

**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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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>Adam Nickels, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, California Great Basin Region</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>Daniel J. Smith, 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 PC</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

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

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

A Method for Calculating Drainage Flow in Intermittently Improved Subsurface Pipes
Jin Mingrui, China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

8:00am-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

Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District Old Channel Lining Project
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 and Brent Travis, 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-3:15pm **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-4:30pm **GENERAL SESSION: INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

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

Decision Support System (DSS) for Flood Management in Lower Indus Basin
Syed Farrukh Hasan, Data Center, Sindh Resilience Project, Sindh Irrigation Department

2025 USCID CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (CONTINUED)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

7:30am-3:30pm

**FIELD TOUR: WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT
(separate registration required)**

Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) was formed in April 1919 under the authority of the Nevada Irrigation District Act and operates independently under the guidelines of NRS 539. WRID encompasses approximately 235,000 acres of which over 80,000 are irrigated. WRID operates two storage reservoirs; east fork storage is located in Bridgeport, CA and west fork storage is located at Topaz Reservoir. WRID operates and maintains extensive drainage systems, ditches and canals in both Smith and Mason Valleys. Tour attendees will learn about WRID's operations from Topaz Reservoir down through Mason Valley into our ditch systems including our modernization project that has been taking place since 2011. ***AT THE END OF THE TOUR, THE BUS WILL DROP PASSENGERS AT THE RENO AIRPORT AND THE ELDORADO HOTEL.***

CONFERENCE WEBSITE

Please visit us at <https://www.uscid.org/events> for conference information, up-to-date schedules, hotel information, online registration, and to download registration, exhibitor, and sponsorship information forms. **ONLINE REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.**

HOTEL INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS

The 2025 United States Committee on Irrigation & Drainage will be held at the Eldorado Hotel & Casino, located at 4th and Virginia Streets in downtown Reno, Nevada. Room rates start at \$45 (plus reduced resort fee of \$15/day and applicable taxes).

- Book online at <https://www.uscid.org/events>. Click on the Hotel Information tab.
- Call the hotel reservations line at (800)687-8733. Please mention the USCID Conference, group code **SRCID5** to ensure the group rate.
- **MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY!!!! THE DEADLINE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT THE SPECIAL RATE IS OCTOBER 6, 2025 OR UNTIL OUR ROOM BLOCK IS FILLED.**

CONFERENCE DEADLINES

- The Eldorado Hotel room reservation deadline is October 6, 2025 OR until our room block fills.
- Conference early registration deadline is September 6, 2025. After September 6, registration fees are higher.

CANCELLATIONS

- Eldorado Hotel room reservation cancellations must be made directly with the hotel at least 72 hours prior to your scheduled arrival to avoid a cancellation penalty.
- Conference registrations cancelled by October 6 will be refunded in full. There will be no refunds for registrations cancelled after October 6 or for “no shows”.

EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

Exhibitor Receptions will be held Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. In addition, continental breakfasts and breaks will be served in the exhibit area on all days. For details, please refer to the enclosed Exhibitor Information and Application. If you have questions, please call us at (916)206-7186 or email jane@agamsi.com. Information and online registration is also available on our website: <https://www.uscid.org/events>

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

A limited number of sponsorship opportunities are available. Please refer to the enclosed Sponsorship Opportunities menu. Information and online registration is also available on our website: <https://www.uscid.org/events>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

United States Committee on Irrigation & Drainage 2026 Annual Conference
October 20-23, 2026
Eldorado Resort Casino, Reno, NV

QUESTIONS?

Contact Jane Townsend at (916)206-7186 or jane@agamsi.com or Megan Corcoran megan@agamsi.com
