

2026 AEP Conference Award Recipients

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS DOCUMENT – OUTSTANDING

Title: Santa Rosa General Plan 2050 EIR

Award Recipient: City of Santa Rosa and PlaceWorks

Individual(s) accepting the award: Vivian Kha (vkha@placeworks.com)

Project Description: The Program EIR evaluated the Santa Rosa General Plan 2050, Santa Rosa City Code amendments, and Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy addressing affordable and equitable housing opportunity, social inequities, tribal cultural resources, resiliency to natural and human-cause hazards, and GHG emissions reductions to facilitate streamlining of future projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS DOCUMENT – MERIT

Title: Department of Parks and Recreation Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan Update EIR

Award Recipient: California State Parks and AECOM

Individual(s) accepting the award: Katie Metraux (katie.metraux@parks.ca.gov); Valarie Yruretagoyena (Valarie.yruretagoyena@aecom.com); Danny DeBrito (danny.debrito@aecom.com)

Project Description: The General Plan Update establishes the long-range purpose and vision for Hungry Valley SVRA and updates the 1981 General Plan. A programmatic EIR was prepared to analyze the environmental effects of General Plan implementation over the next several decades.

Title: Department of Cannabis Control Licensing of Commercial Cannabis Cultivation in Mendocino County Project EIR

Award Recipients: California Department of Cannabis Control and Ascent

Individual(s) accepting the award: Kirsten Burrowes (Kirsten.Burrowes@ascent.inc) and Kevin Pounce (kevin.pounce@cannabis.ca.gov)

Project Description: The Licensing of Commercial Cannabis Cultivation in Mendocino County Project EIR evaluated transitioning existing provisionally licensed commercial cannabis cultivation sites to annual licenses under the California Department of Cannabis Control and considered future annual licensing actions, including issuing new licenses for future cultivation in Mendocino County's unincorporated areas.

Title: Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project Environmental Impact Report

Award Recipient: City and County of San Francisco and ESA

Individual(s) accepting the award: Julie Moore, San Francisco Planning Department, julie.moore@sfgov.org; Allison Chan, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, ALChan@sfwater.org; Elijah Davidian, ESA, edavidian@esassoc.com; Karen Lancelle Divita, ESA, klancelle@esassoc.com

Project Description: To comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) the City and County of San Francisco prepared an environmental impact report for the Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project, which proposes a coastal adaptation and sea level rise resiliency project to protect city infrastructure and enhance coastal access and habitat. Key project components include: coastal

highway removal; building a buried seawall; adding trails, beach access, parking, and restrooms; and ongoing sand replenishment.

Title: Related Bristol Specific Plan Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Report

Award Recipient: City of Santa Ana and EPD Solutions

Individual(s) accepting the award: Ali Pezeshkpour (apezeshkpour@santa-ana.org) and Konnie Dobrev (Konnie@epdsolutions.com)

Project Description: The Related Bristol Specific Plan Supplemental Environmental Impact Report serves as a programmatic planning document that reflects the City of Santa Ana's ongoing commitment to sustainable urban development and responsible resource management. The Supplemental EIR builds upon prior environmental analyses of the City of Santa Ana General Plan EIR to address current regulatory requirements and updated project conditions within the Specific Plan Area.

Title: City of San Diego Midway Rising Specific Plan Subsequent EIR

Award Recipient: City of San Diego and City and Harris & Associates

Individual(s) accepting the award: Kelsey Hawkins, Harris & Associates, Kelsey.Hawkins@weareharris.com and Elizabeth Shearer-Nguyen, City of San Diego Development Services Department, EShearer@sandiego.gov

Project Description: The Midway Rising Specific Plan would involve the redevelopment of the existing San Diego International Sports Arena in the Midway District in the City of San Diego to a pedestrian- and transit-oriented mixed-use entertainment destination. Redevelopment includes up to 4,254 housing units, including up to 2,000 affordable units, parks and public space, a 16,000-seat multi-purpose entertainment center, and 130,000 square feet of commercial and restaurant uses. The Subsequent EIR evaluated in detail the potential for impacts to 14 resource areas in line with the previous Midway-Pacific Highway Community Plan Update EIR.

Title: UC San Diego Update to the 2018 Long Range Development Plan Subsequent EIR

Award Recipient: University of California, San Diego and HELIX Environmental Planning

Individual(s) accepting the award: Lauren Lievers (llievers@ucsd.edu), Robert Clossin (rclossin@ucsd.edu), Alison Buckley (abuckley@ucsd.edu), Vanessa Toscano (vanessab@helixepi.com), Joanne Dramko (joanned@helixepi.com), Jason Runyan (jasonr@helixepi.com), Victor Ortiz (victoro@helixepi.com), Shelby Bocks (shelbyb@helixepi.com)

Project Description: The 2025 Update to the UC San Diego 2018 Long Range Development Plan guides campus development through 2040 by accommodating projected population growth and expanded programming. The Subsequent EIR supports continued CEQA streamlining for future projects while updating environmental analysis and mitigation measures and aligning with current sustainability and decarbonization policies.

CHAPTER ACTIVITY – OUTSTANDING

Title: Annual Kick-Off Event

Award Recipients: AEP Channel Counties Chapter

Individual(s) accepting the award: Haley Kolosieke (haleykolosieke@gmail.com) and Brandi Cummings (Brandi.Cummings@swca.com)

Project Description: This cornerstone event builds a strong professional network of environmental professionals across the Central Coast. Through interactive icebreakers and presentations from distinguished guest speakers, the Kick-Off promotes programming, professional development, student engagement, and serves as a meaningful component of AEP membership.

