

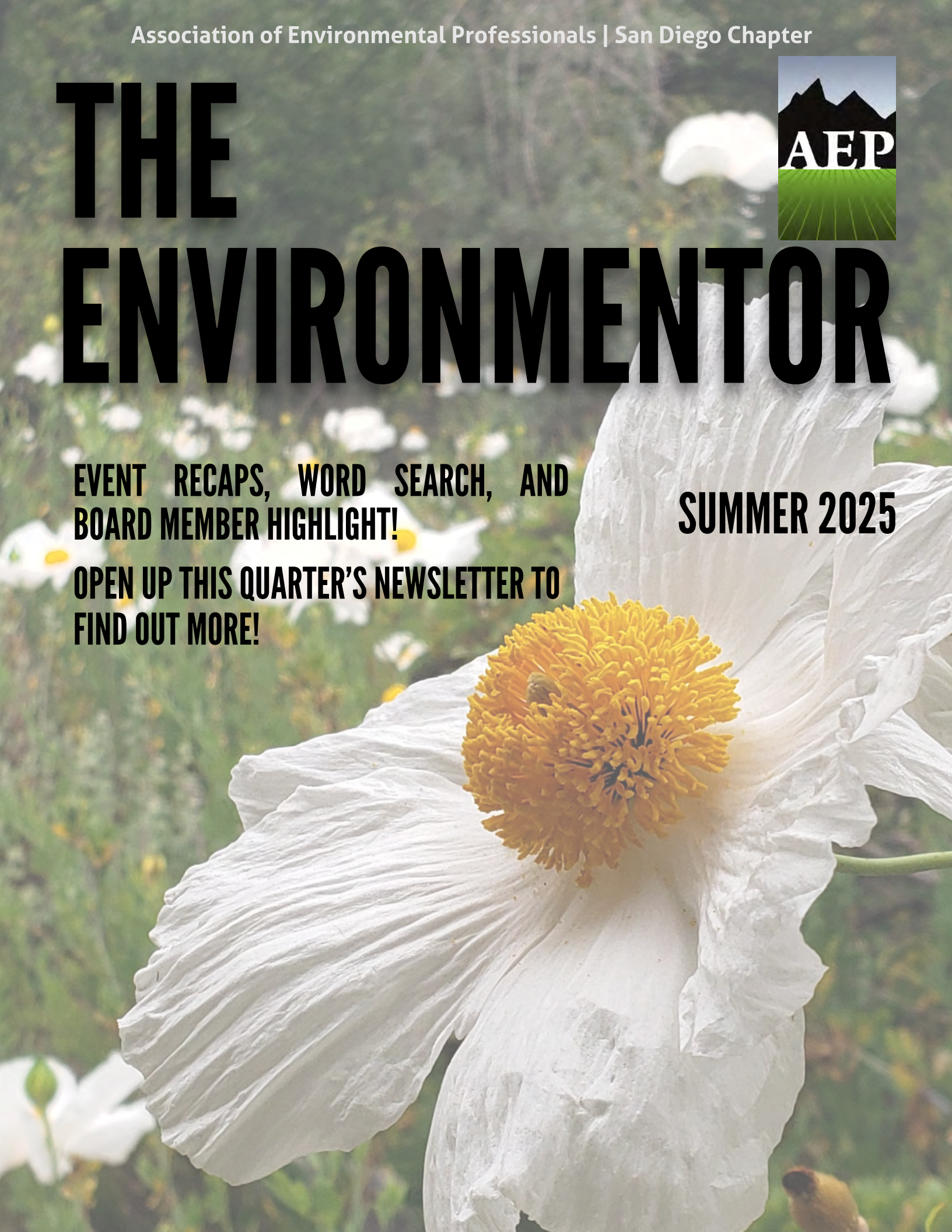


THE ENVIRONMENTOR

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

SUMMER 2025

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





MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

BY Brent Burmeister, President

As we move through the year, I can't help but reflect on the incredible energy and engagement we've seen so far. I'm writing this the morning after our Membership Appreciation event, and am more excited than ever about what lies ahead. The turnout, the conversations, the view, and the sense of community reminded me why our chapter reigns supreme—thank you to everyone who joined us! Looking forward, we have some fantastic events on the horizon, including Professionals & Pints, which is always a good time, and a joint event with WTS that promises to deliver a great time outdoors with a like-minded organization!

