

NEWS RELEASE

CA-NV AWWA Annual Conference returns to State Capitol

Co-hosted by SAWWA, conference highlights include team competitions and speakers Wade Crowfoot and Ellen Hanak

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA – The California-Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association (CA-NV AWWA) will host its 2019 Annual Spring Conference at Sheraton Grand & Convention Center on March 25-28, 2019 in Sacramento, CA. The three-day event is co-hosted by Sacramento Area Water Works Association (SAWWA) and will include an opening general session, speaker panel, an awards luncheon and several competitions. The event will also provide training classes for professional continuing education units (CEU) hours for its attendees that will include skilled distribution operators, treatment operators, engineers and field professionals from the world of drinking water safety.

Wade Crowfoot, the newly appointed California Secretary for Natural Resources will deliver this year's keynote luncheon speech. Ellen Hanak, who serves as the director of the Water Policy Institute of California and senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, will deliver the opening general session keynote address. The opening general session will also host a panel discussion entitled, "Water-Fire-Money" featuring Todd Gartner of the World Resources Institute; Willie Whittlesey, project manager at Yuba Water Agency, and other industry insiders. All will speak about their respective organizational commitments connected to the Annual Spring Conference theme of "Confluence: Where Policy, Operations and Management Converge."

Section Chair and CA-NV AWWA Board Member, Kate Nutting, is proud of the organization's ongoing work and how these events "afford learning together to ensure we remain dedicated to our mission to ensure public health and to provide safe and sufficient water for all." Nutting added, "We are excited for our upcoming 100th anniversary in 2020 and this Sacramento conference kicks off our planning year." CA-NV AWWA Executive Director Tim Worley offered, "This event returns to Sacramento for an opportunity for our attendees to learn and train to enhance current skill sets. It is so important to provide continuing education toward their jobs, building their professional knowledge and learning directly about government policies and new water issues."

Pipe Tapping, Hydrant Hysteria, Meter Madness and Hot Flare events are competitions of skill in which water operators from California and Nevada regions work against the clock for the fastest times. Hydrant Hysteria and Meter Madness competitions will take place on Tuesday. Pipe Tapping and Hot Flare will take place on Wednesday. A women's division has been added to the Hydrant Hysteria competition with an anticipated four to five new women's teams for the inaugural competition. The 2019 Top Op's Challenge will also commence as a test of the knowledge and skill of water treatment, distribution and lab professionals in a College Bowl format. Top Op's participants will answer questions ranging from treatment and distribution, water quality, regulatory compliance, maintenance and safety. Last year CA-NV set a record for its number of competitors. Winning teams from all events will advance to represent the CA-NV AWWA Section at the upcoming AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE19) this June in Denver, CO.

Competition Schedule of Events:

Tuesday, March 26th from 9am – 3:30pm: Top Op's Challenge, Hydrant Hysteria and Meter Madness Competitions

Wednesday, March 27th from 8am – 3:30pm: Pipe Taping & Hot Flare Competition

**Competitions will be held inside the Exhibit Hall.

Footage of prior 2014 contest: [2014 CA-NV AWWA Pipe Tapping Competition](#)

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Media is required to RSVP to John Tucker via email: jtucker@ca-nv-awwa.org (and) dtoro@ca-nv-awwa.org. To reach John on site during the conference contact via cellular: (909)736-4255; or contact SAWWA representative Tamar Dawson, tdawson@chwd.org – (916)735-7732 and for more info or visit ca-nv-awwa.org/sc2019.

The California - Nevada Section of American Water Works Association (AWWA) is a non-profit association, whose mission is to support the water professionals who provide safe and reliable water. The American Water Works Association is the largest worldwide known nonprofit, scientific, and educational association dedicated to providing solutions to manage the world's most important resource: water. Since 1920, California - Nevada AWWA members and volunteers have impacted the industry with their commitment and dedication to leading, educating, and serving the drinking water community. The focus of the organization is to ensure public health and to provide safe and sufficient water for all. For more information on California – Nevada Section of AWWA or to become a member, call 909-481-7200 or visit www.ca-nv-awwa.org.