



CALIFORNIA LAND RECYCLING CONFERENCE

Imagine | Innovate | Implement

September 29 – October 1, 2026 | Foster City

Call for Sessions Guide

Extended Submission Deadline: May 18, 2026

[Click here](#) to submit your session proposal

About CALRC: Hosted by CCLR, EPA Region 9 and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, CALRC is the premier conference for land reuse professionals in California. Our goal is to help practitioners across various fields understand the links between land reuse, sustainability, and equity, enabling them to drive economic growth, address environmental injustices, protect public health, and revitalize communities. CALRC attracts 350–400 attendees annually, including nonprofit and for-profit developers, community leaders, local and state agencies, municipal and government officials, and private entities including environmental consultants and attorneys.

Call for Sessions

With this year's conference theme centered on innovation, we are seeking dynamic and engaging proposals that address high-interest topics in land recycling. We encourage proposals from a broad range of land reuse backgrounds and disciplines to share best practices and explore cutting-edge strategies that promote environmental stewardship and community revitalization.

The selection committee will consider overall program variety, innovative topics, high-impact speakers and other parameters to ensure a well-rounded program. **Session submissions should include all the required information; completeness of the submission will be considered during the review and selection process.**

Past CALRC sessions [can be found here](#).

Expectations & responsibilities if your session is approved:

- Confirm and finalize the title, description, and presentation slides of the panel.
- Provide speaker headshots and bios.
- Communicate any speaker changes or add-ons.
- Forward important logistics information regarding the conference.
- Share promotional content with peers

Information checklist for Call for Sessions submission:

- Session Organizer information - i.e., the point of contact for
 - Name
 - Company/Organization
 - Email

- Phone number
- Name, Title, and Organization for every speaker involved in session
- Session information
 - Description (200 word limit)
 - Learning objectives
 - Session format
 - Topic category
 - Audience engagement tools (if applicable)
 - Target audience
 - Technical level of the information presented (beginner/intermediate/advanced)

Session Topic Themes

In the spirit of this year's theme, *Imagine | Innovate | Implement*, we welcome proposals that reimagine what's possible, highlight creative solutions, and share practical approaches to brownfields redevelopment and land reuse.

You will be asked to identify at least one of the following categories that apply to your proposed session. Topics include:

- **Environmental investigation and cleanup strategies:** Sessions focused on moving sites through the assessment and cleanup process toward reuse. Proposals may cover topics such as sampling approaches, site characterization, risk management, vapor intrusion, cleanup technologies, hazardous materials management, and adaptive strategies for complex sites—grounded in real-world case studies and practical lessons learned.
- **Policy updates and regulatory strategies:** sessions that examine the latest legislative and regulatory developments impacting land recycling in California, and discuss their implications for stakeholders across the public and private sectors.
- **Technical innovations and digital tools:** in-depth technical sessions that highlight emerging tools and innovative approaches on the science and practice of assessing and cleaning up sites, with an emphasis on applied methods and case studies (e.g., new strategies on contaminant destruction, how people are addressing AI-generated comments during a comment period, bioremediation, hazardous wastes, environmental sampling and testing strategies, etc.)
- **Brownfield recycling, housing, and land use planning:** sessions highlighting how land recycling supports housing and thoughtful land reuse, especially infill, mixed-use, and community-serving development. Proposals may address planning strategies, navigating constraints, community benefits, perspectives on financing, developer partnerships, planning, success stories, and more.
- **Community engagement and equitable development:** sessions that center community voices, trust-building, and equitable outcomes throughout the land recycling process. Sessions may cover effective engagement strategies, workforce development strategies, succession planning, communicating technical information to broader

audiences, partnering with community-based organizations, preventing displacement, designing community benefits that reflect local priorities, and more.

- **Climate resilience and natural disaster preparedness/recovery:** sessions that focus on how land recycling can reduce risk and support climate resilience in the face of wildfires, flooding, sea level rise, extreme heat, drought, and other climate hazards. Topics may include resilience planning, disaster recovery and rebuilding, emergency response considerations, nature-based solutions, infrastructure, and more.
- **Funding strategies and liability management:** Explore innovative financing mechanisms and public-private partnerships that support the successful transformation of underutilized land into vibrant, sustainable spaces (sources of federal, state and local funding (EPA, ECRG, etc.), moving through grant milestones, developing capital stacks) and considerations of specific requirements for grantees and investors for different types of funding
- **Tribal best practices and case studies:** sessions elevating Tribal leadership, best practices, partnerships, case studies on Tribal brownfields programs, how to leverage Tribal funding opportunities for brownfields redevelopment, incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into land reuse practices, and more.
- **Other:** if you believe there is a category not listed above that best fits your proposed session, please describe it here

Session Formats

Every presentation room will be equipped with AV (projector, screen, microphones, and speakers).

