2026 National Clean Water Law & Enforcement Seminar

November 11 - 13 | Hyatt Centric Delfina Santa Monica | Santa Monica, CA

Current as of November 11, 2026

All meeting spaces are on the Penthouse Floor unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, November 11

Morning

8:00 – 12:00 **Registration**
Delfina Prefunction

9:00 – 12:00 **Plenary Session I**
Delfina Ballroom

Opening Remarks
Adam Krantz, Chief Executive Officer
NACWA | Washington, DC

Welcoming Remarks
Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, *NACWA President*
Chief Executive Officer
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District | Cleveland, OH

2026 Seminar Overview
Devon Goodrich, *Co-Chair, NACWA's Legal Affairs Committee*
Senior Counsel, Environmental Law Division
New York City Department of Law | New York, NY

Emily Jackson, *Co-Chair, NACWA's Legal Affairs Committee*
Chief Legal Officer
Metro Water Recovery | Denver, CO

9:15 – 10:30 **Utility Leader Perspectives: Impacts of Executive Federal Funding Actions on Clean Water Utilities**

Federal financial assistance has long played a key role in critical infrastructure development and other important water sector initiatives. But as the Executive branch moves to assert more control over giving – and taking away – federal grants while Congress remains in partisan gridlock, what does that mean for clean water utilities? This panel of utility leaders will explore the impacts recent legal and regulatory actions related to federal funding have on utility planning, financing, affordability, and compliance, and what in-house counsel can be doing to help.

Moderator
Jean Block, *NACWA Board Member*
Chief Executive Officer
Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority | Little Rock, AR

Panelists
Laura Briefer, *NACWA Vice President*
Director of Public Utilities
Salt Lake City Corporation | Salt Lake City, UT

Mike Witt, *NACWA Secretary*
General Counsel
Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission | Newark, NJ

Jeff Kray, Managing Partner
Marten Law | Seattle, WA

10:30 – 10:45 **Networking Break**

10:45 – 12:00 **Clean Water Act Primer**

Gear up for the next three days of legalese with everyone's favorite Clean Water Act back-to-basics course. Whether you're just dipping your toe in the environmental law waters or you could swim laps around Michael Phelps at the sight of a 308 letter, this primer given by one of the best in the business is one you won't want to miss. From water quality standards development and NPDES permitting to WOTUS and financial capability assessments, you'll get an expert rundown of the basics so you're ready for the deep dives to come (see what we did there?).

Speaker

Erika Powers, Partner
Barnes & Thornburg, LLP | Ann Arbor, MI

12:00 **Closing Remarks**

Devon Goodrich*, *Co-Chair, NACWA's Legal Affairs Committee*

Afternoon

12:15 – 2:00 **Networking Luncheon**
Delfina Ballroom

Join us for our networking luncheon and a fun game with prizes; The $10,000 Challenge. One Weekend. Ten Grand. Let's hear your best bad idea! Dream big, get creative, and you just might walk away with a prize.

2:00 – 4:30 **Registration**
Delfina Prefunction

2:15 – 5:00 **Plenary Session II**
Delfina Ballroom

Opening Remarks

Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, *NACWA President*

2:15 – 3:00 **Keynote Address - The Interplay Between Wastewater Treatment, Water Scarcity, Climate Change, and Water Quality**

Come gain key insights from our featured speaker, Mark Gold, Director of the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI). This keynote address will focus on how climate change is impacting how we manage wastewater treatment and infrastructure, and how water reuse and stormwater capture are key to building climate resiliency during these times of increasing water scarcity. Mark will also discuss emerging marine climate issues, including the increasing risks to coastal wastewater infrastructure from sea level rise and the impacts of wastewater discharges on ocean acidification and hypoxia. This isn't one you want to miss!

