



International Erosion Control Association

Serving Erosion Control Professionals in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Hawaii

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Western Chapter Members,

Thank you to all our Western Chapter Members who voted in our summer elections of the Chapter's Board of Directors. Our director volunteers help to keep the administrative side of the Chapter running smoothly, while working to keep the interest of the Chapter's members at the forefront.

I am delighted to announce that Jeanne Duarte, Melanie Sotelo, and Danny Reynaga were all reelected to serve another 3-year term, keeping their deep bench of knowledge working for the Chapter's members. Additionally, I am pleased to announce that Erika Horn was elected to fill a vacancy on the Chapter Board, bringing her strong environmental compliance and training experience to the Chapter. Please join me in welcoming Erika to the Chapter's Board of Directors.

During the August Board Meeting, the Chapter Directors elected Chapter Officers. The Chapter Officers for 2021-2022 are:

- Melanie Sotelo, President
- Jeanne Duarte, Vice President and Treasurer
- Richard Dunbar, Technical Vice President
- Stephen Knutson, Secretary

I am honored to have been elected as the new President of the Western Chapter's Board of Directors. I would like to express the deep gratitude of the Chapter Board to our past-President, Danny Reynaga, for serving the last 2 years as an involved and active Chapter President. Fortunately, Danny will continue as a Director for the Chapter Board.

Chapter Events for this fall and the coming year were also discussed during the August Board Meeting. The Chapter is working on a webinar regarding water quality of post-fire run-off flows, an informational panel on California's Construction General Permit, and a field tour near Boulder City in the coming year. Keep an eye out for more information as details are worked out.

The IECA Annual Conference will be coming up in February 2022 and will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Several of your Western Chapter Directors will be attending for the informative technical sessions, product and services information, and global networking opportunities. Your Western Chapter of IECA looks forward to seeing you there as well.

Sincerely,

Melanie Sotelo - President, Western Chapter International Erosion Control



**Melanie Sotelo MSE,
CPESC, CPSWQ
WCIECA President
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CASC Engineering &
Consulting**

WILDFIRES AND WATER QUALITY

The world is on fire. Well maybe not the entire world; the eastern part of the United States is flooding, while the western third is on fire. As our climate shifts to a drier western environment and the land use policies and development affect our natural lands, wildfires will remain a constant threat to our environmental health and safety. In 2020 the Western Chapter hosted a wonderful four-part series of webinars related to Wildfire Planning and Remediation, available on the IECA.org website for members. How to prepare for a wildfire event is crucial from a survival standpoint, but also from an environmental protection standpoint. What was missing from the story of these previous webinars: what are the actual environmental impacts of the fire on the waters within, and downstream of the fires? While this question can't legitimately be answered in a single hour webinar, the Western Chapter is here to help open the dialogue on the issue and hopes to springboard the topic into action so that more resources may be available to the industry to open our knowledge library and work to collectively improve how wildfires are prepared for, remediated, and further studied.



Matthew Renaud
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On November 4th, 2021, the Western Chapter will be hosting a live virtual webinar titled “Post-Fire Run-Off Water Quality Monitoring Studies Conducted in Riverside County”. We have asked NV5’s Garth Engelhorn, and Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District’s Rebekah Guill to share their experiences with water quality collection and results related to the Riverside County Tenaja (2019) and Holy (2018) fires. The webinar will present the findings of their years-long studies regarding pollutant loading and flux caused by rain events in the post burn areas. The data to be presented will show measurable changes between storms, and in general provide insight on the impacts of storm water discharge quality from the burn areas of forestry lands. In addition to the data presentation, the presenters will discuss their learned challenges of conducting post-fire monitoring in terms of mobilization, safety, and adapting to unknowns of post-fire run-off volumes and debris.

The Western Chapter is excited to have this presentation as a benefit to our membership community, as many of our individual and corporate members work directly or in related industries affected by wildfires. As an industry, learning the specific water quality impacts seen after a wildfire will help water districts plan for down-watershed impacts to water supplies, help seed suppliers match seed mixes for soil health, help municipalities to design and plan for debris flows years in advance of the fires, and help forest land managers to apply additional data to forest and rangeland management plans.