But most importantly, we're just under two months away from our Annual Awards and Scholarship Event—a cornerstone of our annual event calendar and Chapter's mission. To those who have already sponsored, thank you for your generosity and commitment. If you're still considering sponsorship, please know that your support directly impacts our ability to provide scholarships to the next generation of environmental professionals. It's a meaningful way to invest in the future of our field.

We also encourage you to submit your projects for awards—this is your chance to showcase the incredible work being done across our region. We can't wait to celebrate with you and recognize the outstanding contributions of our members!

Thank you for letting me be a part of this community. Let's keep the momentum going!



ESA is a 100% employee-owned environmental consulting firm.

We plan, design, permit, mitigate, and restore—for projects across our communities, infrastructure systems, open spaces, and wildlands. We are 50 years strong in 21 offices across California, the Pacific Northwest, and the Southeastern United States.

Air Quality
Biological Resources
Climate Change & Resilience
Cultural & Historic Resources
Environmental Permitting
& Compliance
Environmental Review
& Documentation
Fish and Aquatic Sciences
Flood & Stormwater
Management
Landscape Architecture
Planning
Restoration
Technology
Water Resources

esassoc.com





STUDENT CEQA PRACTICUM

Written by: Melissa Whittemore

On a cloudy and briefly rainy April 26, 2025, AEP San Diego hosted its 12th annual CEQA Practicum, a five-hour in-person interactive workshop to introduce 12 college students to CEQA and the Initial Study Environmental Checklist, at UCSD. The students included undergraduates and graduates from local schools (UCSD, SDSU, and San Diego City College), as well as UC Irvine, UCLA, and UC San Francisco. This year's focused environmental topics and professional volunteers included:

- **Noise** – presented by **Jason Runyan** from HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
- **Air Quality and GHG Emissions** – presented by **Shelby Bocks** from HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
- **Biological Resources** – presented by **Travis Whitney** from Rocks Biological Consulting
- **Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources** – presented by **Paige Kohler MA, RPA** from Michael Baker International

After a brief introduction to CEQA and four focused presentations on these environmental topics, the students and professional volunteers conducted a virtual site visit of a mock mixed-use development project, followed by group discussions on how to adequately respond to each of the Appendix G Checklist questions for the focused topics.

A huge THANK YOU to our professional volunteers! We would not be able to host such valuable student events without the support of our dedicated professional AEP members!



Expand your
ecological horizons
with **Great Ecology.**

Delivering innovative
ecological solutions &
sustainable landscape
designs to clients in
San Diego & beyond.



GREATEcology
ENVIRONMENT + DESIGN

greatecology.com



**PORT of
SAN DIEGO**
Waterfront of Opportunity

Proud to Support the

**San Diego AEP
2024 Awards &
Scholarship Banquet**

portofsandiego.org

PROFESSIONALS AND PINTS

Written by: Jordan Werkmeister

Our latest Professionals and Pints event at the vibrant Original 40 Brewery was a hit! We welcomed approximately 20 attendees which included a dynamic mix of students, public sector professionals, and private sector leaders. The atmosphere was buzzing with great conversations, food, and brews. With such a strong turnout and good vibes all around, we're already looking forward to hosting another round at the Original 40 soon!



