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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**July 13, 2026, Washington State — Columbia Basin Development League Announces
2026 Conference & Annual Meeting: "We've Got the Water"**

November 11–13, 2026 | Three Rivers Convention Center | Kennewick, Washington

[The Columbia Basin Development League \(CDDL\)](#) invites community leaders, farmers, policymakers, businesses, researchers, students, and advocates from across the Pacific Northwest to attend the 2026 CDDL Conference & Annual Meeting, taking place November 11–13, 2026, at the [Three Rivers Convention Center](#) in Kennewick.

Centered around this year's theme, "We've Got the Water," the conference will bring together stakeholders investing in the completion of the Columbia Basin Project and highlight the critical role water plays in supporting agriculture, energy, economic development, and communities throughout the region.

"The Columbia Basin Project continues to be one of the Northwest's greatest economic and environmental assets," said Brit Kramer, CAE, Association Executive. "This conference is an opportunity to hear directly from the leaders shaping its future while building partnerships that will help ensure the Project continues to benefit generations to come."

Conference attendees will receive the latest factual updates on the status of Columbia Basin Project completion from Columbia Basin Development League leadership, irrigation district representatives, state and federal policymakers, industry experts, and partner organizations. Participants will also have the opportunity to connect with the farmers and the next generation of farmers, whose work helps feed local, national, and global markets.

Conference Highlights

The conference will feature educational sessions focused on emerging issues impacting the Columbia Basin, including:

Declining water resources throughout the US, except in the Columbia Basin.

Directions and actions to finish the Columbia Basin project

- Electrical Power cost to the farmer
- Columbia Basin Municipal & Industrial (M&I) Water: its use without impacting farmers
- Emerging Technologies
- Research and Innovation

Additional conference activities include:

- Welcome Reception for partners and sponsors Wednesday evening
- Educational sessions Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- CBDL Annual Meeting on Thursday at noon, including board confirmations, awards, and special recognitions
- Thursday evening networking social 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Friday morning breakfast and sessions from 8:00 a.m. to noon

Conference registration includes Thursday lunch and Friday breakfast.

Returning as conference emcee is Erik Mertens, better known throughout the region as "Eric the Peanut Guy," whose engaging style has become a conference favorite.

Registration, Sponsorships & Exhibits

Early registration opens in July 2026.

Businesses, organizations, and agencies interested in exhibiting or sponsoring the conference are encouraged to reserve their space early.

For registration, exhibitor opportunities, or sponsorship information, contact Mylissa at info@cddl.org.

Who Should Attend?

The conference is designed for those interested in the future of the Columbia Basin, including:

- Farmers and agricultural producers
- Water and irrigation professionals
- Business and industry leaders
- Elected officials and policymakers
- Researchers and educators
- Students and emerging professionals
- Community members who live, work, and recreate in the Columbia Basin
- All who value sustainable agriculture, responsible water management, and the continued success of one of America's most significant reclamation projects

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About the Columbia Basin Development League

Since 1964, the Columbia Basin Development League has supported the Bureau of Reclamation's Columbia Basin Project and its future development.

The League is working toward a fully developed Columbia Basin Project that supports a robust regional and state economy and quality of life through efficient, well-maintained, affordable infrastructure and sustainable environmental stewardship.

As the nonprofit organization representing the interests of Columbia Basin Project stakeholders, the League fills an essential advocacy role to advance policy that benefits the Project, including:

- Broad consensus on value of the Columbia Basin Project and plan for its continued, phased development;
- Legislative, congressional, and agency actions that continue Project development and protect its multi-purpose benefits.
- To this end, the League's Board of Trustees, representing all geographic areas within Project boundaries, works with an Executive Director to strategize effective means of delivering timely, informative, fact-based and solution-oriented messages to Project stakeholders and influencers in government, business, and communities. The League plays a significant role in facilitating discussion and action among stakeholders.