

## 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 17, 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: Mr. Kevin Letterly  
Government Affairs Manager  
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