Please join us for what will be an interesting, thought-provoking presentation, and what should only be seen as the start of the journey into what effects wildfires have on the water quality coming off recently burned areas. I look forward to seeing all on November 4th.

HAVE YOU SUBMITTED YOUR 2021 IECA AWARD NOMINATION YET?

It's that of year when we have the opportunity to recognize industry leaders from within our Chapter. **Nominations open on October 5, 2021 and will close on November 5, 2021.** Nominate a colleague or yourself for one of the following IECA awards:

- **Outstanding Professional Award**
 - The Outstanding Professional Award recognizes an IECA member as an individual or organization that demonstrates excellence in their work in the industry and is viewed by his/her IECA peers as an industry leader through significant engagement with IECA.

IECA AWARD NOMINATION CONTINUED

- **Environmental Excellence Award**
 - The Environmental Excellence Award is IECA's premier award. It recognizes an outstanding stormwater and erosion and/or sediment control project, program, or operation that demonstrates excellence in natural resource conservation and environmental protection.
- **Sustained Contributor Award**
 - The Sustained Contributor Award recognizes an IECA member who has provided distinguished service to IECA and has made outstanding contributions to improve the erosion and sediment control industry for a sustained period of time.
- **Emerging Leaders (previously Young Professional Awards)**
 - This award category recognizes Emerging Leaders under 40* in stormwater and erosion and/or sediment control projects, programs, or IECA support that demonstrate excellence in natural resource conservation and environmental protection. The recipient must be an active member of IECA and participate in the 2022 IECA Annual Conference and Expo.
 - * Nominee must be 39 or younger as of February 28th, 2022.
- **Sustained Partner**
 - This award recognizes a company who has provided distinguished support to IECA and has made outstanding contributions to improve the erosion and sediment control industry for a sustained number of years. Winners of this award will have demonstrated long-term support to the stormwater and/or erosion and/or sediment control industry through IECA via one or more of the following: education, innovative industry products, research, establishment of standards or policies or the development of technology. The recipient must be an active supporting partner of IECA and exhibiting/sponsoring the 2022 IECA Annual Conference and Expo.
- **Contractor of the Year (New)**
 - The Contractor of the Year Award recognizes those contractors who have demonstrated excellence in field execution and application of effective erosion and sediment control practices. Nominees will be recognized for outstanding accomplishments, demonstrated in a single or multiple projects or in the development of new practices. The recipient must be an active member of IECA and attend the 2022 IECA Annual Conference and Expo.

For information, go to www.ieca.org.

MEET YOUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

Erika has been in the stormwater industry since 2003. She started out doing stormwater compliance field inspections for a land development company throughout Southern California and Nevada. What started as field inspections has now evolved into stormwater program development and management for a broad range of clients in the homebuilding industry.

She is happily married to the love of her life. They have two little girls that bring them boundless joy: seven-month-old Hannah, and Leah, who is almost 3 years old. When she isn't working, and chasing her little girls, Erika enjoys cooking traditional Lao food with her husband, family time, reading, outdoor activities, and traveling.

Fun Fact: Erika is a California native but went to high school and college in the Midwest (Illinois and Indiana). She moved back to SoCal in 1999.



**Erika Horn, CPESC, CESSWI,
QSD/P ToR
Senior Environmental
Compliance Manager
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POST-FIRE RUN-OFF WATER QUALITY MONITORING WEBINAR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES DEADLINE OCTOBER 6TH!



Sponsorship



Opportunities



We are seeking:

One KEY Sponsor: IECA Member \$300.00, Non-Member \$400.00 (Perks: A 1–2 minute advertising spot during the webinar. Plus, the Company logo on marketing, and mention at the start and end of the presentation).

Auxiliary Sponsor: IECA Member \$100.00, Non-Member \$200.00 (Perks: The Company logo on marketing and mention at the start and end of the presentation).

