

MUNICIPAL WATER LEADERS WORKSHOP

“Elevating Your Leadership Skills”

Sponsored by *Municipal Water Leader* magazine
Palm Springs Club
265 Via Altamira
Palm Springs, CA 92262
March 11-13, 2025
(January 31, 2025 DRAFT)

TUESDAY, March 11

5:00–6:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception**
Palm Springs Club
265 Via Altamira
Palm Springs, CA 92262

6:00-8:00 p.m. **Networking Dinner**
El Mirasol
266 E Via Altamira
Palm Springs, CA 92262

WEDNESDAY, March 12

7:30 a.m. **Networking Continental Breakfast and Coffee**
Palm Springs Club
265 Via Altamira
Palm Springs, CA 92262

7:50 a.m. **Welcome:** Kris Polly
 Irrigation Leader magazine

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions and Opening Comments

8:00 a.m. **Water and the History of Palm Springs**
Speaker: Tom Kieley
 Risk Manager
 Agua Caliente Tribe

8:30 a.m. **Management Lessons and Insights**
Speakers: Jeff Kightlinger
 Former General Manager
 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Brenda Burman (Invited)
General Manager
Central Arizona Project

10:00 a.m.

Networking Break

10:30 a.m.

Media and Communications Training

Speaker: Keith Yaskin
The Flip Side Communications

Employee Communications

Speaker: Loren Yaskin
The Flip Side Communications

12:00 p.m.

Networking Luncheon

Organized Crime in Palm Springs

Speaker: Jim Cioffi
Cioffi Architecture

1:00 p.m.

AI Pipe Inspections: Accelerating work, Reducing costs

Speaker: Matthew Rosenthal
CEO

Billy Gilmartin
CRO
Sewer AI

1:30 p.m.

Recognizing Employees Through Certification

Speaker: Paul D. Bishop, CAE
President and CEO
Water Professionals International

2:00 p.m.

Navigating the Leadership Labyrinth

Speaker: Jennifer Persike
Jennifer Persike & Co.

3:00 p.m.

Ice Cream and Desert Break

3:30 p.m.

The Clean Water Act and the Implications for Post-Sackett, Loper Bright (Chevron), and Corner Post Decisions

Speaker: Damien Schiff
Senior Attorney
Pacific Legal Foundation

4:00 p.m.

Navigating Major Capital Improvement Projects

Speaker: Rick Reinders (Invited)
Co-CEO
Watertronics

Martin Dana (Invited)
CEO
Hobas Pipe

Robert Boling (Invited)
Global Director for Water Resource Management
HDR

5:00 p.m.

Networking Reception

THURSDAY, March 13

7:30 a.m.

Networking Continental Breakfast and Coffee

Palm Springs Club
265 Via Altamira
Palm Springs, CA 92262

7:55 a.m.

Welcome: Kris Polly
Irrigation Leader magazine

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

8:00 a.m.

Successful Congressional Meetings

Speakers: Kris Polly
President and CEO
Water Strategies, LLC

Victoria Llord (Invited)
Director of Public Affairs & Conservation
Desert Water Agency

Drake Wood
Senior Legislative Assistant
Water Strategies, LLC

8:30 a.m.

Think Politically, But Do Not Be Political

Speakers: Jeff Kightlinger
Former General Manager
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Brenda Burman (Invited)

General Manager
Central Arizona Project

Sandy Fabritz (Invited)
Director of Water Strategy
Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.

Stan Barnes (Invited)
CEO
Copper State Consulting Group

10:00 a.m.

Networking Break

10:30 a.m.

How to Communicate with your Board of Directors

Speaker: Jeff Kightlinger
Former General Manager
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

11:00 a.m.

Being The Ideal Board Member

Speakers: Kristin Bloomer (Invited)
Secretary-Treasurer
Desert Water Agency

12:00 p.m.

Lunch

An Overview of the Desert Water Agency

Speaker: Ester Saenz (Invited)
Finance Director
Desert Water Agency

1:00 p.m.

Bus departs for Desert Water Agency Facilities Tour

1200 S Gene Autry Trail
Palm Springs, CA 92264

4:00 p.m.

Bus departs for Frey House II Tour

686 Palisades Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92262

6:00 p.m.

Networking Reception

High Bar
Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs Hotel
100 W Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262

(Note: The bus will deliver people to the final reception and not return to the Palm Springs Club. Options for returning to the Palm Springs Club or your respective hotel include taxi and Uber services.)