

NAWC

2026 Water Summit
Austin | September 14 & 15

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



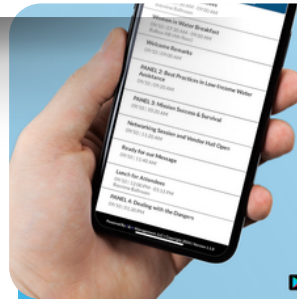
Look Who's Coming

Check out who will be attending and make a plan for networking as we collaborate to solve industry challenges together. [Click here](#) for the list.



Keynote Speaker

Author, entrepreneur and futurist **Byron Reese** will bring his expertise to show how today's innovations can address the world's most complex and pressing challenges.



Free to
download,
free to use.



Download the App

Search "NAWC Events" in the app store or marketplace or scan the QR code above. The app is your hub for the latest Summit info.

Hotel & Conference Venue

Austin Marriott Downtown
304 East Cesar Chavez St.
Austin, Texas

15 minutes from Austin-Bergstrom
International Airport

SEPTEMBER 14 & 15, 2026

Have questions?

Reach out to the NAWC Events Team at
rsvp@nawc.com



September weather
Average high: 86
Average low: 68



Visit Our Website
www.nawc.org/summit



What to Pack:
Attire is business
professional



AGENDA

Monday, September 14

General sessions: Waller Ballroom - Level 3

10:00 am	Registration and Vendor Hall Open <i>Waller Foyer, Level 3</i>
12:00-2:00 pm	Networking with Refreshments: Connect with Speakers, Peers and Vendors
2:00 pm	Welcome to the Front Porch. General Session begins <i>Remarks from Rob Powelson, President & CEO, NAWC</i>
2:20 pm	The Affordability Equation <i>Pull up a chair and grab your phone. It's time to check your perceptions of water affordability with that of customers. We will have a data-driven dialogue that ensures the "equation" we solve is the one our customers actually care about.</i> Speakers: • Carly Myerson, SVP, Candid Counsel • Shane Kinkennon, Owner, Kinkennon Strategic Consulting
3:20 pm	Water Unplugged: From Public Perception to Regulatory Reality <i>Now that we know what people think, let's engage in a fast-paced strategy session to map out what are the important aspects of moving the affordability conversation to understanding.</i> Moderator: <i>The Honorable Nick Myers, Chairman, Arizona Corporation Commission</i> Panelists: • Tanya Moniz-Witten, President, San Jose Water • Steven Ernst, Director, Louisiana Regulatory Relations, Central States Water Resources • Mohammed (Rally) Zerhouni, SVP, CFO and Treasurer, Middlesex Water
4:00 pm	Making Cents of Uncertainty <i>Move past the balance sheets and join us to explore the cost of uncertainty in the water industry. How do shifting regulations, PFAS and infrastructure gaps create a "risk premium" that eventually hits the kitchen table?</i> Moderator: <i>The Honorable Edward Lodge, President, Idaho Public Utilities Commission</i> Panelists: • Chris Franklin, Chair and CEO, Essential Utilities • Kim Nygren, Interim Director, Office of Water, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality • Scott Summy, Environmental Litigation Group Lead, Baron & Budd • David Stanton, CEO, cleanwater1
4:45pm	Living Water Award Ceremony Annual Members Meeting 2027 Look Ahead <i>The Honorable Jehmal Hudson, Judge, Virginia State Corporation Commission, 2027 NARUC President</i> <i>JT Hand, President, The York Water Company, 2027 NAWC Board Chairman-elect</i>
6:00-8:00 pm	Welcome Reception - A Vibrant Night in Austin <i>Zanzibar - Rooftop Level</i> <i>Join NAWC for a night that captures the true spirit of Austin, TX. Say howdy and reconnect with the neighbors and partners who make the water industry thrive.</i>



AGENDA

Tuesday, September 15

Registration and Vendor Hall Open: Waller Foyer- Level 3

General Sessions: Waller Ballroom - Level 3

7:30-9:00 am

Breakfast Buffet for Attendees

Moontower Hall, Level 2

7:30-9:00 am

Women In Water Breakfast (invite only)

Room 403 - Level 4

Featuring:

- The Honorable Ann Rendahl, Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission & NARUC President
- Anna Chittum, President, NW Natural Water

9:00 am

Welcome Remarks

The Honorable Thomas Gleeson, Chairman, Public Utility Commission of Texas

Pat Kerr, President & CEO, Baton Rouge Water Company & Chairman of the NAWC Board of Directors

9:15 am

Common Cents: The Digital Frontier

Conversation on how the industry is leveraging the "Digital Frontier" to drive down the ongoing expense of operation and protect the customer's pocketbook. From energy optimization to AI-driven measures, we're pulling back the curtain on the high-tech tools that can keep systems running lean.

