

Greetings from

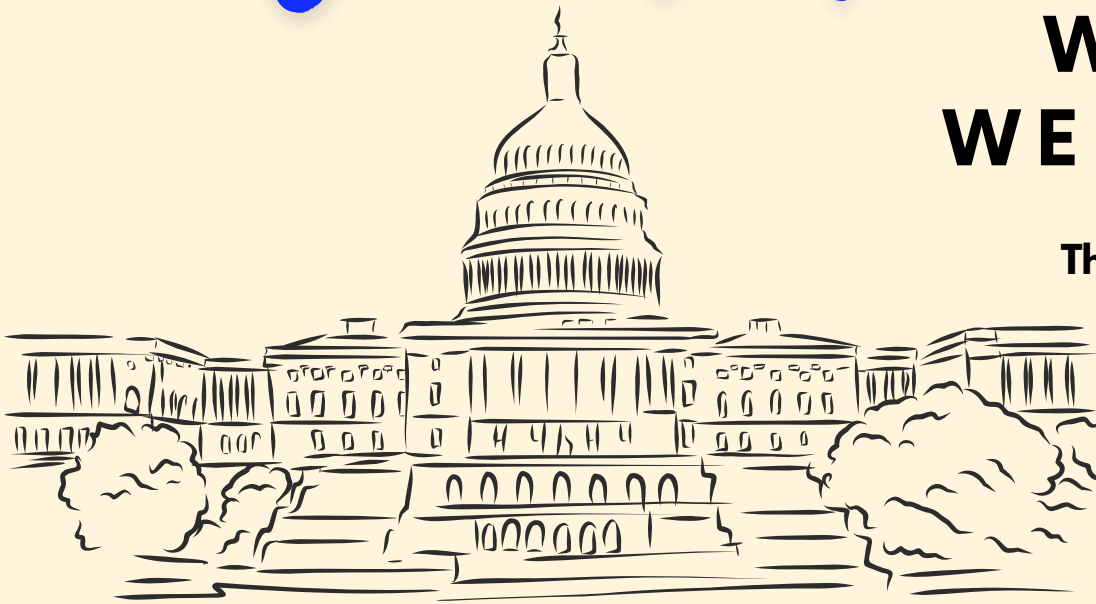
WATER WEEK 2026

Hosted by
The National Press Club

April 15th,
Washington D.C.

Presented By:

 ASTERRA



Where: National Press Club

Date: April 15, 2026

Time: 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. EDT

Location: The National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20045

Moderator: Paul Gagliardo

Format: Two one-hour conferences with four panelists, one moderator, and press club members attending. This event will also be live-streamed.



About the National Press Club

Founded in 1908, the National Press Club (NPC) in Washington, D.C., is the world's premier professional organization for journalists and communicators, located two blocks from the White House.

Press Conference Abstract

America's water systems are entering a defining decade. Decisions made in the next few years at the federal, state, and local levels will determine whether communities face escalating infrastructure failures, rising costs, and constrained growth, or achieve resilient, sustainable water security.

Much of the nation's water infrastructure was designed more than a century ago. Today, utilities are facing similar pressures: population growth and urban concentration, climate-driven extremes, aging pipes and treatment plants, emerging contaminants like PFAS, legacy challenges such as lead, groundwater depletion, rising surface water temperatures, and the explosive growth of water-intensive manufacturing and data centers are colliding to create unprecedented risk for people, agriculture, industry, and ecosystems.

Around the world, "Day Zero" events are no longer theoretical, and the United States is not immune. Addressing known infrastructure deficiencies alone is projected to require an estimated \$600 billion over the next 20 years, and that investment does little to prepare communities for future conditions. The central question is no longer whether the water system must change, but how policy, funding, and innovation can move fast enough to meet the challenge.

During Water Week 2026, this National Press Club press conference will bring together a cross-section of leading water experts, policymakers, financiers, utility leaders, and innovators to provide a 360-degree perspective on the water crisis at a pivotal moment.

The program will be divided into two focused sessions:

- **Part One: Policy at the Tipping Point**
 - Panelists will examine how upcoming federal and state regulatory decisions are shaping water scarcity, affordability, infrastructure resilience, and long-term planning, and what these policy choices mean for communities, industry, and the environment.
- **Part Two: Funding, Innovation, and the Path Forward**
 - The second session will explore how new financing models, technological advancements, utility modernization, and circular water strategies can dramatically improve outcomes and where investment can deliver the greatest impact.

Moderated by Paul Gagliardo, water engineer, influencer, and host of The Water Entrepreneur Podcast, the discussion will feature thought leaders from across the water sector who are actively designing and deploying solutions today.

Together, the panels will provide journalists with clear insight into what is changing, what is at risk, and what must happen next to ensure safe, affordable, and sustainable water for people, agriculture, industry, and the environment.

Partners to include U.S. Water Week, AWWA, and Rogue Water (stay tuned).

Dinner will be a networking opportunity for policymakers and industry leaders to meet and mingle. Media will not be attending this event.

The second larger event for ACE 2026 is currently being planned.

Garland, Texas, will send a utility representative to the panel to discuss their recycled water and innovation programs and the positive processes in place. Representative Johnson or someone from her staff might have an interest in this part of the conversation.