

The Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management Program Presents:

10th ASSEMBLY OF PLANNERS SYMPOSIUM



Theme:

GUAM'S COASTAL ZONE POLICIES:

**EXAMINING THE VITAL ROLE OF CODES, ORDINANCES, AND
ENFORCEMENT IN FOSTERING ECONOMIC GROWTH, COMMUNITY
EMPOWERMENT, AND MANAGING COASTAL RESOURCES**

AUGUST 19 & 20, 2025 | 8 AM - 5 PM | Hyatt Regency Guam

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AT-LARGE, GUAM

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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5301

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

August 5, 2025

To the Organizers and Participants of the 10th Assembly of
Planners Symposium,

Håfa Adai, and congratulations on advancing one of the most
important discussions shaping Guam's future. I commend the
Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management
Program for organizing this year's symposium and for their
commitment to thoughtful, sustainable planning across our
island.

This year's theme—"Guam's Coastal Zone Policies:
Examining the Vital Role of Codes, Ordinances, and
Enforcement in Fostering Economic Growth, Community
Empowerment, and Managing Coastal Resources"—reflects
the complex and essential work that underpins Guam's future.

Our island's coastal zones are more than natural assets, they
are the foundation of our economy, culture, and resilience. As
we balance development with conservation, it's clear that
smart, enforceable policies are key to managing that growth responsibly and equitably. The work of
planners and policy experts is often behind the scenes, but it has a direct impact on how our communities
live, grow, and thrive.

As your representative in Congress, I remain committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen Guam's
planning capacity, environmental protections, and local enforcement efforts. Whether it's securing federal
support, championing infrastructure improvements, or advancing hazard mitigation priorities, I will
continue to advocate for the resources and flexibility Guam needs to lead its own future.

To all the participants in this year's symposium—thank you for your expertise, your commitment to the
island, and the work you do every day to shape a stronger, more resilient Guam.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse' and best wishes for a meaningful and productive symposium.

Sincerely,



James C. Moylan
Member of Congress



MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

10TH ASSEMBLY OF PLANNERS SYMPOSIUM

Håfa Adai! We are honored to welcome you to the 10th Assembly of Planners Symposium, a gathering that continues to serve as a vital forum for addressing Guam's most pressing land use and natural coastal resource challenges. The purpose of this symposium is to bring together our island's planning, policy, and resource communities in a collaborative setting that seeks to improve management systems, strengthen policy, and explore solutions grounded in science, data, and shared experience.

This year's theme, "Guam's Coastal Zone Policies: Examining the Vital Role of Codes, Ordinances, and Enforcement in Fostering Economic Growth, Community Empowerment, and Managing Coastal Resources," reflects a growing recognition that our island's resilience, and our ability to sustain both economic development and environmental health, relies heavily on the strength and enforcement of our policies.

As we face mounting pressures from climate change, development, and natural hazards, it becomes increasingly clear that coordinated planning and well-designed legal frameworks are essential to protecting our coastal ecosystems, supporting local livelihoods, and ensuring long-term sustainability. Resilient communities depend on healthy reefs, wetlands, and watersheds to reduce disaster risks, maintain water quality, and preserve cultural and economic resources. Likewise, a vibrant economy depends on stable, transparent permitting systems and thoughtful shoreline development that inspire investor confidence while safeguarding our environment.

