



GRAVITY FLOWLINE

March 2026 | Volume 29, Issue 1



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Photo Credit: Marcos Serrano, City of Thousand Oaks

October 2025 Workshop *Read more on page 4* City of Thousand Oaks

2025 AWARDS BANQUET

Read more on page 10



Pictured: Hannah Schiff, Administrative Person of the Year

Welcome!

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Did you know CWEA Tricounties Section has its own Facebook page? If you're on Facebook, let's get connected!!! It's easy, from your own account search:

"Tri Counties Section of the CWEA"

We post pictures, announcements, member news,

The *Gravity Flowline* is published by the California Water Environment Association Tri-Oakport Street, Suite 600, Oakland, CA 94621-Counties Section

7677 1935

Send your comments, ideas, and/or articles to bmartinez@cityofventura.ca.gov

CWEA Tri-Counties Section Members: Current members will automatically receive the *Gravity Flowline* Newsletter

Renew your membership or update your mailing address: CWEA, 7677 Oakport Street, Suite 600 Oakland, CA 94621-1935

Phone: 510-382-7800 Fax: 510-382-7810 Email: info@cwea.org http://www.cwea.org/mlr_member_renewmem.html

Visit "<http://www.cwea.org/TriCounties>" for up-to-date information, event flyers, workshop schedules/registration forms, and vendor registration forms for all TRIS events.

President's Introduction

Hello CWEA Tri-Counties Section Members,

We would like to take a moment to introduce the CWEA Tri-County Section President for 2026, Katherine McCrory. Katherine's service on the board has been instrumental, especially in bringing a fresh perspective as a vendor with Gold Coast Environmental, Inc.

We look forward to her continued service and leadership this year. If you see Katherine at upcoming local section workshops or events, please feel free to stop and say hello.

Warm regards,
CWEA Tri-Counties Section Board of Directors.



October 2025 Workshop—RECAP

City of Thousand Oaks, CA
October 2025

Our Tri-Counties Section (TCS),

This year the City of Thousand Oaks graciously hosted a CWEA Tri-Counties Section workshop. The third quarter workshop is usually held in September but was postponed to October this year. That did not stop our section and host from organizing a great training event for our members! Lunch was BBQ served up hot by City of Thousand Oaks staff.

Workshops are a valuable way for our members to obtain CEU hours for certification renewal, receive on-going training to keep up to date with industry specific knowledge and network with other members and vendors in our region. To ensure all our members are served in a equitable manner the TCS CWEA makes a point to hold one workshop in our Northern most County every year.

Local members and City of Thousand Oaks staff, Marcos Serrano graciously photographed the event.

Our next workshop, will be held on **March 18, 2026** in **San Luis Obispo**. We hope to see you there.





Gravity Flowline subscription expired?

NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS: The State CWEA collects local membership dues on behalf of local sections. Members of CWEA will be contacted regarding membership expiration. Subscriptions are automatically renewed after dues are paid. If you do not hear from CWEA before your membership expires, please contact the State CWEA Office at 510-382-7800 for the status of your membership.

NON-MEMBERS: A non-member subscription is \$16 per year. Complete this form and submit it along with your check to the address below. Indicate your delivery address. CWEA members who are not Tri-Counties Section members may get a subscription for \$12.

CWEA Tri-Counties Section

Gravity Flowline Subscription & Advertisement Form

- SUBSCRIPTION—\$16 per year
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- Subscription \$12 Per Year
I'm a CWEA member, but belong to another local section.
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 - Half Page Ad \$540 per year
- (Due to space constraints, Full Page Ads are not available.)**

The deadline for submission for the next issue is the 15th of the first month of the issue date.

Send to:

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Please submit all ads in electronic format to:
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2026 TCS Calendar of Events

TRIS CWEA March Workshop

March 18th 2026 8:00 am

San Luis Obispo, CA

The March workshop will be held at the City of San Luis Obispo Corporation Yard, located at 25 Prado Road, San Luis Obispo. The agenda will include two indoor classroom sessions, one outdoor hands-on training session, and a guided tour of the City's newly completed Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF). Lunch will be catered for all attendees, with vegetarian meal options provided as part of registration. No additional meal preferences are available at this time.

Please note that on-site parking is limited.

Attendees will be required to park along Prado Road and walk to the facility.

For registration or more information please visit:

<https://bit.ly/CWEATRISMarchWorkshop2026>



2025 Tri Counties Section CWEA Awards Baquet



Pictured 2026 CWEA TRIS Board of Directors (left to right): Jacob Broad (Past-President), Chris Boddy (Past President—outgoing), Katherine McCrory (president), Ryan Beech (Vice President), Baylie Martinez (Secretary), Justin Graves, *Chris Lewsadder (Member At Large) not pictured.

The 2026 CWEA TRIS Awards Banquet was held on January 6, 2026, at the Timbers Road House in Goleta, California. Members and agencies from our local section were recognized for their outstanding contributions to CWEA. CWEA President Kathrine Gies and President-Elect Howard Brewen were in attendance to swear in our new Member-at-Large, Chris Lewsadder, as well as current members stepping into their new roles for the year.

