

Water Association of Kern County presents

Thursday, March 5th, 2026 8am-4pm
Dignity Health Arena Theater
1001 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, Ca



- 7:30AM Doors Open & Check In Begins**
Continental Breakfast & Tradeshow
- 8:00AM Setting the Tracks, Opening Remarks**
Jenny Holtermann, Executive Director, WAKC
Stephanie Hearn, President, WAKC
Elected Officials Welcome
- 8:30AM A Train That Left the Station, Golden Mussels**
Valerie Goodwin, DUDEK
- 9:00AM Keeping Momentum Moving Forward, Govt. Working Together**
Moderator: Eric Averett, Kern County Water Agency
Caitlin Peterson, PPIC
Edward Ring, Cal Policy Center
Johnny Amaral, Friant Water Authority
- 10:00AM Tradeshow Break**
- 10:30AM Where the Train is Headed, Weathering the Storm**
Moderator: Elaina Rusk, KGET 17
Richard Stone, RHS Consulting
Thomas Painter, ASO Flights
Steve Rosier, Sierra Hydrographics
- 11:30AM Keynote Speaker: Joaquin Esquivel, Chair State Water Board**
- 12:15PM Lunch & Tradeshow Break**
- 1:00PM Planning the Route, The New Era of California Water Planning**
Joel Metzger, DWR
- 1:20PM The Tehachapi Loop, The Little SGMA Engine that Could**
Paul Gosselin, DWR
- 1:45PM Laying the Tracks Forward, Subsidence**
Moderator: Morgan Campbell, Westside Water Authority
Rosemary Knight, Stanford University
John Yarbrough, DWR/CASP
Manny Bahia, State Water Contractors
- 2:45PM I Thought I Could, I Thought I Could, Closing Remarks**
- 3:00PM Don't Get Derailed! Cocktail Hour & Tradeshow**