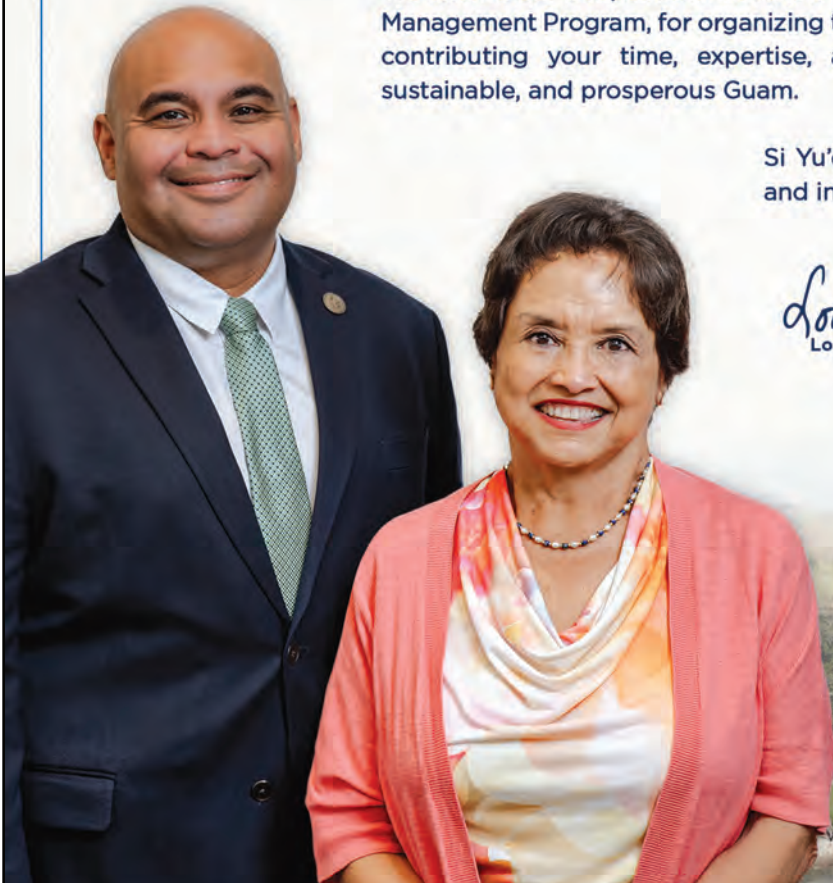
This symposium allows professionals across sectors to come together, face-to-face, to exchange knowledge, build partnerships, and craft forward-thinking strategies that help us avoid costly planning mistakes and respond more effectively to emerging challenges.

We extend our deepest thanks to the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management Program, for organizing this important event, and to all of you who are contributing your time, expertise, and leadership to build a more resilient, sustainable, and prosperous Guam.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse' and best wishes for a productive and inspiring symposium.


Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam


Joshua F. Tenorio
Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan
Lieutenant Governor of Guam





OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
FRANK F. BLAS, JR.
38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE – *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Håfa Adai! It is with great pride and appreciation that I extend warm greetings to all participants of the 10th Assembly of Planners Symposium, hosted by the Bureau of Statistics and Plans through the Guam Coastal Management Program. Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone!

This year's theme – "*Guam Coastal Zone Policies: Examining the Vital Role of Codes, Ordinances, and Enforcement in Fostering Economic Growth, Community Empowerment, and Managing Coastal Resources*" – speaks directly to the challenges and opportunities facing our island today. It also underscores the essential connection between sound governance, development, and environmental stewardship.

Our coastal zones are among Guam's most valuable assets, supporting not only our economy through tourism and fisheries, but also through sustaining our cultural heritage. Ensuring that these resources are responsibly managed requires a collaborative and coordinated approach – one that aligns planning, legislative action, and community engagement.

As Speaker of the Thirty-Eighth Guam Legislature, I recognize the importance of strong, well-enforced regulations that reflect our goals for growth. By strengthening our land use policies and enforcement mechanisms, we can better safeguard our environment, empower our communities, and lay a foundation for lasting economic prosperity.

I commend the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, as well as all symposium participants, for your dedication and leadership. May your discussions be productive, your ideas bold, and your partnerships enduring.

Senseramente,

FRANK F. BLAS, JR.



BUREAU OF STATISTICS AND PLANS

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Håfa Adai,



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 10th Assembly of Planners Symposium, hosted by the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management Program.

This year's theme highlights the essential role that policies, ordinances, and enforcement play in protecting our coastal resources while also supporting economic growth and empowering our communities.

As Guam continues to face mounting pressures from climate change, development, and natural hazards, clear and enforceable policies and strong collaboration across sectors are powerful tools for building resilience.

We have designed this year's plenaries to reflect both the challenges we face and opportunities ahead. Sessions will explore the implementation of the Guåhan 2050 Sustainability Plan, the economic value of Tumon Bay's natural resources through its ecosystem services, and pressing issues such as wildland arson in southern Guam, protection of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, and improvements to our flood and stormwater policies. These discussions are grounded in science, policy, and local knowledge—all critical to effective planning.

This symposium is not just about exchanging ideas—it's about building solutions together. Thank you for your participation and continued commitment to shaping a sustainable and resilient future for our island.