Speaker

Mark Gold, Director, California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations
Scripps Institute of Oceanography | La Jolla, CA

3:00 – 3:15 **Networking Break**

3:15 – 5:00 **Trend Alert! Clean Water Act Permitting and Enforcement**

Trying to keep up with all the environmental law headlines these days can feel a bit like following a manic Tasmanian devil's twitter feed. Come sit in as this panel of experts does the heavy lifting for you by highlighting the key permitting and enforcement trends they are seeing around the country relevant to clean water utilities. From the latest and greatest in consent decree modifications (or, dare we say it, even terminations) to pretreatment initiatives and

NPDES effluent limitations, this panel will provide key insights into what might be coming your way soon.

Speakers

Paul Calamita, Chairman & Managing Partner
AquaLaw PLC | Richmond, VA

Lou McMahon, Partner
McMahon DeGulis LLP | Cleveland, OH

Drew Silton, Partner
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. | Washington, DC

Fred Andes, Partner
Barnes & Thornburg, LLP | Chicago, IL

5:00 **Closing Remarks**

Emily Jackson, *Co-Chair, NACWA's Legal Affairs Committee*

Evening

5:30 – 6:30 **Welcoming Happy Hour**

Lucina & Delfina Prefunction

Kick off the *Seminar* by joining us at the Welcoming Happy Hour. Connect with fellow attendees, reconnect with familiar faces, and network in a relaxed atmosphere. Happy Hour is open to all so enjoy a quick bite and meet us there!

Thursday, November 12

Morning

8:30 – 12:00 **Registration**

Delfina Prefunction

9:00 – 12:00 **Plenary Session III**

Delfina Ballroom

Opening Remarks

Adam Krantz*, Chief Executive Officer
NACWA | Washington, DC

9:05 – 10:00 **Agency Insights: EPA Priorities and Next Steps**

24-hour news cycles and constant pressure for attention-grabbing headlines can lead to less-than-accurate media accounts of what is really being done in Washington, D.C. This panel will provide insights into the work being done at EPA Headquarters from the Agency staff actually doing it on the ground. Topics covered will include EPA enforcement priorities, regulatory next steps, and the latest in biosolids management, NPDES permitting, and water quality standards.

Speakers

Jeffrey Hall, Assistant Administrator**,**
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
US Environmental Protection Agency | Washington, DC

Jessica Kramer, Assistant Administrator
Office of Water
US Environmental Protection Agency | Washington, DC

10:00 – 10:30 **Networking Break**

10:30 – 12:00 **PFAS – What are We Preparing for in 2027?**

If a bunch of clean water utility lawyers get together for three days, but don't talk about PFAS, did they ever really even meet at all? To avoid the potential existential crises that question could lead us to, we decided to hold a dedicated PFAS session just in case. During this moderated discussion, panelists will address what they are seeing now – and what they are

preparing their clients to see in 2027 – on all things PFAS from their state legislatures, regulators, environmental activists, and the courts.

Moderator

Jennifer Harrington, General Counsel & Legislative Liaison
Narragansett Bay Commission | Providence, RI

Panelists

Beth Card, Senior Policy Advisor
Smith, Costello & Crawford | Boston, MA

Erica Spitzig, Partner
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP | Cincinnati, OH

Matt Edling, Partner
Sher Edling, LLP | San Francisco, CA

Devon Goodrich, *Co-Chair, NACWA's Legal Affairs Committee*

12:00 **Closing Remarks**

Emily Jackson*, *Co-Chair, NACWA's Legal Affairs Committee*

Afternoon

12:00 – 2:00 **Lunch on Your Own**

1:45 – 4:00 **Registration**
Delfina Prefunction

2:00 – 5:00 **Plenary Session IV**
Delfina Ballroom

Opening Remarks

Devon Goodrich, *Co-Chair, NACWA's Legal Affairs Committee*

2:00 – 3:15 **New Opportunities and Challenges for Utilities Under the Clean Air Act**

