

MUNICIPAL WATER LEADERS WORKSHOP

Sponsored by *Municipal Water Leader* magazine

Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs Hotel

100 W Tahquitz Canyon Way

Palm Springs, CA 92262

March 30-31, 2026

(February 10, 2026 DRAFT)

Monday, March 30

6:00 p.m.

Welcome Dinner

Location TBD

Tuesday, March 31

7:30 a.m.

Networking Continental Breakfast and Coffee

7:50 a.m.

Welcome: Kris Polly

Municipal Water Leader magazine

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions and Opening Comments

8:00 a.m.

Colorado River Post-2026 Guidelines Explained

Speaker: Kristen Johnson

Colorado River Programs Manager

Arizona Department of Water Resources

8:30 a.m.

PFAS and Other Emerging Contaminants

Speaker: Ana Schwab (Invited)

Partner

Best, Best, Krieger

9:00 a.m.

Navigating the Grant Funding Landscape

Speaker: Cheryl Kester

Grant Strategist

Dig Deep Research

9:30 a.m.

Making Conservation a California Way of Life

Speaker: TBD

10:00 a.m.

Networking Break

10:30 a.m.

Arizona's WIFA: Financing New Water in the West

Speakers: Jason Phillips

Vice President, Water Business Group

HDR

Chelsea McGuire

Director

Arizona Water Infrastructure finance Authority

- 11:30 a.m. **Priority Issues for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**
Speaker: Shivaji Deshmukh (Invited)
General Manager
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- 12:00 p.m. **Networking Luncheon**
TBD
Speaker: Former Secretary David Bernhardt (Invited)
Founder and Chairman
The Bernhardt Group
- 1:30 p.m. **Association of State Drinking Water Administrators' Key Issues**
Speaker: Anthony DeRosa (Invited)
Executive Director
Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
- 2:00 p.m. **Navigating Innovative Infrastructure Projects**
Speaker: David Gadis (Invited)
Chief Executive Officer
DC Water
- 2:30 p.m. **Public Relations and Communications**
Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Korfiatis (Invited)
Jennifer Korfiatis Marketing
- 3:00 p.m. **Networking Break**
- 3:30 p.m. **Supporting Special Districts**
Speaker: Cole Karr (Invited)
Federal Advocacy Director
National Special Districts Coalition
- 4:00 p.m. **Desalination and Intrastate Water Transfers**
Speakers: Sandy Fabritz
Director of Water Strategy
Freeport McMoRan

Meena Westford
Director of Imported Water
San Diego County Water Authority

Leslie Meyers
Chief Water Executive
Salt River Project
- 5:00 p.m. **Networking Reception**

Location TBD