Lola Leon Guerrero

Director, Bureau of Statistics and Plans



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

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: **Evangeline "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

Keynote Speaker



Derek Brockbank

Executive Director, Coastal States Organization

Derek Brockbank is Executive Director of Coastal States Organization (CSO), which represents the nation's Coastal States, Territories, and Commonwealths on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes issues. With two decades of experience in Washington DC on coastal adaptation policy and organizational development, Derek is connecting state coastal management programs with federal agencies and resources to address the greatest coastal challenges facing society.

Derek previously served as Executive Director for the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA), as campaign director for a coalition effort to restore the Mississippi River Delta, and worked on climate adaptation policy at National Wildlife Federation. He went to University of Chicago, and grew up in New York City, getting his coastal education on the beaches of Long Island, and kayaking and fishing in Peconic Bay.

Coastal States Organization



Catherine McCall

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

Catherine McCall is the current Chair of the Coastal States Organization and the Director of Maryland's Coastal Management Program, working to address a variety of initiatives related to climate adaptation and resilient restoration, offshore energy, public access and education, and coastal policy. Through partnerships with state and local governments, she works to help communities align resources to understand vulnerability, identify risk reduction plans, and implement solutions. Catherine's interest in coastal management began along the shores of Lake Erie while attending Penn State and shifted to the estuarine environment while completing her master's degree at Georgetown University.



John Ryan-Henry

Senior Policy Analyst, Coastal States Organization

John Ryan-Henry is Senior Policy Analyst for CSO. He supports CSO's mission through legal and policy analysis of coastal issues including hazard resilience, climate adaptation, flood risk management, beneficial use of dredged materials, maritime commerce, and offshore development. He joined CSO in 2018 after working jointly with CSO and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources as a 2017 Knauss Coastal Policy Fellow.

A Rhode Island native, John has a J.D. from the Roger Williams University School of Law and a Master of Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island. As a law student, he worked on coastal zone management issues with the NOAA General Counsel's office and the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, and on regional ocean planning with SeaPlan in Boston. He is admitted to the bar in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Coastal States Delegation



David Green

Senior Deputy Director, Texas General Land Office

David Green is the Senior Deputy Director of Texas General Land Office Coastal Protection Division. At the GLO, he manages the state's oil spill prevention and response, coastal grants, leasing of structures on submerged lands, coastal management act, coastal planning and permitting, beach and dune regulatory, coastal water resources, Adopt-a-Beach, and the Natural Resources Damage Assessment programs. Prior to managing the Coastal Division, David represented the agency as an attorney in Office of General Counsel. Prior to his service at the GLO, David served as an Assistant Attorney General at the Texas Attorney General's Office in the Environmental Protection Division and was an associate attorney at Sutherland and Baron & Budd. David has a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and a J.D. from Baylor University.



Henry Bell

Senior Coastal Planner, Washington Department of Ecology

Henry Bell is the Washington State Department of Ecology's senior coastal planner. He coordinates Washington State's inter-agency coastal hazards community assistance team and serves in a leadership role for the state's Coastal Zone Management Program. Henry's work involves leading and supporting project partnerships that improve community resilience to coastal hazards and climate change. Henry earned his master's degree from the University of Washington School of Marine and Environmental Affairs and his bachelor's degree in geography and environmental studies from Middlebury College. Prior to his work at the Department of Ecology, Henry taught marine policy and conducted policy research with Sea Education Association.



Sarah Chang

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

Sarah Chang is a Senior Project Analyst with the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program. She coordinates the Hawaii Ocean Resource Management Plan (ORMP), a statewide plan that seeks to resolve coastal problems and issues that are not adequately addressed by existing laws and rules. The 2020 ORMP highlights three areas of need within the coastal zone: (1) Development and Coastal Hazards, (2) Land-based Pollution, and (3) Marine Ecosystems. The ORMP relies on collaborative implementation and facilitates cross-agency projects with partners that include Federal, State, County, and community representation.



Mike Friis

Director, Resource Policy Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Administration

Mike Friis leads the Resource Policy Team at Wisconsin's Department of Administration, overseeing Coastal Management, Land Information, and Planning Programs. He is a past Chair of the Coastal States Organization and serves on multiple advisory boards including NOAA's Great Lakes Regional Team and WI DOT's Harbors Committee. Mike co-chairs the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Maritime Initiative and is active in the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts. His leadership has advanced coastal protection programs and the designation of national marine and estuarine reserves. A UW-Madison graduate in Landscape Architecture, Mike also served in Bolivia with the Peace Corps on environmental and community development projects.

