



ACWA

CONFERENCE & EXPO

Sacramento

MAY 7-9 / SAFE CREDIT UNION CONVENTION CENTER

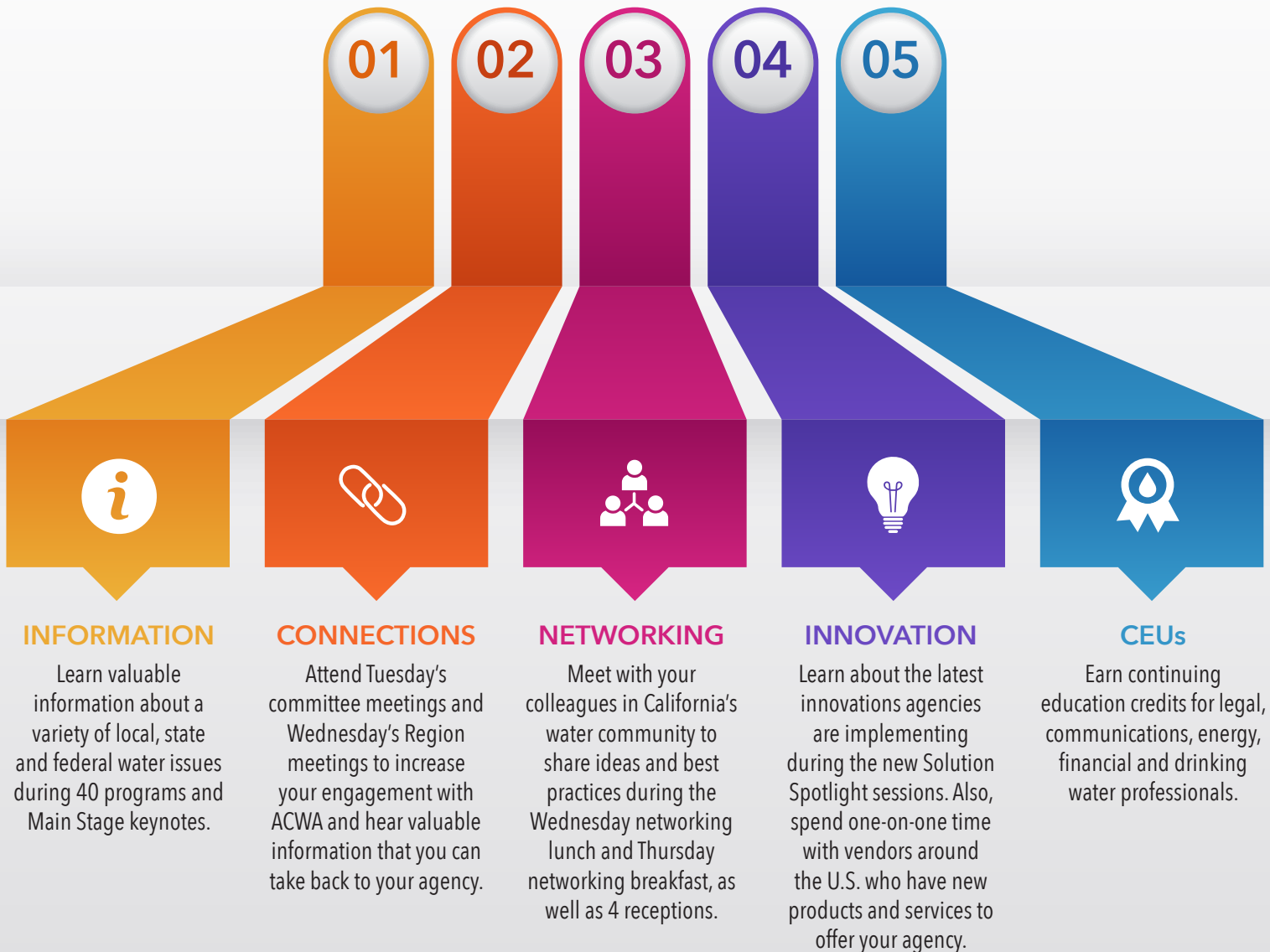


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TOP 5 BENEFITS TO ATTENDING AN ACWA CONFERENCE



CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Visit ACWA's Exhibit Hall and learn what products & services our exhibitors have to offer as well as enjoy networking opportunities like the networking breakfast & lunch, receptions and Exhibit Hall activities.

