

THE ATHALIE RICHARDSON IRVINE

Clarke Prize

FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT
IN WATER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

About the Clarke Prize



The Clarke Prize is named after Mrs. Athalie Richardson Irvine Clarke, a native Southern Californian businesswoman and philanthropist. As co-founder of the National Water Research Institute (NWRI), Mrs. Clarke recognized the vital importance of water science and technology. In honor of her vision, NWRI established the Clarke Prize in 1993 to recognize scientists, researchers, policy makers, and water industry professionals who exemplify Mrs. Clarke's dedication to finding solutions to the nation's water resource problems. The Clarke Prize consists of a medallion and \$50,000.

The Clarke Prize is recognized by the International Congress of Distinguished Awards as one of the most prestigious water awards in the world.

2026 Nomination Requirements

- The nominee must demonstrate excellence in the fields of water science and technology and exemplify the highest contributions by an individual actively engaged in the discovery, development, improvement, or understanding of issues associated with water quality, quantity, technology, or public policy.
- The recipient must deliver the annual Clarke Prize Lecture at an award ceremony and banquet on October 24, 2026, in Irvine, California.

Selection Criteria

The Clarke Prize Executive Committee carefully considers all qualified nominations. Clarke Prize nominees work in fields that include engineering, physical and chemical science, biological science, health science, political science, and planning and public policy. The Executive Committee reviews



nominees based on the following four contributions:

- Career Accomplishments
- Current Research or Policy Endeavors
- Public Outreach
- Leadership in Water Issues

Please see the Nomination Criteria document included in this packet for details.

Dates to Remember

Nomination Deadline May 29, 2026, by 12:00 AM (midnight) Pacific Time

Clarke Prize Awarded October 24, 2026

Nomination Package Details

Nomination packets are available [on the NWRI website](#). Each nomination package must be submitted in English and must include the following items:

1. 2026 Clarke Prize Nomination Cover Letter and Cover Sheet

The primary nominator will draft a two-page personal cover letter. The letter does not need to exhaustively describe the nominee's qualifications; that information is included in the nomination criteria attachment. The cover sheet identifies the nominee, nominator, and three people who are submitting letters of recommendation.

2. Nomination Criteria

To focus on relevant criteria and to help the executive committee select the 2026 Clarke Prize laureate, nominators will provide brief written descriptions of the nominee's contributions in the following areas:

- **Career Accomplishments.** The nominee's top three career accomplishments.
- **Current Research or Policy Endeavors.** A description of the nominee's active engagement in current research and/or policy endeavors.
- **Public Outreach.** A description of how the nominee has worked to increase public awareness of water issues.
- **Leadership in Water Issues.** Examples of how the nominee has demonstrated leadership that advances a safe and sustainable water supply.

3. Three Letters of Recommendation

The nomination cover sheet must list three people who will submit recommendation letters. Recommendation letters include a brief, detailed summary of the candidate's qualifications for the Clarke Prize according to the nomination criteria (item 2, above). Nominations without letters from all three will be disqualified. Also, please note:

- a. Nominations and letters of recommendation from members of the Clarke Prize Executive Committee are prohibited.
- b. Only one letter of recommendation may be submitted from the same institution as the nominee. If the nominator is from the same institution as the nominee, then no letters of recommendation from that institution are permitted.

- c. Nominators may only nominate one person per year; authors of letters of recommendations may support no more than two nominees per year.
- d. All letters of recommendation must be no more than two pages and should be: (i) addressed to the Clarke Prize Executive Committee; (ii) submitted in PDF format; (iii) submitted on letterhead of the nominator’s institution; (iv) electronically signed; and (v) submitted along with the completed Clarke Prize Nomination Package.

4. Current Resume or Curriculum Vitae of the Nominee

Please limit the curriculum vitae (CV) and publications list to three pages, combined. The publications list does not need to be exhaustive but should highlight the nominee’s most important work. Honors, awards, and publications should be listed in the CV, but limit them to keynote presentations and peer-reviewed journal publications. The CV and publications list should briefly highlight the nominee’s most important qualifications.

5. Total page count for the nomination packet

Page description	number of pages
Cover letter	2
Nomination cover sheet	2
Nomination criteria	2
Letters of Recommendation (3 total)	6
Resume/CV and publications list	3
Total pages in Nomination Packet	15

Submission Process

Please combine all nomination materials into a single PDF and email it to the Clarke Prize Coordinator, mcollins@nwri-usa.org, by midnight Pacific Time on May 29, 2026. Incomplete nominations will not be considered. Nominations are considered incomplete if any items listed above, including letters of recommendation, are missing.

Nomination Rollover Policy

Nominees are eligible for consideration for up to three years—the year they are nominated and two years after. The Executive Committee will ask all nominators to update their Clarke Prize Nomination Package by May 29, 2026. After three years, the nominee is ineligible for re-nomination for two years. For example, a person nominated in 2026 will also be considered in 2027 and 2028. They will be eligible for re-nomination in 2031.

About the Clarke Prize Award Ceremony

The 2026 Clarke Prize award ceremony will be held at a location, to be determined, in Southern California, on October 24, 2026. The 2026 Clarke Prize Laureate will deliver the Clarke Prize lecture, along with brief presentations from NWRI and the Joan Irvine Smith & Athalie R. Irvine Clarke Foundation.

For More Information

Mary Collins

Communication Manager

mcollins@nwri-usa.org



2026 Athalie Richardson Irvine Clarke Prize Nomination Cover Sheet

1) Nominee Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ PhD PE
 ScD DEE

Title/Position _____

Affiliation _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2) Nominator Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ PhD PE
 ScD DEE

Title/Position _____

Affiliation _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

3) Three Letters of Recommendation

Reference 1

Name: _____ Email: _____

Title/Position _____

Affiliation _____

Letters of Recommendation *(continued)*

Reference 2

Name: _____ Email: _____

Title/Position _____

Affiliation _____

Reference 3

Name: _____ Email: _____

Title/Position _____

Affiliation _____

4) Nomination Package Checklist

Please ensure the following items are included with your nomination package:

- 2026 Clarke Prize Nomination Cover Letter (two pages maximum)
- 2026 Clarke Prize Nomination Cover Sheet (two pages maximum)
- Clarke Prize Nomination Criteria (two pages maximum)
- Letters of Recommendation (six pages maximum)
- Resume (CV) and publications list (three pages maximum)

Submission Process

- Please save and combine all of the above listed documents into a single PDF file.
- Email the PDF to mcollins@nwri-usa.org by midnight Pacific Time on May 29, 2026.



Clarke Prize Nomination Criteria

Please provide brief, specific descriptions in the following four categories. Responses for all four categories must not exceed two pages total.

Combine the nomination criteria and other required documents, which are detailed in the Clarke Prize Nomination Guide, by midnight on May 29, 2026, to Mary Collins, mcollins@nwri-usa.org

1. **Career Accomplishments:** List the top three career accomplishments of the nominee.
2. **Current Research or Policy Endeavors:** Explain how the nominee is actively engaged in water research or policy endeavors.
3. **Public Outreach:** Describe how the nominee has worked to increase public knowledge about water issues.
4. **Leadership in Water Issues:** Give some short examples of how the nominee has demonstrated leadership that advances a safe and sustainable water supply.