



2026 CEAC Spring Conference

in conjunction with League of California Cities Public Works Officers Institute

Wednesday-Friday, February 25-27, 2026

Hyatt Regency Monterey, 1 Old Golf Course Road, Monterey, CA 93940

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration

Wednesday, February 25, 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursday, February 26, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Badges - All meeting participants must register and wear badges for admission to sessions, exhibits and social events, and to gain entry to all meal events.

Wi-Fi - Wi-Fi access will be available for our members in our meeting rooms throughout the week.



SAVE THE DATES!

2026 NACE Annual Conference - Live by Loews! Arlington, 1600 E Randol Mill Road, Arlington, TX 76011, April 12-15, 2026

21st CEAC Policy Conference

Sacramento County, August 20-21, 2026

132nd CSAC Annual Meeting/Fall Conference, South San Diego Chula Vista Gaylord Chula Vista, November 30-December 4, 2026

2027 CEAC Spring Conference (in conjunction with the League of California Cities' Public Works Officers Institute) - Hyatt Regency Orange County, March 15-19, 2027

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CEAC Registration

8:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

CEAC Surveyor Policy Committee Meeting

Big Sur 1-3

Chair, Steve Hennessee, Los Angeles County

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

CEAC Concurrent Policy Committee Meetings

CEAC Flood Control & Water Resources Policy Committee Meeting

Cypress 1-3

Chair: Jason Uhley, Riverside County

CEAC Infrastructure and Development Policy Committee Meeting

Big Sur 1-3

Chair: Matt Randall, Placer County

10:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Visit with Exhibitors

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

CEAC Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

Cypress 1-3

Chair: Alicia Winokur, Mendocino County

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Joint Leadership Mtg

CEAC/Cal Cities (Invitation Only)

LUNCH ON OWN

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Cal Cities and CEAC Opening Remarks

Rebecca Neves, President, Public Works Officers Department and
City Engineer, Folsom

Johannes Hoevertsz, Director, Transportation and Public Works, Sonoma County

- **Local Streets and Roads Awards**
- **Keynote Speaker**

2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

CEAC Resource Recovery & Waste Management Policy Committee Meeting

Oaktree Room

Chair: Tom Koutroulis, Orange County

2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions:

Using the Data in Your Pavement Management Systems to Improve Cost-Effectiveness

Learn how agencies can unlock greater value from data already collected through Pavement Management Systems (PMS) by looking beyond basic Pavement Condition Index (PCI) scores and focusing on additional indicators. By cracking the data that has already been collected and paid for, agencies can improve the selection and timing of maintenance and rehabilitation work. This talk will show what to focus on, and how to improve decision making regarding treatment selection and timing.

Upping Your Communications Game

How many times have you heard: *“I never got the notification,”* *“Who decided to remove parking for a bike lane?”* or *“Who do I talk to about the sprinklers that run nonstop?”* As demand for instant information rises, local agencies are under pressure to deliver timely, clear, and accessible messaging. In this session, public works directors and a communications team member will share effective engagement strategies. Learn what works - from quick posts to high-impact videos - and leave with actionable ideas and adaptable communication plan templates for your agency’s size and resources. Even if you “are” the communications team, this session will help you take your outreach to the next level.

4:15-5:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions:

A New Hope for Deferred Maintenance: Tackling an 18-year Backlog.

In a galaxy not so far away, the City of Rosemead faced an epic challenge: nearly two decades of deferred maintenance threatening civic well-being. Enter a new Public Works Director launching a bold mission to restore balance to the city's facilities within the first six months on the job! Along with Schneider Electric, Rosemead used California's Government Code 4217 energy performance contracting statute to bundle critical citywide improvements into one self-funded project. This initiative is modernizing outdated mechanical systems, replacing unsafe electrical infrastructure, upgrades lighting at City Hall, community centers, and advances a citywide street-lighting plan. This panel shows how collaboration, smart funding strategies, and technology can help cities overcome the dark side of deferred maintenance.

Fiber Frenzy: Navigating Fiber Deployments and Local ROW Management

As fiber deployments accelerate across California, local governments face increasingly complex questions about franchise rights, permitting, and the use of public assets. This session clarifies state and federal regulatory frameworks, including CPUC oversight, recent FCC actions, and new California laws on microtrenching and batch permitting, while outlining practical strategies for managing rights-of-way and negotiating access to government-owned fiber and conduit. Presenters will highlight best practices to avoid common permitting pitfalls, strengthen pavement and ROW management, and evaluate partnership opportunities with private providers. Attendees will leave with a clear understanding of the legal landscape and greater confidence in overseeing fiber projects.

