

2026 SWREDA Conference

April 14 – 17, 2026 | Austin, TX

DRAFT as of March 5, 2026 – Subject to Change

Tuesday, April 14

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|-------------------|--|
| 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. | Conference Registration & Information Desk Open |
| 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. | Executive Directors Leadership Institute (Register in advance) |
| 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. | Regional Storytelling Workshop (Register in advance) |
| 6:00 p.m. | Training Program for Emerging Leaders Gathering |

Wednesday, April 15

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| 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Conference Registration & Information Desk Open |
| 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | SWREDA Board of Directors Meeting |
| 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | SWREDA Membership Annual Business Meeting |
| 12:15 – 1:00 p.m. | Networking Lunch |
| 1:15 – 2:15 p.m. | Opening Plenary |
| 2:15 – 2:30 p.m. | Break |
| 2:30 – 3:45 p.m. | Concurrent Sessions
<i>Grants Management/EDGE Training</i>
<i>RLF</i>
<i>Energy & Data Centers</i> |
| 2:30 pm – 4:30 p.m. | Mobile Workshop:
<i>Texas Space Commission & Firefly Aerospace</i>
<i>(Registration required)</i> |
| 3:45 – 4:00 p.m. | Break |
| 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. | Concurrent Sessions
<i>Military Installation Partnerships</i>
<i>AI</i>
<i>Economic Development 101</i> |
| 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. | Welcome Reception |

Thursday, April 16

7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Conference Registration & Information Desk Open

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

*Route 66/Tourism Development
Technology Tools & Tips
CEDS*

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

*GIS
Disaster Recovery
Childcare/Aging*

11:15 – 11:25 a.m.

Break

11:25 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

*Attracting Manufacturing/Reshoring
Rural Transportation
Communication Strategies*

12:25 – 1:40 p.m.

Plenary Luncheon

State of the Region

1:45 – 3:45 p.m.

Mobile Workshop:

*River Resilience & the Lower Colorado River Authority: Water, Energy, & Disaster
Management
(Registration required)*

1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

*Brownfield Development
Developing Successful EDA Projects
Housing Strategies*

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Plenary Session: Star of the Southwest Award Showcase

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Star of the Southwest Award Roundtable Reception

Friday, April 17

7:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Conference Registration & Information Desk Open

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Good Conversations Breakfast

9:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Closing Plenary

Federal Policy Update

10:30 a.m

Conference Conclusion

11:30 a.m. – 5:00pm

Post-Conference Rural Energy Academy Session

By Invitation Only / Reach out to Jack Morgan jmorgan@nado.org