SEE YOU IN SACRAMENTO!

The ACWA 2024 Spring Conference & Expo is set to take place May 7–9 at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento.

Sacramento is America's Farm-to-Fork Capital. The city is buzzing with things to taste, see, and savor including farm-fresh restaurants, plentiful farmers markets, home-grown breweries, colorful street murals, Gold Rush-era family attractions, or a sunset walk along the river.

ACWA conferences are the premier destination for water industry professionals to learn and connect. Join us and enjoy the enhanced conference experience with new features and more networking opportunities!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Recorded Programs

Designated conference programs will be recorded and made available for on-demand access after the conference.



Group Savings

Buy five full conference registrations, receive one free! A perfect time to introduce new staff to the California water community.



Tuesday Committee Meetings

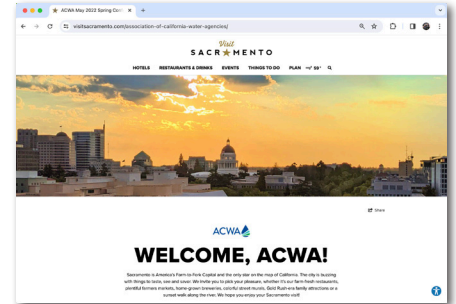
Registration is required to attend any part of ACWA's Spring Conference & Expo, including the complimentary Tuesday, May 7 committee meetings.



Health & Safety

Visit acwa.com/events for registration and health & safety information.

**VISIT THE
SACRAMENTO
SITE FOR
CONFERENCE
ATTENDEES!**



[https://www.visitsacramento.com/
association-of-california-water-agencies](https://www.visitsacramento.com/association-of-california-water-agencies)

TIME TO MIX & MINGLE!

After spending the day learning, join these opportunities to mix, mingle and connect with friends and colleagues in the water industry. All ACWA conference attendees are welcome to attend!



Member Mixer

Tuesday, May 7 | 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

New members and first-time attendees are invited to kick off conference with ACWA Leadership and the Membership Committee at the Member Mixer.

ACWA Welcome Reception

Tuesday, May 7 | 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Kick off the conference and greet your colleagues in the Exhibit Hall. *Sponsored by Kleinfelder*

ACWA Wednesday Evening Reception

Wednesday, May 8 | 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Join ACWA in the Exhibit Hall for this hosted reception. *Sponsored by Jacobs*

CalDesal Hosted Mixer

Wednesday, May 8 | 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Join CalDesal for a hosted mixer.

ACWA Foundation Reception

Wednesday, May 8 | 6:00 PM – 7:15 PM

Join us for this reception and unwind after an informative day. Hear updates on the ACWA Foundation and connect with your friends and other water leaders.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

State Water Resources Control Board Drinking Water Contact Hours may be available for qualifying programs.

ATTORNEY PROGRAMS



These programs been approved by the State Bar of California for attorneys to receive general MCLE credits.

An Uncertain Certainty: Navigating the Uncharted Water of SGMA, Financing Implementation, and State Intervention

The program will delve into the complex realm of GSA funding strategies and associated challenges, especially around incomplete or inadequate GSPs. The discussion will explore considerations surrounding SGMA funding mechanisms, innovative funding solutions, and litigation. Additionally, we will analyze the implications of probationary Subbasins and who is responsible for SGMA fees and penalties.

The Looming Crisis in Rate Setting

It's the best of times and the worst of times to be setting water fees and charges. On one hand, recent and proposed laws have created paths to reduce the risk of rate challenges. On the other hand, a 2024 ballot initiative and several pending cases may invalidate adopted rates and throw future ratemaking into crisis; and local recall efforts threaten rate-makers who are trying to make prudent choices. This program will review the most current case law and legislative developments, and provide guidance on how to minimize legal threats to your rate structure and revenues.

