



WELCOME COLLEAGUES!

On behalf of the California Chapters of the Solid Waste Association of North America, I am delighted to welcome you to the 56th Annual Western Regional Symposium and Trade Show. This year we have chosen a theme that reflects the evolving spirit of our industry: **"Collaboration and Innovation: Building Stronger Partnerships."** Our field is no longer defined simply by how we manage waste, but by how we build the bridges between technology and policy, between public and private sectors, and between our shared environmental goals. In the heart of Sonoma County, we hope you are reminded that the most resilient systems are those rooted in partnerships and collaboration.

By joining us this week, you are demonstrating your commitment to this collaborative future. We encourage you to immerse yourselves in the collective expertise around you. Our attendees represent decades of practical "know-how" and cutting-edge vision. We ask that you take a moment to share your time with and thank our exhibitors, sponsors, speakers, and volunteers; their dedication to fostering these partnerships which made this Symposium possible.

We would also like to give a special thanks to our Keynote Lecturer's Quinn Langfitt with CARB on Tuesday and Assemblymember Chris Rodgers on Wednesday morning. Don't miss the opening remarks from our Northern California Gold Rush Chapter President, Naomi Lue, Tuesday morning to get us going.

Finally, thank YOU for attending the Western Regional Symposium and for your continued support of the SWANA California Chapters. Together, we are not just witnessing change—we are building the partnerships that drive it.

Chris Hiller
Symposium Chair

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Gold Rush Chapter Board of Directors

Gold Rush Chapter Executive Officers

Naomi Lue, President	Wes Heathcock, Treasurer
Vacant, Vice President	Carrie Baxter, Secretary
	Dave Ghirardelli, Past President

Gold Rush Chapter Directors

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Derek Crutchfield	Amy Padovani
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Western Regional Symposium Committee Chairs

Chris Hiller and Dave Ghirardelli, Co Chairs
Ruth Abbe, Registration
Tracie Bills, Sponsorship
Amy Padovani, Technical Program
Kimberly Cook, Trade Show
Dave Ghirardelli and Chris Hiller, Hotel and Hospitality
Derek Crutchfield and Chris Hiller, Tours and Activities
Lauren Romanazzi, Communications

Last but certainly not least, we owe a great deal of gratitude to the volunteers who gave of their time to Proctor and Moderate our Technical Sessions and staff our Registration Table. In addition to many Gold Rush Chapter Board Members already identified above, the following volunteers kept the Symposium moving by serving in these capacities:

Michelle White, Bill Schmierer, Christina Hanson, David Wong, Cesar Zuniga, Tracie Bills, Ameen Kunbargi (YP Chair), Liz Hall, Lindsey Angell, and Alex Newall, and many more who may have signed up for shifts since this Program was last updated. Thank you!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration

The registration center will be located in the Exhibit Hall/Foyer of the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma Wine Country. Registration will be open on the following schedule:

8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Monday, April 20th
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Tuesday, April 21st
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Wednesday, April 22nd
7:00 AM – 9:00 PM	Thursday, April 23rd

All symposium participants must register and wear their name badge for admission to the technical sessions, trade show and special events.

Additional Meals for Spouses or Plus Ones

If you would like to add a spouse or a friend to a meal you will need to pay separately for these meals/events and there will be a QR code at registration available for each.

- \$125 - Monday Night Reception
- \$125 - Wednesday Night Banquet
- \$40 - Breakfast Buffet
- \$47 - Lunch Buffet
- \$32 - Continental Breakfast
- \$20 - Lunch Snacks
- Coffee and Tea are included

Conference Meal Agenda

All food to be served in the Exhibit Hall/ Foyer except desserts which will rotate between exhibit halls. Coffee/Tea stations available all day in the exhibit halls as well. Additional eating/socializing/work space in the Vineyard Room if the Main Hall is too busy.

	20-Apr	21-Apr	22-Apr	23-Apr
Breakfast	None	Continental Breakfast	Buffet Breakfast	Continental Breakfast
Lunch	Cheese Display/Snacks	Lunch Buffet	Snacks	Conference Ends
Dinner	Veggie trays and Tacos Snacks	Snacks and Drinks only	Buffet Dinner	

