



Conference Abstracts

AEP CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE, 2021

DIVING INTO AN OCEAN OF KNOWLEDGE
AUGUST 15th-18th, WESTIN LONG BEACH - LONG BEACH, CA

AEP 2021
California State Conference

5 SESSION TRACKS:

- Learning from The Past
- Waves of Understanding
- Deep Dive into Evolving Regulations
- Sailing with the Ocean Breeze
- Tides of Change

Learning from the Past

Wait, That's Historic?:

Expanding Our Field of Vision for Historic Preservation

Sunday, August 15, 2021

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm | Room: Barcelona

Moderator: Alejandro Plascencia, City of Long Beach, Planner V

Panelist: Lambert M. Giessinger, Los Angeles City Planning, Architect

Panelist: Shannon Carmack, Rincon Consultants Inc., Principal/ Architectural Historian

Panelist: Christine Lazzaretto, Historic Resources Group, Managing Principal

Panelist: Adrian Scott Fine, Los Angeles Conservancy, Director of Advocacy

Abstract: The built environment has meaning beyond form, integrity, and design. In this session, we will analyze how we can expand our consideration of historic structures and infrastructure for protection and preservation. This session will dive into how local governments can be the source for expanding the parameters of the historic context of a jurisdiction, while also tailoring its protections to preserve unique history that is particular to each area's snapshot of time and place. This session will also include a discussion of mitigation best practices when avoidance cannot be accomplished, but the uniqueness of the historical resource deserves far more.

Deep Dive Into Evolving Regulations

Navigating the Ever-Changing Funding and CEQA/NEPA Processes:

A Look at Federal, State, and Local Perspectives

Sunday, August 15, 2021

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm | Room: Salon C

Moderator: Kim Clyma, Woodard & Curran, Project Manager 2/Senior Environmental Planner

Panelist: Brian Carey, State Water Resources Control Board, Senior Environmental Scientist

Panelist: Lisa Machado, State Water Resources Control Board, Senior Cultural Resources Officer

Panelist: Jennifer Johnson, Contra Costa Water District, Principal Planner

Panelist: Lindsey Wilcox, PE, Woodard Curran, Project Manager

Panelist: Robin Cort, Woodard & Curran, Senior Technical Practice Lead

Abstract: Is your local lead agency seeking federal funding (Reclamation Title XVI funding or WaterSMART grant, USDA Rural Development Grant) or state funding with federal requirements (State Revolving Fund grants or loans)? Do you have a local project with the potential for a federal partner? Does your project require a federal permit or other federal actions? Do you prepare joint CEQA/NEPA documents, or do you prepare separate documents? How do you plan for the regulatory uncertainty? Are you tracking new or upcoming funding sources for your project? If you've ever asked or been faced with these questions, this is the panel for you. In times of ever-changing regulations, policies, case law, funding sources, and administrations, navigating the funding and CEQA/NEPA environmental review process can be clear as mud. This panel will explore the current regulatory environment, current state of funding for water resource and infrastructure projects, and the federal, state, and local perspectives on how to plan a project to get it funded and approved. Panelists will share their perspectives, best practices, and real-world experiences and present federal, state,

and local positions as they explore environmental requirements and recent and proposed changes to the requirements. Specifically, panelists will explore the steps and best practices for completing CEQA/NEPA or CEQA-plus (requiring CEQA plus Section 106, ESA, and/or CAA) based on their experiences. Panelists will discuss the diverse agency viewpoints and interests and talk about what makes a funding application attractive and creative ways to make your project stand out as new sources of funding arise.

[Sailing with the Ocean Breeze](#)

Climate Change and Air Quality Workshop -Part 1

Sunday, August 15, 2021

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm | Room: Tokyo

Speaker: Haseeb Qureshi, Urban Crossroads

Speaker: Mike Keinath, Ramboll Associates (this is a new addition)

Speaker: Rich Walters, ICF International

Speaker: Dr. Kevin Gurney, Northern Arizona University (NAU): Special speaker representing the Vulcan Project

Speaker: Michael Hendrix

Abstract: This Workshop addresses the rapidly evolving policies and responses to air quality and climate change issues, focusing on the latest methodology and practical ways of addressing air quality, the health risks of air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. The workshop will have a panel discussion on the Vulcan Project made famous by the NYT article alleging the Project shows that cities are underestimating GHG emissions in CAPs. The workshop will provide guidance on having a complete inventory in CAPs. The workshop will also review the feasibility of the State's 2045 Carbon Neutrality goal, and provide a proposed new structure for air quality CEQA thresholds that takes into account local community health and environmental justice.

[Learning from the Past](#)

Cultural Management to Restore Meadow Resiliency

Sunday, August 15, 2021

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm | Room: Barcelona

Moderator: Melanie Greene, AICP, CPESC, QSD/P, Cardno, Senior Project Scientist

Panelist: Susan Jamerson, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Environmental Program Director

Panelist: Michelle Hochrein, Cardno, Senior Staff Scientist

Panelist: Rhiana Jones, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Environmental Specialist II

Panelist: Laurie Scribe, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Senior Environmental Scientist

Panelist: Chris Mertens, California Tahoe Conservancy, Senior Environmental Planner

Panelist: Sarah Muskopf, USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Fisheries Program Leader

Abstract: Our presentation will highlight the opportunities for the Washoe Tribe to actively participate and manage aboriginal lands in a historic and traditional manner, conjunctively with the Forest Service, through the implementation of the Cultural Management Plan and coupled cultural monitoring program that have been developed to direct the

long-term implementation of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and restoration of meadow processes and functions. The presentation will also discuss Tribal collaborations with federal and state agencies to achieve project goals and expand Tribal environmental management at Lake Tahoe. The Mayala Wata Restoration Project will restore 300 acres of an alpine meadow in Meeks Bay, California, in the Lake Tahoe Basin, aboriginal land which the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California will manage through a Stewardship Agreement negotiated/coordinated with the Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. Restoration will be accomplished through the removal of encroaching conifers, prescribed broadcast burning, planting of culturally significant native riparian and meadow vegetation, and using TEK methods to manage for meadow species. The project will reduce forest fuels by removing encroaching conifers and reintroducing periodic burning as an ongoing meadow management tool. The primary purpose of this project is to restore the meadow using pre-European conditions (i.e., those prior to Comstock logging, livestock grazing, mining, and fire suppression), while managing for resiliency to uncertain future conditions. Returning to Tribal cultural management through periodic broadcast burning and TEK vegetation management will help restore the ecological, biological, and hydrological functions of the meadow complex, which will in turn prepare these systems for natural disturbances in the future. Our panel will be composed of representatives from the Washoe Tribe, the Tribe's consultant team, lead agencies, and funding entities that have successfully coordinated to bring this unique and exciting project through towards implementation in 2021.

[Deep Dive Into Evolving Regulations](#)

Evolving Administrative Record: What's In and What's Out

Sunday, August 15, 2021

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm | Room: Salon C

Moderator: Ryan Binns, ENV SP, PMP, Harris & Associates, Director

Panelist: Joshua Heinlein, Esq, County of San Diego, Senior Deputy

Panelist: Darin Neufeld, AICP, Harris & Associates, Sr. Project Manager

Abstract: The County of San Diego Planning & Development Services Department processed the Newland Sierra Project, which consisted of a General Plan Amendment for 2,135 residential units and 81,000 square feet of commercial, open space, parks, trails, and other amenities. The Board of Supervisors approved the project in 2018. The project was rescinded by the Board of Supervisors on April 21, 2020, after a voter referendum overturned the project's General Plan Amendment. The Golden Door Spa opposed the project as early as 2014, and sued the County, Vallecitos Water District, and developer Newland Communities in late 2016 on inadequate water supply; made Public Records Act Requests to the County throughout processing; and, in mid-2018 after release of the Draft EIR for public review, sued alleging the County had improperly destroyed official records and violated the Public Records Act. Golden Door sued again after project approval. This panel will explore CEQA records and documents in a lead agency's record of proceedings, and what a lead agency must retain in its records. The lead counsel for the County of San Diego responsible for litigating the case will discuss the specifics of Golden Door Properties, LLC et al. v. Superior Court of San Diego ("Golden Door"). He will be joined by the County's lead environmental reviewer and manager (now with Harris & Associates) on the project and the California Natural Resources Agency to discuss the implications of Golden Door and what it means for CEQA practitioners, applicants, counsel, and the public. The panel will explore the requirements in Public Resources Code Section 21167.6 and how that fits with lead agency records retention policies and procedures. The panel will engage the audience in dialogue about what should be in and what should be out of the administrative record.