The More You Know: A Public Service Announcement on California's New Governance and Ethics Laws

Our presentation will focus on election year ethics issues with a specific emphasis on the Levine Act, which now requires elected officials to disqualify from contract and entitlement decisions that involve a campaign donor. Though the law has been in place since the early 1980's, it used to only apply to appointed boards, such as the boards

of joint powers authorities. 2024 is the first election year where it will also apply to elected board positions. Members of public water boards will now have to consider the impact of conflict of interest laws when accepting contributions. The presentation will explain the nuances of this new paradigm and what board members (and the executives serving them) will need to be aware of as campaign season begins in earnest.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE PROGRAM

Diving into Dialogue: Is Podcasting the Right Tool for Your Agency?

As podcasts continue to be a popular way to receive news and entertainment, many agencies are assessing whether it could become a valuable part of their overall communications strategy. Hear from experienced podcasters about different approaches, costs and resources needed, as well as tips for getting started and evaluating success.

FINANCE PROGRAMS



CPAs may receive continuing education credit by attending this program.

Fiscal Sustainability in Times of Uncertainty

As water agencies, we face numerous uncertainties and challenges to ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability and an affordable water supply to customers. The uncertainties can include SGMA implementation, water rights, supply shortages and/or decreasing demands, just to name a few. How do we manage these challenges in a fiscally sustainable manner and minimize rate and fee increases? In this session, a diverse group of water agencies will discuss the challenges they are experiencing and what actions they plan to take (or are already taking) to ensure their agency is fiscally sustainable now and into the future.

How to Conduct a Rate Study While Avoiding Common Pitfalls and Maintaining Best Practices

Conducting a successful water rate study is critical in order for agencies to effectively fund operating and capital needs, advance key policy objectives, and meet the legal requirements of Proposition 218. However, the rate study process is fraught with inherent financial, political, and legal risks. This panel will cover common rate study mistakes so that your agency can avoid them.

The Water Infrastructure Financing Landscape

The need for water infrastructure investment in California exceeds the financial capacity of utilities' rate revenues and existing cash reserves. Consequently, borrowing is often necessary to bridge the funding gap. In this panel discussion, we aim to offer insights into the diverse financing options accessible to water agencies in the state. This will encompass a review of the municipal bond market, an exploration of state loan opportunities, and an examination of emerging innovative financing solutions.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE PROGRAM

Leadership Crisis: Real Talk, Tough Questions

As the nation faces workforce challenges, the California water industry is struggling to attract the best and the brightest talent, as well as shape a leadership that is reflective and responsive to the needs of the changing public expectations. Come listen to a frank discussion by leaders throughout the state as they assess the landscape of talent and leadership in water and share what they really think about the future of water.

WATER INDUSTRY TRENDS

Powering Through: The Role of Distributed Energy Resources in Crisis Response

With the prevalence of public safety power shutoff events across California and increasing reliance on electrical power to serve customers with safe and reliable drinking water, it is now more important than ever to consider distributed energy resources, such as backup energy generation and storage sources, to protect water system operations and align with California's long-term goals to migrate to cleaner energy sources. This program will discuss how Distributed Energy Resources can play a significant role in power resilience.



This program may count towards the Certified Energy Manager (CEM) continuing education credit.

Delta Focus: Conveyance Project Updates

The Delta Reform Act set the coequal goals of improving water supply reliability statewide and enhancing the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem. Two-thirds of California's water originates in the Sierra Nevada and is delivered to more than 27 million Californians and about 750,000 acres of farmland. The infrastructure that enables this conveyance is critical to the health of communities and the success of the state's economy. This program will provide a timely update on the Delta Conveyance Project progress.

