

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