



**SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S**  
41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL SOUTHWEST WATER SEMINAR

# AGENDA

# WATER REIMAGINED:

STRATEGIES FOR A CHANGING WORLD

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**Details:** March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Sky Ute Casino and Resort,  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Ignacio, CO 81137

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**8:00 a.m.** **Registration & Breakfast**

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**8:30 a.m.** **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**Steve Wolff** – General Manager, Southwestern Water Conservation District

**Chairman Melvin J. Baker** - Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Tribal Blessing & Welcome

**TBD** – Board President, Southwestern Water Conservation District

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**9:00 a.m.** **Strength in Water Collaboration**

**Moderator: Stacy Beagh** – Owner, Strategic by Nature; Facilitator, SWCD Water Conservation and Infrastructure Partnership

**Celene Hawkins** – Tribal Partnerships Program Director, The Nature Conservancy

**Ben Robinson** – Biologist, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

**Alex Handloff** – Collaborative Comms. Manager, Mountains Studies Institute;  
3-2-3 Partnership

**Jonathan Paklaian** – Executive Director, Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative

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**10:15 a.m.** **Colorado River Updates**

**Rebecca Mitchell** – Colorado Commissioner, Upper Colorado River Commission

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**10:30 a.m.** **Networking Break**

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**10:50 a.m.** **Keynote Session 1 – AI's Impact on Water Resource Management**

**Raj Khosla, PhD** – Head of Agronomy, Kansas State University

**DRAFT AGENDA**



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**11:30 a.m. Women Shaping the Future of Water**  
**Moderator: Christine Arbogast** – President, Colorado Water Congress; President, Kogovsek and Associates  
**Lorelei Cloud** – Southwest Basin Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board  
**Chane Polo** – Executive Director, Colorado Water Congress  
**Sonja Chavez** – General Manager, Upper Gunnison River District  
**Erin Karney** – Executive Vice President, Colorado Cattlemen’s Association

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**12:30 p.m. Announcements & Lunch**

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**1:45 p.m. Water Information Program**  
**Elaine Chick** – Water Information Program; Public Education, Participation and Outreach Coordinator (PEPO) for the Southwest Basins Round Table

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**2:00 p.m. Department of Agriculture Updates**  
**Robert Sakata** – Water Policy Advisor, Colorado Department of Agriculture  
**Evanne Caviness** – Director of Conservation Division, Department of Ag.

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**2:15 p.m. Keynote Session 2 – Using Big Data for Smarter Water Decisions**  
**Sara Larsen** – Chief Executive Officer, OpenET

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**2:55 p.m. Networking & Snack Break**

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**3:15 p.m. Smart Water, Smart Cities: Managing Municipal Resources**  
**Moderator: Jordan Dimick** - Senior Engineer, SGM Engineering  
**Brian Peckins** – Public Works Director, City of Cortez  
**Marty Pool** – Sustainability Manager, City of Durango  
**Justin Ramsey** – District Engineer & Manager, Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation  
**Marshall Brown** – General Manger, Aurora Water

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**4:15 p.m. Closing Remarks**

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**4:30 p.m. Happy Hour with Colorado Water Trust and SGM Consulting**  
The first 100 visitors to their information table that receive a ticket get a free drink!