

ACWA REGION 9 BOARD MEETING

June 12, 2026 | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Zoom Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

- | | | |
|------|---|---------------------------------|
| I. | Call to Order and Welcome | Joseph Grindstaff, Chair |
| II. | ACWA Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision for Our Water Future • Priority Issues • Executive Edge | Michael Cervantes |
| III. | Spring Conference Program Recap | Cervantes/Board |
| IV. | Projects of Statewide Significance Task Force | Cervantes/Board |
| V. | Region 9 Event Update/Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Agenda Overview • Speakers • Topics • Sponsorships • ACWA JPIA | Cervantes/Board |
| VI. | Review Committee Reporter Vacancies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Management • Communications | Cervantes/Board |
| VII. | Additional Discussion Items | All |

Meeting Packet

- 2026- 27 Region 9 Committee Member Roster
- 2026-'27 Region 9 Committee Reporter & Outreach Captain Roster
- 2026- 27 Region 9 Work Plan
- June Priority Issues
- June Regulatory Roundup
- Executive Edge Flyer
- Region 9 Event Agenda
- Region 9 Sponsorship Form

REGION 9 BOARD 2026-'27

Chair

Joseph Grindstaff, Eastern Municipal Water District

Vice Chair

Paul Ortega
Desert Water Agency

Board Members

Brenda Dennstedt
Western Municipal Water District

Russ Martin, Mission Springs Water District

James Morales, Jr.
East Valley Water District

G. Patrick O'Dowd
Salton Sea Authority

Harvey R. Ryan
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

ACWA UPDATE ON PRIORITY ISSUES

A high-level look at recent ACWA activity and initiatives.



JUNE 2026

Vision for Our Water Future

Momentum for ACWA's Vision for Our Water Future initiative continues to grow with more than 30 member agencies and other partners officially showing support. The member-driven Vision is a framework centered on four priority actions and a set of recommendations to elevate water with gubernatorial candidates and advance a unified policy agenda for safe, reliable, and affordable water. Three specialized working groups have started meeting to guide the development of the recommendations by the end of the year. ACWA also distributed new tools as part of the member [toolkit](#) to help agencies support and amplify this important initiative. More information is available at acwa.com/vision.

STAFF CONTACT

Chelsea Haines
*Director of State
Regulatory Relations*
chelseah@acwa.com

[Download Toolkit](#)

Wildfire Preparedness Bills

ACWA-sponsored [SB 1153](#) (Caballero) passed out of the Senate and is currently in the Assembly waiting to be referred to committee. The bill would clarify the limited role of public water systems during wildfires while strengthening emergency preparedness in high-risk areas. It would also establish that limitations in water supply or pressure during a wildfire are not a substantial cause of damages, clarify that wildfire spread is not an inherent risk of public water system design or operation and require certain urban water suppliers to include wildfire response procedures in their emergency response plans. More information and a [link](#) to join ACWA's coalition are available in an Advisory at acwa.com/notifications.

STAFF CONTACT

Kylie Wright
*State Relations
Advocate*
kyliew@acwa.com

[Join the Coalition](#)

AB 2180 – Proposition 218 Rate Setting Bill

ACWA-sponsored AB 2180 (Ward) passed out of the Assembly and is scheduled for a June 10 hearing before the Senate Local Government Committee. The bill would clarify how water agencies comply with Proposition 218 when setting water rates. This clarification will provide predictability for agencies, support California's water-use conservation goals and help minimize unnecessary legal disputes over water rates. The bill would codify the framework established in *Dreher v. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power* and affirm that water system costs may be allocated using reasonable methodologies and available data without determining exact costs for each parcel. More details and a [link](#) to join ACWA's coalition are available in an Advisory distributed to members in April available at acwa.com/notifications.

STAFF CONTACT

Soren Nelson
*Senior State Relations
Advocate*
sorenn@acwa.com

[Join the Coalition](#)

Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program

Gov. Gavin Newsom's May revise of the proposed state budget includes an additional \$25 million in funding for the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Program, which would represent a win for an effort heavily supported by ACWA and its members. The additional, one-time General Fund monies would bolster efforts to deliver environmental flows, habitat restoration, science, and monitoring to support the requirements of the soon-to-be updated Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan. The Legislature has indicated support for the proposal, with language making encumbrance of the funding contingent on the final adoption of the updated plan. The Legislature is expected to approve the state budget by June 15. In addition, a new coalition website has been launched to help explain how the HRL Program approach works and why it matters. Visit the website at healthyriverlandscapes.org.

