



# 10th ASSEMBLY OF PLANNERS SYMPOSIUM

## Day 1 - August 19, 2025

7:30 am - 8:40 am

REGISTRATION / CHECK-IN

8:40 am - 9:00 am

OPENING REMARKS

**Introductory Remarks:**

**Edwin Reyes**, Administrator, Guam Coastal Management Program

**Welcoming Remarks:**

**Lola Leon Guerrero**, Director, Bureau of Statistics and Plans

**Opening Remarks:**

**Lieutenant Governor Joshua Tenorio**

9:00 am - 10:20 am

PLENARY 1

### Comprehensive Development Planning: Guåhan 2050 Sustainability Plan

The Guåhan 2050 Sustainability Plan (G50SP) seeks to transcend traditional zoning approaches by fostering integrated land use planning that reflects Guam's unique environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic dynamics. This session will cover the current state of the Guåhan 2050 Sustainability plan, the progress that has been made, and the next steps after completing the 1st draft. This session will also include speakers who have developed and implemented comprehensive development plans and cover insights and best practices that Guam could benefit from.

**Facilitator:** **Matt Santos**, Deputy Director, Bureau of Statistics and Plans

**Panelists:**

**Jay R. Merrill, MRD (Lynker)** Highlights and Implementation Strategy of the Guåhan 2050 Sustainability Plan (G50SP)

**Celine Cruz**, Chief Planner, Department of Land Management

**Catherine McCall**, Office Director for Climate Adaptation and Stewardship, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

**Henry Bell**, Senior Coastal Planner, Washington Department of Ecology

**Renato "Tato" Martinez**, AIA Marianas: Resilience by Design: Aligning Land Use, Housing, and Community Development for Guam's Future

10:20 am - 10:40 am

BREAK

10:40 am - 12:00 pm

PLENARY 2

### Linking Ecosystem Services to Economic Vitality in Tumon Bay

This plenary brings together a multidisciplinary panel of experts, practitioners, and stakeholders to chart a path forward for the Tumon Bay Watershed Management Plan. Recognizing Tumon Bay's critical role in Guam's economic vitality and ecological health, the session will explore strategies to balance responsible development with the conservation of natural resources. Key topics include the integration of best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater pollution prevention, the adoption of nature-based solutions, and the importance of inter-agency coordination and stakeholder engagement. The plenary will also address the challenges of data collection, regulatory compliance, and infrastructure maintenance, drawing on local and external case studies. By fostering collaboration among architects, engineers, scientists, government agencies, and the tourism sector, the session aims to develop actionable goals and innovative solutions that ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of the Tumon Bay watershed.

**Facilitator:** **James Pangelinan**, Planner, Guam Coastal Management Program

**Panelists:**

**Chris (Myeong-Ho) Yeo**, Ph.D., P.E., Associate Professor, Water & Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific

**Inna Wiese**, Principal Architect and Senior Project Manager, GHD

**Glenn San Nicolas**, Deputy Administrator, Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA)

**Margaret Aguilar**, Senior Program Coordinator, Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA)

**Christine Fejeran**, Forestry and Soils Resource Division Chief, Guam Department of Agriculture

**Régine Biscoe Lee**, President & CEO, Guam Visitors Bureau

**Michael Friis**, Director, Resource Policy Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Administration

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

NETWORKING LUNCH





# 10th ASSEMBLY OF PLANNERS SYMPOSIUM

## Day 1- August 19, 2025 (Cont.)

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

### PLENARY 3

#### **Addressing the Root Causes of Wildland Arson:**

##### **A Shift in Societal Tolerance of Wildland Fires**

This session will analyze how societal attitudes and perceptions of wildfires influence arson incidents and discuss strategies for cultural change. Emphasizing the importance of community engagement, education, and policy reforms, the panel aims to identify foundational approaches to reduce arson rates. Ultimately, this discussion seeks to foster a societal shift towards greater awareness and responsibility in wildfire prevention, promoting resilience and safety in vulnerable communities.

