



# Conference Abstracts

AEP CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE, 2022



**AEP2022**

CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE

*Strong Foundations to New Elevations*

YOSEMITE | April 10-13

### Environmental Professional: Is that the Right Choice for Me?

Sunday, April 10, 2022

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm | Room: Salon I

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#### \*Young Professional Series

**Moderator:** Emma Haines, PlaceWorks, Planner

**Panelist:** Jacqueline Protsman Rohr, PlaceWorks, Associate I

**Panelist:** Alyssa Way, Ascent Environmental, Inc., Air Quality and Climate Change Analyst

**Panelist:** Yliana Ortega, Harris & Associates, Environmental Analyst

**Panelist:** Sydnie Margallo, Wood, Inc, Environmental Analyst

**Panelist:** Noeli Topete, GPA Consulting, Environmental Planner

#### Abstract:

Transitioning from being a student into a career can be a big leap and knowing what to expect in your first year can help you find the job you want, ask the right questions in an interview, and prepare you to be a successful employee. This session is focused on introducing students and young professionals into what a career as an environmental planner can look like. This session brings together a diverse group of panelists with varying experience, degrees, and career paths. The goals for this session are to show students and young professionals what your first few years as an environmental planner may look like and to take a deep dive into topics and projects that may be typical of an entry level hire. Panelists will share their tips and tricks for landing an entry level position, experiences entering the workforce, insight into what to be prepared for and how to be successful in your first year. This session will encourage an open forum type atmosphere for students and young professionals to meet and discuss tips and tricks about early career experiences as an Environmental Planner.

## Clouds Rest

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### AEP Air Quality and Climate Change Workshop (Part 1 of 2)

Sunday, April 10, 2022

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm | Room: Salon II | Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 2.0

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**Moderator:** Michael Hendrix, LSA Associates, Inc.

**Panelist:** David Moore, Element Markets

**Panelist:** Haseeb Qureshi, Urban Crossroads, Associate Principle

**Panelist:** Rich Walter, ICF, Vice President

**Panelist:** John McDougal, Element Markets

**Panelist:** Jennifer Reed, Dudek, Air Quality Service Manager

**Panelist:** Nicole Vermilion, PlaceWorks, Principal

**Panelist:** Brian Schuster, ESA, Senior Managing Associate

#### Abstract:

In The AEP Climate Change Committee will provide an Air Quality and Climate Change Workshop to provide attendees with the latest requirements and methods of analyzing air quality and climate change impacts within CEQA. In addition this workshop will provide guidance in how to address air quality and greenhouse gas emissions for development projects in CEQA. The workshop will provide guidance in the following topics: -CalEEMod Trick of the Trade: learn how to navigate around software bugs and accurately depict projects in the latest version of CalEEMod.-. Legally defensible GHG analysis and CEQA Thresholds based on the latest Appellate Court rulings.-. How to use carbon offsets as

CEQA mitigation based upon recent Appellate Court rulings and carbon offset protocols.-. How the State will achieve Carbon Neutrality: Latest Scoping Plan Updates and plans from the natural gas industry.

## Valley Loop

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### 10 things I wish I knew before becoming an Environmental Professional

Sunday, April 10, 2022

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm | Room: Salon I

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#### \*Young Professional Series

**Moderator/Panelist:** Morgan Weintraub, RECON Environmental, Environmental Planner

**Panelist:** Darin Neufeld, AICP, Harris & Associates, Senior Project Manager

**Panelist:** Cailin Lyons, RECON Environmental, Director of Biology

#### Abstract:

Learn and discuss with panelists from diverse job backgrounds about their top 10 things they wish they knew before becoming an environmental professional. To succeed in this profession takes not only knowledge of CEQA and other regulations, but also effective communication, time management, and responsiveness. Panelists will share their advice for excelling as an early-career professional based on their experiences in the public and private sector, including communicating professionally, managing time effectively, and navigating challenges to ensure a successful career in the environmental field.

## Clouds Rest

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### AEP Air Quality and Climate Change Workshop (Part 2 of 2)

Sunday, April 10, 2022

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm | Room: Salon II | Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 2.0

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**Moderator:** Michael Hendrix, LSA Associates, Inc.