STAFF CONTACT

Julia Hall

*Director of State
Legislative Relations*

juliah@acwa.com

Golden Mussels

ACWA staff continue tracking and engaging on three bills related to golden mussels: AB 1772 (Papan), AB 1894 (Rubio) and AB 2032 (Ransom). All three bills have advanced out of the Assembly and now await action in the Senate. Advocacy efforts to strengthen California's and local water agencies' response to golden mussels are building on the success of a coalition formed earlier this year, supported by ACWA and led by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and East Bay Municipal Utility District. That effort resulted in a \$20 million allocation being added to a budget trailer bill from an invasive species account for use in responding to golden mussel issues, such as severe damage to water infrastructure. ACWA advocacy on the issue is also focused on educating legislators about impacts to water agencies and the vital importance of funding to countering the threat of invasive species to water infrastructure.

STAFF CONTACT

Sophie Morin

*State Relations
Advocate*

sophiem@acwa.com

Federal Funding

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation recently announced three new funding opportunities through its WaterSMART Program to support water recycling, desalination and watershed resilience projects. The opportunities include funding for Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects, Desalination Construction Projects and Enhancing Water Resources Projects. More background and details on how to apply are available at acwa.com.

The Bureau will also host a June 16 webinar on the Enhancing Water Resources Projects opportunity. For more information on this and other webinars regarding WaterSMART, visit the Bureau's website. Interested applicants may also [schedule consultation calls](#) with Bureau staff.

STAFF CONTACT

Ian Lyle

*Director of Federal
Relations*

ianl@acwa.com

[Schedule a Call](#)

Upcoming Events – Visit www.acwa.com/events for more

- **June 26** – Region 8 Event
- **July 17** – Region 9 Event
- **August 20** – Fall Quarterly Policy Committee Meetings
- **September 4** – Region 5 Event
- **September 16-18** – 2026 Executive Edge Leadership Forum



MONTHLY

REGULATORY ROUNDUP



JUNE 2026

UPCOMING ACWA EVENTS

ACWA REGION EVENTS

- ACWA Region 8 / June 26 at 10:00 am / Register [here](#) to attend.

POLICY UPDATES

FEDERAL

ACWA's Federal Regulatory Issues chart is accessible [here](#).

PROPOSITION 4 IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER

State agencies are in the process of drafting guidelines for Proposition 4 funding allocations. ACWA is maintaining a Proposition 4 Implementation Tracker for informational purposes. ACWA's Proposition 4 tracker is accessible [here](#).

Staff Contact

Amber Rossow
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WATER MANAGEMENT

Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program

- On April 27, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced a 45-day comment period for the [Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program Draft Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation](#) with funding through Proposition 4. Up to \$228 million is available under the Dam Safety and Climate Resilience program during this solicitation.
 - [Workshop #2](#): June 2 at 2:00 pm
 - [Public comment due](#): June 11 at 5:00 pm

Staff Contact

Soren Nelson
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Delta Conveyance Project

- On February 9, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) announced a [Notice of Public Hearing and Procedural Ruling](#). The hearing will gather evidence that the State Water Board will consider to determine whether to approve change petitions filed by DWR to add two new points of diversion and redirection for the State Water Project.
 - Public hearings: June 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 15, 18, 23, 24, and 26 at 9:00 am

Staff Contact

Stephen Pang
stephenp@acwa.com

Fees: 2026 Drinking Water, Water Quality, and Water Rights

- The State Water Board will hold a series of [stakeholder meetings](#) to discuss drinking water, water quality, and water rights fees.
 - Drinking Water & ELAP: June 11 at 1:00 pm
 - Water Quality: June 12 at 9:00 am
 - Water Rights: June 12 at 1:00 pm

Staff Contact

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Amber Rossow
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Urban Water Management Plans

- Urban Water Management Plans for the 2025 cycle must be adopted and submitted by July 1, 2026. UWMPs must be submitted into DWR within 30 days of adoption.
 - Guidance documents: [2025 UWMP Guidebook](#)

Staff Contact

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AGRICULTURE

Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability Funding

- The [Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability](#) is screening concept proposal applications for eligible organizations to serve as [Healthy Soils Program](#) and [State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program](#) Block Grant Recipients.
 - Full proposal close: August 2026
 - Award notification: September 2026

Staff Contact

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Statewide Agricultural Expert Panel

- On May 18, the State Water Board released the [Notice of Public Meeting for the Second Statewide Agricultural Expert Panel](#) (Panel). The State Water Board will hold a final plenary meeting to discuss and review recommendations in response to the [Panel charge questions](#).
 - [Public meeting](#): June 5 at 10:00 am

Staff Contact

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GROUNDWATER

2026 Semi-Annual Groundwater Update

- On May 19, DWR released the [Spring 2026 Semi-Annual Groundwater Update](#) (Update). The Update reviews California's groundwater conditions for Water Years 2025 and early 2026, and includes data and discussion on statewide groundwater levels, storage, recharge, and land subsidence.