CONTACT: Cyndi Brinkhurst – WCIECA
Admin, Email: westernchapter@gmail.com, text/call (530) 320-9631

More details at <https://www.wcieca.org/event/post-fire-run-off-water-quality-monitoring-webinar/>

SEND IN YOUR VIDEOS AND PICTURES

A Chapter Promotional Video will be created soon. We need pictures and/or videos that highlight erosion control and landscapes in CA, AZ, HI & NV! Send in your videos and pictures for Chapter promotion. If we use yours, we will send you a \$25 gift card. Email or send a link to westernchapter@gmail.com.



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REGIONAL NEWS FROM IECA

TOP NEWS

[EPA to overturn Trump-era guidance on CWA permitting](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency will rescind guidance on expedited Clean Water Act permitting requirements finalized during the final days of the Trump administration. The Trump-era guidance had been issued after the Supreme Court found non-point discharges require a permit when they are the "functional equivalent" of a direct discharge. **Full Story:** [Bloomberg Law](#) (9/16)

[Federal judge vacates Navigable Waters Protection Rule](#)

Arizona District Judge Rosemary Marquez on Monday vacated the Trump administration's Navigable Waters Protection Rule, citing errors in the rulemaking process and noting the rule could result in "serious environmental harm" if left in place while the Biden administration works on a replacement. Marquez has yet to decide whether the US should return to the Obama administration's Waters of the US rule or revert to pre-Obama protections. **Full Story:** [The Hill](#) (8/30), [Reuters](#) (8/30)

POLICY & REGULATION

[California highway widening affects wetlands](#)

Highway 46 is undergoing much-needed safety upgrades, but local wetlands are paying a price. However, Caltrans plans to restore 4 acres of wetlands and improve a creek bed in Paso Robles at one end of the highway widening, which ends at Interstate 5 in Lost Hills. **Full Story:** [KCBX-FM \(San Luis Obispo, CA.\) \(audio player required\)](#) (9/1)

[New center may be "game changer" for Western water data](#)

Scientists at a new climate observatory led by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory hope to gain insight into hydrology and water availability in drought-stricken Western states by analyzing data from radar systems, balloons, cameras, and other tools near the headwaters of the Colorado River. The region's mountainous terrain has been hard to model, but the new observatory could be a "game changer," says Alejandro Flores, an associate professor of hydrology at Boise State University. **Full Story:** [The Associated Press](#) (8/25)

[Prop 65 may be falling short on protecting California water](#)

Proposition 65 was designed to keep potentially toxic substances out of waterways and consumer products, but violation notices filed with the state attorney general outweigh discharge suits, and most money from Prop 65 settlements has gone toward attorneys' fees. Questions remain as to whether the policy is effective for keeping toxic substances out of waterways, and what role the state Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's lack of enforcement authority plays. **Full Story:** [Bloomberg Law](#) (7/30)

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REGIONAL NEWS FROM IECA

EROSION/SEDIMENT CONTROL

[Dredging set for lake in San Luis Obispo, California.](#)

Dredging in Laguna Lake in San Luis Obispo is scheduled to start Sept. 16 and continue for 10 days, with setup beginning next week. The dredging and continued maintenance "will help restore water quality over time, make the lake deeper and allow for more recreational opportunities," city natural resources manager Bob Hill says. **Full Story:** [The Tribune \(San Luis Obispo, CA.\)](#) (8/24)

[Hawaii county proposes stream bank upgrades](#)

Maui County is considering \$1.8 million in repairs along the banks of the Wailuku River to minimize erosion and costly flooding. The repairs would be undertaken along a 240-foot section of bank downstream from the Imi Kala Street Bridge, protecting a levee further downstream and mitigating the risk of flooding in Wailuku. **Full Story:** [The Maui News \(Wailuku, Hawaii\)](#) (8/12)

[Rising seas, erosion edging nearer nuclear waste](#)