**Facilitator:** **Christine Fejeran**, Guam Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Soil Resource Division Chief

##### **Panelists:**

**Edward Artero**, Guam Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau Chief

**James Pangelinan**, Planner, Guam Coastal Management Program

**David Green**, Senior Deputy Director, Texas General Land Office

**Sgt Roy N. Henricksen**, Guam Police Department

**Millie Erguiza**, Senior Planner, Bureau of Statistics and Plans

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Derek Brockbank**, Executive Director, Coastal States Organization

**What's going on with federal coastal funding?** Following two years of abundant support, coastal programs now face major funding threats due to overlapping legislative actions, administrative decisions, and proposed budget cuts. Derek will provide a critical update on the uncertain future of federal coastal funding in 2025. His talk will explain how recent developments, including FY'25 and FY'26 budget processes, potential rescissions, and impoundments which are affecting key funding sources such as annual appropriations, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and Inflation Reduction Act funds. While focused on NOAA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the presentation will also look ahead at possible legislative actions and implications for the long-term sustainability of coastal resilience funding.

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

### BREAK

3:00 pm - 4:20 pm

### PLENARY 4

#### **Northern Guam Lens Aquifer**

##### **The Compliance Void: Challenges with Water Regulations and Enforcement**

Water is fundamental to life, yet the frameworks that govern its management often fall short. Inconsistent regulations laws, limited enforcement, access to data, rising cost of construction and complex political realities. This panel addresses the gap between regulations and real-world implementation and the cost of the utilities. Issues to be covered include the following: **(1) Closing the Loop: Integrating Application Review Committee Recommendations into the Building Permit Process;** **(2) Prioritize aquifer protection through infrastructure projects and planning;** **(3) Protecting the Health and Sustainable Yield of Northern Guam's Lens Aquifer.**

**Facilitator:** **Evangelina "Vangie" Lujan**, Senior Regulatory Analyst, Guam Waterworks Authority

##### **Panelists:**

**Prudencio Aguon**, Guam Waterworks Authority

**Jacob Miller**, Lead Engineer, New Area Development and Permitting, Guam Waterworks Authority

**George Watson**, Senior Engineer, Guam Waterworks Authority

**Joseph Calvo**, Civil Engineer, Guam Waterworks Authority

**Yong Sang (Barry) Kim, PhD**, Associate Professor of Water Engineering, Water and Environmental Research Institute (WERI)

**Michael Friis**, Director, Resource Policy Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Administration

**Brett Railey**, Guam Waterworks Authority

4:20 pm - 5:00 pm

### DAY ONE WRAP-UP AND NETWORKING





# 10th ASSEMBLY OF PLANNERS SYMPOSIUM

## Day 2- August 20, 2025

8:00 am - 9:00 am

REGISTRATION & CHECK-IN

9:00 am - 10:20 am

PLENARY 5

### Integrated Marine Planning in the Pacific

This plenary highlights collaborative approaches to marine planning and policy across the Pacific region. Hawaii's Ocean Resources Management Plan demonstrates a statewide, multi-agency framework to address coastal challenges through shared priorities and public engagement, focusing on coastal hazards, land-based pollution, and marine ecosystems. Guam's presentations will examine key coral reef protection policies—both local and federal—identifying strengths and opportunities for improvement. In addition, an update on Guam's Fisheries Management Plan will showcase progress in community-driven resource management, recent town halls, and next steps toward sustainable fisheries planning.

**Facilitator:** Camille Quichocho, Biologist, Guam Coastal Management Program

#### Panelists:

**Sarah Chang**, Senior Project Analyst, Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program, Office of Planning and Development

**Olivia Banez**, Coral Reef Policy and Communications Coordinator, Guam Coral Reef Initiative

**Michael Duenas**, Fisheries Supervisor, Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources

**Brent Tibbatts**, Fisheries Biologist, Agency: Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources

**Leilani Sablan Naden**, Biologist, University of Guam, Sea Grant

10:20 am - 10:40 am

PRESENTATION

**John Ryan-Henry**, Senior Policy Analyst, Coastal States Organization

This presentation unpacks the latest changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures following Presidential Executive Order 14154 and new federal guidance issued in July 2025. It will focus on updated Defense Department policies, cross-agency shifts, and legislative amendments under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, highlighting key implications for coastal management, permitting, and federal consistency review.

