16th Annual Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium

Drops, Development, and Data: Navigating the Next Era of Water Conservation

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 II 8:00 – 3:10
Optional tour 4:00 – 5:00
Texas State University, LBJ Student Center
310 Student Center Drive, San Marcos, Texas 787666

PROGRAM

8:00 – 8:40 Registration and Breakfast

8:40 – 9:00 **Welcome and Kickoff**

Jennifer Walker, Director, Texas Coast and Water Program, National Wildlife Federation

9:00 – 9:45 **Keynote: Thirsty Data: Water Use and the Projected Data Center Boom in Texas**

Erin Kinney, Senior Research Scientist, Coastal Resilience and Communities, Houston Advanced Research Center

9:45 – 10:45 **Rainwater as a New Supply: What's the Potential?**

Moderator: *Jenna Walker, Director, Watershed Studies, Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University*

Tank You Very Much: Storing Rain for a Not-So-Rainy Day
Robert Mace, Executive Director, Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University

Sky to Supply: Texas' First Rainwater Public Water System
Blake Murden, Chief Executive Officer, Shield Land Stewardship Group

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 11:30 **Water Highlights from the 89th Legislative Session: Prop 4 and Beyond**

Sarah Kirkle, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, Texas Water Association

11:30 – 12:00 **SB 14 Implementation: How Utilities are Addressing Impact Fees**

Hope Wells, Vice President of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, San Antonio Water System

Kevin Critendon, Assistant Director Environment, Planning and Development Services, Austin Water

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 **Beyond Leak Alerts: Leveraging AMI to Engage Families in Unexpected, Creative, and Fruitful Ways**

Nate Conroy, STEM Hero

2:00 – 3:00 **Raising the Bar: Irrigation by Design**

Moderator: *Stacy Pandey, Water Conservation Coordinator, Lower Colorado River Authority*

Updating Landscape Irrigation Standards with an Eye Towards Conservation
Jason Homan, CEO Travis County WCID 17

Working with Stakeholders to Build New Programs - Irrigation Plan Review and Operational Irrigation Inspections
Nathan Riggs, Conservation Project Coordinator, San Antonio Water System

Lessons Learned: Implementing Frisco's Irrigation Inspection Program
Ron Garcia, City of Frisco, Utility Superintendent

3:00 – 3:15 Wrap Up

3:15 – 3:45 Transition to Tour @ Spring Lake

4:00 – 5:00 Tour of Spring Lake in Glass Bottom Boat and Naturalist tour of Wetlands Boardwalk (Field Trip Registration Required)