Climate Change and Air Quality Workshop -Part 2

Sunday, August 15, 2021

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm | Room: Tokyo

Speaker: Haseeb Qureshi, Urban Crossroads

Speaker: Mike Keinath, Ramboll Associates (this is a new addition)

Speaker: Rich Walters, ICF International

Speaker: Dr. Kevin Gurney, Northern Arizona University (NAU): Special speaker representing the Vulcan Project

Speaker: Michael Hendrix

Abstract: This Workshop addresses the rapidly evolving policies and responses to air quality and climate change issues, focusing on the latest methodology and practical ways of addressing air quality, the health risks of air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. The workshop will have a panel discussion on the Vulcan Project made famous by the NYT article alleging the Project shows that cities are underestimating GHG emissions in CAPs. The workshop will provide guidance on having a complete inventory in CAPs. The workshop will also review the feasibility of the State's 2045 Carbon Neutrality goal, and provide a proposed new structure for air quality CEQA thresholds that takes into account local community health and environmental justice.

[Tides of Change](#)

Keeping Up with Sea Level Rise Planning

Sunday, August 15, 2021

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm | Room: Ocean Ballroom

Moderator: Nick Garrity, MS, PE, ESA, Environmental Hydrology & Design Director

Panelist: Melissa Hetrick, City of Santa Barbara, Community Development, Project Planner

Panelist: Russ Cunningham, AICP, City of Oceanside, Principal Planner

Panelist: Dana Murray, City of Manhattan Beach, Environmental Sustainability Manager

Abstract: Cities throughout California have taken the initiative to proactively plan for the potential impacts on their communities of future sea level rise, compounded with coastal storms, flooding, and erosion. This panel of experts and representatives from cities across Southern California, including the City of Santa Barbara and the City of Oceanside, will discuss their city's respective approaches, successes, and challenges in the sea level rise planning process. All of the participating cities have embarked on sea level rise vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning, as well as engagement with residents, environmental and business stakeholders, and the California Coastal Commission. Cities have leveraged state guidance on sea level rise planning from the Ocean Protection Council and California Commission and publicly-available regional coastal hazard data from the U.S. Geological Survey's Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS). The general steps in the sea level rise planning process are well established: coastal hazard data gathering, city asset data compilation, vulnerability assessment, adaptation measure identification, outreach, and policy development. The content of the planning process is anything but one-size-fits-all. Each city faces varying types and levels of risks and has unique local perspectives and preferences for adaptation. Panelists will share the distinct aspects of their planning processes, including their public and stakeholder engagement strategies and adaptation plans. Panelists will also discuss their progress, hurdles, lessons learned, and next steps in the sea level rise planning process.

[Learning from the Past](#)

Digging Deeper: Future Planning Efforts and the Importance of Detailed Historic Resource Research

Monday, August 16, 2021

9:00 am – 10:30 am | Room: Barcelona

Moderator: Shannon Davis, M.A., RPH, ASM Affiliates, Director, History Group

Panelist: Ryan Binns, NV SP, PMP, Harris & Associates, Director, Environmental Planning + Compliance

Panelist: Kristin Blackson, Harris & Associates, Sr. CEQA Project Manager

Panelist: Laura Kung, ASM Affiliates, Architectural Historian

Abstract: Never judge a book by its cover! This session will highlight two CEQA/NEPA projects (one confirmed, one awaiting confirmation) that began with the assumption of no impact to historical resources but archival research proved otherwise. The Port of San Diego, under a cleanup and abatement order from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, contracted Harris & Associates to prepare an MND in support of future planning efforts. Initially dredging, sediment cleanup, and water quality were expected to be the main issues, but maritime-related historic resources within the project area had different plans! With ASM Affiliates on board for cultural and historical resources, compiled historic research and field studies turned what was going to be a rather straightforward project into an EIR and a lengthier CEQA process. Nearby in San Diego, the Navy contracted with Cardno to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the high-profile Old Town Center (OTC) Redevelopment of the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) complex. It was assumed that the World War II aircraft assembly plant was not a historic property based on an old evaluation that received concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office. Current professional standards, archival research, and detailed survey of the facility proved otherwise, and that the complex was significant for both its World War II and Cold War history. Additional visual impacts were identified to nearly 20 surrounding historic properties. While no one thought the OTC project was going to be straightforward, the Cardno and ASM team will share how these findings impacted the Environmental Assessment process. Learn what we as consultants do to assist our agencies/clients in being better prepared to navigate these adjustments in standards, schedule, and scope.

[Waves of Understanding](#)

Reactivation of the Santa Barbara Desalination Plant-Permitting, Engineering, and Marine and Coastal Biology

Monday, August 16, 2021

9:00 am – 10:30 am | Room: Salon D

Abstract: The waters of the Santa Barbara Channel form a biologically productive ecosystem. Unlike most of coastal California, the coastal waters of the Santa Barbara Channel are on a south-facing coast and caught between two land masses—South Coast and Northern Channel Islands. Habitats and biological communities of the Santa Barbara Channel within the greater Southern California Bight are influenced by dynamic relationships among climate, ecology, and oceanography. Nearshore geology includes a variety of bottom types, including soft sediments and rocky bottoms. Hard-substrates environments, such as the rocky intertidal, shallow subtidal reefs, and deep rock reefs, are a key component of the high productivity found near the city of Santa Barbara.

In response to the significant 1986–1992 drought, the City of Santa Barbara constructed the Charles E. Meyer Desalination Facility. The facility components included repurposing an abandoned outfall pipe south of the harbor complete

with two intakes and a beach weir box situated directly along the tide line. When rainfall returned just 3 months after the plant opened, however, the facility ceased operation.

In 2015 the City reactivated the desalination facility but required preparation of an Addendum to the previous EIRs to analyze the minor changes, coastal and marine permitting, upgrades, and modernization. The facility was refurbished in 2016 and has been operational since summer 2017. The plant includes a screened ocean intake structure equipped with openings of 1 millimeter, diluted and diffused brine discharge, and high-efficiency pumps and motors to reduce the plant's overall electrical power demands.

1. Marine components included:
2. Extensive coastal/marine permitting
3. Marine intake pipe and platform installed over abundant soft bottom habitat
4. New screen to reduce fish mortality
5. Beach weir box work conducted away from spawning grunion
6. Several plans to protect marine mammals and water quality were employed

Tides of Change

The Future of Work and it's Affect on the Environment

Monday, August 16, 2021

9:00 am – 10:30 am | Room: Ocean Ballroom

Moderator: Diane Sandman, AICP, Harris & Associates, Sr. Director

Panelist: Kai Andrews, Point B, Principal

Panelist: Steven Cook, Intersecting Metrics, Principal

Abstract: The world is evolving and so is the work environment. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused companies to send employees home with little warning. Employees had to adapt their homes to accommodate a new remote work lifestyle. The unanticipated experiment quickly revealed that teams could be very productive and effective in a virtual environment. An unintended benefit has been fewer vehicle miles traveled and less GHG emissions. A year later, with the vaccine rolling out, many companies are adapting to a new normal: the hybrid remote work environment where employees split time between their home and the office. Harris & Associates is working with Point B to modify it's existing work platform from everything from technology needs to office space. In this session we will discuss ways in which companies are adapting their business to accommodate non-traditional work schedules. We will also explore how this new normal will affect the analysis of environmental impacts, including transportation (vehicle miles traveled) and GHG emissions, over the traditional full-time in-office model.