Sophia Mitchell & Associates

CEQA Documentation | Project Management

A California-based WBE, DBE and Small/Micro Business

www.mitchellplanning.net | 858.243.0843

AEP MEMBER APPRECIATION

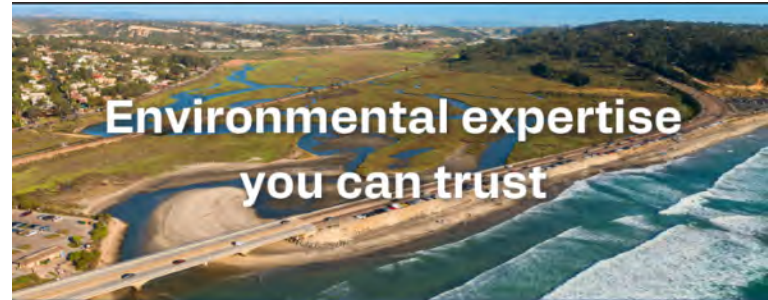
Written by: Melissa Whittemore

On August 19, 2025, AEP San Diego hosted its annual Member Appreciation Event at the elegant University Club atop Symphony Towers in Downtown San Diego. Set on the 34th floor, the venue offered stunning panoramic views of San Diego Bay, the Coronado Bridge, and the city skyline—an unforgettable backdrop for an evening of connection and celebration.

More than 50 professionals and students gathered to enjoy drinks and a taco buffet. The atmosphere buzzed with conversation as longtime colleagues reconnected and new relationships were cultivated. As the sun dipped below Point Loma, the sky transformed into a canvas of vibrant colors, marking a perfect close to the evening.

This memorable event was made possible thanks to the AEP San Diego's Program Chairs, Jordan Werkmeister and Hannah Arkin, along with the support of student and early-career volunteers Isaac Israel and Cullen Smyth. Their teamwork ensured a smooth and welcoming experience for all attendees.

A heartfelt thank you to our professional and corporate sponsors for helping make this networking event a success. We're grateful for your continued support of AEP San Diego and its mission to foster community and professional growth.



Industry Leaders in Environmental Planning & Compliance

- ▶ Preparing legally defensible CEQA and NEPA documents
- ▶ Integrating Environmental and Sustainable strategies into planning programs
- ▶ Feasibility studies, alternatives analysis, public scoping
- ▶ Management and preparation of Environmental Regulatory Permits

In-house and Seamless Integration of Design, Planning, & Environmental Solutions

RICK brings six decades of multidisciplinary experience with in-house expertise in urban planning, environmental planning, landscape architecture, civil engineering, transportation, water resource management, and infrastructure development for public and private clients.



rickengineering.com






Harris & Associates



ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING + COMPLIANCE SERVICES

- CEQA + NEPA Compliance
- Community + Master Planning
- CEQA Training
- Air Quality + Climate Change
- Biological Resources
- Cultural + Tribal Cultural Resources
- Noise
- Climate Adaptation + Resiliency Planning
- Permitting + Regulatory Compliance
- Municipal + District Financing



We're hiring!

www.WeAreHarris.com/careers

Concord / Salinas / Sacramento / Irvine / San Diego

www.WeAreHarris.com

**Diane.Sandman@WeAreHarris.com | Ryan.Binns@WeAreHarris.com | Kelsey.Hawkins@WeAreHarris.com
Donna.Beddow@WeAreHarris.com | Emily.Mastrelli@WeAreHarris.com**

MEET A BOARD MEMBER: HANNAH ARKIN



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

I have 25 years of experience in environmental science, with the past 15 focused on regulatory compliance at the federal, state, and local levels. I was raised in Georgia and graduated from the University of Michigan, however, I've served on local boards and I am a qualified CEQA practitioner across multiple California jurisdictions. My background also includes government affairs and political science, including lobbying for the San Diego County Farm Bureau and the Building Industry Association. In 2023, I founded Resolution Environmental, a certified Small Business Enterprise specializing in complex and high-stakes environmental projects, particularly in renewable energy and agriculture. Outside of work, I'm a single mom to three elementary-aged kids, and we love surfing, traveling, and baseball.