Staff Contact

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WATER QUALITY

2030 California Integrated Report

- On April 10, the State Water Board released the [Notice of Solicitation of Water Quality Data and Information for the 2030 California Integrated Report for Clean Water Act Sections 303\(d\) and 305\(b\)](#) (2030 California Integrated Report). Data and information received will be used in the 2030 California Integrated Report, which assesses overall surface water quality conditions and identifies waters of the United States that do not or are not expected to meet water quality standards.
 - [Data submissions due](#): August 10 at 12:00 pm

Staff Contact

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Lead and Copper Rule Improvement

- On May 18, the State Water Board released the [Notice of Staff Workshop Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvement \(LCRI\) Regulation Adoption and Assembly Bill \(AB\) - 1096 Policy Handbook](#). The State Water Board will hold a workshop and accept public comments regarding incorporating the federal LCRI into California regulations.
 - [Public meeting](#): June 11 at 9:00 am
 - [Public comment due](#): June 22 at 12:00 pm

Staff Contact

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ENERGY

2026 Transmission Plan

- On May 19, the California Independent System Operator (ISO) approved the [2025-2026 Transmission Plan](#) (Plan). The Plan provides an evaluation of the ISO grid and recommendations for infrastructure projects to accommodate California's rising energy demand. The Plan is based on the state's 2025 projections that California's load will grow by 15 gigawatts (GW) by 2035 and

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<p>20 GW by 2040 while the installed resource capacity will need to increase by more than 74 GW and 107 GW, respectively.</p>	
<p>Bioenergy Feed-in Tariff Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 12, the California Public Utilities Commission released the Proposed Decision Denying Petition to Modify Decision 20-08-23. The Proposed Decision denies an extension of the Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tariff (BioMAT), a feed-in tariff program for small bioenergy renewable generators, which ended on December 31, 2025. While BioMAT has been closed to participation since December 31, 2025, this Proposed Decision now administratively closes BioMAT. 	<p>Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com</p>
<p>California Clean Fuel Reward Rebate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 13, applications for the California Clean Fuel Reward (CCFR) rebate program for medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) opened. Rebate funding can be used for compliance with the Advanced Clean Fleet regulation. In total, \$250 million will be available in 2026, and \$1 billion in total rebate funding is expected through 2030. Beginning June 26, rebates will be available at retailers for public and private fleets across the state. 	<p>Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com</p>
<p>Carbon Capture, Removals, Utilization, and Storage Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 7, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) released the Concepts for Potential Regulations for Establishing the Carbon Capture, Removals, Utilization, and Storage (CCRUS) Program. SB 905 (2022) directs CARB to create the CCRUS program to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and viability of CCRUS projects, and requires public input as part of the pre-rulemaking activity for the development of the CCRUS program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public comment due: June 5 at 11:59 pm 	<p>Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com</p> 
<p>Zero Emission Vehicle and Infrastructure Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) released the annual Zero Emission Vehicle and Infrastructure Report (report). This report outlines Caltrans' progress in transitioning the Caltrans fleet to ZEVs, as the State's largest government fleet. The report includes comparisons between ZEVs and internal combustion vehicle options for purchase costs and duty cycles, and charging infrastructure costs. 	<p>Staff Contact Nick Blair nickb@acwa.com</p>

ACWA COMMENT LETTERS

- [Comments on Petition that seeks to add dams and reservoirs as MRR Reporting Entities](#), California Air Resources Board, May 8, 2026
- [Comments on Draft Division of Drinking Water Post-Wildfire Resources, State Water Resources Control Board](#), May 29, 2026

To receive a monthly email of Regulatory Roundup, please contact [Annie Kanjamala](#). Regulatory Roundup is also available on ACWA's [website](#).