Learning from the Past

Research Methods and Their Importance in Collecting Historic Baseline Data to Inform Environmental Planning and Compliance

Monday, August 16, 2021

10:45 am – 12:15 pm | Room: Barcelona

Moderator: Carrie Chasteen, Sapphos Environmental, Inc., Historic Resources Manager

Panelist: Kasey Conley, Sapphos Environmental, Inc., Architectural Historian

Panelist: Ansley Davies, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, Associate Curator

Panelist: Veronica Jones, Altadena Town Council, Council Member

Abstract: As the nation ushers in a new administration with a commitment to social equity, the integration of the consideration of history and evolution of existing and proposed land use patterns will increasingly look to historians, in conjunction with the environmental planning and compliance documentation process. Historical land use and an understanding of the significance of that use are key considerations in evaluating environmental issues required pursuant to CEQA, such as cultural resources. The process and sources used to complete these evaluations can influence the characterization of baseline conditions, and ultimately the evaluation of significance and direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of future projects. Basic facts regarding events, places, or persons; a physical history that has changed over time; and accounts from those with firsthand experience all combine to shape our understanding and view of cultural landscapes and informs our idea of what makes a place significant. This presentation presents three basic research methods that can be used to consider historical land use patterns—archival research, physical history, and firsthand accounts—and how these methods contribute to perceptions of significance of place-related resources and alter or contribute to agency, public, and decision-maker views of historical events, people, and places. A well-rounded understanding of the past builds on each of these methods for research and analysis, but the integration of each has its benefits and pitfalls. This session will present three case studies: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation Historic Resources Survey, Restoration of Stanley Burke’s restaurant, and the Altadena African American Historic Resources Survey. An analysis of the projects’ reliance on each of these methods will discuss the pros and cons that revealed themselves in the process and the importance of using each when developing the significant baseline conditions.

Waves of Understanding

Cultural Resources in California: Best Practices for Adequacy and Efficiency

Monday, August 16, 2021

10:45 am – 12:15 pm | Room: Salon D

Moderator: Trish Fernandez, M.A., RPA, InContext, President/CEO

Abstract: This session will provide a recommended process for cultural resources studies in California that addresses the requirements of CEQA, NEPA, and NHPA Section 106. Real and recent projects will be used to illustrate the application of this process, highlight the successes and not-so-much successes, and to encourage group discussion.

Deep Dive Into Evolving Regulations

Mitigating Construction Impacts: A Deep Dive into Design, Regulatory Compliance, and Mitigation

Monday, August 16, 2021

10:45 am – 12:15 pm | Room: Salon C

Moderator: Mitchel Morrison, Envicom Corporation, Project Manager

Panelist: Greg Heartt, Pacific West Builders, Inc., Construction Superintendent

Panelist: Bob Brown, AICP, SHN Engineers & Geologists, Inc., Principal Planner

Panelist: Travis Cullen, LEED AP, Envicom Corporation, President

Abstract: The better you understand construction, the better you write mitigation; however, as a CEQA practitioner, how do you write measures to effectively mitigate construction impacts? What hierarchy of mitigation types should be considered in addressing construction impacts? What is the difference between a project design feature, regulatory compliance measure, or mitigation measure? How can these differences be used to a knowledgeable practitioner's advantage? A CEQA practitioner's dilemma is no less difficult because mitigation measures, written near the surface during environmental review, become conditions of approval the deeper one dives into an ever-shifting regulatory environment. After mitigation measures become conditions of approval, conditions become subject to the interpretation of building officials and construction crews who are not involved in the environmental review process near the surface. Our panel features two CEQA practitioners with case studies of writing mitigation, diving into implementation during construction, and ascending with lessons learned for writing mitigation sufficiently firm to mitigate yet sufficiently flexible to adapt. The panel also includes a seafaring construction superintendent, one who has successfully guided crews to understand the importance of adhering to these requirements to reduce impacts on the natural and built environment. Participants will re-surface with transferrable strategies for writing their next mitigation measure, measures that are: 1) reasonable, 2) feasible, and 3) implementable at depth, in the managed chaos of a construction site.

Tides of Change

Who's Driving the Boat?

Adapting to Legislative Changes in the Middle of the Planning Process

Monday, August 16, 2021

10:45 am – 12:15 pm | Room: Ocean Ballroom

Moderator: Patricia Diefenderfer, AICP, City of Long Beach, Planning Manager

Panelist: Arthur Black, LSA Associates, Inc., Associate/Senior Transportation Planner

Abstract: The adoption of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) guidelines can be a daunting process. From gathering the data to establishing an appropriate methodology, each jurisdiction will take a specific and unique approach. This session reviews challenges and resolutions to establishing VMT guidelines. This panel will provide feedback on the implementation of the roll out for guidelines and how to understand implications for project applications and plans currently in process.

Learning from the Past

Preserving History or Privilege? Advancing Change and Equity in Our Cities by Rethinking CRM and Planning Practices

Monday, August 16, 2021

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Barcelona

Moderator: Samantha Murray, MA, Dudek

Panelist: Gaurav Srivastava, AICP, Dudek

Panelist: Micah Hale, PhD, RPA, Dudek

Panelist: Sarah Corder, MFA, Dudek

Panelist: Adam Giacinto, RPA

Abstract: The urban centers of 21st century California find themselves confronting a host of self-manufactured crises: climate change, housing affordability, and de facto segregation. The planner's regulatory toolkit, ostensibly available to address these challenges and shape our cities, often diverges from its mission of promoting equitable and sustainable patterns of growth. Recognizing that cultural resources management (CRM) decisions play a key role in shaping historic preservation and planning policies, CRM practitioners are being called upon to reexamine the cultural chronologies, ethnographies, historic contexts, and research methodologies that we write and reference in our reports, as well as the biases embedded in the processes and practices of CRM itself, and ask ourselves if we are truly being inclusive of the communities we study, remembering that our findings and practices have real world consequences. This includes the representation of tribal communities and other marginalized communities, whose histories are often excluded through processes focused on monumental architecture in highly visible spaces. The history of cities, as told by CRM practitioners and as typically exemplified by architecturally significant buildings, regularly guides planning decisions with regards to historic preservation, including the identification of historic districts and Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs). Designed as a zoning tool to protect and preserve architecturally significant neighborhoods, HPOZs have also served as a cover for affluent neighborhoods seeking to preserve their privilege and maintain their exclusivity by disallowing new development, throttling the production of affordable housing, and otherwise trying to keep outsiders out. If planning tools (in the guise of historic preservation planning policies) are being subverted to resist diversity and inclusivity in our cities, how should we rethink our understanding of CRM practices and methodologies, the designation criteria we use to identify historical importance, and the community outreach process to enable better and more equitable outcomes?