Liquid Intelligence: Lessons Learned from a Decade of Water Data Collaboration

The California Data Collaborative (CaDC) was envisioned and launched at the 2015 ACWA Fall Conference in Indian Wells. Since then, reporting requirements have continued to grow, and water manager-led data services have grown substantially. What has worked and what has not? This session will share lessons learned from the past decade of the CaDC and share the vision for how, by working together, smartly, and collaboratively, water managers can prepare for whatever the future holds.

The Home Stretch of Making Conservation a Way of Life

In 2018, the legislature established the state goal of Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life. This panel will explore the regulatory effort, the remaining concerns and challenges, what we've learned through the process, and what is needed to be successful from policy concept to implementation.

Harmony in Hydrology: The Need for Water Managers to Embrace Nature-Based Solutions

Adaptation is the name of the game in California water management. Hear from a panel of experts hailing from the mountains to the sea on how they are embracing nature-based solutions to better manage the increasing volatility of California's water supply. Through insightful analysis and real-world examples, panelists will share holistic approaches that not only safeguard water resources but also contribute to biodiversity, economic stability, climate resiliency, and community well-being.

Is Ag Doing Its Part?

Wide-ranging, broad legislation is often inadequate to address the specific needs and challenges faced by different regions and communities in California. Local irrigation and water districts are typically better positioned to address these needs and tailor solutions accordingly. This program will explore innovative ways that water suppliers in Northern, Central, and Southern California are working with agricultural customers, regulatory agencies and NGOs to solve local problems for California's water supply security.

Does Money Grow on Trees? Find the Billions in Your Backyard!

We've all heard the saying "money doesn't grow on trees," but what if the money wasn't on the tree but rather in the services the tree provides? Come learn about ecosystem services valuations and how you can find the billions hiding in your backyard from colleagues who have completed ecosystem valuation studies and discovered gold!

PROGRAMS CONTINUED PAGE 6 >>

ACWA REGION MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

MAY 8, 2024

Connect with
fellow region
members
for updates
and input on
region activities,
committees, and
ACWA's Statewide
priorities.

ALL MEMBERS
WELCOME!



POLICY PROGRAMS

Are California's Water Managers Ready for the Future?

As California continues to face complex challenges related to water scarcity, climate change, and population growth, it is imperative to build alignment among water leaders on the trajectory of California's water management. This session brings together a broad range of water managers to discuss and confront the future of California's water management. Through poignant questions and insightful, candid discussions, panelists will share their perspectives and deliver policy recommendations that can ensure success.

Using Consolidation to Achieve the Human Right to Water

In recent years, the State Water Resources Control Board has prioritized consolidating "failing" water systems with larger, more stable systems to advance the goals of SB 200 and the Human Right to Water. This panel will explore how water systems are actually being consolidated (physically and managerially), the risks and opportunities for receiving systems, and how this strategy can advance access to safe drinking water.

Reviewing the Weather Whiplash of 2023

With the Governor's emergency proclamations for both drought and flood in place simultaneously, Water Year 2023 provided extreme examples of the challenges that come with managing water resources in California. The state's variable climate and increasing impacts of climate change mean the extremes are likely to become the norm. This panel will bring together experts to discuss the state's response, the challenges of managing for both drought and flood, and the lessons learned for the future.

SOLUTION SPOTLIGHT

Flow Investments, Floodplains and Fish Survival

Hear about the importance of floodplain reactivation in providing crucial fish habitat and how infrastructure – like the Fremont Weir "Big Notch" and Tisdale Weir notch projects – will efficiently enhance floodplain habitat, conserving water for various stages of the salmon freshwater life cycle and benefiting regional species.

Farming the Ocean for Fresh Water

In 2023, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and the Natural OceanWell Company entered into a public/private partnership to pilot test a new approach to desalination. If successful, the test will prove the effectiveness of submerged pods near the ocean floor where immense pressure would drive the reverse osmosis process and produce fresh water pumped to shore. The process would use a fraction of the energy required by traditional desalination while leaving little to no environmental impacts.