CHAPTER ACTIVITY – MERIT

Title: A LOSSAN Walk and Talk with SANDAG, and AEP/WTS Joint Event

Award Recipient: AEP San Diego Chapter

Individual(s) accepting the award: Jordan Werkmeister, Hannah Arkin (Jordan.werkmeister@psomas.com; Hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com)

Project Description: This cross-organizational event was executed by the San Diego Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) and Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS), in coordination with SANDAG. The event provided attendees with the opportunity to learn about SANDAG’s LOSSAN Rail Realignment Project while hiking along Torrey Pines State Beach. This approximately four-mile round-trip walk included discussions on bluff stabilization efforts and alignment alternatives for the LOSSAN Project. Along the route, participants learned about critical bluff stabilization efforts and explored various alignment alternatives being considered to protect and enhance the coastal rail corridor. These discussions were led by experts from SANDAG and environmental planners working on the Project’s CEQA/NEPA effort, providing valuable insights into the environmental review process, regulatory considerations, and long-term sustainability goals.

CLIMATE CHANGE DOCUMENT – MERIT

Title: Yolo County Climate Action & Adaptation Plan

Award Recipient: County of Yolo and Dudek

Individual(s) accepting the award: Jennifer Reed (Dudek, jreed@dudek.com) and Sarah Halterman (Dudek, shalterman@dudek.com)

Project Description: The Yolo County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) is a community-driven roadmap to achieve deep greenhouse gas reductions, enhance climate resilience, and advance an equitable transition for all community members. Developed through extensive public engagement, the CAAP integrates mitigation and adaptation strategies with a regional Natural and Working Lands carbon sequestration analysis that leverages local conservation, agricultural partnerships, and nature-based solutions to achieve net-negative emissions.

CLIMATE CHANGE DOCUMENT – MERIT

Title: City of San Diego Coastal Resilience Master Plan

Award Recipient: City of San Diego, Harris & Associates, GHD, and Citythinkers

Individual(s) accepting the award: Julia Chase (ChaseJ@sandiego.gov); Sydnie Margallo (sydnie.margallo@weareharris.com); Darin Neufeld (darin.neufeld@weareharris.com)

Project Description: The City of San Diego prepared a Coastal Resilience Master Plan to identify specific resilience and conservation needs along the coastline and develop a portfolio of nature-based solutions based on a combination of best available science for sea level rise and coastal flooding projections and community and stakeholder engagement. The plan is intended to promote resilience, protect critical coastal habitats, support coastal access, and protect the City against the effects of climate change, in accordance with Climate Resilient SD, the City's adaptation and resilience plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE DOCUMENT – OUTSTANDING

Title: *Transmission Corridor and Substation Planning Evaluation: Humboldt Wind Energy Area*

Award Recipients: California Energy Commission and Aspen Environmental Group

Individual(s) accepting the award: Susan Lee (SLee@aspenerg.com) and Vida Strong (VStrong@aspenerg.com)

Project Description: This study presents a comparative evaluation of transmission corridors and substation sites to connect offshore wind energy from the Humboldt Wind Energy Area with California's grid. It integrates environmental, cultural, and land-use data to provide a replicable framework for early-stage infrastructure planning and stakeholder-informed decisionmaking.

PLANNING DOCUMENT – OUTSTANDING

Title: *City of Marysville Downtown Specific Plan*

Award Recipient: City of Marysville and AECOM

Individual(s) accepting the award: Accepting on behalf of Marysville: Kathy Pease, AICP kpease@masfirm.com and Mary Nooristani from AECOM mary.nooristani@aecom.com

Project Description: The Marysville Downtown Specific Plan revitalizes its historic core with a vibrant, walkable vision. Anchored in the 2050 General Plan, it blends heritage preservation, sustainable policies, and inclusive engagement to foster economic resilience and urban design excellence—setting a benchmark for small-city downtown transformation. It increases housing choices by identifying new capacity for over 1,000 infill residential units to support walkability and economic development.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION PROGRAM – OUTSTANDING

Title: *Department of Parks and Recreation Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area*

Award Recipient: California State Parks and AECOM

Individual(s) accepting the award: Katie Metraux (katie.metraux@parks.ca.gov); Valarie Yruretagoyena (Valarie.yruretagoyena@aecom.com); Danny DeBrito (danny.debrito@aecom.com)

Project Description: The General Plan Update establishes the long-range purpose and vision for Hungry Valley SVRA and updates the 1981 General Plan. The General Plan Update includes six land use areas in the park for management purposes and identifies improvements to facilities, access and circulation, camping, recreation opportunities, and amenities.

AL REYNOLDS MEMORIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Award Recipient: Gary Jakobs

Description: Throughout his 40+ year career, Gary has served as a leader of advanced CEQA instruction and legislative review for AEP, an executive motivating success in major environmental consulting firms, a mentor helping scores of environmental professionals, a director of numerous complicated and important environmental projects, and a friend to us all in the industry. For AEP, Gary has been a key leader and innovator of advanced professional education and a major contributor to multiple important programs. In the association's legislative review activities, he served for years as a member of the AEP Legislative Review Committee and, most notably, as a Core Group member of the 2011 Enhanced CEQA Action Team (ECAT) helping prepare an extensive catalog of actual bill language options for common-sense CEQA enhancements. Over many years, Gary volunteered to be an instructor in Basic CEQA Workshops, Advanced CEQA Workshops, and AEP State Conference sessions. His most important and impactful leadership role has been serving as the Curriculum Director for the AEP Advanced CEQA Workshops, which involved bringing together and coordinating a score of AEP CEQA experts to prepare curriculum tailored to the year's critical environmental topics. The annual spring workshops require months of preparation, review, and quality assurance from September through February. His tenure as Curriculum Director spanned 15 years from 2007 through 2022, during which time attendance at the workshops more than doubled