Indicates ACWA Working Group



Indicates ACWA Priority Issue

2026-27 Committee Reporters & Outreach Captains

Committee / OTF	Name	Email Address	Region
Agriculture	JD Harkey	harkeyjd@ranchowater.com	9
Business Development	G. Patrick O'Dowd	gpodowd@saltonseas.com	9
Energy	Jasmin Hall	jhall@ieua.org	9
Federal Affairs	Jolene Walsh	WALSHJ@EMWD.ORG	9
Finance	Joe Grindstaff	jgrindstaff@gmail.com	9
Groundwater	Michael Moore	mmoore@eastvalley.org	9
Legal Affairs	Joanna Smith Hoff	JHoff@bwslaw.com	9
Local Government	T. Milford Harrison	milfordharrison@aol.com	9
Outreach Task Force	James Morales, Jr	jmoralesjr@eastvalleywater.gov	9
Outreach Task Force	Danielle Coats	coatsd@ranchowater.com	9
Outreach Task Force	Antonio Ortega	AOrtega@IID.com	9
State Legislative	Danielle Coats	coatsd@ranchowater.com	9
Water Quality	Bryan Smith	bsmith@jcsd.us	9

ACWA - Committees or Board by Region

Region	Board/Committee Name	First Name	Last Name	Rel. Title	E-mail	Agency
9	2026-2027 ACWA - Agricultural Committee					
		Justin	Haessly		haesslyj@ranchowater.com	Rancho Water
		JD	Harkey		harkeyjd@ranchowater.com	Rancho Water
		Bill	Wilson	President	wilsonb@ranchowater.com	Rancho Water
		Jim	Moffatt	Director	JimM@cvwdwater.com	Cucamonga Valley Water District
		Brian	Brady	Director	bradyb@ranchowater.com	Rancho Water
		Jason	Martin	General Manager	martinj@ranchowater.com	Rancho Water
		G. Patrick	O'Dowd	General Manager	gpodowd@saltonsea.com	Salton Sea Authority
	2026-2027 ACWA - Business Development Committee					
		G. Patrick	O'Dowd	General Manager	gpodowd@saltonsea.com	Salton Sea Authority
		Lupe	Nava		lnava@jcsd.us	Jurupa Community Services District
	2026-2027 ACWA - Communication Committee					
		Elizabeth	Becker		elizabethb@cvwdwater.com	Cucamonga Valley Water District
		Elizabeth	Willis	General Manager Position	ewillis@cbwcd.org	Chino Basin Water Conservation District
		Xochitl	Pena		xochitl@dwa.org	Desert Water Agency
		April	Scott		ascott@mswd.org	Mission Springs Water District
		Kimberly	Wall		walkk@ranchowater.com	Rancho Water
		Sarah	Macdonald		smacdonald@wmwd.com	Western Municipal Water District
		Sylvia	Ornelas		sornelas@emwd.net	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
		Amanda	Fine		finea@emwd.org	Eastern Municipal Water District
		Lorraine	Garcia		Lorraine.Garcia@cvwd.org	Coachella Valley Water District
	2026-2027 ACWA - Energy Committee					
		T. Milford	Harrison	President	milfordharrison@aol.com	San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
		David	Tate		dtate@dwa.org	Desert Water Agency
		Brett	Graham		grahamb@ranchowater.com	Rancho Water
		William	Plummer	Director	plummerb@ranchowater.com	Rancho Water
		Gary	Miller		gmiller@wmwd.com	Western Municipal Water District
		Brian	Brady	Director	bradyb@ranchowater.com	Rancho Water
		Richard	Aragon		raragon@wmwd.com	Western Municipal Water District
		Jordan	Farrell		farrellj@ranchowater.com	Rancho Water
		Bryan	Stewart		stewartb@emwd.org	Eastern Municipal Water District
		Charles	Kamweru		kamweruc@emwd.org	Eastern Municipal Water District
		Jasmin	Hall	Vice President	jhall@ieua.org	Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Randall	Reed	President	randallr@cvwdwater.com	Cucamonga Valley Water District
2026-2027 ACWA - Federal Affairs Committee				
Harvey	Ryan	Vice President	hryan@evmwd.net	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Michael	Hadley		mhadley@wmwd.com	Western Municipal Water District
Jolene	Walsh	Legislative Coordinator	walshj@emwd.org	Eastern Municipal Water District
Colby	Lawton		lawtonc@ranchowater.com	Rancho Water
Arman	Tarzi		atarzi@jcsd.us	Jurupa Community Services District
Marion	Champion	Assistant General Manager	mchampion@mswd.org	Mission Springs Water District
2026-2027 ACWA - Finance Committee				
Jason	Slough		jslough@dwa.org	Desert Water Agency
Joe	Grindstaff	Director	grindstaffj@emwd.org	Eastern Municipal Water District
2026-2027 ACWA - Groundwater Committee				
LEIGHANNE	KIRK		KIRKL@EMWD.ORG	Eastern Municipal Water District
Gil	Aldaco	Director	aldaco2@verizon.net	Chino Basin Water Conservation District
Kati	Parker	Vice President	kparker@cbwcd.org	Chino Basin Water Conservation District
Chad	Taylor		ctaylor@todddgroundwater.com	City of Corona - Department of Water and Power
Joanne	Le		jle@cvwd.org	Coachella Valley Water District
Parag	Kalaria		pkalaria@evmwd.net	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Michael	Moore	General Manager	mmoore@eastvalley.org	East Valley Water District
Jack	Hoagland		jack@uslrgma.com	Rancho Water
John	Rossi	Director	rossij@ranchowater.com	Rancho Water
Robert	Bowcock	Board Member	rbowcock@irmwater.com	Chino Basin Watermaster
Greg	Woodside		gregw@sbvmwd.com	San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Jordan	Farrell		farrellj@ranchowater.com	Rancho Water
T. Milford	Harrison	President	milfordharrison@aol.com	San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Chris	Berch	General Manager	cberch@jcsd.us	Jurupa Community Services District
Ganesh	Krishnamurthy		ganesh@evmwd.net	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Jesse	Pompa		jpompa@jcsd.us	Jurupa Community Services District
Paul	Kielhold	Vice President	paulk@sbvmwd.com	San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Richard	Corneille		rcorneille@sbvwcd.org	San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
2026-2027 ACWA - Legal Affairs Committee				
Joanna	Smith Hoff	Attorney	JHoff@bwslaw.com	Imperial Irrigation District
2026-2027 ACWA - Local Government Committee				
T. Milford	Harrison	President	milfordharrison@aol.com	San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
James	Morales, Jr.	Director	jmoralesjr@eastvalley.org	East Valley Water District