10:40 am - 11:00 am

BREAK

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

PLENARY 6

### Flood Policy & Storm Water Management

This plenary session brings together key stakeholders from government agencies, the private sector, and regulatory bodies to address the pressing challenges of flood policy and stormwater management in Guam. The session will explore integrated and actionable strategies for flood mitigation, focusing on scoping the best approach to ensure Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit compliance, infrastructure improvements, and interagency collaboration. The session will also examine the complexities of applying the CNMI and Guam Stormwater Drainage Manual and the Guam Transportation Stormwater Drainage Manual, enforcement of permit conditions, and the impact of illegal dumping on water quality and flooding. Through collaborative dialogue, the session aims to identify practical solutions and policy innovations that promote community resilience and sustainable development across Guam's watersheds.

**Facilitator:** James Pangelinan, Planner, Guam Coastal Management Program

#### Panelists:

**Benny San Nicolas**, Flood Plain Manager, Department of Public Works

**Jose Quinata**, Federal Programs Administrator for Division of Highways, Department of Public Works

**Glenn San Nicolas**, Deputy Administrator, Guam EPA

**Maricar Quezon**, Engineer, Guam EPA

**Catherine McCall**, Director of Maryland's Coastal Management Program

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

NETWORKING LUNCH





# 10th ASSEMBLY OF PLANNERS SYMPOSIUM

## Day 2- August 19, 2025 (Cont.)

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

### PLENARY 7

#### GIS Data Integration: Mapping a Resilient Island Future

This plenary will showcase practical applications of spatial data integration for managing natural hazards, optimizing resource use, and supporting sustainable development—providing actionable strategies that strengthen institutional capacity and support implementation of the Guåhan 2050 Sustainability Plan.

**Facilitator:** **Matthew Santos**, Deputy Director, Bureau of Statistics and Plans

**Panelists:**

**Nathan C. Habana, Ph.D.**, Water & Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific

**Rodney Toves**, GIS Manager, Guam Waterworks Authority

**Romina King, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, University of Guam

**Antonio Gumataotao**, Rights of Way Supervisor, Guam Power Authority

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

### PLENARY 8

#### Stewarding Guam's Working Landscapes: Forest Systems and Agricultural Land Futures

Guam's natural and agricultural lands are under pressure from development and competing land uses. This panel will examine the status of these vital landscapes, focusing on key initiatives like the Guam Forest System and Habitat Conservation Plan, as well as the collaborative efforts of the Guåhan Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. The discussion aims to identify policy mechanisms and planning tools—such as conservation easements and public-private partnerships—to strengthen sustainable land management, support climate adaptation, and balance economic needs with ecosystem protection. The goal is to provide attendees with a clear understanding of how to enhance the long-term viability of Guam's resources through collaborative action.

**Facilitator:** **Patrick Keeler**, Coordinator, Guåhan Sentinel Landscape Program

**Panelists:**

**Christine Fejeran**, Forestry & Soil Resource Division Chief, Guam Department of Agriculture

**Jeffrey Quitugua**, Acting Assistant Chief, Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources

**Else N. Demeulenaere**, Ph.D., Associate Director, UOG CIS / Sea Grant

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

### BREAK

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

### PLENARY 9

#### Strengthening Regional Coordination: CZMA Federal Consistency Across the Marianas

This session will explore the evolving role of the Coastal Zone Management Act's (CZMA) Federal Consistency provision in shaping regional federal activities across Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). Coastal Programs from both jurisdictions will present key case studies—such as the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT/MIRC) and the Endangered Species Act Coral Critical Habitat Designation—highlighting coordination challenges and successes. Panelists will provide a comparative analysis of Guam and CNMI Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) coordination frameworks, offering insights into current practices and identifying areas for synergy. Looking ahead, the panel will examine anticipated federal initiatives, including Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) leasing and the prospect of seabed mining, and discuss proactive coordination strategies. An interactive Q&A session will encourage dialogue, fostering collaboration and alignment for future federal actions in the region.

**Regional Facilitator:** **John Ryan-Henry**, Senior Policy Analyst, Coastal States Organization

**Panelists:**

**Arthur Charfauros**, Planner and Federal Consistency Coordinator, CNMI Division of Coastal Resources Management

**Augustine Diaz**, Permitting Manager, CNMI Division of Coastal Resources Management

**Louise Pascua**, Biologist, Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA)

**Jeffrey S. Quitugua**, Acting Assistant Chief, Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources

**Esther Taitague**, Federal Activities Planner, Guam Coastal Management Program, Bureau of Statistics and Plans

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

### DAY TWO WRAP-UP AND NETWORKING