Featured Panelists



Renato "Tato" Martinez

Renato Martinez is a licensed Senior Architect at HDR, where he brings over three decades of experience in delivering sustainable, culturally responsive design solutions across the Pacific region. As President of AIA Marianas and an NCARB Licensing Advisor, he plays a pivotal role in mentoring emerging professionals and upholding the highest standards of architectural practice. Renato also serves as a Municipal Planning Council Member for the district of Chalan Pago, where he actively contributes to shaping policies that promote resilient infrastructure and sustainable community development. A passionate advocate for island resilience, green architecture, and environmental stewardship, he integrates these principles into both his professional work and civic engagement. Deeply committed to community outreach and volunteerism, Renato champions initiatives that celebrate and preserve local culture and heritage. His work reflects a strong belief in the power of architecture to uplift communities and foster a more sustainable and inclusive future for the Marianas.



Chris (Myeong-Ho) Yeo, Ph.D., P.E.

Associate Professor of Water Engineering & Hydrology, Chair, Environmental Science Graduate Program Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific, University of Guam

Dr. Chris Yeo is a tenured Associate Professor of Water Engineering & Hydrology and Chair of the Environmental Science Graduate Program at the University of Guam. He is affiliated with the Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific (WERI) and specializes in water quality monitoring and modeling, climate change adaptation and mitigation, extreme rainfall analyses, stormwater and flood modeling, and the fate and transport of land-based pollutants. Dr. Yeo earned his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics from McGill University, Canada, with prior degrees in Environmental Engineering from Chungnam National University, South Korea. His research integrates computational and statistical modeling approaches to address pressing water resource challenges in Pacific Island environments. Dr. Yeo has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and serves as a technical contributor to national climate assessments. He is also a licensed Professional Engineer and has led numerous federally funded research projects across Guam, the CNMI, and the Federated States of Micronesia.



Olivia Bañez

Coral Reef Policy and Communications Coordinator, Guam Coral Reef Initiative

A marine biologist with a passion for science communication, Olivia graduated from Pepperdine University in 2019 with a B.S. in Biology. Since then, she has explored different avenues of science communication as an Aquarium Interpreter, Science Communication Coordinator, and Teacher/Program Manager for an outdoor marine biology class for kids. She currently serves as the Coral Reef Policy and Communications Coordinator for the Guam Coral Reef Initiative, where she develops coral reef educational resources, conducts community outreach, and provides guidance on local and federal reef-related policies.



Inna Jose Wiese

Principal Architect and Senior Project Manager, GHD

Inna Jose Wiese is a Principal Architect and Senior Project Manager at GHD. She is a registered architect in Guam and CNMI and a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design accredited professional specializing in Building Design and Construction (LEED AP BD+C). She is the past President and current Board Member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Marianas Chapter. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture at the Mapua Institute of Technology in Manila, Philippines. She is an active member of the local community and the architectural industry. She is an advocate for good design and responsible development for island sustainability and resiliency.



Glenn San Nicolas

Acting Deputy Director, Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA)

Glenn V. San Nicolas currently serves as the Acting Deputy Administrator and the Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) Supervisor for the Guam Environmental Protection Agency. With over 25 years of environmental experience, he remains deeply committed to protecting human health and the environment. Glenn has a degree in Human Resources and Transportation.



Margaret Aguilar

Senior Program Coordinator, Permits and Watersheds Program, Environmental Monitoring and Analytical Services (EMAS) Division, Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA)

Margaret Aguilar holds a BA in Biology from the University of Guam and manages the Permits and Watersheds Management Program at Guam EPA. She is a technical writer, implements Clean Water Act funded activities which assess surface and marine water quality, and collaborates with Agency partners to restore impaired waters and watersheds impacted by non-point source pollution.



Edward C. Artero II

Assistant Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department

Edward began his career in the Guam Fire Department in 1995 as part of the 17th Fire Cycle, with assignments spanning Fire Operations, EMS/Rescue, Special Operations, and serving as the Incident Commander for the Guam Fire Department Hazmat Team. He is currently assigned as the Bureau Chief for Fire Prevention and is the designated Fire Marshal. In pursuit of academic excellence, Edward earned an Associates Degree in Fire Science Technology from Guam Community College and a Bachelor's degree with honors in Business Administration, focusing on Finance/Economics, from the University of Guam under the Pedro Doc Sanchez Scholarship Program. His professional accolades include participating in the inaugural Hazardous Materials Technician Training and Certification program in 1996, attending the prestigious Naval Postgraduate School's Pacific Executive Leaders Program, and receiving numerous awards such as the Silver Star Award, Distinguished Service Award, Meritorious Service Award, Commendation Service Award, and the Life Saving Award. Edward's leadership philosophy is encapsulated by Ken Blanchard's words: "The key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority."