2026-2027 ACWA - State Legislative Committee

Danielle	Coats		coatsd@ranchowater.com	Rancho Water
Melody	McDonald	President	melody.sbvwd@gmail.com	San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
Victoria	Llort		VLlort@dwa.org	Desert Water Agency
Amber	Duff	Director	aduff@mswd.org	Mission Springs Water District

2026-2027 ACWA - Water Management Committee

Joe	Mouawad, P.E.	General Manager	mouawadj@emwd.org	Eastern Municipal Water District
Sarah	Rapolla		srapolla@dwa.org	Desert Water Agency
Greg	Thomas	General Manager	gthomas@evmwd.net	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Craig	Miller	General Manager	cmiller@wmwd.com	Western Municipal Water District

2026-2027 ACWA - Water Quality Committee

Michelle	Karras		karrasm@emwd.org	Eastern Municipal Water District
Bryan	Smith		bsmith@jcsd.us	Jurupa Community Services District
Mike	Ali		hali@evmwd.net	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Jordan	Farrell		farrellj@ranchowater.com	Rancho Water
Jasmin	Hall	Vice President	jhall@ieua.org	Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Joanne	Le		jle@cvwd.org	Coachella Valley Water District
Parag	Kalaria		pkalaria@evmwd.net	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

ACWA Region 9 Presents***Leading with Influence: Water Policy & Advocacy in a Changing Landscape***

Event: Friday, July 17, 2026

Check In: 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Program: 10:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Reception: 2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Wilson Creek Winery 35960 Rancho California Rd, Temecula, CA 92591

Join ACWA Region 9 for an engaging and timely event focused on advocacy, effective communication, and strengthening the influence of public water agencies in California's policy landscape.

Set against the scenic backdrop of **Wilson Creek Winery in Temecula**, this program will bring together water agency leaders, elected officials, and public agency professionals for a day of insightful discussions, strategic perspectives, and valuable networking opportunities.

WHY ATTEND?

- Gain insight into **effective communication and lobbying strategies** that help elevate water priorities in Sacramento
- Hear directly from **State Legislative representatives** on emerging policy issues and the evolving legislative landscape
- Explore key California water priorities and the role agencies can play in shaping future outcomes
- Connect with fellow **ACWA members, staff, directors, and regional leaders** from across Southern California
- Build relationships and exchange ideas during a special **networking reception at Wilson Creek Winery**

QUESTIONS: Contact Senior Regional Affairs Representative Michael Cervantes at michaelc@acwa.com or (916) 291-1118.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Fee: ACWA Member \$130 | Non-member \$210

Registration Deadline: July 2, 2026

This event is presented by the 2026 – '27 ACWA Region 9 Board

Chair: Joseph Grindstaff, Eastern Municipal Water District • **Vice Chair:** Paul Ortega, Desert Water Agency • **Board Members:** Brenda Dennstedt, Western Municipal Water District; Russ Martin, Mission Spring Water District; James Morales, Jr, East Valley Water District; G. Patrick O'Dowd, Salton Sea Authority, Harvey R. Ryan, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

