



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 (*Tentative*)

**Charlie Smith** – Board President, Southwestern Water Conservation District

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

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

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

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

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

**Chuck Cullom** – Executive Director, 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 and its Impact on Water Management & Agriculture**

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



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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.**

**Colorado Department of Agriculture Updates**

**Robert Sakata** – Water Policy Advisor, CO Department of Ag.

**Evanne Caviness** – Director of Conservation Division, CO Department of Ag.

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**2:15 p.m.**

**Keynote Session 2 – OpenET: Remote Sensing and Evapotranspiration (ET) Data for Smarter Water Management**

**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** – PE - Water Resources Practice Leader, SGM

**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 Manager, 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!**

The first 100 visitors to their information table that receive a ticket get a free drink!