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Networking Reception

Make new friends and catch up with old ones while enjoying delicious appetizers and tasty beverages during the evening networking reception. It's the perfect opportunity to form support networks inside your profession.

Thursday, February 26, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

CEAC Registration

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Networking Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions:

Women in Public Works Roundtable

Join our dynamic discussion highlighting the experiences, challenges, and successes of women in public works. This conversation will center around real-world insights, leadership strategies, and lessons learned on navigating career growth in a traditionally male-dominated industry. This roundtable is open to everyone who wants to build more diverse, successful teams within their communities.

Planning for Emergencies - Disaster Planning and Coordination Across Agencies

Join California Water Service for a panel discussion on how local governments, public safety agencies, and utilities prepare for a variety of natural disasters including wildfires, earthquakes, and floods to ensure that they stay coordinated as they work to keep the public safe. Learn more about what goes on behind the scenes in disaster response preparation discussions, and how to quickly start the recovery process.

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions:

Public Works Visibility: How to be Recognized as First Responders

Public works professionals have been referred to as the silent first responders. Typically, they are the first to arrive after natural or manmade disasters, clearing the way for other first responders, and last to leave, long after the emergency is over. Despite the Presidential Policy Directive 8 which officially recognizes public works as first responders, issued in response to 9/11, many do not regard public works as first responders. This presentation will share how to increase the visibility of your public works department with the public, elected officials and other departments within your agency.

Charging Ahead of ACF: Strategies to Accelerate the Shift to Zero-Emission Government Fleets

In 2025, the California Air and Resources Board (CARB) withdrew its waiver request to allow stricter enforcement of vehicle emission standards.. But, the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) rule doesn't require a waiver, leaving it up to state and local governments to lead the charge in California's EV transition. Is your agency prepared for the 100% ZEV procurement requirement coming in 2026? This panel brings together public works leaders – each representing different scales and stages of EV fleet implementation–to share lessons learned as they navigate the challenges of planning, funding, and deploying electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Networking Lunch

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

General Session

From Concept to Impact: AI Strategies for Public Works Leadership

Artificial Intelligence isn't an abstract concept, it's a tool transforming how public works departments operate and engage with their communities. This session moves beyond introductory concepts to showcase real-world applications, lessons learned, and implementation strategies. Explore how AI is being used for predictive maintenance, smart dispatching, asset management, and synthesizing public input. Highlighting tools like Co-Pilot, ChatGPT, Claude, and more, along with California city-specific AI pilot programs and internal usage policies, this session will demonstrate how AI can enhance productivity, improve customer service, automate reporting and support decision-making, while maintaining ethical guardrails and transparency. Participants will leave with actionable insights, sample guidelines for safe experimentation, and a roadmap for integrating AI into everyday workflows. Whether you're looking to streamline processes, elevate community engagement, or just understand what the AI fuss is all about, this session will give you the confidence to take the next step.

APWA Remarks

2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions:

Accelerating Sidewalk Repairs with Data and Slicing

This session highlights how the City of Sunnyvale paired field condition assessment with GIS to track and triage 4,700 sidewalk repair locations across the city. Through customized mobile data collection and asset management integration, Sunnyvale created an interactive platform for budgeting, planning, and progress tracking. The data enabled a hybrid approach, combining low-cost slicing repairs and full replacements, streamlining repairs, and improving public safety. Learn how public agencies can replicate this model to cut costs, prioritize repairs, and justify capital funding. The presentation includes workflow examples, data schemas, and lessons learned from implementation.

Claiming Compliance Credit for Stormwater Management Strategies

Stormwater runoff is heavily regulated throughout California, requiring municipalities of all sizes to implement comprehensive programs to control the discharge of pollutants in runoff. This panel presentation will explore an approach to tracking and quantifying benefits from structural stormwater controls, that provides a cost-effective way for municipalities to document regulatory compliance and communicate benefits to the environment and surrounding communities.

