



# 2026 Conference Call for Presentations



## 2026 Association of Environmental Professionals Conference – San Diego, CA Track Summaries:

### Sands to Shores - Pathways to Thriving Communities

April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

#### **Navigating New Currents** (*Emerging Trends in CEQA and Regulatory Updates*)

Are you navigating the never ending wave of CEQA? This track is dedicated to enhancing practitioners' understanding and expertise in CEQA. Sessions and presentations will delve into the essentials, best practices, and emerging topics—from the use of AI in the industry to crafting ideal mitigation measures. These sessions will also explore the intricacies of project requirements, legislative updates, and provide the latest updates relevant to CEQA.

#### **Sandy Solutions** (*Case Studies, Best Practices and Technical Studies*)

This track delves into the analysis of technical resource areas and best practices for project components such as biological resources, aesthetics, greenhouse gases, cultural resources, land use and planning, and more. These sessions will offer valuable insights into preparing impact analyses for technical reports, permitting, and CEQA/NEPA documents, as well as strategies for mitigating potential environmental impacts and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards.

#### **Building on Solid Ground** (*Streamlining, Adaptation, Resilience, and Environmental Justice*)

We as environmental and planning practitioners have a crucial responsibility to streamline development projects using adaptive practices, existing resources, and compliance with regulations. Meaningful steps include engaging with communities, fostering collaboration, resilient design, innovate technologies, and addressing environmental justice concerns to mitigate impacts effectively. This session track will focus on steps to better navigate, understand, and dismantle roadblocks to development in order to create a more equitable and resilient future for everyone. Sessions will describe best practices and lessons learned for helping our communities, working lands, and natural resources, adapting to changing conditions and hazards due to climate change, including relevant approaches given the recent and ongoing changes in the national environmental regulations.

#### **Weathering the Storm** (*Regional Issues and Approaches*)

California faces unique environmental issues due to its diverse geography, growing population, and changing climate conditions. This session track will primarily focus on the current state of the practice and specific issues plaguing San Diego and Imperial Counties but is open to sessions relevant to many other regions within California. Topics include renewable energy, water supply and groundwater management, new development, air quality, and agriculture. This track provides insights into innovative strategies, best practices, and collaborative approaches to addressing the complex challenges these counties face.

#### **Making Waves: Future Innovators** (*Students, Emerging Professionals, and Technical Skills Development*)

Aimed at fostering the next wave of innovators and honing the expertise of experienced professionals, this track emphasizes building a robust foundation of practical knowledge and technical proficiency essential for success in environmental and planning careers. Sessions will offer both informative presentations on diverse environmental subjects and skill-building techniques, alongside interactive, hands-on workshops that challenge and refine your abilities in a dynamic, collaborative setting.

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

Please submit your abstract online.

<https://mms.califaep.org/members/proposals/propselect.php?orgcode=CAEP&prid=1400091>

**For questions:** Please contact, Kelsey Hawkins, AEP 2026 Conference Co-Chair, Subject: 2026 AEP Conference Presentations at [kelsey.hawkins@weareharris.com](mailto:kelsey.hawkins@weareharris.com) or Brent Burmeister, AEP 2026 Conference Co-Chair, Subject: 2026 AEP Conference Presentations at [bburmeister@asmaffiliates.com](mailto:bburmeister@asmaffiliates.com)

**Submission Deadline: Friday, August 29, 2025**

**Disclaimers:** Only online abstract submissions will be accepted prior to the submission deadline, August 29, 2025. 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 5, 2025. We are unable to accept any additional changes after 12/5/25. If your submission has not been completed by 12/5/25, your submission acceptance will be rescinded. All submissions that plan to include an interactive component must state so in the abstract.