Moderator: The Honorable Kevin Thompson, Chair, Arizona Corporation Commission

Panelists:

- Colleen Arnold, President, Aqua
- Manny Patel, Drinking Water Program Senior Director, 120Water
- Tacoma Zach, Co-Founder and CEO, MentorAPM
- Angela Yuan, Senior Manager of Environmental Policy, Data Center Coalition

10:15 am

Water Unplugged: Thirsty Data - When the digital boom meets the Texas Aquifer

A closer look at the inverse relationship between energy efficiency and water use in the new Public Utility Commission of Texas data center survey.

Speakers:

- Connie Corona, Executive Director, Texas Public Utility Commission
- Andrew Walters, CEO, H2O America

10:45 am

Networking Break & Vendor Hall Open

11:00 am

The Bedrock of Balance: Investing Wisely

The most expensive repair is the one you didn't see coming. In an era of shifting regulations and growth, a reactive mindset does not work. This session explores how forward-looking asset management keeps the affordability equation in check.

Moderator: The Honorable Kelsey Bagot, Judge, Virginia State Corporation Commission

Panelists:

- Kendra Morris, CEO & President of Regulated Water, Veolia North America
- Ron Fleming, Chair, President & CEO, Global Water Resources
- Dylan D'Ascendis, Partner, Scott Madden

12:00 pm

Buffet Lunch & Networking for Attendees

Moontower Hall - Level 2



AGENDA

Tuesday, September 15

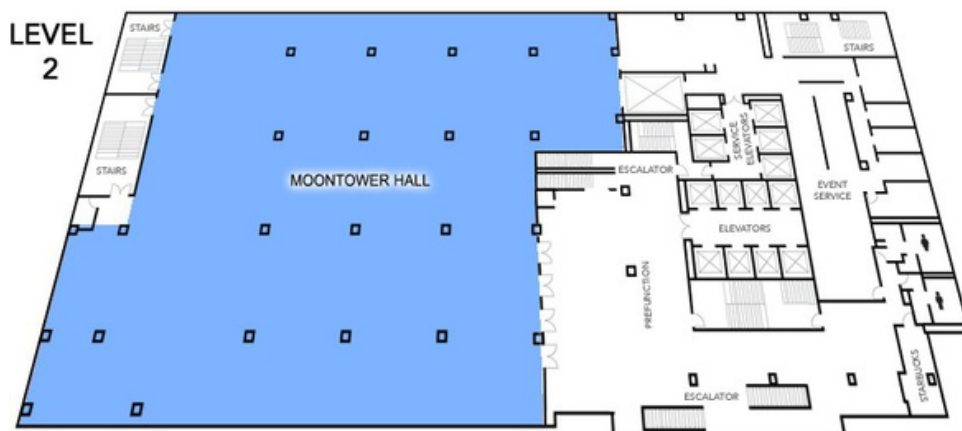
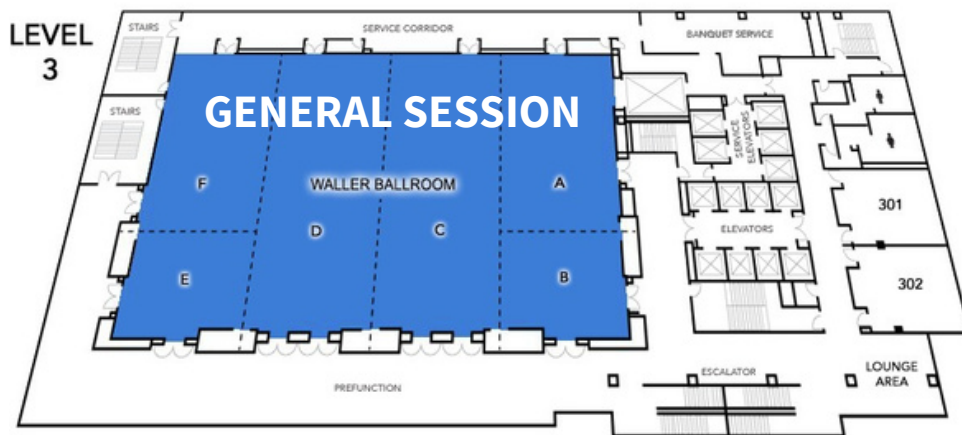
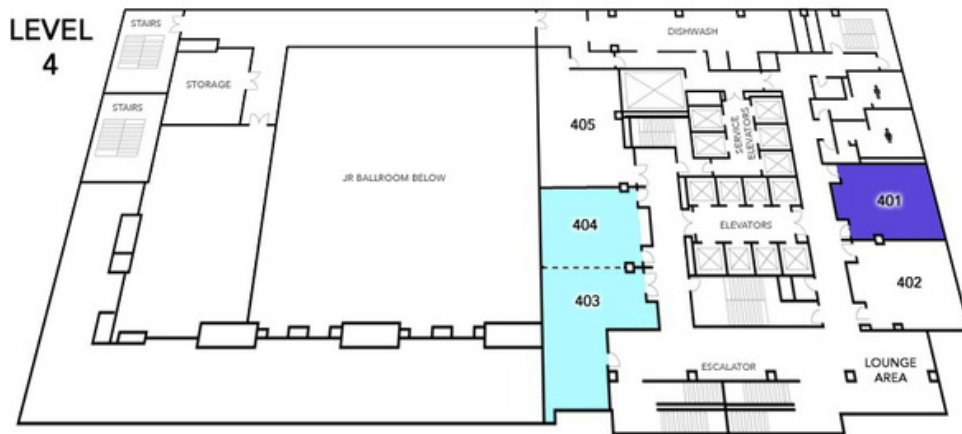
Registration and Vendor Hall Open: Waller Foyer- Level 3

