

## 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 27, 2026 DRAFT)**

### **Monday, March 30**

6:00 p.m.                    **Welcome Dinner**  
Eight4Nine  
849 Palm Canyon Dr  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

### **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:            Ms. Kristen Johnson  
Colorado River Programs Manager  
Arizona Department of Water Resources

8:30 a.m.                    **PFAS and Other Emerging Contaminants**  
Speaker:            Ms. Ana Schwab (Invited)  
Partner  
Best, Best, Krieger

9:00 a.m.                    **Navigating the Grant Funding Landscape**  
Speaker:            Ms. 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:            Mr. Jason Phillips  
Vice President, Water Business Group  
HDR

Ms. Chelsea McGuire  
Director  
Arizona Water Infrastructure Finance Authority

11:30 a.m. **Priority Issues for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**

Speaker: Mr. 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: Ms. Rachel Murphy (Invited)  
General Manager  
Contra Costa Water District

2:30 p.m. **Public Relations and Communications**

Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Korfiatis (Invited)  
Jennifer Korfiatis Marketing

2:45 p.m. **Networking Break**

3:00 p.m. **Modern Tools for Western Water Challenges**

Speakers: Mr. Chuck Hansen  
Chairman & CEO  
Electro Scan Inc.

Mr. Augustus Doricko (Invited)  
CEO  
Rainmaker

Mr. Mike Echols (Invited)  
CEO  
Wildfire Water Solutions

4:00 p.m. **Desalination and Intrastate Water Transfers**

Speakers: Ms. Sandy Fabritz  
Director of Water Strategy  
Freeport McMoRan

Ms. Meena Westford  
Director of Imported Water  
San Diego County Water Authority

Ms. Leslie Meyers  
Chief Water Executive  
Salt River Project

5:00 p.m.

**Networking Reception**  
Location TBD