During this Region 8 Solution Spotlight, you'll learn how this pioneering concept could connect Las Virgenes MWD, entirely dependent on imported water, to a sustainable and reliable supply right from its ocean backyard. This technology could open a pathway to strengthening water supply resiliency on a global scale.

Check the ACWA website
for updated conference information.

WWW.ACWA.COM

REGION ISSUE FORUMS



State Water Resources Control Board Drinking Water Contact Hours may be available for qualifying programs.

How to Play Nice in the Sandbox: Lessons in Sharing from Region 1

Presented by Region 1

Local autonomy is a cornerstone for the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP), an innovative and successful partnership among Northern California Tribes, seven counties, and diverse stakeholders, covering 12% of the California landscape. Emerging in 2004 from the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Act, NCRP proves resilient in the evolving funding climate to engage in regional solutions in water quality and supply, ecosystem function, economic vitality, climate adaptation, energy independence, and much more. Panelists will share their experiences and successes in building resilient water management practices for the future, as well as discuss the future outlook of IRWMP.

Understanding the Bay Delta Plan's Impacts on Region 4

Presented by Region 4

Join Region 4 at ACWA's Spring Conference for a conversation on the impacts of the proposed Bay-Delta Plan amendments on Solano and Stanislaus County. Gain insights from Region 4 leaders on creative, multi-benefit solutions to meet the State's objectives. This is a unique opportunity to learn more about the implications of the proposed Plan amendments on water management and agriculture in Region 4.



ACWA EXHIBIT HALL

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HALL

- Dedicated Exhibit Hall Hours**
 Spend one-on-one time with vendors from around the U.S. whose products and services may offer you just the right solutions for your agency.
- Tuesday Welcome Reception**
 Network with your peers and friends while visiting with vendors from across the nation!
- Wednesday Evening Reception**
 Enjoy a hosted reception in the Exhibit Hall!
- Continental Networking Breakfasts**
 Enjoy a quick breakfast and network in the Exhibit Hall each morning!
- Prize Drawings**
 Mingle with your peers and exhibitors and win great prizes!
All raffle prizes will be drawn on Thursday and you must be present to win.
- Fun Activities Using the Mobile App**
 Visit areas of the Exhibit Hall and locations all throughout conference for chances to win prizes using the conference mobile app!

Thank you

EXCLUSIVE PARTNER

ACWA JPIA

2024 SPRING CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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 Ardurra
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 Five Star Bank
 Gannett Fleming
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 INTERA
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 Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
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 Stoel Rives
 Todd Groundwater
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 Western Municipal Water District (Western Water)
 Woodard & Curran
 Wood Rodgers
 Yuba Water Agency
 ZGlobal



ACWA

CONFERENCE & EXPO
SACRAMENTO | MAY 7 - 9, 2024

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

TUES 5/7/24

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
ACWA JPIA SEMINARS

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE

11:00 - 12:15 PM
WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
ENERGY COMMITTEE

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM
COMMITTEE NETWORKING LUNCH

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
OUTREACH TASK FORCE

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM
FINANCE COMMITTEE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

3:15 PM - 4:45 PM
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
FEDERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
WELCOME RECEPTION
IN THE EXHIBIT HALL

WED 5/8/24

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
IN THE EXHIBIT HALL

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
WELCOME KEYNOTE / MAIN STAGE

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM
PROGRAM SESSIONS

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
CONNECT IN THE EXHIBIT HALL
NETWORKING LUNCHEON

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM
SOLUTION SPOTLIGHTS
• Member Case Study, Associate Service, Demo

1:30 PM - 2:15 PM
WATER TALK / MAIN STAGE

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM
PROGRAM SESSIONS

3:45 PM - 5:00 PM
REGION 1-10 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
ACWA RECEPTION IN THE EXHIBIT HALL

THUR 5/9/24

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
WELLNESS ACTIVITY

7:30 AM - 11:00 AM
CONNECT IN THE EXHIBIT HALL

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
IN THE EXHIBIT HALL

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM
PROGRAM SESSIONS

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
PROGRAM SESSIONS

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM
KEYNOTE & AWARDS / MAIN STAGE

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
CLOSING NETWORKING LUNCHEON

Last Updated: 3/13/24

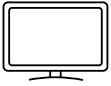
Qualify for continuing education credit

Designated Recorded Programs TBD

Questions: Email events@acwa.com
Online Registration Deadline: April 19, 2024

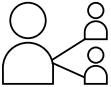
All conference programs are subject to
change without notice.