Waves of Understanding

Swimming through Resources for your Water Supply Assessment

Monday, August 16, 2021

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Salon D

Moderator: Aubrey Mescher, MESM, Rincon Consultants, Inc., Senior Environmental Planner

Panelist: Christopher Koontz, AICP, Long Beach Development Services, Planning Bureau, Deputy Director of Development Services

Panelist: Meredith Clement, Kennedy Jenks, Principal, Water Resources Project Manager

Panelist: Andree Johnson, Woodard and Curran, Water Resources Project Manager

Panelist: Ryan Thacher, PhD, Rincon Consultants, Inc., Senior Environmental Engineer

Abstract: The goal of this panel is to provide clear guidance on how different types of water supply information can be used in crafting clear and defensible Water Supply Assessments (WSAs). We will address Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs), Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs), and Watershed Sanitary Surveys (WSSs). A key differentiator between these is their focus, where a WSA is project-specific, a GSP is basin-specific, an UWMP is supplier-specific, an IRWMP is regionally stakeholder-specific, and a WSS is watershed-specific. In California, we have historically seen a lack of restrictions on groundwater use, beyond overlying landowner rights and adjudication. That began to change with Senate Bill 610 (2001) requiring a WSA be prepared for projects that are subject to CEQA, would use groundwater, and meet certain development thresholds. A WSA must be circulated for public review with the CEQA document for its project, such that the CEQA document may be challenged on the basis of the WSA. More recently, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (2014) requires all California groundwater basins be managed by a GSP; the deadlines for approval of GSPs by the Department of Water Resources

are currently underfoot or on the horizon. These efforts are occurring against the backdrop of UWMPs, IRWMPs, and WSSs, which are not specific to groundwater but provide important sources of groundwater information. The Urban Water Management Act (1983) requires a UWMP be prepared by water suppliers with more than 3,000 connections or providing over 3,000 acre-feet per year. Meanwhile, WSSs are required by the State Water Resources Control Board for surface water-influenced drinking water supplies. In comparison, the nexus for IRWMPs is funding, as bond-funded grant programs offer competitive opportunities for the development of regional water management strategies. This will be an exciting session!

Deep Dive Into Evolving Regulations

Power to the Program (EIR)!

Monday, August 16, 2021

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Salon C

Moderator: Jonathan Rigg

Panelist: Cara Bellavia, SWCA

Abstract: The last 12 months has been a dizzying whirlwind for regulatory changes and uncertainty. Not the least of which are recent updates to NEPA and federal agencies' guidelines for implementing NEPA. Recent and upcoming federal projects or projects that require federal approval or funding have put planners and project managers through the gamut of deciphering just how these new changes affect their projects. How does all this affect my schedule? What resources need to be analyzed? What are the changes to how resource impacts are analyzed? Are we still analyzing cumulative impacts? If so, how? Mix in administration changes with different environmental policy priorities, the only thing that is certain is uncertainty. This session will focus on the recent Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) updates to NEPA that were implemented in September 2020. As part of this update, all federal agencies—from the Bureau of Land Management to the Department of Veteran's Affairs—were directed to update their own agency guidelines for implementing NEPA. To help identify the solid ground during this moment of change, we put together a panel of NEPA professionals from both agencies and consultants. Our panel of NEPA specialists will discuss the underlying trends within these updates that are likely to remain part of the NEPA process and those that are likely to drift away. With a better understanding of the trends and trajectories of NEPA updates, especially those that will stick, planners and project managers will be better suited to achieve successful outcomes for their projects.

Sailing with the Ocean Breeze

Designing Resilient Communities with Trees: An Introduction to the 'Green Neighborhood' Program

Monday, August 16, 2021

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Tokyo

Moderator: Ryan Allen, Dudek

Panelist: Cindy Blain, ReLeaf, Executive Director

Panelist: Torin Dunnavant, Sacramento Tree Foundation

Abstract: As technology increases the ability to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and mitigate for climate change, new developments are typically focused on presenting one or two specific solutions for the myriad of existing envi-

ronmental challenges. It's easy to visualize how electric cars reduce GHG emission levels or how solar panels provide clean and renewable energy to our homes, but increasing scientific research points towards trees, and the multifaceted natural functions they provide, as the best non-technological investment to combat climate change. This session will explore how trees provide ecological services (e.g., carbon sequestration) that generate a return on the investment a city makes toward growing a healthy and robust tree canopy. From a citywide level, we will discuss how to create a city resilient to climate change and explore available tools for quantifying these ecological services and how they effectively guide management planning efforts at the project and community scale, using specific project examples to highlight the real use of these tools. We will also highlight the Green Neighborhood Program, a new planning tool for residential development. The Green Neighborhood program begins with the idea that trees are infrastructure and must be planned for with equal importance as sewer lines, streetlights, and sidewalks. The new model puts trees in the initial planning stages, so when a tree is planted, it has the room it needs for its roots to take hold, its canopy to grow to its full potential, and the tree to live a healthy and long life. This model does not limit the size or scope of what can be built, but rather a method to ensure however large or small your project, trees will be an asset to the completed development and long-term success.

Tides of Change

Implementing DEI in AEP-Where is our Diversity?

Monday, August 16, 2021

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Ocean Ballroom

Moderator: William Halligan, Harris and Associates, Senior Director

Panelist: Marie Campbell, Sapphos Environmental, Principal and CEO

Panelist: Claudia Garcia, Ascent Environmental, Environmental Planner

Abstract: While environmental professions focus on the physical environment, embedded in the language of NEPA and CEQA is the presumption that all people should share equally in the ability to enjoy a healthful environment and economic prosperity. AEP recognizes that diversity and inclusion make our organization stronger and is committed to creating a more sustainable and resilient future for all Californians. AEP leadership agrees that we cannot be passive. As urban planners and environmental professionals, we are uniquely qualified to bring about positive change in our communities. Our profession has been doing so for decades by tackling issues such as environmental justice, affordable housing, and protecting the natural and built environment for all Californians. To address issues of inequity, AEP has launched a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Initiative. AEP is working to shift the culture of the association so that it not only welcomes all environmental professionals to participate and be fully engaged, but considers how to make environmental professions accessible to all who wish to pursue this work. But, in order to be successful, we need to listen to concerns, identify specific actions to catalyze change, and invite YOU into the process. This panel will provide a roundtable discussion focused on increasing diversity in AEP and the environmental field in general. It will also provide best practices for making our discipline more accessible to the public in an effort to foster authentic public outreach. The panel will seek to understand, and the information/data gathered will be folded into our DEI Initiative.

[Learning from the Past](#)

Native American Consultation: Lessons Learned

Monday, August 16, 2021

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Barcelona

Moderator: Lisa Westwood, RPA, ECORP Consulting, Inc., Vice President/Director of Cultural Resources

Panelist: Andrea Clark, Downey Brand, LLC

Panelist: Anne Surdzial, AICP, ECORP Consulting, Inc., Vice President/Director of CEQA/NEPA Services

Panelist: Brandon Linton, Loveless Linton, Inc., Councilman for Mesa Grande Band and Cultural Resources

Panelist: John O'Connor, Ph.D., RPA, ECORP Consulting, Inc., Southern California Cultural Resources Manager

Panelist: Leigh Chavez, Placer County Community Development Resource Agency, Principal Planner and Environmental Coordinator

Abstract: California continues to experience a changing regulatory environment that is accommodating a diversity of people and ideas, with an increasing acknowledgement of the importance of Native American consultation. As public agencies are learning how to adapt to a changing regulatory landscape, it is important that planners and CEQA practitioners understand the tribal consultation requirements and the effect consultation has on Native American interests. With the diverse perspectives that will be presented, regulatory planners can continue to be effective in project implementation while incorporating diversity goals in their jurisdictions. Currently, agencies must navigate the requirements of a number of tribal consultation laws, including AB 52, SB 18, NHPA Section 106, and, as recently as September 2020, AB 1561 and AB 168. In this conference session, the panel will provide a brief review of the procedural requirements for the various regulations as well as tips about how to engage with tribal representatives that view natural resources from a different cultural context. In this conference session, panel members will focus on a discussion of real-world project examples of success stories and lessons learned from both project consultant and Native American perspectives. We encourage the audience to bring real-world scenarios/questions for discussion. The panel includes consultants, attorneys, and public agency planners.

