



NAWC 2025 LIVING WATER AWARD

2025 WATER SUMMIT | MIAMI, FL | SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1

2025 LIVING WATER AWARD NOMINEES



Theo Deleon, Operations Manager



Jason Sapp, Utility Worker II

Theo Deleon and Jason Sapp – Peoples Water Service Company of Florida, Inc.

Theo, an Operations Manager, and Jason, a Utility Worker II, both with Peoples Water Service Company, are nominated for their exceptional efforts during a historic snow and freeze event in Pensacola, Florida, where accumulation was almost 9 inches and Interstate 10 was closed. Despite the city being paralyzed and widespread issues with uninsulated pipes, they ensured continuous water service, working tirelessly, running wells constantly and manually operating the SCADA system when controls were lost due to frozen lines. Their actions prevented major mechanical failures and ensured that water consumption, which doubled the normal average as customers ran their water to avoid freezing water lines, was met. Their dedication maintained water pressure and treatment processes, ensuring the community had access to water during the crisis.



Chad Eggers, Field Technician III

Chad Eggers – Nexus Water Group's Carolina Water Service of North Carolina

Chad, a Field Technician III with Carolina Water Service of North Carolina, is nominated for his extraordinary dedication during Hurricane Helene, which devastated Western North Carolina. Despite losing his own dream home that he'd just built and possessions in a landslide caused by the hurricane, Chad immediately reported to work when the storm was over. He played a vital role in assessing damage, restoring critical water and wastewater services in rural communities, navigating difficult terrain and providing life-saving necessities. His hands-on involvement, including managing individual field activities and assisting with pipe and leak repairs, was unwavering. His knowledge of the local area and commitment served as an inspiration to his colleagues and the community, demonstrating profound resilience and selflessness. During this incredibly hard time, Chad served as a source of inspiration to those around him and personified the company's motto of "We've Got This!" He is praised for his "dedication, compassion and quiet strength."



Brad Hanover, Water Quality Manager

Brad Hanover – Aquarion

Brad, a Water Quality Manager, is nominated for his 44 years of contributions to water quality protection, reservoir management and community engagement. Brad developed and implemented a comprehensive reservoir management program that has significantly reduced water quality complaints and mitigated large algae blooms. His approach includes utilizing advanced technologies like hypolimnetic circulators and ozone units, resulting in a 30% decrease in water quality complaints over ten years. His dedication extends to mentoring staff and fostering relationships with community organizations like Cub Scouts, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship and public health. He is praised as being a resource and mentor to other employees in the company.



Kelvin Ip Poon, IT Security Analyst



Alauddin Mussa, Intermediate Engineering Clerk

Kelvin Ip Poon and Alauddin Mussa – California Water Service

Kelvin Ip Poon, an IT Security Analyst and former U.S. Marine, and Alauddin Mussa, an Intermediate Engineering Clerk and EMT, are being nominated for their swift and selfless actions during an unexpected medical emergency at their workplace. When a coworker collapsed, Kelvin Ip Poon immediately began administering CPR. Alauddin Mussa, a trained EMT, arrived shortly after and took over CPR, preparing and using an AED. Their quick and decisive actions were critical in maintaining the coworker's circulation and ultimately saved their life, demonstrating exceptional courage and composure in a crisis. Kelvin's dedication also extends to community volunteering and environmental stewardship, while Alauddin is an active member of the Safety Committee and participates in a Firefighter Cadet Program.



*Vincent Leone, Manager-Workforce
Management & Operations Support*

Vincent “Vinnie” Leone – Veolia

Vinnie, Manager-Workforce Management & Operations Support at Veolia, is nominated for his exceptional leadership and dedication to his staff and the environment. As the manager of Toms River workforce, he oversees operations for approximately 125,000 residents across multiple townships and ensuring high-quality water service. He is described as a leader who genuinely cares about people and the community, going above and beyond his job description. This includes personally recording over 30 training videos for his staff – not part of his job description but an example of how he helps ensure exceptionalism within the company – and demonstrating a steadfast commitment, such as dialing into a conference presentation from an airport after missing a flight due to weather, all to support his team and promote Veolia's values. He also contributes to Veolia's broader sustainability goals, including water conservation and infrastructure investment.



*Michele Martise, Strategic
Communications Manager*

Michele Martise – Central States Water Resources

Michele, a Strategic Communications Manager at Central States Water Resources, is nominated for her critical role as the designated "Storm Czar" during severe weather events. She leads the company's 7-stage response plan, orchestrating communication and coordination between various departments to ensure service continuity and public health. She is praised for her dedication, leadership and calm under pressure, especially during emergencies in hurricane-prone regions like Louisiana, Florida and Texas. Her work includes managing all external communications during events, serving as the point of contact for public service commissions, local governments and the media, and remaining on call evenings and weekends to ensure responsiveness. She also contributes to community environmental education efforts, such as leading initiatives at the St. Louis Earth Day festival. She is described as an "indispensable leader" whose "dedication, leadership and calm under pressure make her a vital asset to the company and the communities we serve."



*Joe Pearce, Vice President
of Emerging Contaminants*



*Lauren Raup-Plummer, North
Carolina Engineering Manager*

Joe Pearce and Lauren Raup-Plummer – Aqua North Carolina

Joe Pearce, Vice President of Emerging Contaminants, and Lauren Raup-Plummer, North Carolina Engineering Manager, are nominated for their leading efforts in combating PFAS chemicals across Aqua's 8-state footprint, particularly in North Carolina. They spearheaded the development and installation of cost-effective PFAS treatment systems, including the innovative "PFAS Guard" for small water systems. Their meticulous planning and coordination are crucial for installing over 200 PFAS treatment sites, demonstrating significant advancement in environmental protection and customer benefit. Lauren and her team have placed treatment on 30 sites, 23 in 2025 alone, with 27 more scheduled by the end of this year. The pair are described as the "embodiment of Aqua's commitment to protecting and providing Earth's most essential resource, water."



David Summers, Utility Person

David Summers – Veolia Idaho

David, a Utility Person at Veolia Idaho Operations, is being nominated for his heroic actions in a life-saving situation. While performing his routine duties, David encountered a local contractor crew in distress. He discovered that one of the workers had collapsed and stopped breathing, and no one present knew how to perform CPR. Drawing on his military and law enforcement background, David immediately took charge, instructing someone to call 911 and beginning CPR himself. His swift intervention led to the individual's heart starting to beat again and showing signs of responsiveness before being transported to the hospital. David's calm demeanor under pressure and decisive action prevented a tragedy. On top of his life-saving actions, David is praised for the vital role he plays in the company in ensuring safe excavation and protecting people and assets. He is praised for his “natural leadership skills” and being a “reliable, dependable employee.”

2025 LIVING WATER AWARD JUDGES



Ashley Myers

Executive Director

Texas Association of Water Companies



Pal Hollywood

*Corporate Communications
Manager*

San Jose Water



Summer Defeo

Director of Communications

Middlesex Water Company



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF WATER COMPANIES