REGISTRATION, MEALS AND HOTEL INFORMATION SHEET



REGISTER ONLINE

Register online by **April 19, 2024** at www.acwa.com to take advantage of the advance pricing.



REGISTER ON SOMEONE'S BEHALF

Select from a list of people affiliated with your company in your account. If the registrant is not listed, you will need to create a Portal profile for the registrant through the ACWA website before registering.

GROUP SAVINGS! Register 5 individuals from the same organization, receive a 6th registration free!
(Subject to [terms and conditions](#).) **Contact Teresa Taylor at TeresaT@acwa.com for more information before registering.**

REGISTRATION OPTIONS <i>Advantage pricing applies to ACWA public agency members, associates & affiliates. Standard pricing applies to non-members of ACWA.</i>	ADVANCE DEADLINE: 4/19/24		ONSITE	
	ADVANTAGE	STANDARD	ADVANTAGE	STANDARD
Full Conference Registration Includes access to Tuesday ACWA Committee meetings, all ACWA conference programs, ACWA meal functions*, ACWA Exhibit Hall, ACWA hosted receptions and access to on-demand designated conference recordings after the live conference. *ACWA meal functions include: Wednesday Continental Breakfast, Wednesday Networking Lunch, Thursday Continental Breakfast and Thursday Closing Lunch	\$840	\$1,260	\$870	\$1,290
Tuesday Committee Meetings Only (complimentary - must register to attend) Includes Tuesday Committee Box Lunch. Committee meetings are not recorded. Virtual participation is not available.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
One-Day Conference Registration Wednesday, May 8: Includes access to all Wednesday ACWA conference programs, Tue. ACWA Welcome Reception in the Exhibit Hall, Wed. ACWA Reception in the Exhibit Hall, Wed. ACWA Continental Breakfast and Wed. ACWA Networking Lunch. On-demand designated conference recordings are NOT included. Thursday, May 9: Includes access to all Thursday ACWA conference programs, Thur. ACWA Continental Breakfast and Thur. ACWA Closing Lunch. On-demand designated conference recordings are NOT included.	\$490	\$735	\$520	\$765
Guest Conference Registration Guest registration is not available to anyone with a professional reason to attend. Includes access to ACWA hosted receptions.	\$130	\$130	\$130	\$130
PRE-ORDER: On-Demand Designated Conference Recordings Only Includes on-demand access to designated conference recordings after the live conference. Video recordings will only be available for the Main Stage presentations. All other designated educational programs will only have on-demand audio recordings and PDFs of presentations made available. See preliminary agenda for details.	\$240	\$360	\$240	\$360

HOTEL INFORMATION

You must be registered for the ACWA conference in order to receive hotel reservation information and conference special room rates. **Conference special rates are available February 1 - April 15**, based on availability.

HOTEL & ROOM RATES

Hyatt Regency Sacramento \$225 per night* (resort fee waived)
Sheraton Grand Sacramento \$226 per night* (resort fee waived)
* Plus applicable state/local taxes & fees

HEALTH & SAFETY

Please check [ACWA's conference page HERE](#) for current health & safety information.

IMPORTANT DATES

**The conference hotel room block opens on February 1, 2024.
Deadline for group rate is April 15, 2024.**

For those **registering for conference prior to February 1**, information on how to reserve your hotel room will be provided via e-mail on February 1.

For those registering for conference from **February 1 to April 15**, your **confirmation e-mail** will include the information on how to reserve your hotel room and an opportunity to receive the conference special hotel rates.