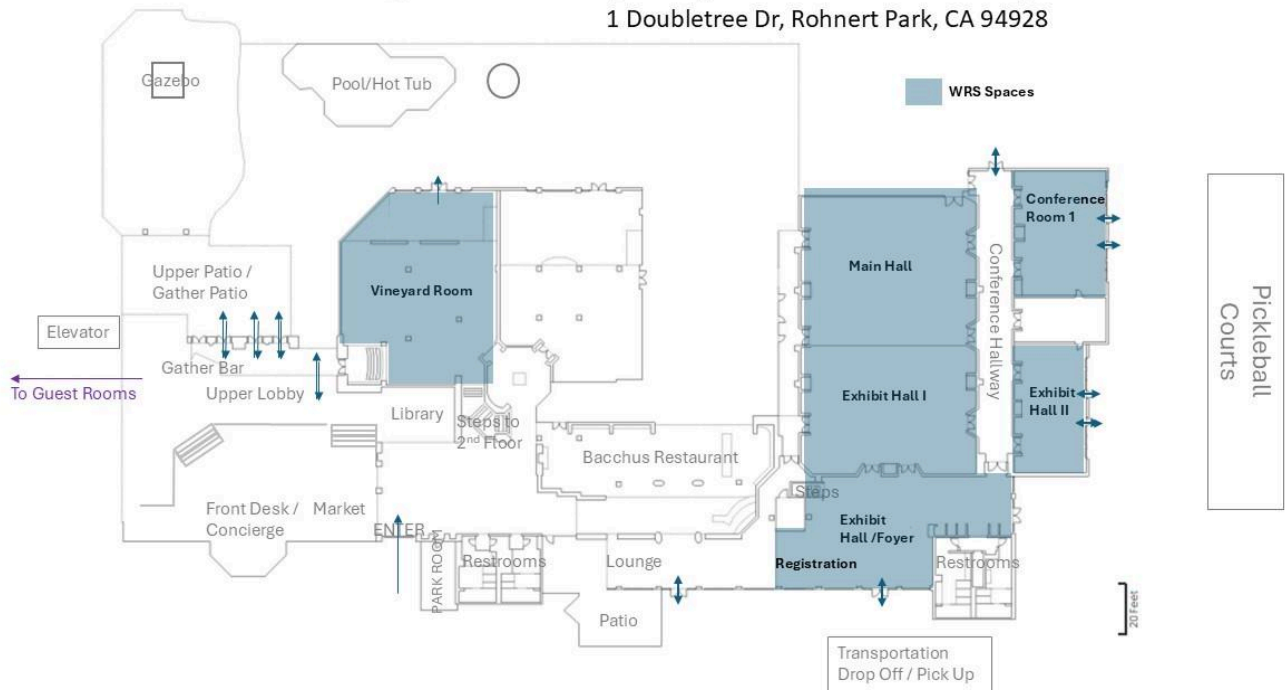
Trade Show

There will be over 40 exhibitors on hand to show you the most up to date products and services in our industry. The trade show is spread out between Exhibit Hall I, Exhibit II, and the foyer outside of Exhibit Hall I from:

Monday	6:00 – 8PM (During the Welcome Reception)
Tuesday	9:30AM – 2:00PM, and 3:30PM - 5:30PM
Wednesday	10:00AM – 3:00PM

Western Regional Symposium Map

1 Doubletree Dr, Rohnert Park, CA 94928



Golf Tournament

Fore! The [2026 Western Regional Symposium Golf Tournament](#) will be held on Monday, April 20th at the Foxtail Golf Course, located at 100 Golf course Dr., Rohnert Park, CA 94928. The golf course is conveniently located near Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma Wine Country conference hotel. Breakfast is included at 8:00AM and the shotgun start is 9:00AM. See you on the course!

Tours

This year's Symposium will be offering two concurrent tours from 9am - 3PM on Monday. Tour 1 will visit the Sonoma County Landfill while tour 2 is headed to the Reuse Center. From there, the tours will meet up at Recology's new MRF in Santa Rosa followed by a vineyard sustainability tour and lunch at Raymond Burr Vineyards. Weather may be drizzly so bring a jacket and you must wear closed toe shoes for admittance to the MRF portion of the tour as well as complete this waiver [Recology Site Access Waiver - CA](#). Bus pickup located at Transportation Drop Off/Pick Up area as indicated on the map above.

California Chapters Working Lunch

Join all three California SWANA Chapters for a meeting in Conference Room 1 on Wednesday, April 22nd from 12:00 - 1:30PM to meet Chapter Officers and Directors. This working lunch will include future updates on each Chapter, Legislative Task Force announcements and partnerships. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

Board Photo Meeting Location

Calling all members of the SWANA Gold Rush Chapter Board of Directors past and present. We will be taking two group photos on Tuesday, April 21st. Please meet at the Registration table at 11:15AM.

Monday Night Reception

There will be a Welcome Reception from 6-8PM in Exhibit Hall I and II. Please join us for drinks and hors d'oeuvres while cruising through the exhibit hall. We will have over 40 exhibitors and vendors presenting the latest in technology and services. Also stop by the Poster Session Presentations that will be displayed throughout the conference on the right hand side of the Main Hall stage.

Tuesday Night Off-site Social and Networking Events

A Graton Rancheria Casino shuttle bus will run from the hotel to the casino every 15 minutes from 6:30-10:30PM from the hotel lobby area. Additionally, there will be line dancing lessons located at The Waterhawk Restaurant from 7:30-9:30PM adjacent to the hotel. Both of these activities are free to all conference attendees. If you do not have plans Tuesday night make a dinner reservation at The Waterhawk or come and join us for some fun dancing after your meal.

[Waterhawk | Discover Lakeside Dining – Reserve Now](#)

Young Professionals

Calling all Young Professionals! Connect with peers and industry mentors at the YP springboard event at the hotel in Conference Room 1 on Tuesday, April 21st from 7:30-8:30PM. This event is open to YPs and YPs at heart and will be a great opportunity to build community, share ideas, and connect with others in the industry.

