



LA COUNTY WATER **2026** RESILIENCY SUMMIT

Monday, May 18, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Los Angeles County Public Works Headquarters



SUMMIT AGENDA

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Networking Breakfast

9:00 - 9:15 a.m. Opening Remarks with Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath

PANEL DISCUSSION I
Water Resiliency for the Climate Ahead

9:15 - 10:30 a.m.

- **Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath**, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, 3rd District (Facilitator)
 - **Karla Nemeth**, Director, California Department of Water Resources
 - **Adán Ortega**, Chair of the Board, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
 - **Nurit Katz**, Board Vice President, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
 - **Cheree Peterson**, Deputy Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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10:30 - 10:45 a.m Networking Break

Update on LA County Water Plan & Water for LA

10:45 - 11:05 a.m.

- **Mark Pestrella**, Director, Los Angeles County Public Works
 - **Charley Wilson**, Executive Director, Southern California Water Coalition
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PANEL DISCUSSION II
Safe, Clean, Reliable Water for All: New Tools & Approaches

11:05 - 12:20 p.m.

- **Diana Tang**, Assistant General Manager, Long Beach Utilities (Facilitator)
 - **Dave Pedersen**, General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
 - **Eileen Alduenda**, Executive Director, Council for Watershed Health
 - **Carolina Hernandez**, Assistant Deputy Director, La County Public Works
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12:20 p.m. Closing Remarks

MEET OUR SPEAKERS

OPENING REMARKS



Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath was sworn into the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in December 2022. Since joining the Board, Supervisor Horvath has led the implementation of the County's first ever Water Plan.

Lindsey P. Horvath

LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR, 3RD DISTRICT

PANEL I DISCUSSION | WATER RESILIENCY FOR THE CLIMATE AHEAD



Karla Nemeth is the Director of the California Department of Water Resources. Nemeth focuses on adapting the Department and state water systems to climate-driven extreme weather.

Karla Nemeth

DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES



A lifelong resident of the San Fernando Valley, Nurit Katz is an educator and sustainability professional who cares deeply about creating a sustainable, resilient, and healthy region for all Angelenos.

Nurit Katz

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT, LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER



As chair of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Adán Ortega, Jr. has organized the board's leadership and committees around climate adaptation action to secure long term water reliability.

Adán Ortega, Jr.

CHAIR OF THE BOARD, METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Cheree Peterson serves as Deputy Regional Administrator for EPA Region 9, with extensive experience implementing environmental programs and working with communities, agencies, tribes, and elected officials.

Cheree Peterson

DEPUTY REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR, U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATER PLAN UPDATE



As Director of Los Angeles County Public Works, Mark Pestrella oversees a diverse range of operations, including those related to water resources, for the largest municipal public works agency in the U.S.

Mark Pestrella

DIRECTOR OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS



Charley Wilson is the Executive Director and CEO of the Southern California Water Coalition, where he leads a coalition comprised of leaders from businesses, cities, agricultural and environmental groups, and water agencies.

Charley Wilson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COALITION

PANEL II DISCUSSION | SAFE, CLEAN, RELIABLE WATER FOR ALL: NEW TOOLS & APPROACHES



Diana Tang serves as Assistant General Manager, at the City of Long Beach Public Utilities Department, leading cross-functional initiatives to deliver safe and reliable water, natural gas and sewer services.

Diana Tang

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, LONG BEACH UTILITIES (FACILITATOR)



As General Manager of LVMWD, David Pedersen serves as the chief executive responsible for providing water and sanitation services to approximately 100,000 people.

Dave Pedersen

GENERAL MANAGER, LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT



Eileen Alduenda is the Executive Director of the Council for Watershed Health and direct collaborative efforts to advance health and sustainability in natural areas and urban neighborhoods.

Eileen Alduenda

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COUNCIL FOR WATERSHED HEALTH



Carolina Hernandez is the Assistant Deputy Director for the Waterworks Division within LA County Public Works, with 26 years of experience in potable water and water resources engineering.

Carolina Hernandez

ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR, LA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

GET INVOLVED!

As Los Angeles adapts to the changing climate – longer droughts, more intense storms, and increasing wildfire risks – we must rise to meet a more resilient future. In response, LA County Public Works developed the LA County Water Plan (CWP) to provide **a shared regional roadmap** for protecting water supplies and ensuring safe, reliable, and affordable water for every community.

Now in the second year of implementation, the County Water Plan has turned shared goals into collective progress.

LA COUNTY
WATER PLAN



SCAN HERE to
adopt the CWP

BE A PARTNER in supporting a
more resilient future for LA County:
Adopt the County Water Plan.

Water For LA has a fresh new look.
See it for yourself at [WaterForLA.com](https://www.waterforla.com).

