



California Water Environment Association
Protecting our water environment through education and certification.

CWEA 2017 Annual Conference Call for Proposals Information

Play a part in the upcoming 2017 CWEA Annual Conference to be held in Palm Springs from Tuesday, April 25 - Friday, April 28, 2017 by submitting an educational session proposal. The 2017 CWEA Annual Conference Education Program Team looks forward to working with you to design and develop meaningful sessions where participants can engage, connect and learn.

Over 1,000 professionals in the water and wastewater profession attend this highly regarded annual conference and individual sessions generally attract 40-100 people. As a presenter, you will be able to share ideas to help our industry succeed and establish yourself as a thought leader in the water industry.

There is no limit to the number of sessions proposals that may be submitted by an individual, company, organization or institution. Please submit separate session proposal applications for each proposed session. Please do consider partnering with others to submit one or more proposals - a collaborative approach to developing sessions is encouraged.

Since session proposals are collected using an [electronic survey system](#), we suggest that you first collect your thoughts before going to the online proposal form (PDF of form can be found [here](#)). [Sample proposals](#) are available to help get you started.

All proposals must be submitted [online](#) by midnight PST on Friday, October 14, 2016.

For questions, please contact Monica Myhill, CWEA Director of Education, by phone: 510.382.7800 x 103 or email: mmyhill@cwea.org.

PARTICIPANT CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

We surveyed our members to uncover the challenges they face. Here are some of their top areas of interest.

- **Safety First** (confined space; commercial trucks; fall protection; trenching & shoring; dig alert; personal protective equipment in era of antibiotic resistance; collection systems; operations and maintenance; laboratory; pretreatment)
- **One Water: The Future of Resource Recovery** (water reuse; stormwater reuse; advanced water treatment operations, maintenance, optimization and new technologies; new biosolids and co-digestion technologies; what do One Water and Utility of the Future concepts look like once implemented by an agency; challenges on the horizon - contaminants of emerging concern; direct potable reuse; what does the drought mean for One Water ideas)

- **Operations and Maintenance of the Future** (next-gen plant operations and/or maintenance; new processes; small wastewater treatment plant operations; dealing with high strength sewage; stringent discharge requirements; nutrient removal experiences; operations or technology innovation and alternatives; digesters of the future; building great cross-discipline teams)
- **No Drought in Regulations: Surviving & Thriving as Regulations Increase** (how to handle on-site inspections; how to fill out complicated State paperwork/databases; how will regulations coming down the pipeline impact the workforce; looking into the future on how to handle pressure of regulation overload. Specific regulations of interest: Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program; sanitary sewer system waste discharge requirements; indirect potable reuse/direct potable reuse; Industrial stormwater/dental amalgam; nutrient removal; third party sanitary sewer overflow lawsuits)
- **Too Little Then Too Much: Building in Resiliency as California's Climate Goes Crazy** (preparing water professionals, systems and cities for drought; maintaining green infrastructure; green infrastructure and stormwater reuse for local water supplies; stormwater diversion impacts on ops and regulations; impacts of stormwater responsibilities on collection systems, compliance inspectors and wastewater agencies; how to deal with drought impacts on rates, maintenance and operations)
- **We've Got the Data: Helping Members at All Levels Unlock the Power of Asset Management** (asset management for field crews, engineers, middle managers and executives; how asset management and data can help you; how to make data valuable; converting data to meaningful dashboards/metrics people will use; data management technologies; software solutions – supervisory control and data acquisition {SCADA}, computerized maintenance management software {CMMS}, geographic information systems {GIS}, mobile tech; understanding what data means at all levels of the organization; basic foundational knowledge of asset management)
- **Built and Maintained to Last: Pipelines and Pump Stations** (sanitary sewer overflow reduction, cleaning, safety, roots, operation optimization; monitoring, prioritizing and rehabbing pipelines, private laterals, trunk lines and force mains; new pump station best practices; benchmarking and optimizing staffing; new technology on pumps, trenchless and combo units with recycled water)
- **Operations of Today** (functional, hands-on sessions covering skills and tasks needed to perform on the job such as pump rebuilds; pump packing; submersible pump maintenance; sludge pump maintenance; handling and installing bearings; centrifuge optimization and maintenance; variable frequency drive optimization; polymer optimization; UV optimization and maintenance; etc)
- **Workforce** (future of workforce training; workforce trends and analysis; how to get projects done with shortage of workers and engineers; need to raise the profile and prestige of our profession; replacing workforce and retaining knowledge; succession planning; converting Nintendo generation into pick-shovel workers; need apprentice programs; and how to find more qualified candidates)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION TYPES