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

I started my journey with AEP by serving as a Student Board Member to NAEP at the University of Michigan. I've been involved with AEP San Diego for almost 20 years and I love volunteering my time in a way that helps advance our industry. I consider the educational and networking opportunities provided by AEP and NAEP to be priceless.

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

For jobseekers: "Don't give up and don't take rejection personally. Grow and learn from your experiences and keep your eyes on your goal. You will get there eventually." In the workplace "Employees that offer critical thinking and provide a problem-solving perspective are indispensable."

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

What I enjoy most about the environmental field is the amazing people in it—thoughtful, dedicated, and smart professionals working for a better future. I love seeing us grow together and reconnect at AEP events like our upcoming Pints and Professionals and Membership Appreciation gathering. As Co-VP of AEP programs, I'd love to hear your ideas for future events! Reach out anytime at hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com, or text/call 760-504-4109.

5. Share your favorite fun fact with us!

San Diego County ranks sixth in the nation for total number of farms and has the most small farms in California.

AECOM

We create, restore and steward our
urban and natural environments.

Valarie Yruretagoyena
SoCal Environmental Planning Leader
619.954.5578
valarie.yruretagoyena@aecom.com



HELIX

Environmental Planning

Proud supporter of the AEP Diversity in the Environmental Profession Student Scholarship



- CEQA/NEPA Compliance
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Historical Resources
- Landscape Architecture
- Habitat Restoration
- Regulatory Permitting
- Compliance Monitoring
- Acoustics/Noise
- Air Quality/GHG

Learn more about life at HELIX and our exciting career opportunities!

www.helixepi.com/careers

SAN DIEGO | LOS ANGELES | ORANGE | RIVERSIDE | SACRAMENTO | PLACER

RECON

WE ARE HIRING

Join Our Team!

TOP
WORK
PLACES
2023

San Diego
Union-Tribune

reconenvironmental.com



At our company, work-life
balance includes the fun times we
share outside of work.

Come join our team!



Transportation
Engineers &
Planners

LINSCOTT, LAW & GREENSPAN, ENGINEERS

LLGENGINEERS.COM

SAN DIEGO | IRVINE | PASADENA



PROUD SPONSOR OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROFESSIONALS,
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Michael Baker

INTERNATIONAL

We Make a Difference

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATED STUDENT MEMBERS

The San Diego Chapter Board extends our heartfelt congratulations to all our Student Members who have recently graduated. Your dedication and hard work have paid off, and we couldn't be prouder! We look forward to seeing where your careers take you and hope to continue your involvement with AEP as you grow in the environmental planning field. Here's to a bright future!

BRUCE MARKMAN

Degree Earned: MS - GIScience (specializing in Remote Sensing), San Diego State University

Employment Status: Seeking employment in California

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/bruce-markman-b74a611ab/>

Contact Info: bmarkman9972@sdsu.edu



CATE STONE

Degree Earned: BS - Environmental Systems, with a concentration in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution, UC San Diego

Employment Status: Recently hired as an Environmental Specialist by NV5's Water Resources team in Carlsbad

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/catestone/



RORY MENDELOW

Degree Earned: BS - Environmental Sciences, San Diego State University

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATED STUDENT MEMBERS

The San Diego Chapter Board extends our heartfelt congratulations to all our Student Members who have recently graduated. Your dedication and hard work have paid off, and we couldn't be prouder! We look forward to seeing where your careers take you and hope to continue your involvement with AEP as you grow in the environmental planning field. Here's to a bright future!

KRISTEN DUNCAN

Degree Earned: BS - Environmental Science, San Diego State University

Employment Status: Seeking employment in Southern California or Australia

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kristenduncann/>

Contact Info: kristenduncan805@gmail.com



KATIA GRIFFIN

Degree Earned: BS - Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, with a minor in Mathematics, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Employment Status: Seeking employment in clean technology, renewable energy, physical oceanography artificial intelligence consulting, and/or carbon capture

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kg22>

Contact Info: egriffin@ucsd.edu



A reputable team with high-quality standards, attention to detail, and excellent customer service.