[Waves of Understanding](#)

Understanding Aquaculture Opportunities and Hurdles of Seeking a Sustainable Food Source

Monday, August 16, 2021

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Salon D

Moderator: Matt Valerio, Dudek

Panelist: Laurie Monarres, Dudek

Panelist: Theresa Stevens, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, Los Angel

Panelist: Diane Windham, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Aquaculture Coordinator, California

Panelist: Randy Lovell, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Aquaculture Coordinator

Abstract: As our climate changes and global environmental damage affects land-based protein food sources, humans will need to pivot towards sustainable solutions. Aquaculture aims to provide a viable alternative to food sources that will be greatly affected by climate change. Aquaculture might decrease the effects of human consumption of fish on

freshwater and marine water habitats by creating a food source independent of overfished resources. Plants, fish, and shellfish produced by aquaculture farms can serve as new habitats to restore populations of fresh and saltwater threatened species. This panel session will provide insights into the emerging world of offshore aquaculture, the opportunities that exist, and the regulatory hurdles that applicants face that consultants and agencies must address. With large-scale shellfish facilities developed or proposed off the coasts Ventura, Los Angeles, and San Diego acting as case studies, the panelists will discuss the advantages and challenges of successful aquaculture projects. By bringing together experts from NOAA, USACE, CDFW, and environmental consultants, this presentation will provide different points of view on the benefits of aquaculture, the necessary planning and permitting to create working aquaculture facilities off the California coast, and the variety of resources and consequences of the facilities to be considered, as well as the interests in data and monitoring such facilities. The confluence of federal, state, and local jurisdictions makes aquaculture an especially complex endeavor to take on and requires often conflicting stakeholders to form a consensus. This session will discuss how to achieve that consensus to provide a flexible and sustainable food source.

Deep Dive Into Evolving Regulations

Diving into NEPA Understanding Changing Regulations in Uncertain Times

Monday, August 16, 2021

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Salon C

Moderator: Ella McDougall, State Coastal Conservancy, Sea Grant Fellow

Panelist: Alyssa Mann, The Nature Conservancy, Project Director, Disaster Resilience

Panelist: Mike Grim, City of Carlsbad, Senior Programs Manager

Panelist: Jessica Davenport, CA State Coastal Conservancy, Deputy Program Manager

Abstract: Climate impacts are here. Critical infrastructure, especially coastal roadways, are already faced with the chronic impacts of sea level rise: flooding, erosion, and dangerous coastal storm conditions. The cost of road closures and repairs is too much for local government and transportation authorities to shoulder. Adaptation planning and implementation must start now, but what approach do we take? Join us as we explore three coastal roadway adaptation projects in California. The Central Coast Highway 1 Climate Resiliency Study explores how transportation infrastructure can be adapted to benefit nature and transportation, and how cooperative planning between sectors can improve outcomes for both. This study evaluates adaptation scenarios to integrate priorities from multiple sectors for maximum benefits to improve transportation safety and efficiency, provide economic security and benefits to the local community, and promote healthy coastal habitats. The South Carlsbad Boulevard Climate Adaptation Project is a collaborative effort to prepare a resiliency plan for a portion of Carlsbad Boulevard subject to coastal hazards, which will be exacerbated by climate change and sea level rise. The project is engaging key stakeholders and the public to analyze and design a roadway realignment and community vision spaces through the lens of climate adaptation, incorporating nature-based solutions, and identifying areas for enhanced coastal access and recreation. State Route 37, known as the Flyway Highway, is a 21-mile flood-prone and congested road that runs through the San Pablo Baylands in northern San Francisco Bay, an important stopover for migratory birds, as well as valuable habitat for resident species. The State Route 37-Baylands Group has been working for the past 3 years to influence the redesign of the highway so that it adapts to sea-level rise while enabling the conservation and restoration of thousands of acres of tidal wetlands.

Adaptation of Coastal Roadways: Strategies for California's Transportation Corridors

Monday, August 16, 2021

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Tokyo

Moderator: Ella McDougall, State Coastal Conservancy, Sea Grant Fellow

Panelist: Alyssa Mann, The Nature Conservancy, Project Director, Disaster Resilience

Panelist: Mike Grim, City of Carlsbad, Senior Programs Manager

Panelist: Jessica Davenport, CA State Coastal Conservancy, Deputy Program Manager

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[Tides of Change](#)

Integrating Public Outreach, including Tribal Outreach in Planning & Environmental Review Processes

Monday, August 16, 2021

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Ocean Ballroom

Moderator: Steve Noack, AICP, PlaceWorks, Principal

Panelist: Laura Ebbert, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 9, Tribal, Intergovernmental, & Policy Div. Director

Panelist: Ethan "Red Eagle" Lawton, SHN Engineers & Geologists, Tribal Liaison, Associate Planner

Panelist: Joan Isaacson, Kearns & West, Principal and Senior Facilitator

Abstract: This panel will provide a discussion of tribal cultural outreach through the eyes of experienced tribal liaisons from both regional and local perspectives, followed by a presentation on successful tools and techniques in seeking meaningful input from environmental justice stakeholders and communities. Panelists will focus on the importance

of community outreach and engagement in support of the evaluation of environmental justice, including CEQA environmental justice issues, such as land use, population and housing, air quality, noise, and hazardous materials. The presentation will conclude with case studies where focused outreach and education resulted in mutually successful outcomes for the project proponent and affected communities.

[Learning from the Past](#)

Climate Change and California Archaeology: A View from the Golden State

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

8:45 am – 10:15 am | Room: Barcelona

Moderator: Michael Newland, M.A., RPA, Environmental Science Associates, Director

Abstract: Our global archaeological heritage is under direct threat from the ongoing and future impacts of climate change. In California, a combination of impacts—sea level rise, catastrophic fire, erosion, and water shortages—are necessitating new archaeological methods and engagement with local Indigenous communities and our citizens more broadly. The author has been a Principal on new efforts by archaeologists and human remains recovery dog teams to extract human cremains—those cremations stored in the houses of loved ones—from catastrophic fire events in California and Oregon; over the past 3 years he has worked at nine catastrophic fire events. He has been leading efforts with the Society for California Archaeology to identify archaeological sites along the California coastline before coastal erosion and sea level rise destroys them. Working closely with different California Tribal groups, he is helping define landscape-level interactions between local cultures and the natural environment. This session presents a summary of a range of activities, including coastal surveys, responses to fire, and landscape levels of analyses, that could assist other practices in our collective response to threats of climate change on our history and cultures.

[Waves of Understanding](#)

Ensuring that Recycled Water Diversions are Protective of In-Stream Beneficial Uses

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

8:45 am – 10:15 am | Room: Salon D

Moderator: Tom Barnes, Environmental Science Associates, Vice President

Abstract: As recycled water projects proliferate in Southern California, effective communication and coordination with wildlife agencies is essential. Diversions of municipal wastewater discharges that have augmented surface water flows in local streams could result in impacts to sensitive aquatic resources, including fish, amphibians and birds. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) under California Water Code 1211 requires that impacts to beneficial uses caused by the diversions are considered. There are several recent case studies that show how greater coordination between wastewater managers and wildlife agencies can result in local water supply projects that are protective of in-stream values. One case study involves the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, which proposed to incrementally reduce surface water discharges of recycled water from five water reclamation plants (WRPs) within the San Gabriel River watershed. Our presentation will describe the efforts spent by the Sanitation Districts to evaluate potential impacts, negotiate a mitigation strategy with CDFW, and ultimately obtain a Water Code 1211 Petition from the SWRCB. Another case study involves the City of Ventura, which has spent over 15 years studying the Santa Clara River Estuary in an effort to determine the maximum ecologically protective diversion volume in order to optimize the use of recycled

water in a way that benefits the estuary. This session will evaluate the lessons learned from these case studies led by Tom Barnes, Vice President at Environmental Science Associates, who has direct experience with each of these projects, having managed the CEQA documents prepared for each of the case studies.

