

**United States Committee
on Irrigation & Drainage**

2025 Annual Conference



USCID

October 21-24, 2025
Eldorado Resort Casino
Reno, Nevada

2025 USCID CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

7:00am	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (workshop participants only)
8:00am-11:30am	WORKSHOP: LINING AND SEEPAGE REDUCTION (separate registration required) <i>Charles Burt, Cal Poly ITRC Founder and Dan Howes, Cal Poly ITRC Chairman</i> • Justifications for lining, including bank stability, less hydraulic resistance, less maintenance, and seepage reduction • Options and details of vibratory compaction without liners, simple geomembrane liners with no geotextile or concrete, geomembranes with concrete cover, concrete only, shotcrete, concrete canvas, and treated soil • Differences between geotextiles and geomembranes; woven and non-woven geotextiles • ASTM specs for geomembranes and various geotextiles • Results of studies regarding longevity of various linings under various situations • How to deal with situations involving seepage reductions with different variables • Installation hints and tricks
12noon-1:15pm	OPENING LUNCH WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER <i>Scott Fennema, PhD, Chief Hydrologist, US District Court Water Master's Office</i>
1:30pm-3:00pm	GENERAL SESSION: POLICY <i>Moderated by Brian Wahlin, WEST Consultants</i> Berrenda Mesa Water District Afterbay Reservoir Lining Project <i>Jeff Eklund, P.E., Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group</i> Conjunctive Management in Prior Appropriation States: An Examination of Policy Governing Surface and Groundwater Management in the Western U.S. <i>Caitlin Skulan, Schroeder Law Offices, P.C.</i> Water Levels are Low, but Vibes are High <i>Lauren Bartels, Nevada Division of Water Resources</i> Policy on the Edge of Science—Water Accounting Isn't for the Faint of Heart! <i>Jeffrey C. Davids, Davids Engineering, Inc.</i>
3:15pm-4:45pm	GENERAL SESSION: ET REMOTE SENSING <i>Moderated by Dr. Stuart Styles, Cal Poly Irrigation Training and Research Center</i> Flowmeters and Remote Sensing: How do the Methods Compare? <i>Nancy Navarro, Davids Engineering, Inc.</i> Tracking Evapotranspiration of Applied Water and Effective Precipitation by Color-Coding Standardized Soil Water Budgets <i>Meetpal Kukal, PhD, University of Idaho</i> Developing Long-Term Groundwater Withdrawal and Consumptive Use Inventories for Irrigated Agriculture in the Western U.S. Using Satellite Remote Sensing <i>Sayantani (Monty) Majumdar, PhD, Division of Hydrologic Sciences, Desert Research Institute</i> OpenET Releases the Farm and Ranch Management Support (FARMS) Data Interface to Increase Access to Remotely Sensed Evapotranspiration Data <i>Forrest Melton, Earth Sciences Division, NASA</i>
4:45pm-5:00pm	USCID UPDATE/USCID ANNUAL MEETING <i>Therese Stix, USCID President, Schroeder Law Offices P.C.</i>
5:00pm-5:30pm	MEET THE EXHIBITORS
5:30pm-7:30pm	WELCOME RECEPTION WITH EXHIBITORS

2025 USCID CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (CONTINUED)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

