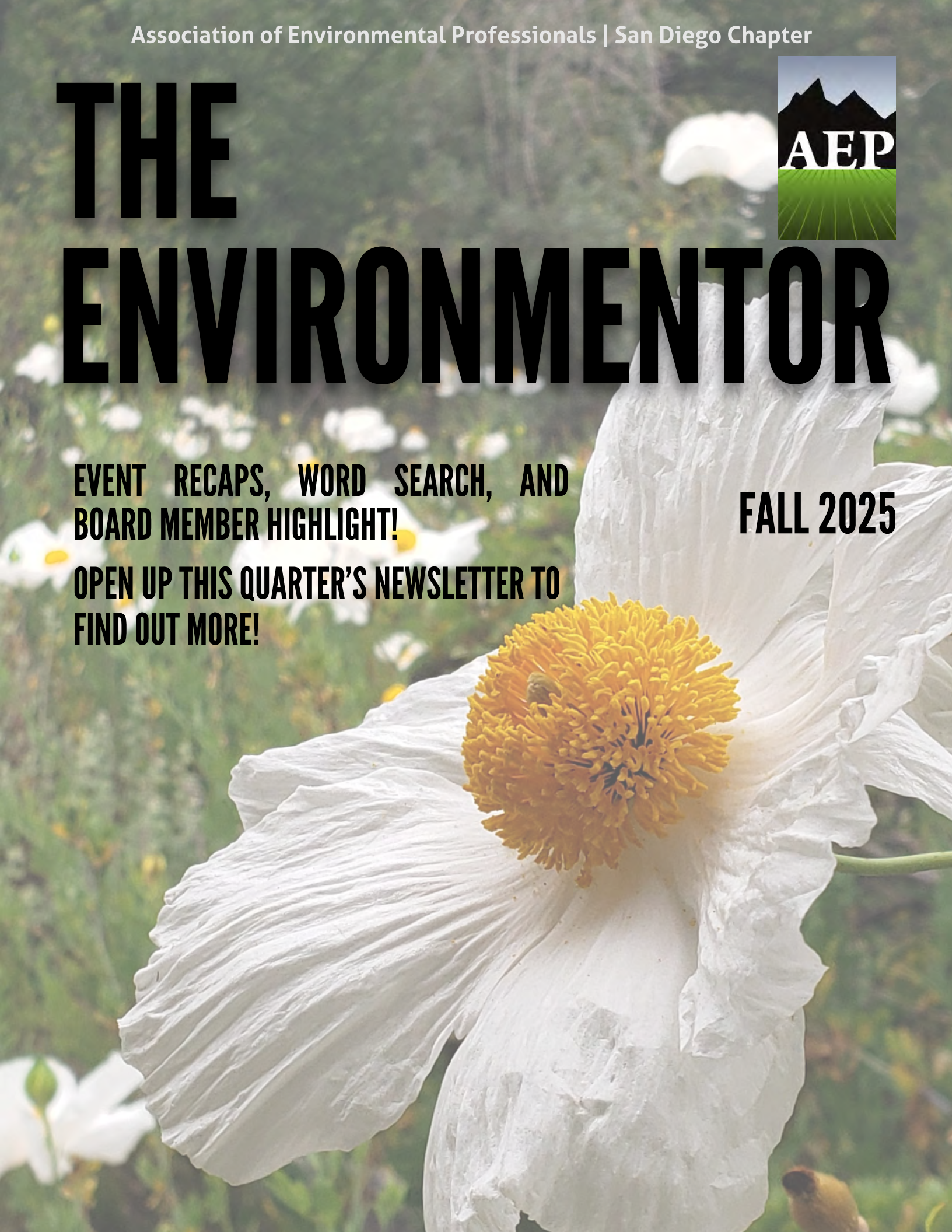


THE ENVIRONMENTOR

**EVENT RECAPS, WORD SEARCH, AND
BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT!**

FALL 2025

**OPEN UP THIS QUARTER'S NEWSLETTER TO
FIND OUT MORE!**





MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Brent Burmeister, President

This year for SDAEP has been nothing short of extraordinary! One of the biggest highlights was our recent AEP Awards and Scholarship Event, where we proudly recognized the outstanding achievements of our local firms and agencies and awarded \$8,000 in scholarships to deserving students. This event was only possible through the generosity of our sponsors and the unwavering commitment of our members to invest in the future of environmental professionals. Thank you to all those that attended and supported!