[Deep Dive Into Evolving Regulations](#)

Wildfire! Is CEQA Adequately Analyzing Our ‘New Normal’?

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

8:45 am – 10:15 am | Room: Salon C

Moderator: Carey Fernandes, AICP, Dudek

Panelist: Asha Bleier, AICP, LEED AP BD+C, Dudek

Panelist: Michael Huff, RCA, Dudek

Panelist: Scott Eckardt, RPF, Dudek

Panelist: Jason Neuman, CalFire

Panelist: David Hubbard

Abstract: 2020 continued California’s tragic, but predictable catastrophic wildfire events, impacting hundreds of thousands of Californians. As the state’s wildfire “new normal” evolves, should the CEQA wildfire significance thresholds change with it? Most recently, CEQA significance threshold questions for wildfire were added in 2019, requiring a stand-alone chapter, though a wildfire question remains in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials section. These questions have resulted in confusion and inconsistency in the approach to compliance approaches. This panel brings together experts in fire protection planning, land use planning, land use law, and CEQA to discuss the needed updates to keep up with our “new normal.” Experts in land use and fire protection planning will address the issue of whether the current questions address the basic need to understand the effect of a project on wildfire risk and if there is an environmental impact related to wildfire. As we move forward with elevated wildfire risk due to climate change and other factors, are we asking the right questions? What level of analysis is adequate to assess wildfire hazards and risk, which ultimately help determine the potential impact findings? What data sets are appropriate to evaluate in determining a project’s wildfire risk exposure? What is the role of the Safety Element and Senate Bill 1241—developing effective fire hazard policies for the General Plan—fire mitigation, preparedness, and response? Finally, as we plan for future natural disasters, this panel will ask are we looking at the bigger picture? How do these efforts (Fire Hazard Planning Tech Advisory, WUI Best Practices, General Plan policies, CEQA thresholds, etc.) work together to provide a robust fire hazard mitigation program to California communities?

[Learning from the Past](#)

AEP Ethics Session

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

10:30 am – 12:00 N | Room: Barcelona

Speaker: John P. Kinsey, Esq., Wagner, Jones, Hensley PC

Waves of Understanding

The Role of Watershed Processes in Stormwater System Management-From the Urban Landscape to the Waves

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

10:30 am – 12:00 N | Room: Salon D

Moderator: Bryn Evans, Dudek

Abstract: A new paradigm of water resource management in California has focused attention on watershed hydrology, hydraulics, and water quality processes that link to policy, infrastructure, and management activities. Within this framework, municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) operators must now consider watershed-scale processes in jurisdictional maintenance operations and compliance planning. In coastal cities like San Diego, additional considerations, such as regulatory priorities, urbanization, habitat preservation and enhancement goals, and non-governmental stakeholder perspectives, can lead to new complexities in balancing site-specific flood risk management activities with watershed-level factors. This session will present a combined project and programmatic approach used to select, design, and analyze the City of San Diego's maintenance program potential impacts to water quality within a watershed framework to include appropriate environmental protocols and mitigation. The City's Municipal Waterways Maintenance Plan (MWMP) is a combination of 66 routine maintenance projects and a programmatic framework for streamlined approval of additional potential maintenance and repair of the City's critical MS4 assets. As part of the MWMP, site-specific hydrologic and hydraulic analyses and watershed-based water quality analyses were combined to prepare specialized compensatory water quality mitigation measures to meet multiple objectives. Selected water quality measures were designed to address potential short- and long-term effects of routine maintenance and set a unique standard for water quality protections associated with routine channel maintenance activities. Session attendees will advance understanding of:

- Use of watershed processes to guide jurisdictional maintenance operations and compliance planning.
- Municipal agency and/or geographic variations in water quality protections for routine maintenance implementation.
- Specialized watershed-based water quality protection processes applicable to water conveyance infrastructure in sensitive habitats.

Deep Dive Into Evolving Regulations

Reading the Tea Leaves of the Future of CEQA Compliance

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

10:30 am – 12:00 N | Room: Salon C

Moderator: Patrick Angell, Ascent, Principal

Panelist: Osha Meserve, JD, Soluri Meserve, Attorney

Panelist: Terry Rivasplata, AICP, ICF

Panelist: William Abbott, JD, Abbott & Kindermann, INC

Abstract: The diversity of court decisions and new laws and guidelines over the past few years have created tectonic shifts in land use planning and CEQA compliance. Our panel will bring their tarot cards and magic eight balls and offer some observations and predictions for the future of CEQA compliance based on published and unpublished court

cases, recent legislation, and guidance by OPR. The panel consists of attorneys that represent environmental advocate and developer views on CEQA compliance, as well as a seasoned CEQA practitioner, each of whom will offer their unique views on the future of CEQA for discussion. How does the future look for CEQA streamlining and subsequent environmental review? Will environmental justice become a requirement of environmental review under CEQA? What is the future of public health impacts post-Friant Ranch? These and other challenging questions will be posed to our CEQA fortune tellers and the session audience.

Sailing with the Ocean Breeze

A Diversity of TAC Thresholds for Diverse Communities: Considering Differences in Existing Pollutant Burdens

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

10:30 am – 12:00 N | Room: Tokyo

Moderator: Rich Walter, ICF, Vice President, Environmental Planning

Panelist: Brian Schuster, ESA, Managing Associate

Panelist: Jennifer Reed, Dudek, ir Quality Services Manager

Panelist: Nicole Vermillion, Placeworks, Associate Principal, Air Quality and GHG Services

Panelist: Haseeb Qureshi, Urban Crossroads, Associate Principal

Panelist: Michael Hendrix, LSA, Associate, Air Quality and Climate Change

Abstract: While there are substantial differences in the existing air pollutant burdens in different communities, lead agencies are often using thresholds that are the same, regardless of location. The impacts of project toxic air contaminants (TACS) on community health are a function not only of exposure to new project emissions, but exposure to cumulative emissions, including existing emissions. There are some limited examples across California where air districts or lead agencies have developed different thresholds that take into account those existing differences in existing conditions. There are also models in environmental analysis of other topics, such as in the FTA's approach to assessing noise impacts, which has a sliding scale of thresholds that get smaller and smaller as the existing ambient noise levels increase. This session will evaluate the concept of adapting TAC emission thresholds to better account for existing pollutant burdens. We will discuss different gradated threshold concepts approaches and the potential to develop more holistic Community Risk Reduction Plans and use a consistency analysis approach (like that used for GHG emissions and Climate Action Plans). We will discuss different mitigation approaches that could be used to address potentially more stringent thresholds in area of high existing pollutant burdens. Importantly, the session will also discuss how better addressing the cumulative effects of new emissions in areas of high existing burdens can help to address the substantial inequities in pollution burdens for disadvantaged communities. Session attendees will learn ways to better understand the full context of project's contributions to cumulative effects in areas of high existing pollution and learn different options to determine their significance and mitigate adverse effects.

Tides of Change

California's 2020 Fire Season was the Worst on Record How Can CEQA Help?