Wednesday Night Banquet

Our onsite Wednesday Night Banquet will highlight the fabulous food offered by the award winning chefs at the Hilton Double Tree. The Gold Rush Chapter will provide closing remarks during dinner and the Trade Show Passport Game winners will be announced. Be sure to stick around because there will be music and dancing following the dinner.

Earth Day Celebration

Come celebrate Earth Day on Wednesday April 22nd at 8:30 in the Main Hall and get your competitive hat on. We will be playing a fun game of Kahoot where you will test your knowledge of solid waste, sustainability, and recycling against your peers. But remember... you not only need to answer correctly, you also need to answer fast to climb up to the top of our leader board! We will have some great prizes that you do not want to miss out on. Please make sure to bring your smartphone as you will need it to play our interactive game.

Professional Development Hours (PDH's)

PDHs are the new CEUs. This year's Symposium features a [fantastic slate of speakers and topics](#). Our exciting technical session, as well as the tours mentioned above, offer PDH credits. Following the conference, Gold Rush Chapter will submit the list of attendees to SWANA who will assign PDH credits towards your SWANA certification renewal. Forms are no longer required!

Keynote Lecture - Tuesday, April 21st

Please welcome **Quinn Langfitt** who will lead our Keynote Lecture. Quinn serves as CARB's lead technical staff for amendments to the Landfill Methane Regulation. He earned his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Washington State University before joining CARB in 2017. Quinn's early work focused on life cycle emissions modeling and rulemaking for the oil and gas sector. In 2024, he transitioned to CARB's waste sector regulatory team, where he now leads efforts to reduce methane emissions from landfills.

Keynote Speakers - Wednesday, April 22nd

We are also honored to have **Assemblymember Chris Rogers** as our Keynote Speaker. Assemblymember Rogers proudly serves California's 2nd Assembly District, which encompasses Eureka, Arcata, and Santa Rosa. Before joining the State Assembly, Chris made a significant impact as a Santa Rosa City Councilmember and Mayor, where he led efforts in wildfire recovery, housing affordability, and environmental sustainability. Known for his collaborative leadership style, Chris has been instrumental in securing resources to support small businesses and protect vulnerable communities during challenging times.

CalRecycle representatives, **Michelle Martin and Cara Morgan**, will offer an overview of SB 54 and SB 1383, with a major focus on requirements for local jurisdictions, and recycling service providers, and is designed to equip these entities with foundational information necessary for successful implementation.

Michelle Martin was appointed Deputy Director of the Division of the Circular Economy in August 2024. With over 20 years at CalRecycle, she has held roles including Grant Manager, Supervisor, and Branch Chief of Financial Resources Management, driving program improvements and innovative grants. Starting as a CalEPA student assistant in 1994, her career has grown alongside the department. Known for her collaborative, innovative, and equity-focused leadership, Ms. Martin continues to shape California's environmental progress, advancing the shift toward a circular and sustainable future.

Cara Morgan has served as CalRecycle's Deputy Director of the Division of Materials Management and Local Assistance since May 2023 after serving as the branch chief of the Local Assistance branch, providing technical assistance for over 614 jurisdictions and 200 state agencies in California. Ms. Morgan also helped lead CalRecycle's adoption of Senate Bill 1383 legislation into regulations and other recycling initiatives. Cara now leads SB 1383 teams providing compliance assistance, implementation tools, and training for jurisdictions, state agencies, school districts, federal facilities, and food recovery organizations. Cara has many years of experience successfully implementing and building the Circular Economy in California. Cara holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from California State University, Sacramento.

Stay Connected

Join our LinkedIn to connect with others in the industry and learn more about your Northern California SWANA chapter and industry news! You can find us by searching "SWANA Gold Rush Chapter" on LinkedIn.



ADDITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We owe a special Thank You to our Exhibitors in our Trade Show. When you see representatives of these companies please share your thanks with them too. Without them, this Symposium would not be possible.

SWANA 2026 Western Regional Symposium

Exhibitor List

Agromin	Perennial Energy
Aljon	Quality Scales Unlimited
Aptim	Rehrig Pacific Company
California Resource Recovery Association	Routeware
CEC	SCS Engineers
Circular Action Alliance	SLR International Corporation
Clean Composting	Smart Compliance
Econward Tech, LLC	Sniffer Robotics, Inc.
Ecotec Solutions	Sustainable Generation
GeoLogic Associates	SWANA SoCal Founding Chapter
Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.	SWT Engineering
Geotech Environmental Equipment	Tango Robotics
Humdinger Equipment	Tarp Armor
IPL Schoeller	Tetra Tech
Keith Manufacturing Co.	Travis Environmental Solutions
KI-Poly Fusion LLC	TY Cusion Tire LLC
Mclaughlin Waste Management	Valinor Energy, LLC
Minerva by MSW Consultants	Viably
Montrose	Waga Energy
Motive	WatershedGeo
PaintCare	Yorke Engineering
Paradigm Software	Zabble Inc.