General Sessions: Waller Ballroom - Level 3

- 1:00 pm** **Keynote Remarks: Byron Reese**
Reese will bring his expertise as a historian, technologist and visionary to show how today's innovations can address the world's and the water industry's most complex and pressing challenges.
- 2:00 pm** **Water Unplugged: Cyber Shields Up**
As we embrace our increasingly digital world, we are also expanding the digital target on our backs. In this high-speed session, we're putting experts in the hot seat to tackle the ultimate balancing act: tech trailblazers and security sheriffs at the same time.
- Moderator:** The Honorable René Lopez, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission
Speakers:
- Marty Kropelnicki, Chair, President & CEO, California Water Service Group
 - Daniel Wheeler, Lead Digital Solutions Consultant for Cybersecurity, Trinnex
 - Ben Flatgard, Executive Director, JPMorgan Chase & Co
- 2:45 pm** **Networking Break & Vendor Hall Open**
- 3:10 pm** **Water Unplugged: Water Scarcity**
Water scarcity isn't a future threat – it's a current reality. This panel will explore how regulated, private water companies are leading the way with infrastructure projects to reduce lost water and innovative reuse.
- Speakers:**
- Brooke Paup, Chairwoman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 - Shawn Bradford, Executive Vice President, Epcor
 - Ashley Morgan, Director, Texas Water Development Board
- 3:40 pm** **The Regulator's Scale: Balancing the Boom, the Bytes, and the Customer's Bills**
Round 'em up, partner, for the premier panel that brings together leading regulators from across the U.S. to weigh the heavy trade-offs required to keep the essential promise of safety and reliability while protecting the customer's pocketbook.
- Moderator:** Rob MacLean, President & CEO, Nexus Water Group
Panelists:
- The Honorable Maida Coleman, Commissioner, Missouri Public Service Commission
 - The Honorable Joseph Coviello, Commissioner, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
 - The Honorable Mary Pat Regan, Vice Chair, Kentucky Public Service Commission
- 4:45 - 6:30 pm** **Closing Reception: A Texas Goodnight - Farewell to the Lone Star State**
Moontower Hall - Level 2
As the sun sets on the 2026 Water Summit, gather one last time to celebrate the partnerships that move the industry forward. Hosted by the Texas Association of Water Companies. Texas Secretary of State Robert S. Howden will join us for remarks and see us on down the road.

Enjoy the Water Summit?
Mark Your 2027 Calendar NOW!
September 27 & 28 in Coronado Bay

HOTEL MAP



Austin Marriott Downtown All Floors Map

- General Counsels Meeting
- Women in Water Breakfast
- Summit General Sessions
- Meals & Closing Reception



Restaurant Guide

Below is a list of restaurants that are within a 15-minutes' walking distance of the hotel

On-Site Dining

- [Zanzibar](#) – Seven stories up and a world away. Escape the everyday at Zanzibar. Hidden within the horizon of downtown Austin, Zanzibar is a lush rooftop destination oasis, with modern tiki cocktails, island-inspired bites, and unbeatable skyline views.
- [Corinne](#) – Feel good food, found here! Corinne offers approachable classics with an elevated twist during daily breakfast, lunch, dinner, and weekend brunch. Stay cool at our well-stocked indoor bar, or dine al fresco on the largest outdoor patio on West Cesar Chavez. Whatever your preference, Corinne is here with deliciously dependable hospitality.

Nearby Restaurants

- [Eddie V's Prime Seafood](#) – Delivers a vast array of fresh seafood and steaks. Food made from the freshest ingredients prepared with you in mind.
- [Moonshine Grille](#) - Takes you back to a simpler time. Comfortable and familiar, relaxed and easygoing, Moonshine greets guests like family. Serving up great cooking with an innovative take on classic American comfort food, moonshine's menu satisfies even the big city tastes.
- [Comedor](#) - Modern Mexican cuisine with Texas influences and a focus on sourcing organic and sustainable ingredients through Austin area farmers.