



2021 Virtual Institute Speakers

Marie Campbell, AEP Director-at-Large, President, Sapphos Environmental

Marie is principal and owner of Sapphos Environmental, Inc. She is an environmental compliance specialist with more than 35 years of experience in managing public- and private-sector projects that require strategic planning, environmental compliance documentation, and resource management. She is recognized by the Los Angeles Bar Association as an expert on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). She has extensive experience with environmental compliance documentation for capital improvement projects for transportation, energy, recreation, health care, and water. She has served as a strategic environmental advisor on complex joint environmental impact statements and environmental impact reports for projects such as multiple conventional and renewable energy projects, the Los Angeles International Airport Master Plan and subsequent improvements, China Shipping Yard, and the Los Angeles County Drainage Area. She served as the project manager for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Campus and Long Beach Memorial Master Plan. She has overseen the entitlement and environmental analysis and permitting for over 3,000 megawatts of renewable and conventional energy projects and transmission facilities in the western United States.

Marie is a 30-year member of NAEP and the California AEP. She currently serves as Past President of NAEP and Director-at-Large on the California AEP Board of Directors. Her focus as President of NAEP was to support the environmental profession, practitioners across the nation, and the people who live, work, and recreate in the communities we serve. A key objective was to educate the public regarding the value of clean water, healthful air, and the natural and cultural resources that distinguish the United States as one of the most coveted locations in which to live and visit. A key aspect of this objective was to engage in a fact-based dialogue about the symbiotic relationship between the environment and long-term economic sustainability.

Erik De Kok, Governor's Office of Planning & Research

As Program Manager for Planning and Community Development, Erik leads, coordinates, and supports the team's efforts on policy development and developing local and regional planning guidance in furtherance of the State's planning priorities and climate goals. Key focus areas include sustainable land use, housing, transportation, and infrastructure; infill development and

finance; climate action, adaptation and resilience planning; community-based investment; and social equity, public health and environmental justice.

Erik has over 20 years of public, private and non-profit sector planning experience. Prior to joining OPR, he worked as a senior project manager for seven years with Ascent Environmental Inc., and he served as a public-sector planner for nine years at the City of Sacramento. He also worked for several consulting firms in the New York City metropolitan area in community and transportation planning, and served in the AmericCorps VISTA program in Grand Rapids, MI. He holds a master's degree in urban and regional planning from Hunter College, City University of New York, and a bachelor's degree in geography from Calvin University.

Laura Ebbert, US EPA Region 9 Tribal, Intergovernmental & Policy Division Director

Laura Ebbert is the Director of the Tribal, Intergovernmental, and Policy (TIP) Division in EPA Region 9, which includes the region's Tribal, Environmental Justice, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Pacific Islands and US/Mexico Border programs. Prior to joining EPA in 2008, Laura worked in Indian Country, developing and managing environmental programs at two tribes on California's northwest coast. She also owned a consulting firm providing NEPA/CEQA documentation, meeting facilitation, and environmental project design for clients in the Pacific northwest. At EPA, she has served as a tribal grants project officer, the manager of EPA Region 9's Tribal Section, and as a senior advisor to two Regional Administrators. She has bachelor's degrees in Environmental Resource Sciences and Native American Studies and a master's degree in Public Administration. She is an enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma.

Carey Fernandes, Dudek

Carey Fernandes is a Principal at Dudek with more than 24 years' professional planning-related experience specializing in the planning, environmental, and development industries. Her diverse background of education and experience includes permit processing with local jurisdictions, coordination with public agency staff, preparation of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents, project management, due diligence, and feasibility analysis. Through this experience, she has developed a broad understanding of policy, planning, and environmental issues.

Claudia Garcia, Environmental Planner, Ascent Environmental

Claudia Garcia is an environmental planner with 6 years of experience working with a broad range of projects and environmental issues, participating in community outreach, and preparing environmental analyses for CEQA documents. She has managed and helped manage

programmatic and project-specific environmental documents for infill development projects, general plans, and specific plans. Claudia's responsibilities have included project management as well as writing, editing, and compiling the various sections of environmental documents. In her spare time, Claudia serves on the State Executive Board for the California Association of Environmental Professionals, she has been acting Director-at-Large since 2018. In addition, Claudia served as a Planning Commissioner for the City of Richmond between 2016 and 2019. During her tenure, she advocated for low-income housing projects, redevelopment of industrial warehouse space, and funding for community led beatification projects in underserved neighborhoods of the City. As a native Spanish speaker, Claudia is well versed in translating outreach materials from English to Spanish and leading small group discussions in both languages.