Behind every successful event is a team of dedicated individuals, and our AEP Board members have worked tirelessly to organize programs that bring value to both students and professionals. From networking mixers to educational sessions, their efforts ensure our Chapter remains a hub of connection and growth. Looking ahead, we're already excited for the 2026 AEP Conference in San Diego, which promises to deliver unparalleled opportunities for learning, networking, and celebrating the incredible work happening across our industry. If you haven't already, mark your calendars now for April 23rd-26th at the Sheraton Harbor Island as you won't want to miss it!

Our success depends on the continued support of our members and their firms. Sponsorships are critical to funding scholarships, hosting events, and strengthening our community. Right now, we're seeking sponsors for our upcoming AEP/APA Holiday Party at Bali Hai on January 29th, 2026. This will continue to be a hallmark event for our Chapter and a festive way to close out (...and bring in!) the year and connect with colleagues. If you or your firm can contribute, please keep an eye out for our request for sponsors, as your involvement truly makes a difference!

Thank you for being part of this incredible community and allowing me the opportunity to represent the best AEP chapter in the state. Together, we've accomplished so much...and the best is yet to come. Let's keep the momentum going!

Cheers!



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SD AEP SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

San Diego AEP is proud to support students pursuing careers in the environmental field by offering two scholarships (one for college students and one for high school juniors and seniors) to students in San Diego and Imperial Counties. The Scholarship Review Committee reviewed 44 applications from talented and inspiring students with goals to enter the environmental field. We were honored to present three \$2,000 scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students as well as two \$1,000 scholarships to high school students during the Awards and Scholarship Banquet. Congratulations again to all of our scholarship recipients! We'd also like to extend a special thank you to our event sponsors who make this scholarship program possible! Learn more about this year's scholarship recipients below.

Miles Marsh

Miles Marsh is a San Diego native and a senior at Helix Charter High School. He is the varsity captain of the Academic League and is a member of the San Diego Fencing League. In his free time, Miles enjoys hiking in Mission Trails with his dog and watching Jeopardy. This past summer, Miles was the youngest camp counselor at Mission Trails and educated children on the flora and fauna of San Diego. He plans on attending college for Wildlife Biology and working for the National Parks Service

Jasper Gough

Jasper Gough is a senior attending Patrick Henry High School. He plans to study environmental science at college. He hopes to use this degree to study entomology, inspired by his experience working with Professor Kulikowski at UC Santa Cruz studying the impact of local pollinators and his time in the Mission Trails Regional Park Eco Ambassadors program, where he learned about the impact of preserving native habitat. He particularly enjoys engaging with the environment directly, and he hikes at Mission Trails at every chance he gets, as well as doing cleanups with his AP Environmental Science class.



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SD AEP SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Katelyn Chen

Katelyn Chen is a senior Urban Studies & Planning and Environmental Studies undergraduate student at UC San Diego. She grew up in Santa Clarita, California and has always been interested in the ways the built environment impacts the natural world. Her career goal is to enter the field of urban planning with a focus on environmentalism. Last year, she was a Climate Action Fellow at UC San Diego, leading community engagement activities and conducting a personal research project related to climate resilience.



Valeria Landeros

Valeria Landeros is a proud UCLA alumna and current graduate student at San Diego State University, pursuing her Master's in City Planning. Originally from the small city of El Centro, California, she is passionate about fostering sustainable and equitable community development in the Imperial Valley and beyond. Valeria currently works as an Assistant Planner, where she contributes to projects that promote community development and well-being. Her long-term goal is to work across different sectors of urban and regional planning, with a particular focus on developing resilient local food systems and green infrastructure.



Vivian Mosqueda

Vivian Mosqueda is a fourth-year student at UC San Diego majoring in Urban Studies & Planning with minors in Political Science and Environmental Studies. Born and raised in San Diego, California she has always been inspired by the intersection of community, environment, and policy. Her career aspirations are to serve the underrepresented communities as a sustainable consultant, ensuring that equity and accessibility remain central in urban development. She is particularly passionate about advancing sustainable agriculture and developing water filtration systems to mitigate environmental hazards.