Nuclear waste from California's closed San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station is partly buried on the site, but concerns are growing that rising seas and coastal erosion could pose a threat. Annual surveys are monitoring the situation, which poses the possibility of a disastrous convergence of factors, such as "a storm surge, some sort of tsunami event, a freak high tide," says Gary Headrick, founder of the San Clemente Green environmental group. **Full Story:** [The Orange County Register \(Anaheim, CA.\)](#) (tiered subscription model) (8/3)

[Nanosponge sequesters excess phosphate from water](#)

Researchers at Northwestern University have developed a porous, flexible, and spongelike membrane coated with iron-oxide nanostructures that allow it to selectively sequester up to 99% of phosphate ions from contaminated water. Researchers can control the membrane by adjusting the pH to absorb or release nutrients to allow for phosphate recovery and reuse of the membrane for multiple cycles. **Full Story:** [ASME](#) (7/20)

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THANK YOU TO OUTGOING PRESIDENT REYNAGA AND BOARD MEMBER DIETZ

WCIECA thanks outgoing President Reynaga. Danny agreed to be our president in November of 2019. He stepped up to carry the Chapter through challenging times. Danny continues to serve as a board member.

Thank you to outgoing Director Ron Dietz who served as director from 2016-2020.

REGIONAL NEWS FROM IECA

EROSION/SEDIMENT CONTROL

[Basin, channels help prevent flash flooding in Nevada city](#)

Flood channels divert water into the Pittman North Detention Basin in Henderson, reducing the area's risk of flash flooding. "Twenty-four seven, 365 days ... even if it's raining at 2 a.m., this basin is here to protect people downstream," said Steve Parrish of the Clark County Regional Flood Control District. **Full Story:** [KLAS-TV \(Las Vegas\)](#) (7/1)

[Vanishing Hawaii beach sets off scramble for solutions](#)

The erosion of the Kahana Bay beach of Maui has seaside residents and local officials striving to find ways to save the receding shore and beachfront real estate, which is valued at half a billion dollars. The ocean has already washed-out cabanas, pool decks and walkways, and one proposal to add 65 feet to the beach could cost up to \$40 million. **Full Story:** [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (5/18)

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

[Stormwater diversion project coming to California city](#)

In October, Sacramento is expected to wrap up a \$32 million, 6-million-gallon water vault beneath McKinley Park that will divert stormwater from the city's combined sewer system. "This stormwater cache will be able to receive all of those sudden stormwater flows, hold them and then release them slowly over a period of two or three days," City Council member Jeff Harris said. **Full Story:** [KCRA-TV \(Sacramento, CA.\)](#) (8/11)

[Arizona county works quickly to control flooding](#)

Crews in Coconino County are digging a channel and taking other emergency measures during a break between rains to mitigate flooding in the Mount Elden Estates development. Workers also hope to prevent further erosion left by scars from the 2019 Museum Fire. **Full Story:** [The Associated Press](#) (8/7)

[Study: Walling off rising seas causes flooding elsewhere](#)

Seawalls built to counter rising waters in the San Francisco Bay Area may protect some places but exacerbate flooding in others, according to a study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Researchers recommend using natural absorbent alternatives, such as marshes, oyster beds and parks. **Full Story:** [Fast Company \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (7/16)

[California upping capacity of Sacramento River system](#)

After decades of discussion, work is well underway on a \$103 million expansion of the Sacramento River bypass and levee system. The project will widen two miles of the Sacramento Bypass, doubling its capacity, as well as five miles of the east side of the Yolo Bypass, in total adding hundreds of acres to the floodplain. **Full Story:** [Engineering News-Record \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (7/12)

[Concrete anchors to help repair seawall in Hawaii city](#)

Kiewit Infrastructure plans to repair around 500 feet of seawall in the Waikiki neighborhood of Honolulu, which has been damaged by erosion. The \$1.9 million project includes the installation of concrete anchors and mats to stabilize the seawall and should be finished before year's end. **Full Story:** [Honolulu Star-Advertiser \(free content\)](#) (6/3)

You did not miss out – our past [webinars](#) can be viewed on-demand.

Check out the [IECA Resource Library](#) and [eHub](#) for all your educational needs!