Vanessa Galaviz, Environmental Justice Public Health Scientist, California EPA

Dr. Galaviz is an environmental health scientist whose work focuses on addressing environmental injustices faced by underserved communities. She works to reduce exposures in predominately low-income and minority populations with multiple sources of pollution who also face occupational, socioeconomic and biological stressors. She is interested in exploring how these stressors can increase vulnerability to adverse health effects from exposure to pollution to create disproportionate health impacts. She is Mexican-American and experienced first-hand the struggles of living in an underserved community in Los Angeles, and was first in her family to attend college and graduate school. Dr. Galaviz has experience in multiple aspects of the environmental health field, including industrial hygiene/exposure assessment, air pollution, biomarkers of exposure and susceptibility, cumulative impacts, community-based participatory research, citizen science, and science-policy work. She works in partnership with communities, government, and academics to achieve environmental justice for underserved communities. She is currently leading a community engaged research project in Skagit Whatcom County to understand health disparities impacting migrant farmworker communities.

William Halligan, Esq., AEP State President, Senior Director/Senior Environmental Counsel, Harris & Associates

With over 30 years of experience as an environmental practitioner and attorney, Bill has prepared environmental documents for a diverse range of projects, including small-scale residential and large planned communities, high-rise commercial office, industrial, and mixed use. Specific key projects include the Platinum Triangle Subsequent EIR for the City of Anaheim, Irvine Business Complex Vision Plan EIR for the City of Irvine, and the LA County General Plan Update EIR. In addition, Bill had been involved in extensive discussions and negotiations with the State Attorney General's office regarding the analysis of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)

in project EIRs. Bill earned a Juris Doctorate degree specializing in environmental and land use law from the Chapman University School of Law. He is an active member of the Orange County Bar Association, and currently serves as State President for the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP). He is a frequent guest lecturer on CEQA and associated case law for AEP's CEQA Workshop Series, UC Irvine's Graduate School of Management Program, UC Riverside, and Cal Poly, Pomona. In addition to CEQA documentation, Bill also provides third-party review for legal adequacy of EIRs prepared by other consultants. His diverse background provides him with a unique understanding of planning and zoning law, CEQA, and NEPA. As a key member of AEP's Legislative Review Committee, Bill works directly with AEP's lobbyist and the State Legislature on proposed legislation related to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This includes meetings with Sacramento legislators and staff, major regulatory officials, and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. He also teaches an annual "CEQA Hot Topics" class at the Capitol for legislators and staffers.

Joan Isaacson, Principal & Senior Facilitator, Kearns & West

Joan Isaacson is a Principal and Senior Facilitator at Kearns & West with nearly 30 years of experience in community engagement, stakeholder facilitation, and urban and environmental planning. Many of her projects integrate multiple sectors – water, transportation, energy, resiliency, land use, natural resources, parks, open space, and equity. On complex regional and local projects, both government agency clients and their communities and stakeholders appreciate Joan's steady guidance in formulating and implementing effective, inclusive participatory processes. As one of the leads for Kearns & West's equitable and inclusive engagement practice, Joan has considerable experience creating public involvement processes that give voice to communities historically underrepresented as the result of historic racism and socioeconomic bias. Additionally, in her early consulting years as a planner, she managed and wrote multiple EIRs projects involving redevelopment, water and wastewater infrastructure, schools, transit, solid waste, historic resources, new communities, and parks across Southern California. This "hands on" CEQA experience gives Joan important insights for crafting public involvement programs that both meet CEQA requirements and lead agencies' objectives for meaningful community engagement.

Elsa Johnson, Environmental Protection Specialist, Rural Solar Project Director, Culture & Film Advisor, USEPA

Currently, Elsa is employed by USEPA as a Community Involvement Coordinator engaging with and educating uranium-impacted Navajo communities to ensure that the Navajo members can help shape decisions affecting their community. Johnson is responsible for four of the six Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine (AUM) Regions. Often she assists with AUM assessments and provides input on possible cultural and ecological receptors to ensure the natural law is

included in federal risk assessment. She develops Navajo specific outreach materials to achieve more awareness and public participation. Her public meetings conducted in the Navajo language details the federal remediation process and provides project updates and investigation reports translation. She and three Navajo language experts translated technical and scientific uranium terminologies to develop the Navajo Uranium Glossary for non-English speaking Navajos to understand the remediation process and clean up options.