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PROFESSIONALS AND PINTS

Written by: Jordan Werkmeister

San Diego AEP hosted a successful Professionals & Pints event at The Original 40 Brewing Company in North Park. The evening brought together a mix of emerging professionals and seasoned experts in our industry for an informal networking experience. The atmosphere was lively and welcoming, providing a great opportunity to connect, share insights, and strengthen relationships within our community.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make this event such a success!

Stay tuned for details on future Professionals and Pints event, we look forward to seeing you there!

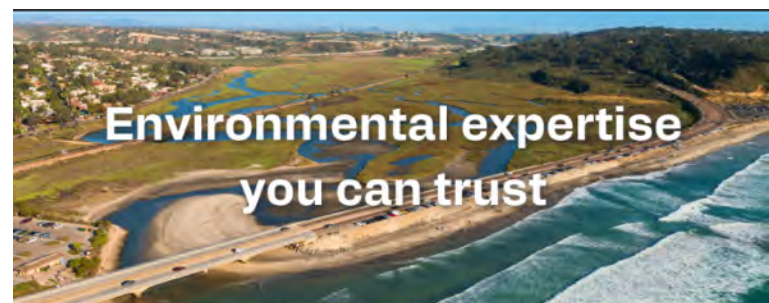


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MEET A BOARD MEMBER: NICOLE WANG



1. Please share your background, education, current employer, hobbies, etc.

I'm originally from the Bay Area and I graduated from UC Davis in 2024 with a B.S. in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning and a B.A. in Economics. I've been at Ascent ever since, and as an environmental planner, I help draft environmental analysis documents for various types of projects. In my free time, I love getting outdoors, whether it's taking a long walk along Mission Bay or going up to the mountains to catch some fresh snow!

2. What made you want to get more involved and take a leadership position with AEP?

I wanted to get more involved with AEP after making the move to San Diego. AEP has been an amazing opportunity to learn from experienced professionals and connect with my peers in the environmental field. As Treasurer of the SD AEP Chapter, I enjoy managing the Chapter's business and financial side and helping plan our budget and Chapter events. It's really rewarding seeing our efforts turn into meaningful events that bring us together.

3. What advice would you give a recent graduate or young professional in the environmental industry?

Don't be afraid to put yourself out there and ask questions! The environmental field is incredibly broad, and you'll learn the most by building relationships and showing curiosity. Being in a professional organization like AEP is so helpful for networking and learning from others in this field. It's super important to build upon

your connections in your early career as you never know what opportunities can come up!

4. What have you enjoyed most about working in the environmental field?

I love how every project is different and there is so much to be constantly learning about in the environmental review process. As I develop more in this field, I've realized that there are so many diverse challenges to every project, and the real-world variables are endless! Also, CEQA is constantly changing, which pushes me to stay curious and adaptable to policy and reforms.

5. Share your favorite fun fact with us!

San Diego is the 8th largest city in the US by population! I recently found this out and was so shocked because it always felt like a small beach city to me. I feel so lucky to be here and enjoy the ocean, city, and parks all just a few minutes away!



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SAN DIEGO AEP AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

Written by: Kelsey Hawkins

On October 15, 2025, we hosted our annual SD AEP Awards and Scholarship Banquet. This year's event took place at Del Mar Social, an eclectic space originally used as a car dealership before being transformed into an event space in 2020. The venue fit this year's theme of Purposeful Growth Through Reuse and Resiliency, perfectly. We heard many great things about the homemade Mediterranean cuisine the venue served!

We had a great presentation by SANDAG on the San Diego LOSSAN Rail Realignment project, which is a massive project in the San Diego region. This year we gave out 6 project awards, raised about \$10,000 in sponsorships, and awarded 5 scholarships to very deserving undergraduate and high school students.

To end the night, we awarded the Outstanding Contribution to the Environmental Profession award to Donna Beddow, who had an amazing 20-year career at the County of San Diego as their lead cultural archaeological resource specialist. She has since spent the last 3 years at Harris & Associates, where she built Harris' cultural resources team to include several archaeologists that provide professional consulting services throughout Southern California under her careful guidance and leadership. A huge congratulations to all our award and scholarship winners and a massive THANK YOU to all our valued sponsors.