3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions:

Strategic Funding and Grant Writing for Public Works

Obtaining grant funds should be a core mission of each public works department. Grant funds allow your agency to leverage limited local funds to deliver more impactful and high-quality public works projects. Join this session to learn important grant writing tips and tricks from two grant writing professionals who will each present a case study of recent successful grant applications. You will also hear insightful perspectives of a local agency project/grant manager. In addition to practical techniques, this session will emphasize the importance of strategic funding development through the intentional alignment of funding program efforts with community priorities and capital projects. Participants will explore how to develop a proactive funding strategy, identify competitive opportunities, build internal capacity for sustained success, and achieve community goals through successful grant writing and strategic planning.

From Staff to Systems: Retaining Knowledge within your Agency

This session equips maintenance superintendents with practical insights on how modern asset management can protect their workforce and infrastructure. Explore the challenges posed by an aging workforce, knowledge loss, and outdated legacy systems, while learning how documenting and formalizing maintenance practices can streamline daily operations, preserve institutional expertise, and strengthen capital planning. Through real-world examples and case studies, this session highlights how superintendents can lead change, improve efficiency, and build resilient teams ready for future demands. Additionally, learn how ArcGIS Online can be used to create custom solutions designed to track the repair and replacement of city assets, such as signs, potholes, ADA ramps, and more.

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

CEAC President's Reception and Banquet

Regency Ballroom 1-3

Please join us for a fun evening hosted by CEAC President, Johannes Hoevertsz, and California's Loyal Order of Dedicated Servants (CLODS)

Friday, February 27, 2026

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

CEAC Breakfast & Roundtable Discussion

Regency Ballroom 4-6

10:15-11:30 a.m.

Cal Cities Closing Session

Cal Cities and CEAC attendees are welcome to attend the closing session!

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

CEAC Board of Directors Meeting

Big Sur 1-3

President: Johannes Hoevertsz, Sonoma County

**2026 CEAC Policy &
Advisory Committee
Chairs and Vice-
Chairs**

Flood Control and Water Resources Policy Committee

Jason Uhley, Riverside County (Chair)

Carolyn Burke, Santa Cruz County

Jeff Palmer, Ventura County

Infrastructure & Development Policy Committee

Matt Randall, Placer County (Chair)

Warren Lai, Contra Costa County (Chair)

Blossom Scott-Heim, Tuolumne County

Resource Recovery & Waste Management Policy Committee

Tom Koutroulis, Orange County (Chair)

Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County

Jared Carter, Madera County

Surveyor Policy Committee

Steve Hennessee, Los Angeles County (Chair)

Robert Pachinger, Calaveras County

Bob Bronkall, Humboldt County

Transportation Policy Committee

Alicia Winokur, Mendocino County (Chair)

Najee Zarif, San Joaquin County

Stephen Kowalewski, Contra Costa County

Steve Burger, Los Angeles County

Chris Sneddon, Santa Barbara County

Other Committees:

Administrative Committee

Joan Araujo, Ventura County (Chair)
Nathan Bray, Merced County
Noel Castillo, San Bernardino County
Sam Chrun, Stanislaus County

Fellowship Committee

Scott DeLeon, Lake County, retired (Chair)
Blossom Scott-Heim, Tuolumne County
Jason Jurrens, Consor
Martin McIlroy, MGE Engineering
Mike Leacox, NCE

Scholarship

Alicia Winokur, Mendocino County (Chair)
Steve Hennessee, Los Angeles County
Kristi Rhea, San Joaquin County

**CEAC Officers and
CSAC Staff**

President: Johannes Hoevertsz, Sonoma County
Vice President: Blossom Scott-Heim, Tuolumne County
Secretary: Chris Sneddon, Santa Barbara County
Immediate Past-President: David Leamon, Stanislaus County
Treasurer: George Johnson, Riverside County (retired)
Treasurer-Emeritus: Mehdi Sadjadi, Marin County (retired)
Parliamentarian: Mike Penrose, Sacramento County (retired)
Historian: Scott McGolpin, Santa Barbara County (retired)
Newsletter Editor: Patrick DeChellis, Los Angeles County (retired)
NACE Representative: Howard Dashiell, Mendocino County

CEAC Executive Director: Merrin Gerety

CSAC Legislative Staff:

Mark Neuburger: Legislative Advocate, Housing, Land Use, and
Transportation (HLT)
Jordan Wells: Legislative Advocate, Agriculture, Energy and Natural
Resources (AENR)
Charles Delgado: Legislative Advocate, AENR
Caitlin Lowenthal: Legislative Analyst, AENR