ACWA Region 9***Leading with Influence: Water Policy & Advocacy in a Changing Landscape*****Friday, July 17, 2026 | 10:00 am – 3:30 pm****Wilson Creek Winery, Temecula****Preliminary Program Agenda**

- 9:00 a.m.** ***Check-in and Networking***
- 10:00 a.m.** ***Welcome and ACWA Updates***
Michael Cervantes, Senior Regional Affairs Representative, ACWA
Joseph Grindstaff, ACWA Region 9 Chair
Ernie Avila, ACWA President
- 10:15 a.m.** ***Perspectives from the Capitol***
Moderator: Julia Hall, State Relations Director, ACWA
Assemblymember Natasha Johnson (Invited)
Senator Kelly Seyarto (Invited)
- 11:15 a.m.** ***Building Influence Through Effective Water Advocacy***
Ed Manning, Partner, KP Public Affairs
- 11:50 a.m.** ***Flowing Conversations Networking Lunch & ACWA JPIA Update***
- 12:50 p.m.** ***What it really takes to win in water: Turning big ideas into reality***
Moderator: Sarah Macdonald, Assistant General Manager, Western Municipal Water District
Craig Miller, General Manager, Western Municipal Water District
Heather Dyer, General Manager, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Dan Denham, General Manager, San Diego County Water Authority
Jenny Dudikoff, Partner, KP Public Affairs (Invited)
- 1:50 p.m.** ***Closing Remarks***
Paul Ortega, ACWA Region 9 Vice Chair
Carol Lee Gonzales - Brady, ACWA Vice President

**REGION 9 BOARD
2026-'27****Chair****Joseph Grindstaff**, Eastern Municipal Water District**Vice Chair****Paul Ortega**
Desert Water Agency**Board Members****Brenda Dennstedt**
Western Municipal Water District**Russ Martin**, Mission Springs Water District**James Morales, Jr.**
East Valley Water District**G. Patrick O'Dowd**
Salton Sea Authority**Harvey R. Ryan**
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District**Questions****Michael Cervantes**
Senior Regional Affairs Representative
michaelc@acwa.com

ACWA Region 9

Leading with Influence: Water Policy & Advocacy in a Changing Landscape

Friday, July 17, 2026 | 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Wilson Creek Winery, Temecula

Preliminary Program Agenda

2:00 p.m. *Dessert Networking Reception*

3:30 p.m. *Event Concludes*

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



REGION 9 BOARD 2026-'27

Chair

Joseph Grindstaff, Eastern
Municipal Water District

Vice Chair

Paul Ortega
Desert Water Agency

Board Members

Brenda Dennstedt
Western Municipal
Water District

Russ Martin, Mission
Springs Water District

James Morales, Jr.
East Valley Water District

G. Patrick O'Dowd
Salton Sea Authority

Harvey R. Ryan
Elsinore Valley Municipal
Water District

Questions

Michael Cervantes
Senior Regional Affairs
Representative
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Find the most current event information and register at www.acwa.com/events

26
JUNE

ACWA Region 8 Event

PASADENA

Discover how artificial intelligence is transforming the water industry. Experts will explore real-world impacts and emerging innovations. Join us to gain insights, ask questions, and stay ahead of the rapidly evolving role of A.I. in water management.

REGISTER BY JUNE 16 >

17
JULY

ACWA Region 9 Event

TEMECULA

Join for an engaging and timely event focused on advocacy, effective communication, and strengthening the influence of public water agencies in California's policy landscape.

REGISTER BY JULY 2 >

16
SEPT

THRU SEPT 18

ACWA 2026 Executive Edge Leadership Forum

NORTH HOLLYWOOD

The Executive Edge Leadership Forum is designed for general managers and executive-level staff at public agencies seeking to strengthen their leadership impact. Join us to build advanced leadership skills in strengths-based leadership, communication, and strategic thinking while connecting with peers through facilitated discussions on real-world challenges and best practices.

GET MORE INFO >

1
DEC

THRU DEC 3

ACWA 2026 Fall Conference

ANAHEIM

The ACWA Conference brings California's water leaders together to address today's challenges and shape the future. Through intentional dialogue, discussion forums and informational sessions spanning state and federal policy, finance, legal issues and more, the conference is the premier destination for those committed to caring for California's water resources now and for generations to come.