In 2011, Johnson founded IINA Solutions, a humanitarian organization to improve the quality of life for marginalized rural Navajo residents challenged by lack of running water and electricity. Through IINA Solutions she established Plateau Solar & Wind with project partner Mark Snyder Electric. The team acquired over \$800K in grants and rolled out the first alternative infrastructure initiative in Indian Country using clean energy. Elsa raised \$100,000 in in-kind donations to supplement the grants. Fifty remote Navajo elders have improved health due to solar electrification, clean drinking water, and sanitation through this project. Her rural projects are featured in several local publications, world-wide web Solar Novus Magazine, feature article in Arizona Republic, North America Renewable Energy Magazine, and Home Power Magazine.

As a business development manager for two joint venture general contractors she sought out new markets generating over three hundred million in new construction revenue. Elsa devised the Construction 101 Workshop and took her tutorial on the road to educate rural tribal project owners on construction basics and delivery systems. Her 101 workshop is one of the most popular sessions at the annual National Construction in Indian Country Conference. Johnson believes in educating the next generation to learn to design and manage tribal projects, and to raise construction and energy systems standards that withstand the rugged and harsh conditions of rural tribal reservations.

Johnson was an ad hoc Consultant and Locations Supervisor for Lock & Key Production TV show, Extreme Makeover: Home Edition series. Her ingenuity allowed world audiences to glimpse the Hopi and Navajo cultures in the Piestewa and Yazzie episodes. Johnson and ABC-TV solicited one million dollars in donations for a new Western Navajo Veterans Office building, clothing and school supplies for disadvantaged Navajo and Hopi students in Tuba City, AZ. Her film work includes co-producing FX Network's 30 Days Life on an Indian Reservation with Academy Award nominees Morgan Spurlock and Isabel Vega. These episodes earned season's highest ratings. In 2013, she was one of four Navajos selected to translate LukasFilms' Star Wars IV: A New Hope script into the Navajo language. Johnson is also a voice actor for the Star Wars adaptation and translated the iconic line, "may the force be with you" in Navajo.

Johnson advocates for the natural environment, Indian water rights, and promotes clean energy. She educates Navajo youth to take a role in litter control, push for community recycling, and ways they can help curb the over-population of stray dogs more humanely.

Johnson has a Fine Arts degree from Arizona State University. She is one of the founders of the National Construction in Indian Country Conference (CIIC) under ASU to provide construction management scholarships for Native American students and to improve construction practices

on tribal lands. She also serves as ASU Global Resolve Impact Board Member mentoring solutions for developing countries co-created by student engineers and deprived communities around the globe.

Ms. Johnson rescues reservation stray dogs for a second chance at border town shelters. In the Rez Dogs documentary she articulates the cultural perspective on the role of dogs in the Navajo society. She has a special canine rescue by asking film crew and cast members to adopt stray dogs while filming on the reservation. Consequently, there are 15 former stray dogs from Navajo land living large in Hollywood.

Matt Klopfenstein, AEP Lobbyist, Partner, California Advisors LLP

Matt Klopfenstein is a Legislative Advocate and Partner at CalAdvisors, representing clients in legislative and regulatory arenas. Matt specializes in technology, energy, environmental, water, transportation, and local government policymaking, covering a wide breadth of high-profile issues.