The following conference session types will be featured:

Workshops:

- Participants engage in participatory discussions, interactive exercises, learning activities and/or case studies on a particular subject or skill
- Are participant-centered, highly interactive and may include some participant pre-work
- Cover topics and skills that are critical to the success of specific audiences and provide substantive training and opportunities for practice and critical discussion so that participants can immediately apply the workshop learning back in the workplace
- Half-day (3 hours) workshops are offered and two half-day workshop over 1 or 2 days are possible for a total of 6 hours

Focused Sessions:

- Participants dig into a problem and uncover details and solutions through participatory discussions, group brainstorming/polling, interactive exercises and learning activities
- Feature multiple speakers and a session facilitator (CWEA member volunteer to be identified closer to the annual conference)
- Typically cover a half-day (3 hours)

Technical Sessions:

- Presented by industry professionals who share case studies, lessons learned and overviews of technologies and design strategies
- Participants are given time to ask questions and discuss the content with the presenter and peers
- Cover one topic in depth, rather than giving an overview of many topics
- Facilitators (CWEA member volunteer to be identified closer to the annual conference) will be present in technical sessions to help guide and encourage questions and discussions
- Are typically 50-minutes in length

SESSION PROPOSAL REVIEW CRITERIA

Submitters should review the full Call for Proposal requirements to assure that all questions are answered as directed. Session proposals that are not submitted in accordance with the published requirements will not be accepted.

The AC17 Education Program Team and CWEA Technical Committee Leaders will select session proposals of interest and may contact potential speakers for more information. Please note that application submittal does not guarantee selection.

All sessions must be educational in nature, unbiased and avoid direct or indirect promotion of any particular product or service.

Session proposals will be peer-reviewed and evaluated using the following criteria:

- Clarity & Quality of Proposal: writing clarity and professional quality of the proposal
- AC17 Challenge Area / Theme: connection of proposal's topic to identified challenge area
- Relevance to CWEA Practice Area: relevance of proposal to one or more CWEA practice areas
- Application to Job Performance: learner outcomes that focus on knowledge, skills and abilities that can be immediately implemented back in the workplace
- Topic Coverage: whether the proposal's topic can be adequately covered in the selected time frame

CWEA has assembled a diverse AC17 Education Program Team (EPT) who will assist in the education program design; selection of speakers, themes and topics; and coaching of speakers. To ensure that the program content is timely, relevant and optimally targeting our attendees' needs, the EPT will select from submissions received during the Call for Proposals and identify gaps, if any, which the EPT will address through additional content development strategies.

SPEAKER COMPENSATION

Selected speakers are responsible for all conference related expenses, including travel and lodging expenses. Speakers are required to register for the conference at either the full-conference discounted speaker rate or a one-day conference discounted speaker rate (on the day of their session). Speakers will receive a 40% discount off the member early bird registration fee. Registration will open in January 2017.

IMPORTANT SPEAKER MILESTONES AND DEADLINES

- Call for Proposals due by 12 midnight PST on Friday, October 14, 2017
- Speaker Notification – November 2016
- Sign and Return Speaker Contract – December 2016
- Speaker Training and Coaching Opportunities - January to March 2017
- Register for Conference and Pay Speaker Rate (40% discount off member rate) - March 2017
- Submit Final Session Materials (PowerPoint Presentations and/or Handouts) - March 2017