GET MORE INFO >

PLAN AHEAD: REGION EVENTS

Explore California Water

REGION 1

OCT **28**

Location TBD

REGION 3

SEP **11**

Apple Hill

REGION 2/4

NOV **4**

Winters

REGION 5

SEP **3-4**

Oxnard

REGION 6/7

OCT **8-9**

Coalinga

REGION 8

JUN **26**

Pasadena

REGION 9

JUL **17**

Temecula

Stay tuned for
the date on
Region 10

WATCH WEBINARS, CONFERENCES AND
OTHER EVENTS NOW ON DEMAND

 [CLICK TO WATCH NOW](#)

Or visit www.acwa.com/resources



LEADERSHIP FORUM

executive EDGE

ACWA 

September 16–18, 2026
The Garland, North Hollywood

Bold ideas.
Real connections.
Next-level leadership.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Advanced Leadership Skills: Strengthen your leadership through focused sessions on strengths-based leadership, communication, and strategic thinking.

Collaborative Environment: Connect with peers and engage in facilitated discussions around real-world leadership challenges and best practices.

Practical Tools and Insights: Gain actionable tools and strategies from navigating crucial conversations to building effective partnerships.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This event is designed for general managers and executive-level staff at public agencies.



Scan to
explore
what's
planned
and when
registration
opens

“ I would recommend the Executive Edge Leadership Forum to anyone looking to advance into a leadership role.”

— Program Participant, 2024

ACWA Region events have a rich tradition of excellence in providing educational programming and networking at the regional levels all across the state. Your contribution helps to enhance the overall event experience for the attendees and add value to the ACWA member experience.

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

Sponsors each receive:

- Logo on agenda/materials included in attendee packet
- Signage and verbal recognition from ACWA at the event
- One (1) complimentary Region event registration

SUBMISSION

Please complete form below and submit with a high resolution logo to Business Development Representative **Joseph Ramos** at **josepahr@acwa.com**.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Make check payable to **Association of California Water Agencies**.

Memo: Region 9 Event Sponsorship

Attn: Accounting

ACWA

980 9th Street, Suite 1000

Sacramento, CA 95814

EVENT & SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

Event Name	
Date	
Location	
Amount	Deadline

SPONSOR INFORMATION

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EVENT QUESTIONS

Michael Cervantes
Regional Affairs Representative
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SPONSORSHIP QUESTIONS

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Business Development Representative
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2026-'27 Region 9 Board Work Plan

Adopted: 2/25/26

ACWA Region 9 provides grassroots support to the ACWA Board of Directors and staff to advance the goals, objectives, and key performance indicators identified in ACWA's Strategic Plan, with emphasis on priorities significant to Region 9. The Region 9 Chair and Vice Chair, with support from their region board, provide regional leadership to fulfill the primary charge of regions.

Charge	Tactics & Progress
<p>Provide a structure where Region 9 member agencies can come together and discuss issues of mutual concern and interest and based on that interaction, provide representative input to the ACWA Board.</p> <p><i>(Strategic Plan Goals: Connections, Organizational Effectiveness)</i></p>	<p>Produce impactful region events or webinars that highlight local perspectives and priorities, facilitate inter-regional participation, communication and coordination on issues of common interest or benefit, encourage participation in ACWA, and provide a networking opportunity for members.</p> <p>Progress: Region 9 will host an event on 7/17/26 in Temecula. Event format and topics are TBD.</p> <p>Hold quarterly region board meetings, including a meeting and orientation at the start of the term and a meeting at midterm. Encourage attendance by region members, committee reporters and outreach captains.</p> <p>Progress: 1st Quarter Board Meeting held on 1/27/26 2nd Quarter Board Meeting to be held on 6/12/26 3rd and 4th Quarter meeting dates TBD</p> <p>Hold twice yearly region membership meetings at ACWA Spring and Fall Conferences. Allow ACWA JPIA and the ACWA Foundation to provide regular updates at these meetings, schedule permitting.</p> <p>Progress: Spring Conference Membership Meeting to be held on 5/6/26 Fall Conference Membership Meeting to be held on 12/2/26</p> <p>Hold a virtual meeting prior to each ACWA Board of Directors meeting to provide region board members an opportunity to share input on agenda items.</p> <p>Progress: 3/18/26, 6/3/26, 7/29/26, 9/23/26, 11/18/26</p>
<p>Assist the Outreach Task Force in building local grassroots support for the ACWA Outreach Program to advance ACWA's legislative and regulatory priorities as determined by the ACWA Board and the State Legislative, Federal</p>	<p>Actively participate and encourage regional involvement in ACWA's Outreach program.</p> <p>Progress: No current activity.</p> <p>Appoint 1-3 region Outreach Captains to help lead outreach efforts within the region, participate in the work of the Outreach Task Force, and facilitate two-way communication between the task force and the region.</p> <p>Progress: James Morales, East Valley Water District (Outreach Captain)</p>