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

Ethan "Red Eagle" Lawton, is a descendant of four Nations: I'm a ¼ Inuit: Iñupiat; a ¼ Sioux: Lakhóta; a ¼ Diné (commonly-known as Navajo): Bitterwater; and a ¼ Tohono O'odham (formerly known as Papago) -an enrolled member. Mr. Lawton, as an Inter-Cultural Specialist and Tribal Liaison for various entities, has worked with +50 Tribes, traveled to +100 Reservations and Tribal Lands, and interacted with Tribal members from +150 Tribes and am able to assist in bridging any gaps between people, processes, or systems by contributing to the improvement of the Tribal community through casting, developing and implementing strategic short-term and long-term plans while strengthening connections on both the collective and personal levels for the purpose of improving relationships between tribal and non-tribal entities, promoting understanding on tribal sovereignty, tribal lands (fee/trust), tribal cultural resources, consultation, and confidentiality. Mr. Lawton provides strategic guidance on the consideration and inclusion of tribal issues in the development of projects, plans, programs, and policies. Mr. Lawton has been responsible for correspondence between tribal and non-tribal entities and coordinates meetings with tribal governments and tribal community engagement. As key tribal contact, he facilitates tribal consultations (Section 106, SB 18, and AB 52), conflict management, and best practices. Mr. Lawton, having lived on the Reservation, reviews project concepts and plans, analyzes impacts, and develops mitigations unique to Reservations and tribal communities. Mr. Lawton's planning experience covers, permits, land use projects, municipal planning, and NEPA/CEQA. He provides various pieces of training on Tribal and cross-cultural topics. Having broad knowledge, pieces of training, and experience, and good working relationships with tribes, agency staff, and private clients. Mr. Lawton assists in the success of cross-cultural, multi-jurisdictional, intergovernmental, and tribal related

projects. In his spare time, Mr. Lawton likes to backpack, take road trips, visit national parks, try new foods, capture landscape photography, watch movies, play ultimate-Frisbee, and spend time with family and friends. He is a lifelong learner and loves to read, study, and learn.

Carolina Martinez, Associate Director of Policy, Environmental Health Coalition

Carolina is Associate Director of Policy for the Environmental Health Coalition. She joined EHC in 2010 as the Policy Advocate for the Toxic-Free Neighborhood Campaign's efforts in National City. She has M.A.s in Urban Planning and in Latin American Studies. Her experience includes environmental justice policy advocacy in Oxnard, California, collaborating with community groups in Orange County on cultural and social justice campaigns, and researching international labor rights.

Carolina enjoys working at the intersection of race, culture, gender, civic engagement, environmental issues, health, and city planning in the struggle for environmental justice.

Milja Miric, Sohagi Law Group

Ms. Miric advises public agencies on environmental and land use matters, focusing on issues arising under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the California Planning and Zoning Law. Ms. Miric's background working with public agencies gives her valuable understanding into how to prepare complex administrative records and advise public sector clients in CEQA litigation.

Ms. Miric graduated with a concentration in Environmental Law from Loyola Law School, earning externship credit in a public interest practice environment. During law school, Ms. Miric externed at the California Attorney General's Office, assisting the Land Law, Natural Resource and Environment Sections in administration of state and federal laws involving state lands, where she represented state agencies such as the State Water Resources Control Board, California Air Resources Board, and State Parks Department. Ms. Miric also externed at the California Coastal Commission and resolved violations of the Coastal Act at an early stage by engaging in negotiations with property owners and their representatives, as well as city governments. Ms. Miric also has experience working at nonprofit environmental law organizations including Earthjustice and Advocates for the Environment.

Rose Newberry, Dudek

Rose Newberry is a community planner specializing in climate adaptation planning and environmental justice. Her work focuses on empowering local governments through implementation based comprehensive planning documents and user-friendly regional guidance documents and tools. Ms. Newberry has extensive knowledge of climate change and environmental justice regulations as it relates to both planning requirements and available funding opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

Steve Noack, AICP, Principal, PlaceWorks

Steve has over 30 years of experience in environmental and land use planning, primarily in the San Francisco Bay Area. He specializes in preparing environmental documents on a wide range of projects, including General Plans, campus planning documents, master development plans, and transportation projects. His expertise includes day-to-day application of the California Environmental Quality Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and other State and federal environmental regulations and guidelines. Steve assembles a team of technical consultants tailored to each specific project and manages the work effort to produce cohesive planning documents. In addition, Steve provides planning analysis expertise in land use and socioeconomic studies, and he is a trained facilitator. He is also Chapter Director of AEP's San Francisco Bay Area Chapter.

Phoebe Seaton, Leadership Council for Justice & Accountability

Phoebe, a native Californian, attended the University of California, Berkeley, where she received her B.A. She then spent time in Guatemala, working to address human rights violations, and went on to complete her J.D. at the University of California, Los Angeles. Phoebe joined CRLA, Inc. following law school and worked at the organization's Delano office prior to launching the Community Equity Initiative, a program designed to address critical infrastructure and service deficits in low income, unincorporated communities in California. In 2013, Phoebe co-founded Leadership Counsel with Veronica Garibay. Phoebe is based in Sacramento and leads Leadership Counsel's state-level policy work.