Featured Panelists



Millie Erguiza

Senior Planner, Bureau of Statistics and Plans

Millie Erguiza is the Division Head of the Socio-Economic Planning Program with the Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP), serving close to 36 years of government service. She graduated from the University of Guam with a Business Administration Degree in Management and Marketing. She worked as an intern for Guam Duty Free Shoppers until she was hired as a Planner I at the Socio-Economic Planning Program to her present position as a Planner IV. As a planner for BSP, she was involved in numerous planning initiatives involving regional, international and federal affairs, and trade agreements. She currently is involved in various complex projects in socio, economic, and criminal justice and strategic planning activities. She also provides grant administrative oversight over several US Department of Justice Federal Grant Programs and several US Department of Interior projects in support of a law enforcement component.



Camille Quichocho

Biologist, Guam Coastal Management Program

Camille Quichocho is a CHamoru scientist with a passion for safeguarding Guam's natural resources, motivated by her deep love for the land and sea (tâno'y tãsi). As a biologist with the Guam Coastal Management Program, Camille works closely with various agencies, partner organizations, and the community to advocate for marine conservation and strike a balance between human activities and the natural environment.



James Pangelinan

Planner, Guam Coastal Management Program

James Pangelinan is a planner with the Bureau of Statistics and Plans – Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP). His primary focus is on leading the Coastal Zone Enhancement Program (CZEP), a comprehensive five-year initiative that allows GCMP to evaluate and improve its strategies across nine national enhancement areas: coastal hazards, wetlands, public access, special area management planning, energy and government facility siting, aquaculture, marine debris, ocean and Great Lakes resources, and cumulative and secondary impacts. In addition to his work on CZEP, James actively contributes to the Guam Silver Jackets, a collaborative inter-agency team comprising local and federal partners. The group works to identify, coordinate, and implement solutions to reduce coastal hazard risks and build resilience across Guam's coastal communities.



Leilani Sablan Naden

Biologist, Sea Grant, University of Guam

Leilani Sablan Naden is an indigenous fisheries biologist from Guam dedicated to integrating traditional ecological knowledge with marine science. Her work focuses on sustainable fisheries, fish biology, and community engagement. She collaborates closely with local fishers to bridge cultural knowledge and scientific research.



Shaylin Salas

Guam Department of Agriculture's Forestry & Soil Resources Division, Urban & Community Forestry (UCF) Program

Shaylin Salas manages the Guam Department of Agriculture's Forestry & Soil Resources Division's Urban & Community Forestry (UCF) Program. For UCF, she oversees nursery projects, organizes volunteer and outreach events, coordinates urban tree inspections, develops educational resources, and supports the program's subgrant project (Fina'maolek).



Yong Sang (Barry) Kim, PhD

Associate Professor of Water Engineering

Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific, University of Guam

Barry's research focuses on the fate, transport, and source attribution of emerging contaminants, particularly per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). He also works on water resource management using machine learning techniques and resilience-based approaches to address water pollution and sustainability challenges in island environments. At the University of Guam, Dr. Kim teaches courses in environmental engineering, water chemistry, open channel hydraulics, and remediation engineering. He is actively engaged in applied research projects that support regional water quality management. Before joining the University of Guam, Dr. Kim served as Director of the Samsung Institute of Safety & Environment at Samsung Global Research, and as Principal Consultant for the Environmental Consulting Team at Samsung SDS. He has led numerous environmental research and engineering consulting projects across the United States, China, Vietnam, and South Korea, contributing to water infrastructure development, environmental monitoring, and policy advisory work.



Patrick Keeler

Guåhan Sentinel Landscape Program Coordinator

Patrick Keeler is the Guåhan Sentinel Landscape Program Coordinator. A Guamanian by birth, Patrick has been working in the natural resource management field on the island since 2015, before transitioning to his current role in late 2023. He really aspires to the peaceful life of a forest service hermit—ideally stationed under a tree so remote even emails fear to tread. Until then, he continues facilitating coordination with a smile (and mild existential dread) amongst the many talented individuals and agencies working to protect Guam's natural resources, dreaming of the day he can trade meetings for moss.