2026-'27 Region 9 Board Work Plan

Charge	Tactics & Progress
Affairs, or other policy committees. <i>(Strategic Plan Goals: Connections, Advocacy)</i>	Danielle Coats, Rancho Water (Outreach Captain) Antonio Ortega, Imperial Irrigation District (Outreach Captain)
Provide a forum to educate region members on ACWA’s priorities and issues of local and statewide concern. <i>(Strategic Plan Goals: Connections, Education)</i>	Produce a Region 9 issue forum for the 2026 ACWA Spring Conference that educates members on ACWA’s priorities and issues of regional and statewide concern, including highlighting region member agency innovations and best practices addressing those priorities and issues. Progress: Building Coalitions, Lessons Learned from SB 72
	Invite Region 9 General Managers and Board Presidents to Quarterly Region 9 Board Meetings Progress: 1/27/26 Board Meeting
Assist staff with association membership recruitment at the regional level. <i>(Strategic Plan Goal: Organizational Effectiveness)</i>	Work with the Membership Committee and staff to identify opportunities to educate non-member public water agencies in the region on the benefits of becoming an ACWA member. Progress: TBD
Recommend specific actions to the ACWA Board on local, regional, state, and federal issues, and recommend endorsement for various government offices and positions. <i>(Strategic Plan Goal: Advocacy)</i>	Ensure that the region is fully represented on committees and workgroups so regional concerns and priorities are considered at a statewide level. Progress: Current Vacancies (1) Membership, (1) Local Government
	Appoint a committee reporter for each ACWA Committee from the appointed Region 9 committee members and consider ways to ensure they facilitate two-way communication between their respective committee and the region. Progress: Current Vacancies (1) Membership, (1) Communications Spring Conference Membership Meeting to be held on 5/6/26 Fall Conference Membership Meeting to be held on 12/2/26
	Support ACWA’s advocacy efforts to include: [specify key regional policy priorities] Progress:

2026-'27 Region 9 Board Work Plan

Region 9 Priorities for ACWA's Advocacy Efforts	Progress
<p>Water Supply Reliability & Long-Term Supply Planning: Focused on ensuring long-term, dependable water supplies that can withstand drought, regulatory uncertainty, and changing climate conditions. Agencies support ACWA's work to promote policies that enable regional planning, supply development, and operational flexibility needed to diversify water supplies. Supported by two-way communication between the region and committee reporters serving on the State Legislative Committee, Federal Affairs Committee, Agriculture, Groundwater, and Water Management Committees.</p>	
<p>Aging Infrastructure & Capital Investment Needs: Aging infrastructure requires significant reinvestment to maintain reliability and protect public health. Engage with ACWA to ensure sustained state and federal support for capital improvements that enable modernization without placing undue financial pressure on ratepayers. Supported by two-way communication between the region and committee reporters serving on the State Legislative Committee, Federal Affairs Committee, Water Management and Energy Committees.</p>	
<p>Rates, Affordability & Financial Sustainability (Including Stable Funding Sources): Stable, long-term funding is foundational to ensuring supply development, regulatory compliance, and infrastructure reliability. Support ACWA's efforts to promote affordable, sustainable funding solutions. Supported by two-way communication between the region and committee reporters serving on the State Legislative Committee, Federal Affairs Committee, Energy, Local Government, Water Quality and Water Management Committees.</p>	
<p>Regulatory Compliance & Unfunded Mandates (Including Water Quality Requirements): Region 9 agencies support strong water quality and public health protections, but new mandates must include funding and realistic implementation timelines. Support ACWA's efforts to address unfunded mandates and ratepayer impacts. Supported by two-way communication between the region and committee reporters serving on the State Legislative Committee and Federal Affairs Committee, and Water Quality Committees.</p>	
<p>Equity for Small & Disadvantaged Water Systems: Smaller and disadvantaged systems face unique challenges meeting state requirements. Support ACWA's efforts to promote targeted funding, technical assistance, and streamlined reporting so agencies of all sizes can meet regulatory and service expectations. Supported by two-way communication between the region and committee reporters serving on the State Legislative Committee and Federal Affairs Committee, and Communications Committee.</p>	

Notes:

Where the activity is on this list is not indicative of its priority.

Additional ACWA committees may also be engaged in these issues as appropriate and will serve as part of the two-way communication structure between Committee Reporters and Region 9 members.