- 7:00am-8:30am** **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST WITH EXHIBITORS**
- 8:30am-10:15am** **GENERAL SESSION: GROUNDWATER RECHARGE**
Moderated by Kent Norman, Stockton East Water District
Recharge Evaluation Framework Basin Siting
Bryan Thoreson, P.E., PhD, GEI Consultants, Inc.
- Recharge Basin Design—Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District Case Study
Sam Schaefer, P.E., GEI Consultants, Inc.
- Walker Recharge Project Infrastructure Planning and Implementation—Case Study
Wayne E. Eckas, P.E., Independent Consulting Agricultural Engineer
- 10:30am-12noon** **GENERAL SESSION: BASIN WATER PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT**
Moderated by Therese Stix, Schroeder Law Offices P.C.
Restoring Watershed Function and Recharging the Local Aquifer
Ricardo Aguirre, WEST Consultants, Inc.
- Water Right Buy Backs: Quantifying How Much Wet Water is Actually Conserved
Justin Huntington, Division of Hydrologic Sciences, Desert Research Institute
- Protecting Irrigation Ditch and Pipeline Easements
Laura Schroeder, Schroeder Law Offices, P.C.
- California's Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP) - Questions that Demand Better Streamflow Data
Jeffrey C. Davids, Davids Engineering, Inc.
- 12noon-1:15pm** **LUNCH WITH SPEAKER**
Deputy Commissioner Hannah Freeze, Great Salt Lake Commission
- 1:30pm-3:15pm** **GENERAL SESSION: COMPETING AGRICULTURAL, URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL USES**
Moderated by Frank Dimick, Dimick Water Resources Engineering
Agricultural Lands Owned by MWD: The Sustainability of Farming and Partnerships with Building Healthy Soils in the Palo Verde Valley and Reducing Land Subsidence Near the Freshwater Pathways in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
David Bradshaw, The Metropolitan Water District
- Navigating SGMA Oversight in the Chowchilla Subbasin
Jacob Winslow, Davids Engineering, Inc.
- Land Repurposing Program Development in the Turlock Subbasin: A Grower-Centered Solution to Groundwater Demand Reduction
Christopher Heppner, PhD, PG, EKI Environment & Water, Inc.
- Integrating Ag Use of Recycled Water on a Regional Scale, the SacSewer Harvest Water Program Interface with Grower Facilities and Needs
Neal T. Colwell, P.E., Kjeldsen, Sinnock & Neudeck, Inc.
- 3:30pm-5:00pm** **GENERAL SESSION: GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT**
Moderated by Forrest Killingsworth, South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Characterizing Stream-Aquifer Exchanges with Stream Reach Water Budgets
Christopher Sortor, Davids Engineering, Inc.
- Affordable Feasibility Assessment to Understand Hydrologic and Economic Benefits, if any, from Cloud Seeding
Luciana Cunha, WEST Consultants, Inc.

2025 USCID CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (CONTINUED)

GENERAL SESSION: GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT (continued)

Irrigation Triggers—Global: A Web Application for Determining Site-Specific Soil Moisture Based Triggers for Irrigation Scheduling Globally
Meetpal Kukal, PhD, University of Idaho

5:00pm-6:30pm **RECEPTION WITH EXHIBITORS**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

7:00am-8:30am **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST WITH EXHIBITORS**

8:30am-10:15am **GENERAL SESSION: WATER DISTRICT INFRASTRUCTURE**

Moderated by Mike Day, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group

Designing Suitable Ratio Feedback Control Systems to Control EBID Main Canal Reaches
Blair Stringam, New Mexico State University

Managing Stormwater and Irrigation in Urban Canals, Old Channel Project, Susanville, CA
Ben Volk, J-U-B Engineers, Inc.

Irrigation District Pumping with VFDs
Charles M. Burt, P.E., PhD, BC., WRE

10:30am-12noon **GENERAL SESSION: HYDRAULICS OF WATER MANAGEMENT**

Moderated by Amy Johnson, HDR Inc.

Large Irrigation District Canal Flumes: History, Challenges and Future Designs
Stuart Styles, Cal Poly ITRC

Case Study: Effects of Transients in Gravity Supply
Rodrigo Ribeiro Franco Vieira, Brazilian Federal Development Company

Canal Design and Regime Theory: A Fascinating History
Brian Wahlin, WEST Consultants

How the Lack of Experience and Education Can Lead to Poor and Unsafe Canal Designs—Case Study Malawi CVTP
Dan Howes, Cal Poly ITRC

12noon-1:15pm **LUNCH WITH SPEAKER**
Ed James, Carson Water Subconservancy District

1:30pm-3:30pm **PANEL DISCUSSION: WATER DISTRICTS MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS**

Moderated by Dr. Stuart Styles, Cal Poly Irrigation Training and Research Center

Paul Fuchslin, Solano Irrigation District

Jarrett Martin, Central California Irrigation District

Bert Bryan, Walker Irrigation District

Adam Claes, Fresno Irrigation District

3:30pm-4:00pm **GENERAL SESSION: INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATION**

Moderated by David Bradshaw, The Metropolitan Water District

Predicting Spacial Tendency of Groundwater Head Using a Machine Learning Algorithm in the Tanghan Plain, China

Nebiyu Kassahun, State Key Laboratory of Water Cycle Simulation and Regulation, China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research

2025 USCID CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (CONTINUED)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

7:30am-3:30pm

FIELD TOUR: WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SEPARATE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The bus will depart at 7:30am sharp from 4th Street between Sierra and Virginia Streets (exit the hotel on the casino floor by Ichiban restaurant). Continental breakfast and beverages will be available to “grab and go” beginning at 6:30am.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CLOSED-TOE SHOES ARE REQUIRED.