Sergeant Roy N. Henricksen

Sergeant I, Guam Police Department

Sergeant I Roy N. Henricksen is a 1988 graduate of Father Duenas Memorial School and has proudly served with the Guam Police Department for 34 years. He began his law enforcement career in 1991 as a Police Recruit, completing his training at Guam Community College in Mangilao. Over the years, Sgt. Henricksen has held various assignments within the department, including the Forensic Science Division's Crime Scene Response Unit (CSI) and the Criminal Investigations Division's Property Crimes Unit. He has also completed multiple tours of duty with the Neighborhood Patrol Division, serving at the Central, Southern, and Tamuning/Tumon Precinct Commands—first as a Patrol Officer and later as a Patrol Supervisor. He is currently assigned to the Forensic Science Bureau, Forensic Science Division, where he serves as the Officer-in-Charge of the Evidence Control Section.

Featured Panelists



Else Demeulenaere

Associate Director for Natural Resources, University of Guam, Center for Island Sustainability & Sea Grant

Else Demeulenaere is the Associate Director for Natural Resources, at the University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability and Sea grant, where she leads the Island Conservation Lab. The Island Conservation Lab consists of a team of biologists and conservation technicians who conduct research on endangered species, ethnobotany, forest and watershed restoration. The team also takes part in the development of policies and programs for rare and endangered species. Many of the lab's student interns work on ethnobotanical projects. Else holds a Master's in Botany (Ecology) from the University of Ghent and a PhD in Biogeography, Ethnobotany, and Policy (Interdisciplinary Studies) from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in a joint program with the University of Guam. She is an avid advocate for sustainable living and the protection of Guam's biocultural diversity. Her research focuses on the biogeography and traditional ecological knowledge of native plant species, social activism, and aims to find policies benefiting the protection of Guam's ecosystems and its people.



Christine Camacho Fejeran

Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Soil Resources Division Chief

Christine Camacho Fejeran received her B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Pennsylvania State University; was a consultant for Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Environmental Department and Chevron's Oil Refinery in Kapolei, HI, monitoring endangered waterbird breeding and non breeding seasons and conducted Census seabird counts for the Marine Corps. While in Hawaii, Christine also wore the part-time hat of a Wildlife Technician for SWCA Environmental Consultants; Christine moved to South Carolina where she was a Beaufort County Deputy Sheriff, fulfilling yet another career goal in South Carolina; Upon returning home to Guam in 2011, Christine worked as a Terrestrial Biologist and Planner III for the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management Program. In 2015, she transferred to the Guam Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Soil Resources Division to manage the Cooperative Fire Protection Program as a Forester. In 2019, she returned to school and received her Master of Public Administration, from the University of Guam under the Doc Sanchez Scholarship Program and achieved the "Overall Outstanding Scholar" award upon graduation in 2020. Today, Christine is the Guam Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Soil Resources Division Chief and one of Guam's Wildland Fire Arson Investigators. Christine encourages all community members to find that green space near you, and help your Guam Forestry team protect, enhance, and enjoy the growth and expansion of Guam's unique forests and ecosystems, one small green space at a time.



Jeffrey Quitugua

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

Jeffrey Quitugua is a dedicated public servant with nearly three decades of experience in the Government of Guam, currently serving as the Acting Assistant Chief at the Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources within the Department of Agriculture. Throughout his career, Mr. Quitugua has garnered extensive knowledge and expertise in managing and protecting the island's natural resources, working tirelessly to balance conservation efforts with development needs. As a biologist involved in the Technical Guidance project, he has conducted thorough reviews of development applications to ensure sustainable practices. Understanding the importance of preserving Guam's natural heritage for future generations, Mr. Quitugua has played an active role in the development of Guam's Habitat Conservation Plan. Beyond his primary responsibilities, he dedicates time to various programs aimed at safeguarding the island's resources.



Michael Duenas

Fisheries Supervisor, Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources

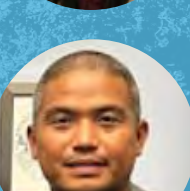
Michael is a lifelong fisherman with over two decades of experience in fisheries leadership, including 21 years as Operations Manager for the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association and three terms as a Council Member with the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council. He currently serves as the Fisheries Supervisor for the Department of Agriculture's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources and remains active with the Council as an Advisory Panel Member.



