



COLORADO RIVER SYMPOSIUM

The Water That Connects Us

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2026 | SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

WEDNESDAY

1:00 pm **CHECK-IN** (O'Keefe)

1:30 **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

Nick Gray | *Deputy Director ~ Programs, Water Education Foundation*

Jennifer Bowles | *Executive Director, Water Education Foundation*

1:45 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Aubrey Bettencourt | *Principal Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation*

2:15 **NETWORKING BREAK**

2:45 **Colorado River Hydrology: El Niño to the Rescue?**

Noe Santos | *River Operations Manager, Lower Colorado Region, Bureau of Reclamation*

Brad Udall | *Senior Scientist/Scholar, Colorado Water Center, CSU*

3:45 **NETWORKING BREAK**

4:00 **State Principals' Perspectives**

Tom Buschatzke | *Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources*

John Entsminger | *General Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority*

Brandon Gebhart | *Wyoming Commissioner, Upper Colorado River Commission*

JB Hamby | *Chairman, Colorado River Board of California*

Rebecca Mitchell | *Colorado Commissioner, Upper Colorado River Commission*

Gene Shawcroft | *Utah Commissioner, Upper Colorado River Commission*

Tanya Trujillo | *New Mexico Commissioner, Upper Colorado River Commission*

5:00 **Adjourn to Group Photo** (Garden)

5:15 **Confluence Reception** (Rooftop Terrace)

~dinner on your own~

THURSDAY

7:30 am **BREAKFAST** (Palace Ballroom)

9:00 **Six Decades Later: Why Glen Canyon?** (O'Keefe)
 Scott Miltenberger | *Principal Historian, JRP Historical Consulting*
 Eric Kuhn | *Co-Author, 'Science Be Dammed: How Ignoring Inconvenient Science Drained the Colorado River'*

10:15 **NETWORKING BREAK**

10:30 **Lessons Learned from Interstate Litigation**
 Moderator: Bidtah Becker | *Chief Legal Counsel, Navajo Nation, Office of the President & VP*
 Barton "Buzz" Thompson | *Professor of Natural Resources Law, Stanford University*
 Jeff Wechsler | *Partner, Spencer Fane*
 Stuart Somach | *Founding Shareholder, Somach Simmons & Dunn*

12:00 pm **LUNCH** (Palace Ballroom)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Running the Colorado River

Mina Guli | *CEO, Thirst Foundation*

1:45 **Preserving the Living River** (O'Keefe)
 Moderator: Cora Tso | *Senior Research Fellow, Tribal Water Policy, Kyl Center for Water Policy*
 Amelia Flores | *Chairwoman, Colorado River Indian Tribes*
 Celene Hawkins | *Colorado River Program Director, The Nature Conservancy*
 Jennifer Pitt | *Colorado River Program Director, National Audubon Society*
 Dwight Witherspoon | *Attorney, Navajo Nation Department of Justice Water Rights Unit*

3:15 **NETWORKING BREAK**

3:45 **2026 Colorado River Water Leaders: Assigned Water**
 Samantha Barncastle | *Executive Director, Family Farm Alliance*
 Rebecca Bernat | *Director, Arizona Water Banking Authority*
 Julia Bowman | *Attorney, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission*
 Noa Bruhis | *Manager, Climate Resilient Water Systems, Environmental Defense Fund*
 Raquel Flinker | *Director of Interstate and Regional Water Resources, Colorado River District*
 Anna Garcia | *Engineer, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*
 Jessica Humes | *Environmental Compliance Supervisor, Imperial Irrigation District*
 Craig McGinnis | *Senior Water Rights and Strategy Analyst, Salt River Project*
 Ellie Miller | *Northwest Colorado Project Manager, Trout Unlimited*
 Erin Orozco-Whitaker | *Hydrologist, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation*
 Rachel Pence | *Senior Water Resource Engineer, Denver Water*
 Alex Walker | *Civil Engineer, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation*

5:00 **Adjourn**

6:00 **Reception at the Palace of the Governors**
 New Mexico History Museum, Downtown Santa Fe
 ~dinner on your own~

FRIDAY

7:30 am **BREAKFAST** (Palace Ballroom)

9:00 **On the Ground: Living with Less**

Moderator: Felicia Marcus | *Landreth Visiting Fellow, Water in the West Program, Stanford University*

Gina Dockstader | *Board Member, Imperial Irrigation District*

Kathryn Sorensen | *Director of Research, Kyl Center for Water Policy*

Dan Waldvogle | *Program Officer, Conscience Bay Research*

Brad Wind | *General Manager, Northern Water*

10:30 **NETWORKING BREAK**

10:45 **Crafting Consensus: U.S. & Mexico Relations**

Moderator: Brenda Burman | *General Manager, Central Arizona Project*

David Palumbo | *Deputy Commissioner ~ Operations, Bureau of Reclamation*

Adriana Resendez | *Mexico Commissioner, International Boundary & Water Commission*

Sally Spener | *U.S. Secretary, International Boundary & Water Commission*

11:45 **CLOSING REMARKS**

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