

## **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.	<b>Priority Issues for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</b> Speaker: Shivaji Deshmukh (Invited) General Manager Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
12:00 p.m.	<b>Networking Luncheon</b> <b>TBD</b> Speaker: Former Secretary David Bernhardt (Invited) Founder and Chairman The Bernhardt Group
1:30 p.m.	<b>Association of State Drinking Water Administrators' Key Issues</b> Speaker: Mr. Kevin Letterly Government Affairs Manager Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
2:00 p.m.	<b>Navigating Innovative Infrastructure Projects</b> Speaker: David Gadis (Invited) Chief Executive Officer DC Water
2:30 p.m.	<b>Public Relations and Communications</b> Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Korfiatis (Invited) Jennifer Korfiatis Marketing
3:00 p.m.	<b>Networking Break</b>
3:30 p.m.	<b>Supporting Special Districts</b> Speaker: Cole Karr (Invited) Federal Advocacy Director National Special Districts Coalition
4:00 p.m.	<b>Desalination and Intrastate Water Transfers</b> 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.	<b>Networking Reception</b>

Location TBD