Louise Pascua

Biologist, Guam Environmental Protection Agency

Louise is a Biologist at Guam EPA in the Permits & Watershed Management Program (formerly known as the (Non-point Source Program) where she leads Guam EPA's review and development of federal consistency responses in collaboration with our Water Division. She graduated from the University of Guam in May 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Minor in Chemistry with research experience in water quality.



Arthur Charfauros

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

Arthur Charfauros currently works as a Coastal Resources Planner and Federal Consistency Coordinator for the CNMI Division of Coastal Resources Management, since 2019. Born and raised in Guam, he has worked in California, Hawaii, and the Philippines throughout his natural resource management career and studies, before returning home to the Marianas.



Augustine Diaz

Permitting Manager, CNMI Division of Coastal Resources Management

Augustine Diaz, born in Saipan, is the Permitting Manager for the Division of Coastal Resources. A former Civilian Mariner with the Military Sealift Command, he brings maritime expertise and a lifelong commitment to protecting and preserving coastal environments.

Featured Panelists



Régine Biscoe Lee

President and CEO, Guam Visitors Bureau

Régine Biscoe Lee serves as President and CEO of the Guam Visitors Bureau, where she leverages her experience as a former senator, policy advisor, and community leader to promote Guam as a premier travel destination. Her public and private sector work to strengthen the workforce, support small business, and protect the environment informs her vision for sustainable tourism that benefits residents and visitors alike. With a proven record in building alliances across government, business, and nonprofit sectors, Régine leads GVB in advancing Guam's global presence while honoring and celebrating the island's unique culture.



Esther Marie G. Taitague

Senior Coastal Resource Planner, Guam Coastal Management Program, Bureau of Statistics and Plans

Esther Taitague is a driving advocate for sustainable development, collaborating with engineers, developers, and national partners to integrate low impact design into Guam's built environment. Her leadership was pivotal in producing the Guam Erosion and Sediment Control Field Guide, now a cornerstone of environmental training at the Guam Trades Academy. In her current role, Esther oversees federal project compliance under the Coastal Zone Management Act, ensuring alignment with Guam's enforceable coastal policies and safeguarding the island's natural resources. Passionate for nature and its beauty, she promotes conservation through hands-on engagement—from beach cleanups to tree planting—guided by her belief that "Where there is water, there is life." A proud alumna of the University of Guam, Esther continues to serve as a role model for aspiring a new generation of environmental stewards across the Marianas.



Evangeline "Vangie" Lujan

Senior Regulatory Analyst, Guam Waterworks Authority

Vangie is currently the Senior Regulatory Analyst with the Guam Waterworks Authority. Her primary responsibility at GWA is to ensure compliance environmental regulations related to safe and clean water. Vangie has been appointed as the Chair for the Governor of Guam's Climate Change and Resiliency Commission, the Co-Chair for the Governor's Guam Green Growth Initiative-Thriving Natural Resources Working Group, Co-Chair for UOG's Sea Grant Board and is Guam's Focal Point for the Regional Environmental Initiative, the Micronesia Challenge. Vangie started her career in government service as the Geographic Information System Manager at the Bureau of Statistics and Plans and was the Administrator for the Guam Coastal Management Program. Vangie received her Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from the University of Guam and a Master of Science in Engineering specializing in Industrial Engineering from the Arizona State University. She has completed her Certification in Public Management with Arizona State University. She is also Past President for the Western Pacific Subsection of American Water Works Association.



George Watson

Senior Regulatory Analyst, Guam Waterworks Authority

George Watson is a Senior Engineer at Guam Waterworks Authority's Wastewater Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Team, bringing over a decade of experience in wastewater engineering and project management. He has successfully led and supported projects involving gravity sewer line and force main repairs, replacements, and rehabilitations; sewer lift station upgrades; and wastewater treatment plant rehabilitations. In addition to his core wastewater expertise, George has contributed to flow modeling, data collection, and the rehabilitation of water lines and water wells.