We Can Help.

- Protocol Surveys
- Biological Studies/Reporting
- Environmental Compliance
- Permitting Support
- Habitat Management/Monitoring

Expertise.
Experience.
Partnership.

www.rocksbio.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATED STUDENT MEMBERS

The San Diego Chapter Board extends our heartfelt congratulations to all our Student Members who have recently graduated. Your dedication and hard work have paid off, and we couldn't be prouder! We look forward to seeing where your careers take you and hope to continue your involvement with AEP as you grow in the environmental planning field. Here's to a bright future!

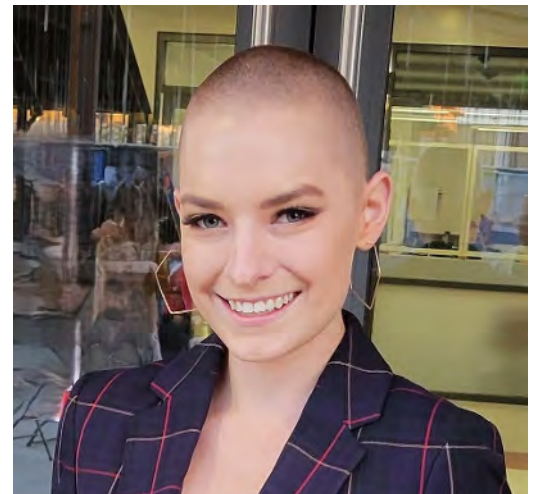
ELISABETH ROTSCHEDL

Degree Earned: BS - Environmental Science, with a minor in Economics, San Diego State University

Employment Status: Environmental Scientist at Tetra Tech, Inc. since December 2024

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/elisabeth-rotschedl-1a7699169/>



ANNIKA OLSON

Degree Earned: BS - Environmental and Ocean Science, with minors in Chemistry, Biology, and Spanish, University of San Diego

Employment Status: Seeking employment starting January 2026 in California. Will be participating in the Animal Care and Training Internship for the National Marine Mammal Program this fall, assisting the Navy's marine mammal training staff in husbandry and research.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/annika-olson02/>

