CWEA
Membership Highlights 2025–2026

MEMBERSHIP & ADVOCACY

EMPOWERING WASTEWATER PROFESSIONALS

- **11,100+ Members**
  united through California's largest community of wastewater professionals
- **10 Mentoring Pairs**
  participated in the fourth year of CWEA's Mentoring Program
- **230 VOLUNTEERS** engaged serving on committees, Local Section boards, work groups, or other volunteer roles.
- **FLOW FORWARD**. CWEA enters year two of the Strategic Plan flowforward.cwea.org with a focus on agency outreach, designing an educator membership program, and piloting hands-on specialized training.
- **CWEA STAFF** is working behind the scenes to update our association management system, strengthening the tools and processes that support membership, events, certifications and other essential services. This ongoing work will help create a more efficient and seamless experience for members and volunteers.

STRENGTHENING OUR TEAM & SUPPORT

CWEA welcomed two new team members: Kiah Combs, Education Coordinator, who supports expanded professional development opportunities for members, and Julie Wallner, Exhibit & Sponsorship Manager, who strengthens exhibitor and sponsor engagement.

Photos by Steve Pate-Newberry/SPN Photography and Northern Sacramento Valley Section.







CERTIFICATION HIGHLIGHTS

- **OVER 7,500 CERTIFICATIONS HELD** – a new record for CWEA.
- **NEW MECHANICAL TECHNOLOGIST** Maintenance exam launched July 1, 2026.
- **ELECTRICAL INSTRUMENTATION** exam has begun the revalidation process.
- **COLLABORATION WITH CA-NV AWWA** on the Revalidation of the AWTO Certification Grades 3-5 continues as we complete the exam publishing process.
- **CWEA TCP ORIENTATION WEBINAR, LIVE:** November 18 11:30 a.m. This session is ideal for first-time applicants or anyone looking for a refresher on CWEA's certification programs.

RECOGNITION & AWARDS IMPACT

- **CWEA RECEIVED** more than 300 award nominations and recognized over 100 state winners during AC26.
- **$14,500 PLEDGED BY CWEA** Local Sections in support of the Kirt Brooks Scholarship.
- **14 KIRT BROOKS SCHOLARSHIPS** awarded to students pursuing careers in the water profession.

Meet two scholarship winners on page 22.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **1,725 ATTENDEES AT AC26 IN SACRAMENTO** – a new attendance record for the North.
- **313 ATTENDEES** at P3S26 in Riverside.
- **OVER 450 PROFESSIONALS** participated in CWEA Safety Days.
- **SIX COLLECTION SYSTEM FUNDAMENTALS** workshops delivered across California.
- **TWO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** Training workshops held for wastewater professionals in Northern and Southern California.

"I work in the lab, so it's a very small bubble. And if you don't step out of the lab, you don't really know anyone else in different municipalities or different companies. So being part of CWEA has really bridged that gap between where I work and the professionals in this field."

– Carmelita Aquina, LAB1 Lab Tech, City of Manteca

EXPANDING ONLINE LEARNING

New OWEN learning bundles and lunch and learn series launched, offering members the flexibility to select complete learning packages or individual courses:

- Wastewater Surveillance, in partnership with CASA
- Pumps 101
- P3S26 Digital Conference
- AC26 Digital Conference
- CWEA Leadership Series

LOOKING AHEAD

- **NORTHERN SAFETY DAY:** October 14 at the Yolo County Fairgrounds
- **COLLECTION SYSTEM FUNDAMENTALS WORKSHOPS:** October 28, March 9, May 11, June 15
- **NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION:** November 4th (online)
- **P3S27:** February 9-11 at the Hyatt Regency Santa Rosa
  New Member Orientation: February 10 (online)
- **LOCAL SECTION TRAINING:** February 24 (online)
- **AC27:** April 6–8 (Pre-conference workshops on April 5) at the Palm Springs Convention Center – new schedule Monday through Thursday this year.

"Take the time to get to know the basics and then study. Continue to try to learn new things. Push and challenge yourself. Moving outside of the comfortable zone is going to help you develop and learn more."

– Doug Hollowell, EI4, Director of Operations and Maintenance, Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District