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

10:30 am – 12:00 N | Room: Ocean Ballroom

Moderator: Heather Blair, MS, Ascent Environmental, Senior Project Manager

Panelist: Lara Rachowicz, PhD, Ascent Environmental, Senior Ecologist

Panelist: Shannon Johnson, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Acting Deputy Chief

Panelist: Steve Auten, Auten Resource Consulting, Registered Professional Forester

Abstract: California's wildfire crisis is worsening. Streamlining CEQA to expedite delivery of fire fuel management projects is a critical need and a clear priority of Governor Newsom's administration. California's Forest Carbon Plan and Shared Stewardship Agreement call for federal and state agencies to each meet a goal of treating 500,000 acres annually by 2025. How can CEQA compliance for critical fire fuel treatment projects be accelerated? Program EIRs are a highly effective tool in streamlining CEQA review of qualifying projects while maintaining environmental protection. The Program EIR for the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) was certified by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in December 2019. CalVTP is now being implemented. The Program EIR is designed for use by any public agency providing or receiving state funding or with land ownership and/or management responsibilities in the treatable landscape that seeks to implement vegetation treatments consistent with the CalVTP; there are more than 150 such state and local agencies, including universities, water districts, fire districts, regional park and open space districts, parks departments, resource conservation districts, fire safe councils, and more. This panel will provide information about CalVTP implementation and its role in the goal to treat 500,000 acres annually. The panel will describe how to use the CalVTP in the context of CEQA streamlining with Program EIRs, including the use of associated documentation of "within the scope" findings and focused NDs, MNDs, and EIRs. Real-world examples will be shared about how CalVTP's streamlining has substantially cut time and cost for environmental review of fuel treatment projects. The session will provide tools and guidance for project-specific implementation using the CalVTP Program EIR for a qualifying later activity. Learn if CalVTP and its Program EIR can help your agency or community more quickly reduce wildfire risks.

Learning from the Past

Unearthing the Lessons in Cultural Resources Case Law

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Barcelona

Moderator: Monica Strauss, RPA, Environmental Science Associates, Vice President/Director, SoCal Cultural Resources

Panelist: Nicole Hoeksma Gordon, Esq., The Sohagi Law Group, PLC, Partner

Panelist: Margarita Jerabek, Environmental Science Associates (ESA)

Panelist: Candace Ehringer, RPA, Environmental Science Associates, Cultural Resources Program Manager

Abstract: Addressing cultural resources within the context of CEQA is becoming increasingly more complex. Lead agencies and project applicants are often confronted with archaeological, tribal, and/or historic architectural resources issues that have the potential to significantly affect project schedules, budgets, and designs. Several court decisions have provided important clarifications to aspects of the environmental review process as it relates to cultural resources. This session will examine *League of Protections for Architectural and Historic Resources v. City of Oakland* (1997) 52

Cal.App.4th 896, invalidating the MND and requiring an EIR to assess impacts to a building sufficiently shown to be historical; Madera Oversight Coalition, Inc. v. County of Madera (2011) 199 Cal.App.4th 48, striking down mitigation that provided for subsequent verification of prehistoric archaeological sites as historical resources; and Save the Agoura Cornell Knoll v. City of Agoura Hills (2020) 46 Cal.App.5th 665, involving improperly deferred mitigation for prehistoric archaeological resources in an MND. These cases shed light on such topics as what constitutes a historical resource under CEQA, the timing of resource evaluation, the type of environmental review needed, and the appropriateness of certain kinds of mitigation measures.

Waves of Understanding

Hot Topics: What you need to know about Stormwater in California

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Salon D

Moderator: Sean Porter, Apex

Panelist: Wayne Rosenbaum, The Environmental Law Group, LLP Varco and Rosenbaum

Panelist: Pavlova Vitale, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Abstract: The landscape of stormwater regulations in California is changing quickly. Several new permits, ballot measures, and precedent court cases are creating an ever-increasingly difficult environment for stormwater dischargers to navigate. This presentation will present proposed upcoming changes to the Construction General Permit; new and emerging contaminants; new biological objectives; Measure W funding in Los Angeles; SB205, Statewide industrial Permit revisions; industrial TMDL compliance options; and a recent court decision that could impact Clean Water Act lawsuits for years to come. The presentation will also focus on the legal implications of these new regulations and precedent cases, the challenges with implementation of large-scale regional BMPs, and the pitfalls of integrating biological objectives in the context of NPDES Permits and water quality limitations.

Deep Dive Into Evolving Regulations

Subsequent Environmental Review Amidst a Sea of Evolving CEQA Law and Regulations

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Salon C

Moderator: Casey Shorrock, J.D., Remy Moose Manley LLP, Associate Attorney

Panelist: Jeannie Lee, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Chief Counsel

Panelist: Andrea Leisy, Remy Moose Manley LLP, Partner

Panelist: Kristen Stoner, Ascent Environmental, Inc., Environmental Planner and Project Manager

Abstract: Successfully navigating subsequent environmental review has become increasingly important in CEQA practice as various prior environmental documents grow older, and agencies and applicants seek to efficiently streamline the process for additional discretionary approvals that are needed to implement projects. Subsequent, or supplemental, environmental review is analysis prepared for a later discretionary approval after an agency has certified or adopted a prior CEQA document and is almost always required when individual projects stem from a program-level EIR. However, it is only sometimes required when an approved project undergoes changes, depending on the nature of the change.

Regardless of how review is triggered, subsequent environmental review forces a lead, responsible, or trustee agency to assess the level of review required and the relevancy of the original CEQA document. This often begs the question: how old is too old for a CEQA document? We know that EIRs never technically expire, but when do they become practically inoperable? If subsequent review is required, which is the best choice—full or focused supplemental EIR or MND, subsequent EIR, sustainable community environmental assessment, addendum, or an exemption? A subsequent EIR is commonly thought to be the safest choice, but public agencies can waste valuable time and resources on preparing an EIR where an alternative document would suffice. Public agencies, in consultation with applicants and consultants, must ensure that their choice complies with ever-changing laws and regulations to determine, amongst other things, when to confirm old conclusions with new analysis and what is the proper “baseline” for future approvals. Complicating this is the growing demands of responsible agencies for post-CEQA review, as highlighted in the recent Santa Clara Valley Water District v. SF Bay RWQCB. Our panelists will share their professional experiences with these issues and provide creative ideas and strategies, along with tried-and-true best practices.

Sailing with the Ocean Breeze

Full Steam Ahead: How Land Use Planning Policies, VMT, and Climate Action Planning Can Work Together

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Tokyo

Moderator: Alison Spindler-Ruiz, AICP, City of Long Beach, Senior Planner

Panelist: Jennifer Ly, City of Long Beach, Planner III

Panelist: Arthur Black, LSA Associates, Inc., Associate/Senior Transportation Planner

Panelist: Joshua Lathan, AECOM, Senior Sustainability Planner

Panelist: Patricia Diefenderfer, AICP, City of Long Beach, Planning Manager

Abstract: There is no question about it, planning processes take time. When your jurisdiction has multiple initiatives to stay abreast of the times (or at least within regulatory requirements), it can be challenging to ensure all processes are working together. This session will explore the City of Long Beach’s 16-year Land Use Element (LUE) Update process and how using the development of a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) as a mitigation measure and incorporating vehicle miles traveled (VMT) analyses enhanced the CEQA process. This session will discuss challenges in coordinating across these multiple long-range efforts, and in setting GHG and VMT reduction targets in a jurisdiction with the nation’s 2nd busiest port, a commercial airport, major freeways, and active oil drilling operations. The case study will also explore the use of a CAAP as a streamlining tool and how sea level rise adaptation can be considered in long-range planning processes.