Moderated panels (45 - 60 minutes): a traditional panel format featuring a moderator and at least two speakers. Designed for sharing multiple perspectives on a topic through prepared remarks and slides (typically 45-60 minutes of slides/content, including audience Q&A). Interactive sessions and use of audience-involving tools are encouraged.

Spotlight Chat (45-60 minutes): a highly engaging *interview-style* conversation with at least two speakers. Uses creative visual and presentation tools beyond just standard slides and emphasizes storytelling and interactive dialogue.

Topic Talks (15 minutes): a short focused presentation with no more than two speakers. Minimal slides and a clear takeaway are encouraged. Best for practical tools, case study snapshots, or a specific technique/method.

The Dig: True stories from the brownfields trenches (5 minutes max.): fast-paced and *rehearsed story-forward format* inspired by [the Moth Radio Hour](#). Format features one highly engaging speaker sharing a compelling or humorous brownfield experience

Other: if you believe your proposed session doesn't fit in any of the above categories, please describe your proposed format here and provide specific details on timing, structure, and the style and manner of content presented.

FAQs

- I want to submit a session proposal but I'm not sure if I can cover the cost to attend. What should I do?
 - We are committed to helping people who cannot pay the fee to attend CALRC. Through the generosity of our sponsors, we are able to offer a limited number of scholarships. Groups eligible to receive scholarships to the 2026 California Land Recycling Conference include: non-profit employees, select local and state government employees, Tribal entities, and students. [Click here](#) to apply for a scholarship. Accepted speakers interested in attending more than one day of the conference will automatically receive a 50% registration discount.
 - Note: scholarship applications are only for registration costs. Please make sure to submit your session proposal before the May 4th deadline.
- I am working on a proposal for the 2027 National Brownfields Conference Call for Ideas. Can I submit a similar proposal for CALRC 2026?
 - Absolutely! We encourage repurposing your 2027 NBC submission for CALRC as long as the information could be considered relevant and aligned with CALRC's audience.
- I am working with multiple speakers on a topic. Who should submit the session proposal?
 - Please submit one proposal per session. It would be best to communicate amongst your team who will be the Session Organizer for the proposal, as this person will be the point of contact to help us ensure we receive all the materials needed. All other speakers need to be listed later in the form.
- I am planning on submitting a session proposal for a moderated panel. Am I required to identify the moderator?

- You are more than welcome to select your own moderator (which would have to be included in the session proposal); however, if you do not have one in mind, you can always indicate in your submission that you are open to a CCLR-assigned moderator. In that case, in the event that your moderated panel is accepted, the CCLR team would do their best to identify a moderator with a background and experience that would be relevant to the session topic
- It looks like moderated panels and spotlight chats are supposed to be 45-60 minutes. Does that include Q&A?
 - Yes. Audience Q&A would need to be *within* the allotted 60 minute timeframe for moderated panels and spotlight chats. If your session is accepted, it will be important to plan the timing and slides accordingly to account for time for Q&A. Depending on the session, typically about 10 minutes has been set aside for Q&A
- What is the difference between moderated panels and spotlight chats?
 - The main difference between these two formats is *how* the topic is presented and the content used in the session. If your proposed content leans more towards comparing multiple perspectives in a more structured way with prepared remarks, more formal content delivery, and extensive slides, the moderated panel might be a better fit. On the other hand, if you envision a more *conversational* session that focuses on the topic from the perspective of storytelling, personal insights, lessons learned, real-world stories, etc., the spotlight chat could be a more appropriate fit. Please refer to the session format descriptions for more information.
- Can I look at examples of sessions from previous CALRCs?
 - Yes! Past CALRC sessions [can be found here](#). To review recordings of select sessions, please check out the playlists on the [CCLR YouTube page](#).
- What would be a good story to submit for The Dig: True stories from the brownfields trenches?
 - This could be any compelling or humorous brownfield experience that you would like to share with the audience—from lessons learned, unexpected hiccups, humorous moments, triumphs, and so on. Please note that this is a very fast-paced, rehearsed story-forward format (5 minutes maximum). If accepted, participants will work with the CCLR team to refine their stories and rehearse prior to the session. We encourage interested applicants to check out talks from [The Moth Radio Hour](#) to get a better understanding of what this format will look like.