, and coastal development. This track provides insights into innovative strategies, best practices, and collaborative approaches to addressing the complex challenges of coastal development, water supply, and stormwater management. Join us to explore how environmental professionals can balance development with safeguarding water quality and water resources and enhancing resilience in the face of environmental change.

Session Track Name: Tilling the Soil (Subject - Technical Studies and Best Practices)

Description: Join us as we cultivate a fertile ground of understanding and expertise in technical resource area impact analysis. This track focuses on technical resource area impact analysis and best practices related to the technical components of projects (e.g., biological resources, aesthetics, AQ/GHG, cultural resources, etc.). These sessions will provide valuable insights into preparing impact analysis for technical reports, permitting, and CEQA/NEPA documents, mitigating potential environmental risks, and adhering to regulatory standards.

Session Track Name: Growing your Expertise (Emergency Professionals, CEQA and Topic Area Basics, Technical Skill Development)

Description: Want to become a better planner, writer, CEQA/NEPA practitioner, project manager, problem solver, presenter, etc. but don't know where to start? This session track is for you! This track focuses on developing a strong foundation of practical knowledge and developing the technical skills that are crucial for success for environmental and planning professionals at any stage of their career. These sessions will include both informational presentations on how to build your expertise in a variety of environmental topics and develop technical skills as well as hands-on, interactive workshops to put your skills to the test in an engaging, collaborative environment.

Session Track Name: Students and Emerging Professionals (Growing your Expertise)

For questions: Please contact, Jacqueline Protsman Rohr, AEP 2025 Conference Co-Chair, Subject: 2025 AEP Conference Presentations to jprohr@placeworks.com

Disclaimer Clause: Only online abstracts will be accepted. No abstracts will be accepted after the deadline date. If your abstract is accepted, no changes can be made except for addition or changes to speakers and speaker bios.