PORTLAND WATER BUREAU
FROM FOREST TO FAUCET

Quisha Light, Acting Director

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September 15, 2025

OESAC CEU Committee
PO Box 577
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Dear members of the CEU Committee:

Please consider this request for your approval of Portland Water Bureau's Summer 2025 Webcasts for 0.2 CEU's.

DATE	Portland Water Bureau Summer 2025 Webcasts	CEU's: 0.2
7/1/25	Water Resource Foundation Webinar: Artificial Intelligence Adoption Framework for Water and Wastewater Utilities	0.1
8/21/25	Water Resource Foundation Webinar: Feasibility and Applicability of Emerging Utility-Led Innovations in Addressing Affordability	0.1

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Averi Tegethoff
Portland Water Bureau
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Enclosures:
1. Letter of request to review
2. PWB Webcast Summaries and Speaker Bios

PWB Summer 2025 Webinars Summaries and Presenter Biographies

Water Research Foundation Webinar – Artificial Intelligence Adoption Framework for Water and Wastewater

July 1, 2025

Overview:

In our rapidly digitizing world, digital transformation, driven by artificial intelligence (AI), is now essential for the viability, security, and sustainability of water and wastewater services. When enabled by strong data management AI offers unique capabilities to navigate water management complexities.

While challenges to AI adoption—including cost, data quality and integration, cybersecurity risks, and the need for new workforce skills—are real, they are not insurmountable. Therefore, the development and adoption of AI within the water sector is not merely a technological trend but a strategic imperative.

The Water Research Foundation (WRF) project, Artificial Intelligence Adoption Framework for Water and Wastewater Utilities (5189), is conceived within this context, aiming to provide essential guidance to utilities, policymakers, and technology providers as they navigate the complexities and opportunities of integrating AI into the fabric of water management. The framework provides a structured approach for integrating AI and associated technologies to drive decision intelligence within multiple functions of water and wastewater utilities.

This webcast will disseminate the intermittent results of WRF project 5189.

Learning Objectives:

- State of AI in the water industry
- Lessons from case study interviews
- Overview of the AI Framework
- Ways to engage with the framework

Panel Biographies

Prabhu Chandrasekeran, Vice President, Intelligent Water National Practice Leader, Arcadis

Chandrasekeran has over 15 years of experience in the water sector, applying intelligent water technology solutions to help water utilities improve their performance, efficiency,

and resilience. He has experience spearheading digital transformation initiatives within the water industry and advocating for the adoption of technology-driven solutions to enhance water resource management and operational efficiency.

Moderator: **Sydney Samples, Research Manager, The Water Research Foundation**

Water Research Foundation Webinar - Feasibility and Applicability of Leading and Innovative Utility-Led Water Affordability Efforts

August 21, 2025

Overview:

As the cost to operate and maintain safe, reliable water and wastewater services continues to rise, many utilities have taken proactive steps to reduce the burden of increasing costs for customers, especially those who are not able to afford their bills. The Water Research Foundation (WRF) project 5179, Feasibility and Applicability of Leading and Innovative Utility-Led Water Affordability Efforts, explored a diverse array of leading and innovative affordability programs and practices that water and wastewater utilities have implemented.

Based on project 5179, this webcast will discuss four focus areas of understudied challenges for utility-led water and wastewater affordability programs and practices. Presenters will highlight some of the more promising programs and practices and share the associated benefits and tradeoffs/costs from both utility and customer perspectives. Direct examples from U.S. water and wastewater utilities will also be discussed.

Learning Objectives:

- Gaining support from key local constituencies for impactful affordability programs.
- Engaging and communicating about affordability.
- Implementing water efficiency and conservation for affordability.
- Measuring outcomes for affordability programs and practices.

Panel Biographies:

Morgan Shimabuku, Senior Research Specialist, Pacific Institute

At the Pacific Institute, Morgan says has had the opportunity to contribute to a wide variety of projects. She has spent her time on everything from growing the Water Conflict Chronology, to solutions for stormwater management to crafting a

framework for incorporating multiple benefits into water management decision-making, to evaluating the quality of oilfield-produced water for agricultural reuse.

Greg Pierce, Research and Co-Executive Director, UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation

Greg Pierce (he/him) is the Research and Co-Executive Director of the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation and the director of the Human Right to Water Solutions Lab. He is also the director of the UCLA Water Resources Group within the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, and serves as an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Urban Planning. He is a faculty affiliate of the Lewis Center for Regional Studies and Institute of Transportation Studies in the Luskin School, and Center for Healthy Climate Solutions in the Fielding School of Public Health.

Sri Vedachalam, Senior Director, Water Equity and Climate Resilience, Corvias Infrastructure Solutions

Sri Vedachalam, Ph.D., is the Senior Director for Water Equity and Climate Resilience at Corvias Infrastructure Solutions, LLC (CIS) and leads the firm's Advisory practice. CIS is a national leader in urban infrastructure and greening programs across the United States, having overseen the implementation of over 250 green stormwater infrastructure projects totaling nearly $350 million in more than 50 municipalities across the Mid-Atlantic, Great Lakes and West Coast regions

Sophia Skoda, Director of Finance, East Bay Municipal Utility District

Water flows deep in Sophia Skoda's DNA. While growing up in Kenya and India, she witnessed the difficulties people around the world encounter in obtaining clean water. Her father worked in water supply and sanitation for the United Nations and these early experiences significantly impacted Sophia's future career aspirations. Educated in the United States, she has a bachelor's in civil engineering from Stanford and a master's in water resources engineering from UC Berkeley. As part of her career path, she worked in water/wastewater finance before joining the district.

Moderator: **Sydney Samples, Research Manager, The Water Research Foundation**