Tides of Change

Opportunities for CEQA Streamlining in Lithium Valley

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Ocean Ballroom

Moderator: Laurel Lees, Controlled Thermal Resources Director, AEP Director-at-Large

Panelist: Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental, Inc., Principal

Panelist: David Hochschild, California Energy Commission, Chair

Panelist: Danny Kennedy, New Energy Nexus, CEO

Abstract: Assembly Bill 1657, titled “State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission: Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California,” directs the California Energy Commission to convene a Blue Ribbon Commission by March 1, 2021, to review, investigate, and analyze issues with lithium extraction in California. The commission will evaluate and provide recommendations for legislative or regulatory changes to encourage lithium extraction from geothermal brines. Global demand for lithium is projected to grow ten-fold in the next decade. The growth in demand for lithium is fueled by demand for electric vehicles and lithium-ion batteries. The United States currently produces approximately 1% of the global lithium supply, with the majority originating in Australia, Chile, Argentina, and China. Extraction at the Salton Sea could generate up to 600,000 tons of lithium carbonate annually with an estimated value of \$7.2 billion. Development of this “Lithium Valley” would support the local economy and provide opportunities for energy independence and transition to electrified transportation. A California supply chain for lithium is in alignment with state policies for market conversion to zero-emission vehicles, including Executive Order N-79-20. In a recent report by New Energy Nexus, titled, “Building Lithium Valley,” CEQA compliance was listed as the main regulatory hurdle for development. The report also notes Lithium Valley projects could generate revenue for dust suppression and habitat restoration. This discussion will be timely because of ongoing efforts by the newly formed Lithium Commission. During this panel, we will discuss:

- Lithium market and existing methods of lithium extraction;
- Economic and environmental opportunities in Lithium Valley;
- Current regulatory requirements and policy initiatives for development; and
- Potential streamlining opportunities.

The panel features leaders in California government, non-profits, developers, and consultants with the goal of stimulating conversation with the audience.

[Learning from the Past](#)

Building for the Future and Consideration of the Past

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Barcelona

Moderator: Margarita Jerabek, PhD, Environmental Science Associates (ESA), Historic Resources Director

Panelist: Sara Dietler, Environmental Science Associates (ESA), Senior Archaeologist

Abstract: Consideration of the past is an integral part of the environmental process required under CEQA. Archaeologists and architectural historians rely on a variety of archival research materials to develop historic contexts in which to evaluate whether a cultural resource qualifies as a historical resource under CEQA and to assess the archaeological sensitivity of a project area. Some of the archival materials commonly researched include building permits, newspaper articles, and historic maps, to name a few. Using archaeological and historic architectural project examples from the Los Angeles area, this session will review how cultural resources specialists employ archival materials to meet the requirements of CEQA and why it is important for lead agencies and project applicants to ensure that resource evaluations and impacts analyses are well substantiated.

Waves of Understanding

Get Comfortable with Uncertainty: Making Water Management Decisions in a Changing Climate

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Salon D

Moderator: Andree Johnson, Woodard & Curran, Water Resources Project Manager

Panelist: Joe Scott, Pyrologix LLC, Principal Wildfire Analyst

Panelist: Kim Clyma, Woodard & Curran, Senior Environmental Planner

Panelist: Scott McClelland, .E., BCEE, Encina Wastewater, Assistant General Manager

Panelist: Millicent Cowley-Crawford, PE, CFM, Woodard & Curran, Project Manager

Abstract: When planning for the future, you can no longer simply rely on past as prelude—things are changing too fast. Unprecedented weather patterns, increasing wildfire events, new state regulations, and economic stress are all impacting water demands, supplies, and quality and driving new management approaches. Planners and managers need strategies for understanding these potential changes, tools and methods for forecasting impacts, and innovative approaches for adapting to a new reality. The session will cover some of the major sources of uncertainty, the tools and methods for understanding potential impacts, and best practices for using this information to support better management decisions and address these uncertainties in CEQA documents. Topics include:

- A summary of the strengths, weaknesses, and practical applicability of available climate change modeling tools and datasets across multiple regions of the United States. There will be a discussion of the level of detail required by a range of infrastructure planning objectives. Some of the approaches to be evaluated include quantitative downscaling of Global Climate Model (GCM) data, regional climate outlook tools (e.g., CalAdapt, NOAA Climate Resilience Toolkit), and statistical extrapolations of historical data for future climate scenarios.
 - Water demand and supply forecasting methods to facilitate understanding of the impacts of changing weather patterns on water supply availability, including innovative methods for quantifying and planning for multiple uncertainties, such as climate, economic conditions, and changing customer behavior.
 - Strategies and methods for evaluating wildfire risk to water supply and water quality. This will be a discussion of practices for assessing and managing these risks, such as hazard simulation modeling, mitigation planning, and vegetation management.
 - Considerations and best practices for climate adaptation plans and infrastructure planning to support agencies in proactively addressing the many climate-related challenges.
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Deep Dive Into Evolving Regulations

Are All Events That Sound Special Really Special?

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Salon C

Moderator: J.T. Stephens, LSA, Senior Noise Specialist

Panelist: Jordan Roberts, LSA, Senior Noise Analyst

Panelist: Patricia Diefenderfer, AICP, Long Beach Development Services Planning Bureau, Planning Bureau Manager

Panelist: Jennifer Clark, AICP, City of Fresno, Director of Planning and Development

Abstract: In a post-COVID world, our communities will be ready for live entertainment and outdoor special events. From the local farmer’s market jam band to the Grand Prix of Long Beach, special events are everywhere. When the sound from these events blend into the existing noise environment, surrounding residents may not be bothered because they can adjust for a once a year big festival at their local park. But what do local jurisdictions do about the other special events that occur throughout the year? In this session, we will discuss current regulations and standards for special event noise in a variety of locations. The panel will present options for different noise metrics and criteria that will assist planning staff in assessing and monitoring noise impacts from special events. The focus will be on how the technical analyses of special events can coincide with the administrative procedures of compliance and enforcement. This expert panel will answer challenging questions, such as, what are the reasonable methods to reduce nuisance noise to sensitive receptors all while allowing a thriving, lively environment? Case studies from urban areas such as San Francisco and Long Beach will be presented. The unique difference in noise perception from suburban areas like Monterey and Fresno will also be discussed. The panel will explore different abatement measures that are both proactive and reactive. The discussion will focus on what conditions or mitigation measures are enforceable and would reduce potential impacts to below applicable standards, while also providing the flexibility needed to achieve community objectives. The desired outcome of this presentation is to provide attendees information that can be used to assist local jurisdictions in addressing the complex noise issues in order to allow for outdoor special events to occur while minimizing the impact to surrounding residential neighborhoods.

Sailing with the Ocean Breeze

Resilience: It’s not a Federal, State or Local Thing, It’s a WE thing!

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Tokyo

Moderator: Scott Morgan, Office of Planning and Research, Chief Deputy Director

Panelist: Alex Size, Trust for Public Land, Southern CA Land Protection Director

Panelist: Nuin-Tara Key, California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, Deputy Director for Climate Resilience

Abstract: Session would fall under the “Sailing with the Ocean Breeze” track: The panel will discuss federal, state, local, and non-profit collaborative efforts to meet our collective climate adaptation and resilience goals. Panelists will discuss efforts on sea level rise, agricultural and working land conservation efforts, groundwater recharge, and other projects across the state that are helping to achieve our climate adaptation and resiliency goals. Panelists will discuss, and request feedback from session attendees, on ways we might better collaborate across federal, state, local, and non-profit entities to achieve our collective climate adaptation and resilience goals. The session will include a discussion of the current partnership and Memorandum of Understanding between the Navy and the Port of San Diego related to impacts to coastal resources and the Navy and commercial ports in San Diego, as well as work at Naval Base Ventura related to wetland mitigation and sea level rise. Information will be provided on non-profit partnerships with Branches of the Armed Services on conservation efforts to provide base resilience as well as preservation of agricultural and working lands. The panelists will discuss efforts between military installations on groundwater resources that support base resiliency as well as local groundwater supply. The State panelist will discuss efforts through the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program.