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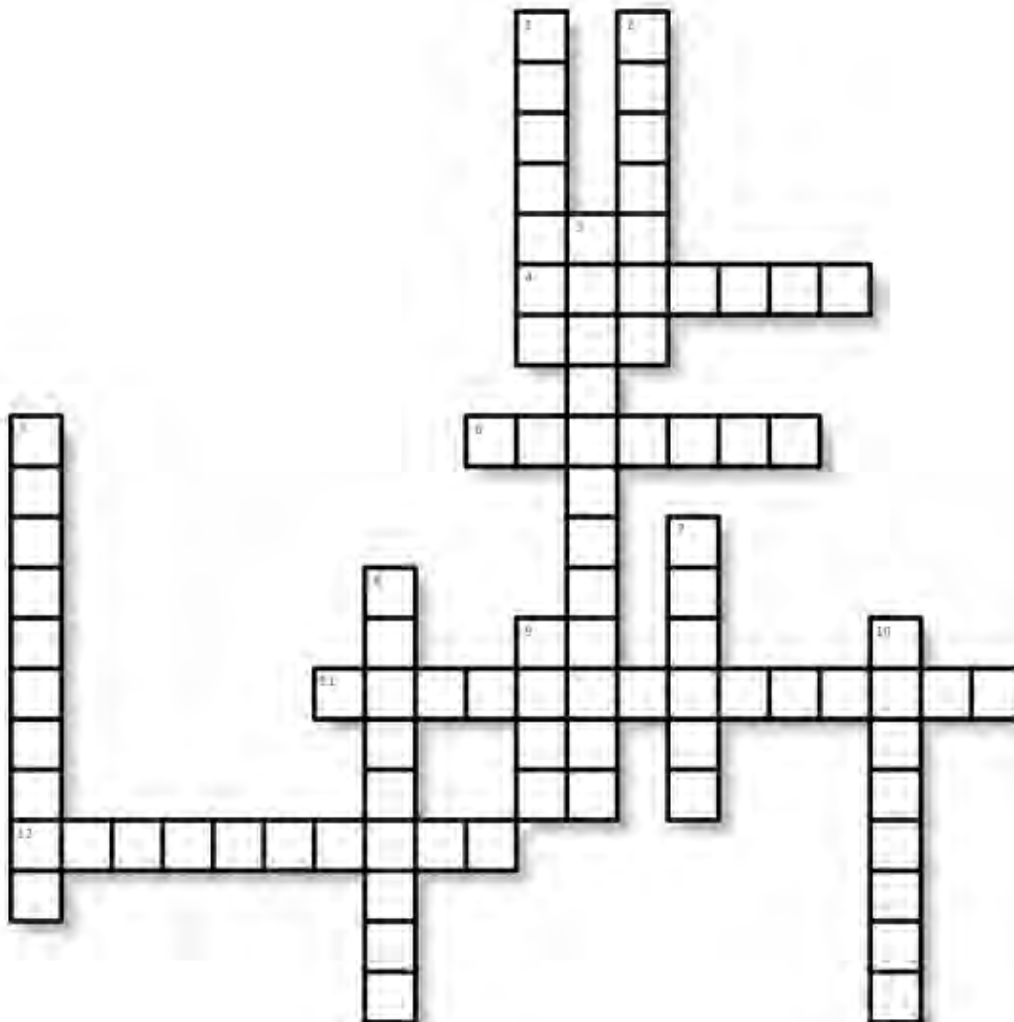
CITY PLANNING CROSSWORD

Across

4. Flow of vehicles on roads
6. The designation and development of specific areas for different purposes such as residential, commercial, or industrial.
11. Renovation of low-income neighborhoods
12. Low cost housing options

Down

1. Measure of buildings per area
2. High-speed road for commuters
3. The process of a population shift from rural to urban areas.
5. Long-term vision for city development
7. Limits on land use
8. Protected open space
9. System of intersecting streets
10. Combination of residential and commercial buildings



1. Density, 2. Freeway, 3. Urbanization, 5. Master Plan, 7. Zoning, 8. Greenbelt, 9. Grid, 10. Mixed Use, 4. Traffic, 6. Land Use, 11. Gentrification, 12. Affordable

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