REGIONAL NEWS FROM IECA

WETLANDS & COASTAL RESTORATION

[Study: Seawalls can shift risk to unprotected communities](#)

A study of the San Francisco Bay's shoreline found that seawalls can divert flood risk but cause major economic damage to unprotected communities, sometimes even dozens of miles away. The researchers, who used computer models that account for projected sea-level rise, suggest the elevation of frequently flooded highways and other "strategic flooding" measures as alternatives to seawalls and levees. **Full Story:** [Scientific American \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (8/2021)

[Groins recommended to save Oceanside beaches](#)

Consulting firm GHD has recommended using rock groins to stem ongoing erosion along beaches in Oceanside, California. GHD has found that the current practice of dredging and sand replacement isn't sufficient to prevent further beach loss. **Full Story:** [The San Diego Union-Tribune \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (7/11)

[Bill would fund San Francisco Bay restoration](#)

The House has passed a bill providing \$125 million to help restore San Francisco Bay, which bill sponsor Rep. Jackie Speier, D-CA., says has been overlooked while federal funds have focused on other major bays over the years. The funding would likely be directed toward wetland restoration initially in a bid to absorb rising waters due to climate change. **Full Story:** [KGO-TV \(San Francisco\)](#) (6/22)

[California project aims to restore floodplain near river](#)

A public-private partnership is conducting a \$45 million project to bring back biodiversity and reduce flooding near the mouth of the Carmel River. The project involves restoring a floodplain, so waters have room to spread during storms, leading to less flooding downstream. **Full Story:** [The Monterey County Herald \(CA.\)](#) (6/11)

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

[More cities pledge to strengthen green infrastructure](#)

Athens, Copenhagen, Los Angeles, Paris, Tokyo, and 26 other cities have committed to expand green infrastructure by 2030 under the C40 Cities Urban Nature Declaration. Signatories can pledge to build green or blue infrastructure across 30% to 40% of developed surface area and/or ensure 70% of a city's population can walk or bike to spaces with blue or green infrastructure. **Full Story:** [Cities Today](#) (7/13)

UPCOMING WEBINARS, TRAININGS, DATES, & MEETINGS

SAVE THE DATE!

November 4, 2021- [Post-fire Run-off Water Quality Monitoring Webinar](#) – **Virtual**. Noon - 1:00 PM Pacific Time. \$25 IECA Members, \$50 Non-members. **Registration starts October 8th!**

THANK YOU TO OUR VIRTUAL CONNECTION SPEAKERS!



Erika Horn CESSWI
Senior Stormwater
Compliance Manager
KCM Group

**Kim Aldrich CPESC,
QSD/QSP**
Regional Environmental
Manager
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**Carrie L. Stowers CEM,
CESSWI, LEED AP**
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Kathryn Dotchin
Stormwater Compliance
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Nevada Division of
Environmental Protection-
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Control

Randall Wakumoto
Program Administration
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PROFESSIONAL LISTINGS

Dirttime.tv is an affiliated brand of [Salix Applied Earthcare LLC](#), formed in 1996 by John McCullah. John has been involved in Watershed Management for 30 years, becoming a certified erosion specialist in 1986. The firm's work involves consulting, training, design/build of stream restoration, bioengineering, education, and awareness. Salix has published design guidance manuals, books, popular and technical articles, and informative case studies. Dirttime.tv has produced over 40 Dirt Time videos. Selecting and watching the clips of your choice then taking tests online is a popular way to earn CEUs. Visit www.dirttime.tv regularly for 'how to' info, tips, and blogs.

Earthsavers Erosion Control Products is the home of the "Original Rice Straw Wattle." Our certified weed-free wattles have been tested for sediment retention at San Diego State University and proven in field studies by Caltrans and numerous other agencies. Earthsavers wattles are available in 3 diameters, photodegradable netting, or 100% biodegradable burlap. Additionally, [Earthsavers](#) is a master distributor for a full line of erosion & sediment control products, geosynthetics and more. Our network of distributors provide local access to premium BMPs and Earthsaver's experienced staff can provide superior technical support to our distributors and their customers and specifiers.

