



NAVIGATING UNCERTAIN TIMES: SHAPING OUR WATER LEGACY

CII 64TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE • JANUARY 26-27, 2026 • SACRAMENTO, CA

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MONDAY SESSION I — OPENING SESSION

8:30—9:30 AM	REGISTRATION
9:30—10:00 AM	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Bill McDonnell, President, California Irrigation Institute
	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DEFINING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE TURBULENCE Congressman Adam Gray, California's 13th District, US Congress

FEDERAL IMPLICATIONS FOR CALIFORNIA WATER POLICY
Moderators: Bill McDonnell and Alexandra Biering

10:00—11:45 AM	FEDERAL AGENCY PERSPECTIVE Adam Nickels, Acting Mid-Pacific Regional Director, US Bureau of Reclamation
	CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT PERSPECTIVE Federico Barajas, Executive Director, San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority
	STATE AGENCY PERSPECTIVE Joel Metzger, Deputy Director, California Department of Water Resource
	URBAN WATER DISTRICT PERSPECTIVE Heather Dyer, CEO and General Manager, San Bernardino Valley MWD
11:45 AM—1:30 PM	LUNCH AND IRRIGATION PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD PRESENTATION

MONDAY SESSION II — JOINT SESSION

1:30—3:00 PM	THE IMPACT OF AI AND DATA CENTERS IN CALIFORNIA <i>Moderators: Bill McDonnell and Alexandra Biering</i>
	DATA CENTERS: CHALLENGES AT THE NEXUS OF ENERGY AND WATER Dr. Kelly Twomey Sanders, Associate Professor University of Southern California
	THE GROWING THIRST FOR DATA: UNDERSTANDING WATER NEEDS FOR FUTURE DATA CENTERS Jason Hick, Program Director Los Alamos National Laboratory
3:00—3:20 PM	WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT ON CALIFORNIA'S WATER? Sean Maguire, Board Member State Water Resources Control Board
	BREAK

MONDAY SESSION III — SPLIT SESSIONS

3:20—5:00 PM	AGRICULTURE STEWARDSHIP TOOLS: WATER ACCOUNTING AND TRADING <i>Moderators: Charles Hillyer and Kristin Sicke</i>	URBAN THE IMPACT OF DATA CENTERS AND AI ON URBAN LANDSCAPES <i>Moderators: Jenna Shimmin and William Granger</i>
	BRIDGING AGRICULTURE AND TECH THROUGH WATER STEWARDSHIP Sami Tellatin, Head of Water and Climate Solutions Kilimo	DATA CENTERS AND EXPERIENCE ON THE GROUND Johanna DeCotis Smith, Senior Manager of Programs Alliance for Water Efficiency
	OVERVIEW OF THE GROUNDWATER ACCOUNTING PLATFORM Hannah Ake, Senior Program Manager CA Water Data Consortium	HOW DO AI & DATA CENTERS IMPACT URBAN WATER SUPPLIES Iris Stewart-Frey, Professor Santa Clara University
	GROUNDWATER DATA MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT Matt Hurley, General Manager McMullin Area GSA	AI AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN Gün Ünsal, President, California Chapter Association of Professional Landscape Designers
5:00—7:00 PM	EXHIBITOR RECEPTION	

TUESDAY SESSION IV — JOINT SESSION

9:00—10:15 AM	DATA-DRIVEN DECISION-MAKING <i>Moderators: Bill McDonnell and Alexandra Biering</i>
	IMPROVING CALIFORNIA'S WATER RIGHTS DATA AND DECISIONS Jessica Bean, Assistant Deputy for Droughts and Water Rights Modernization, State Water Resources Control Board
	BURDENS OR BLESSINGS: DATA REPORTING FROM THE AG PERSPECTIVE Adam Gaska, Executive Director, Mendocino County Farm Bureau
10:15—10:30 AM	INTRODUCING THE COALITION FOR WATER DATA STREAMLINING Melissa Matlock, Deputy Director, California Water Efficiency Partnership
	BREAK

TUESDAY SESSION V — SPLIT SESSIONS

10:30—11:45 AM	AGRICULTURE EXAMPLES OF INNOVATION <i>Moderators: Dave Miller and Daniele Zaccaria</i>	URBAN THE FUTURE OF URBAN LANDSCAPES <i>Moderators: Tia Fleming and Carrie Pollard</i>
	IMPLEMENTATION OF MONTEREY ONE Mike McCullough, Assistant GM Monterey Peninsula WMD	SOURCING PLANTS FOR LANDSCAPE CONVERSIONS Emily Rooney, Executive Director Plant California Alliance
	IMPACTS OF RECYCLED WATER ON AGRICULTURE IN THE CENTRAL COAST Michael Cahn, Irrigation and Water Resources Advisor UC Cooperative Extension - Monterey County	THE ROLE OF COMPOST AND SB 1383 Katya Forsyth, Executive Director California Association of Compost Producers
	BEYOND REGULATION: A COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR RIVER DIVERTER GOVERNANCE Bryan Kelly, Assistant GM for Water Merced Irrigation District	ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS: TURF BLEND Pamela Berstler, Founder and CEO Flower to the People
11:45 AM—12:30 PM	STUDENT POSTER SESSION / EXHIBITOR SESSION	
12:30—2:00 PM	LUNCHEON SPEAKER: ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE WATER SOLUTIONS FOR CALIFORNIA Ashley Stokes, Dean of the School of Agriculture, University of California, Davis	
	CII BUSINESS: ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS Bill McDonnell, President, California Irrigation Institute	
	ADJOURN	



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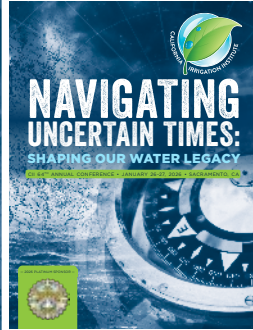
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TWO DAY REGISTRATION (PER PERSON)

Early bird registration received before January 10, 2026.....\$ 300
Regular registration on or after January 10, 2026\$ 350

ONE DAY REGISTRATION (PER PERSON)

Early bird registration received before January 10, 2026.....\$ 250
Regular registration on or after January 10, 2026\$ 275

FULL TIME STUDENTS.....\$ 100

EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION.....\$ 550

Attendee registration includes admission to all sessions, refreshments, the Monday reception, and lunch on both days.

2025 HOTEL INFORMATION



HILTON SACRAMENTO ARDEN WEST

2200 Harvard Street
Sacramento, CA 95815

Rooms are held under the **CII** group rate code for **\$134/night, plus tax**. Early room reservations end **January 11, 2026**. *Space is limited.*

Call **916.922.4700** for reservations, and use group code 90Z. Reservations can be made directly with the hotel at **<https://hil.tn/shr62i>**

Complimentary on-site parking is available.

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