Jacob Miller

Lead Engineer, New Area Development and Permitting, Guam Waterworks Authority

Jacob Miller is a US Air Force veteran with a BA in Mathematics from UOG and a Masters in Civil Engineering from Norwich University. Jacob worked in Information Technology, Retail, and Food-and-Beverage, then transitioned to Engineering in 2018. A licensed Civil Engineer with over 7 years of engineering experience within GWA and DoD, he currently holds the role as Lead Engineer in Charge of New Area Development and Permitting.

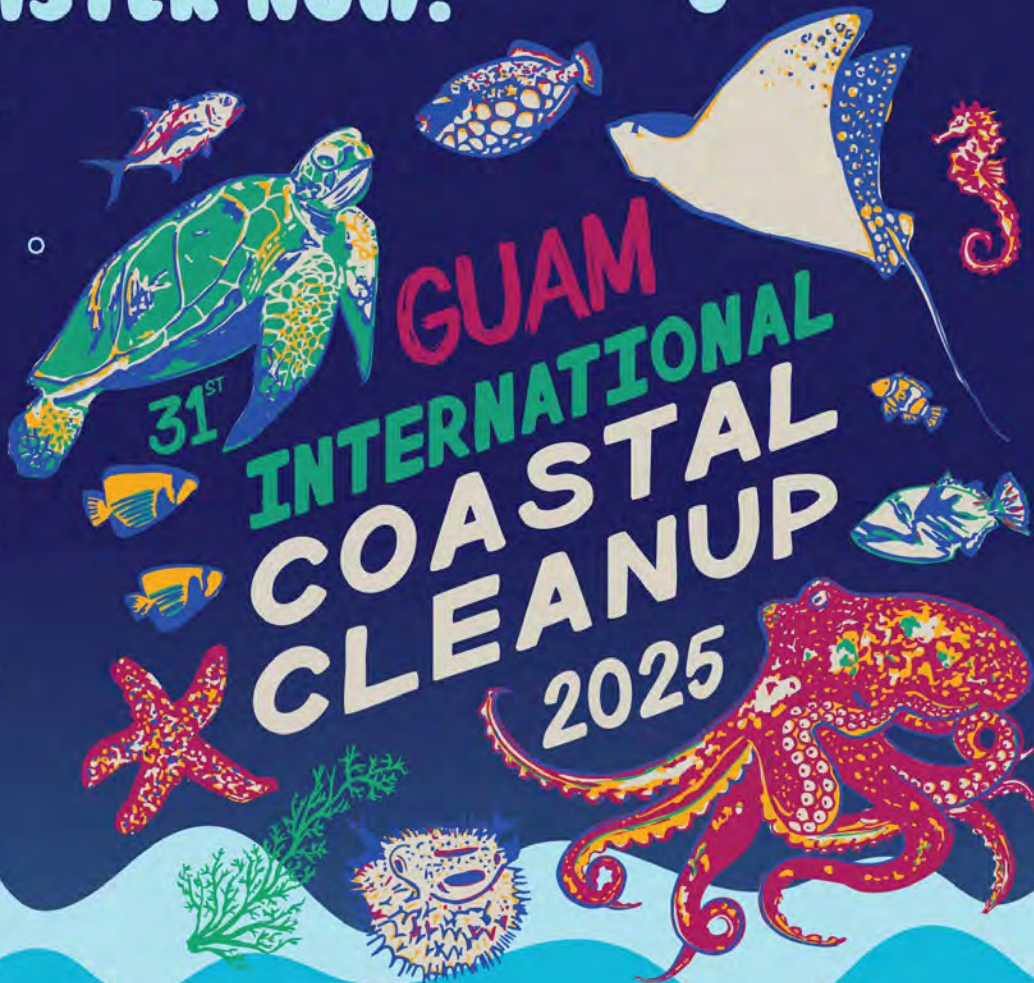


Joseph Calvo

Civil Engineer, Guam Waterworks Authority

Joseph Calvo is a Civil Engineer specializing in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering. With a Bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University, he joined Guam Waterworks Authority in May 2024 as a Project Engineer. He is working on critical infrastructure projects like the Adacao Water and Sewer Project to protect the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, which supplies over 80% of Guam's drinking water, as well as various projects needed to meet the goals of the Partial Consent Decree.

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Contact Steven Dierking at the Guam Coastal Management Program:
671-475-9647 or email steven.dierking@bsp.guam.gov | bsp.guam.gov/gicc2025/



Made possible with funding from NOAA CZM Grant #NA24NOSX419C0027