Kelley Erosion Control, Inc. was established in 1983 is recognized throughout Nevada and California as a leader in the industry. The company has an excellent reputation known for quality, competency, solutions, innovative ideas, cutting edge technology, excellence, and client satisfaction. Services include: hydroseeding, site preparation, dust control applications, BMP's, revegetation and project maintenance, site winterization, wetland mitigation, stream channel stabilization, planting and irrigation, mining reclamation, soil stabilizer applications, biotechnical applications, and fire restoration/rehabilitation. Phone (775) 322-7755; Fax (775) 322-6606. Contact – Claudia Chambers CPESC, CISEC, QSP Claudia@kelleyerosioncontrol.com. Visit us at www.kelleyerosioncontrol.com.

Linwood Supply, Inc. distributes the tools you need for erosion control and storm water management including Erosion Control Blankets, TRM and HP-TRM, HydroFiber™, Coir products, organic fertilizers, native and grass seed; plus, for oil spill remediation - rubberized booms, mats, and filters. Other services include written pesticide recommendations and soil testing. We will always provide you with the level of service and professionalism you deserve. Linwood Supply, Inc. is a certified small business based in California. ***If Your Storm Water is as Clear as Mud™*** – Please call us at (707) 678-5087, or visit us at www.linwoodsupply.com.

LSC Environmental Products exists to solve some of the industry's most persistent environmental challenges, such as erosion, revegetation, odor, dust, and waste cover, through the application of our spray-applied coatings. You probably know LSC as the "ADC guys", but we are more than that with the acquisition of Terra Novo, Inc., (best known for their EarthGuard® products); and have served the erosion and sediment control industry for almost 20 years. We are excited to offer new solutions, including soil amendment, site winterization, intermediate cover, and special waste that we believe can benefit virtually any site.

Nedia Enterprises manufactures a complete line of erosion control, sediment control, and bioengineering products that are made primarily from natural fibers. Committed to the conservation of the environment, we are constantly striving to develop products that contribute to its enhancement and protection. Our products are subject to stringent quality control measures that meet, or exceed, industry standards. **Nedia** offers sound technical advice on product selection and installation, with a thorough understanding of the benefits and limitations of the products. A large inventory of products in several distribution centers across the country facilitates cost-effective and timely delivery of our products. Contact 888-725-6999 or email info@nedia.com.

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PROFESSIONAL LISTINGS CONTINUED

Pacific Coast Seed is Northern California's premier supplier of grasses and wildflowers native to California, turf grass seed, and other erosion control materials such as fertilizers, mulches, and soil amendments. We provide seed and other materials for diverse applications including restoration, reclamation, revegetation, ornamental landscaping, and erosion control. We offer specialty seed collection from site-specific sources. For more information check out our website www.pcseed.com or contact us at (925) 373-4417, or info@pcseed.com.

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Western Green (and its associated erosion control brands North American Green and Western Excelsior) is the industry leader for manufactured erosion and sediment control products, and holds the industry's most complete product line, ranging from short term ECBs to permanent HPTRM Anchored Systems. Whether your site needs short-term protection or permanent vegetation reinforcement, trust Western Green's quality brand products to handle any erosion issue you may face.

NV5 is a multi-disciplinary engineering company that is a one stop for most of your development and engineering needs. Engineering and Professional Services include (but not limited to): Civil, Environmental, Construction, Mechanical, Survey, Building Inspection, Geophysical, and Geospatial Surveys. With offices in Arizona, Nevada, California, and throughout the country, we are here to serve all your environmental and engineering needs. In the Erosion and Sediment Control Industry we focus on SWPPP compliance services (CA QSDs and QSPs, owner representation, inspection services, LID/WQMP engineering designs, etc.). Contact the Long Beach, California office for more specific details. (562) 495-5777 Matthew.Renaud@nv5.com.

HEADS UP! [2022 IECA Annual Conference and Expo](https://www.ieca.org) February 15-18, 2022 | Minneapolis Convention Center | Minneapolis, Minnesota. Registration opens in early September.

2023 – Pacific Northwest