

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

(March 11, 2026 DRAFT)

Monday, March 30

5:30 p.m.

Pre-Dinner Cocktail

Jacinto Room (Rooftop)

Kimpton Palm Springs, CA 92262

Rowan Palm Springs Hotel

6:00 p.m.

Welcome Dinner Sponsored By SePRO

Private Dinner

Jacinto Room (Rooftop)

Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs Hotel

Palm Springs, CA 92262

Tuesday, March 31

7:30 a.m.

Networking Continental Breakfast and Coffee

Sky Foyer (2nd Floor)

Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs Hotel

Palm Springs, CA 92262

7:50 a.m.

Welcome: Mr. Kris Polly

Sky Ballroom (2nd Floor)

Municipal Water Leader magazine

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions and Opening Comments

Moderator: Mr. Jeff Kightlinger

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.

Administrative Update: Colorado River

Speaker: Ms. Linnea Melbye

Senior Advisor

Bureau of Reclamation

9:00 a.m.

Making Conservation a California Way of Life

Speaker: Ms. Chelsea Haines

Director of State Regulatory Relations

Association of California Water Agencies

- 9:30 p.m. **Policy Priorities of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators**
Speaker: Mr. Kevin Letterly
 Government Affairs Manager
 Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
- 10:00 a.m. **Networking Break Sponsored By Wildfire Water Solutions**
Sky Foyer (2nd Floor)
- 10:30 a.m. **Navigating the Grant Funding Landscape**
Speaker: Ms. Cheryl Kester
 Grant Strategist
 Dig Deep Research
- 11:00 a.m. **Arizona’s WIFA: Financing New Water in the West**
Speakers: Ms. Chelsea McGuire
 Director
 Arizona Water Infrastructure Finance Authority

 Mr. Jason Phillips
 Vice President, Water Business Group
 HDR
- 11:30 a.m. **Navigating Innovative Infrastructure Projects**
Speaker: Mr. David Gadis
 CEO and General Manager
 DC Water
- 12:00 p.m. **Networking Luncheon**
Four Saints (Rooftop)
- 1:30 p.m. **An Invasive Threat: Golden Mussels and California’s Municipal Water Future**
Sky Ballroom (2nd Floor)
Speaker: Ms. Aspen Keynon
 Western Territory Manager
 ClearChannelVM
- 2:00 p.m. **Modern Tools for Western Water Challenges**
Speakers: Mr. Chuck Hansen
 Chairman & CEO
 Electro Scan Inc.

 Mr. Augustus Doricko
 CEO
 Rainmaker

 Mr. Mike Echols

CEO
Wildfire Water Solutions

3:00 p.m.

Networking Break
Sky Foyer (2nd Floor)

3:30 p.m.

Priority Issues for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Speaker: TBD

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
Lobby Bar (Ground Floor)
Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs Hotel
Palm Springs, CA 92262