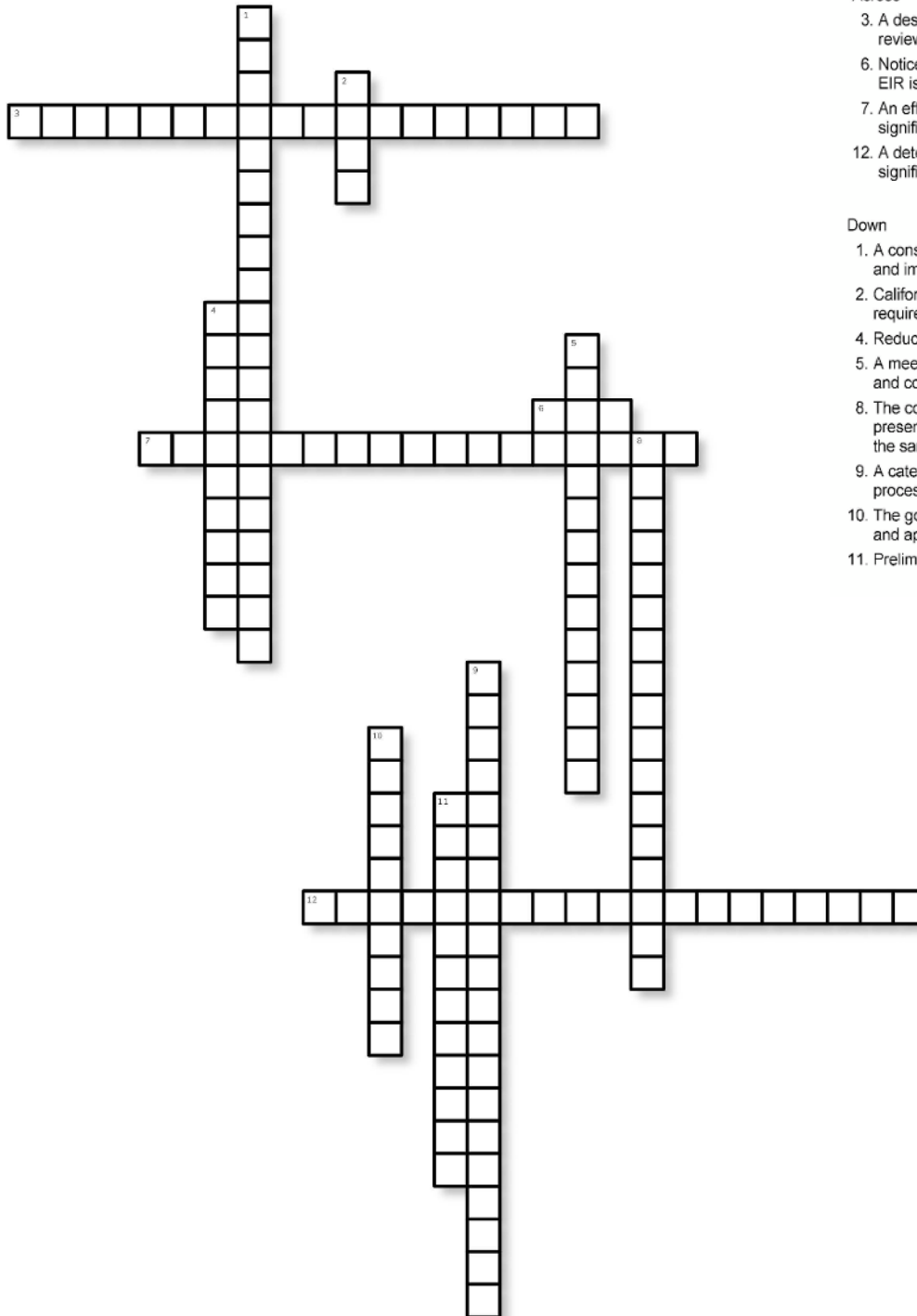
Contact Info: annikaolson@sandiego.edu



AVE SANDSTROM

Degree Earned: BBA - Marketing, with a minor in Sociology, University of San Diego

CEQA GUIDELINES CROSSWORD



Across

3. A designated period of time for public comments and review of an EIR or other CEQA documents
6. Notice of Preparation, a notice sent out when a draft EIR is being prepared
7. An effect on the environment that is potentially significant or substantial
12. A determination that a project will not have a significant impact on the environment

Down

1. A consideration of potential alternative ways to design and implement a project to avoid or minimize impacts
2. California Environmental Quality Act, a state law that requires environmental review of certain projects
4. Reducing adverse effects
5. A meeting held by the lead agency to identify issues and concerns related to a proposed project
8. The combined effects of a project with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the same geographic area
9. A category of projects that are exempt from the full process of CEQA review
10. The government agency responsible for reviewing and approving a project
11. Preliminary analysis for proposed projects

CHAPTER CONTACTS

2025 CHAPTER BOARD

SDAEPBoard@califaep.org

PRESIDENT

Brent Burmeister
ASM Affiliates

CHAPTER DIRECTOR

Kelsey Hawkins
Harris & Associates

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS OF PROGRAMS

Jordan Werkmeister
Psomas

Hannah Arkin
Resolution Environmental

VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP

Sydney Margallo
Harris & Associates

TREASURER

Nicole Wang
Ascent Environmental

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Patrick Macpherson
City of La Mesa

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH

CO-DIRECTORS

Melissa Whittemore
Michael Baker International

Shelby Bocks
HELIX Environmental Planning

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jasmine Osman
PlaceWorks



sd.califaep.org

Contact the Newsletter Editor at: sdaepnews@gmail.com