The statutory timeline for undertaking Clean Air Act new source performance standard (NSPS) and risk and technology (RTR) reviews for sewage sludge incinerators (SSIs) has slipped just a bit. And by that, we mean we probably have Blockbuster Video membership cards that were issued more recently than the latest SSI regulations. A lot has happened in the ensuing years, including D.C. Circuit decisions in 2013 (*NACWA v. EPA*) and 2025 (*SSM Litigation Group v. EPA*) that opened the door to potential flexibilities related to sludge variability and affirmative defense provisions. Join this expert panel as they discuss the opportunities and challenges clean water utilities could face as EPA moves forward with its long-overdue reviews, and what NACWA can be doing to advocate on their behalf.

Moderator

Ann McIver, Director, Environmental Stewardship
Citizens Energy Group | Indianapolis, IN

Panelists

Jamie Heisig-Mitchell, *Co-Chair, NACWA's Water Quality Committee*
Chief of Water Quality
Hampton Roads Sanitation District | Virginia Beach, VA

Robin Halperin, Deputy Director of Watershed Programs
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District | Cleveland, OH

Scott Novak, Senior Associate
Baker Botts, LLP | Washington, DC

3:15 – 3:30 **Networking Break**

3:30 – 5:00 **Water Quality Criteria: What are the States and EPA Up To?**

From nutrient criteria in Arkansas and Puget Sound to tribal considerations related to 6-PPD Quinone, a lot is going on throughout the country with respect to water quality criteria that has the potential to significantly impact clean water utilities. This panel will explore the latest state water quality criteria initiatives and, critically, how EPA's response to those efforts has shifted over the past year.

Speakers

Timothy Sullivan, Principal
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. | Baltimore, MD

Jordan Wimpy, Member
Mitchell Williams, PLLC | Little Rock, AR

Trent Stober, Advisory Program Director & Senior Vice President
HDR Inc. | Columbia, MO

Nathan Vassar, Partner
Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C. | Austin, TX

5:00 **Closing Remarks**

Amanda Aspatore, Chief Legal Officer
NACWA | Washington DC

Evening
6:00 – 7:00 **Reception**
The Sandbox, Mezzanine Level

Friday, November 13

Morning
8:30 – 10:30 **Registration**
Delfina Prefunction

9:00 – 11:30 **Plenary Session V**
Delfina Ballroom

Opening Remarks

Amanda Aspatore, NACWA

9:00 – 10:00 **Water Reuse – How Utilities Are Addressing Surging Demands with Water Reuse**

From data centers and economic development to dwindling natural supplies, the need for reliable fresh water across the country continues to grow. Utilities are increasingly turning to water reuse initiatives to meet these demands, ease affordability concerns, increase resiliency, and create new opportunities for revenue generation. Join this panel of experts as they discuss these utility efforts, and the legal and regulatory hurdles faced along the way.

Speakers

Emma Lautanen, Associate
Marten Law | Seattle, WA

Brenley Smith, Managing Director
WateReuse California | Sacramento, CA

David Stoft, General Counsel
Clark County Water Reclamation District | Las Vegas, NV

10:00 – 11:30 **Currents, Conflicts, and Compliance: Ethics for Public Entity Attorneys**

Public entity utility attorneys operate at the intersection of regulatory oversight, municipal governance, and public trust. This interactive presentation covers ethical compliance issues—from managing ex parte communications and defining the "true client," to navigating complex conflict rules, sunshine laws such as open meeting and public records mandates, use of artificial intelligence and post-employment restrictions. Designed for in-house and outside public entity counsel, this session offers practical strategies for maintaining rigorous ethical compliance while effectively advancing your agency's operational goals.

Speakers

Gideon Kracov, Mediator
ADR Services, Inc. | Los Angeles, CA

Leanne Bolaño, Associate
Hanson Bridgett LLP | San Francisco, CA

11:30 **Closing Remarks**

Amanda Aspatore, NACWA