Awards included:

- Small Collection System of the Year – **Carpinteria Sanitary District**
- Medium Collection system of the Year - **City of Simi Valley**
- Collection System Person of the Year - **Alex Valenzuela**
- Supervisor of the Year & Golden Gavel Recipient – **Jacob Broad**
- Maintenance Person of the Year – **Frederick Parr**
- Administrative Persons of the Year – **Emily Minter & Hannah Schiff**



Jacob Broad, Carpinteria Sanitary District Supervisor of the Year



Frederick Parr—Maintenance Person of the Year



City of Simi Valley—Medium Collection system of the Year



Carpinteria Sanitary District—Small Collection System of the Year




Emily Minter—Administrative Persons of the Year



Alex Valenzuela—Collection System Person of the Year


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Committee Chairs & Other

AWARDS

Chris Boddy
Las Virgenes Municipal Water
District

COLLECTION SYSTEM

Ryan Beech
City of San Luis Obispo

Trevor Strasser
County of Ventura

Sian Bashkiroff
City of Oxnard

CWEA LIAISON

Howard Sean Brewen
Jacobs

GRAVITY FLOWLINE EDITORS

Baylie Martinez
City of Ventura

Stephanie James
Carpinteria Sanitary District

MR. BEAR'S GIMMICKS & GADGETS

Travis Fisher
City of Simi Valley

HISTORY

Looking for volunteers!

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Alec Roberts
City of Ventura

LABORATORY

Jacob Broad
Carpinteria Sanitary District

MAINTENANCE

Looking for volunteers!

MEMBERSHIP

Emily Minter
Ventura Water

OPERATIONS

Thomas Welche
City of Santa Barbara

OPERATOR CHALLENGE

Chris Lewsadder
Carpinteria Sanitary District

PAST PRESIDENTS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Travis Fisher
City of Simi Valley

PAST PRESIDENT'S PICNIC

Chris Boddy
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

PHOTOGRAPHER

Looking for volunteers!

P3S

Looking for volunteers!

Committee Chairs & Other

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Mary Thompson
City of Santa Barbara

TCP & CONTACT HOURS

Teresa Kistner
Goleta Sanitary District

VENDOR RELATIONS

Porter Norten
Charles P. Crowley Company

SAFETY

Patrick McCulloch
City of Thousand Oaks

TURKEY OF THE YEAR

Travis Fisher
Ojai Sanitary District

WEBSITE

Mary Thompson
City of Santa Barbara

SMALL COMMUNITIES

Looking for volunteers!

STUDENTS & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Mariana Cruz & Ben Signs
City of Santa Barbara

Tri-Counties Section Mission Statement

To enhance the education and effectiveness of California's Wastewater Professionals through training, certification, dissemination of technical information and promotion of sound policies to benefit society through protection and enhancement of the water environment.



**California Water
Environment
Association**

**CALIFORNIA WATER
ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION**

TRI-COUNTIES SECTION
San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara & Ventura Counties



Remembering Herald “The Bear” Reyes

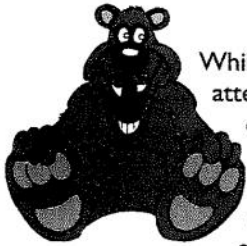


The CWEA Tri-County Section would like to take a moment to honor the life and legacy of our former board member, **Harold “Mr. Bear” Reyes**.

To remember Mr. Bear, we are sharing an article originally published during his term as Board President. It offers a glimpse into who he was and recognizes the dedication, leadership, and lasting contributions he made to our local section and the wastewater community.

A Year in the Life of President Bear

Teresa Kistner



While enjoying a respite from a bustling March Workshop registration, a "Dancing Bear" caught my attention. He was greeting vendors and attendees and I knew he was assessing what was missing to ensure the success of this record-breaking turnout. While watching him I began reflecting on the contributions Mr. Harold "Bear" Reyes has made to our local CWEA Section, especially as President. I decided it would be fun to publicly acknowledge some of his accomplishments. Almost simultaneously, I encountered the ubiquitous Dave Badgley. So I asked him, "What do you most appreciate about our President Bear?" He responded, "Bear is the spark plug that gets it started and makes it run . . . and now, team him with Anne and WOW!" As we watched Mr. Bear, he added, "and he can walk again!" Mark Greenfield chimed, "Bear got me to wear a costume to the TOY—*Nobody* can get me to wear a costume!" Louis Chiourn responded, "Matron Momma Morgan made me laugh until I couldn't breathe!" Amused, we agreed that performance would definitely be a hard act to follow. Bradshaw Pruitt avowed, "Bear's enthusiasm, ability to build excitement and attention to detail has taken the Tri-Counties Section to a higher level!"

Mr. Bear, the higher level that we are enjoying includes your many endeavors. We admire your artistic graphics and creative "Mystery Person" articles in the *Gravity Flowline*. We appreciate your commitment to updating the vendor's contact list and delegating the database upkeep to the very capable Bradshaw. We know that without the incredible support of our vendors we would not be able to offer the high level of training, and although Bradshaw recruited a whopping 34 vendors for our March Workshop, Mr. Bear you still hold the record of over 40! Thanks for designing and ordering our new Tri-Counties Section lapel pins and selling them at the workshop. The CWEA applauds you for the new and colorful accountability system of stamping workshop schedules for our member's contact hours certificates. The District appreciates the incredibly imaginative model sewer pipe tunnel you created for our 2005 Open House, including the subsequent ooooh's and aaaah's! Your wife lovingly points out that the new involvement from San Luis Obispo County and the new recognition awards for the Tri-Counties Section can also be attributed to your innovative thinking.

During a quiet moment following a very busy workshop, I asked you what your most important accomplishment as President has been and you responded that you wanted to increase workshop participation. Hats off to you Mr. Bear for attaining that goal! We've had a productive year in the CWEA Tri-Counties Section and we know much of it comes from your 'get this party started' inspiration. With gratitude from your CWEA Tri-Counties Section Board, colleagues and friends, **Thank you**, President 'Dancing Bear' Harold Reyes!

"You're only given a little spark of madness. You musn't lose it"

~ Robin Williams ~

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