**Panelist:** David Moore, Element Markets

**Panelist:** Haseeb Qureshi, Urban Crossroads, Associate Principle

**Panelist:** Rich Walter, ICF, Vice President

**Panelist:** John McDougal, Element Markets

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### How SGMA is Reshaping the Way We Think about ‘Projects’

Monday, April 11, 2022

9:00 am – 10:30 am | Room: Salon III | Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0

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**Moderator:** Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran, Water Resources Planner

**Panelist:** Jim Blanke, Woodard & Curran, Hydrogeologist

**Panelist:** Will Medlin, Woodard & Curran, Ecologist

**Panelist:** Leslie Dumas, Woodard & Curran, Water Resources Engineer

#### Abstract:

Nearly 120 years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir embarked on a 3-day camping trip in Yosemite Valley that spurred a movement of social advocacy and legislative conservation of the nation’s natural resources that is still embodied today. The passage of the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) enacted groundwater regulation for the first time in California history representing a continued existence of Roosevelt’s and Muir’s visions to conserve the nation’s natural resources. While SGMA established a statewide framework for the management of groundwater resources, local agencies were tasked with finding a structure of groundwater management to fit their unique combination of available groundwater resources, stakeholders, financial capability, and existing regulation. As these local agencies have developed their localized Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP), questions, challenges, and opportunities have arisen. If you find complex questions and creative solutions around natural resource conservation and restoration intriguing, this is the panel for you. Join our panel of experts for an engaging discussion of SGMA’s past and future, and the current best practices and approaches. Topics for conversation will include providing insider perspectives on SGMA and GSP development; insights and knowledge learned from development of the early GSPs; and a look at the next steps of implementation. Discussing the future of SGMA implementation, our panelists will examine the challenges and opportunities associated with groundwater dependent ecosystems, land repurposing and/or field following, and opportunities the SGMA framework present to achieve multi-benefit, multi-agency, and multi-benefactor projects. The panelist will incorporate their technical expertise and experiences developing GSPs and partnering with local agencies and stakeholders to offer context, lessons learned, and best practice strategies for GSP management actions and project implementation moving forward. The panel will drive it all home with an AEP favorite topic exploring the intersection of SGMA and CEQA. Hope to see you!

## El Capitan

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### Cutting Green Tape, 30-by-30 Initiative, and SB 155 - Boosting Pace and Scale of Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration

Monday, April 11, 2022

9:00 am – 10:30 am | Room: Salon IV | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Curtis Alling, AICP, Ascent Environmental, Principal

**Panelist:** Jennifer Norris, Ph.D., California Natural Resources Agency, Deputy Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat

**Panelist:** Matt Wells, Watershed Restoration Grants Branch Chief, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

#### Abstract:

This authoritative panel will describe California’s key programs that increase the pace and scale of biodiversity-benefiting ecosystem restoration and conservation, including innovative CEQA streamlining, and provide practice pointers for their implementation. These are game-changing initiatives for ecosystem conservation and restoration in Califor-

nia. Come learn what they mean. Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-82-20 established a state goal of conserving at least 30 percent of California's land and coastal waters by 2030 and directed CNRA to develop a strategy to achieve 30x30 to protect and restore biodiversity, enable enduring conservation measures on a range of landscapes, and build climate resilience. Cutting Green Tape is focused on improving interagency coordination, partnerships and agency processes and policies to allow ecological restoration and stewardship to occur more quickly, simply, and cost-effectively. CDFW has implemented several initiatives to increase the pace and scale of restoration through permitting and granting efficiencies under its Cutting Green Tape program, which includes CEQA streamlining, innovative permitting approaches, and grant funding acceleration. SB 155, the State budget trailer bill for public resources, added Section 21080.56 to CEQA. It created a statutory exemption for a project that is exclusively one of the following: (1) a project to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend, or (2) a project to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife. A project must also: result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery and include procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment. To use the exemption, a proponent must receive concurrence of the Director of Fish and Wildlife that the project qualifies.

## Valley Loop

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### To Addend, or Not to Addend? Featuring the 'CEQA Chicken'

Monday, April 11, 2022

9:00 am – 10:30 am | Room: Salon I

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#### \*Young Professional Series

**Moderator:** Alex Hardy, Dudek, CEQA Project Manager

**Panelist:** Caitlin Munson, Dudek, Environmental Planner

**Panelist:** Jennifer Reed, Dudek

#### Abstract:

To addend or not to addend? That is the question. Whether tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of a subsequent EIR, Or to take arms against further public review troubles, And by addending avoid them. Your CEQA document has been adopted/certified and the project team is celebrating another job well done. BUT WAIT! Oh no, the applicant just couldn't help themselves and HAD to tweak the project; the engineers INSISTED on realigning some pipelines. When a project changes after a CEQA document is completed, it's up to the lead agency to assess the changes against the record and keep the project in compliance with the statute. CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 describes when changes in a project, or the circumstances in which a project is implemented, warrant preparation of a subsequent CEQA document or a supplement to the previous CEQA document, as described in Section 15163. The panel will present the content of the CEQA guidelines and offer practical translation about when it is appropriate to prepare an addendum to your CEQA document, and when a subsequent or supplement is needed, requiring additional public review. The discussion will include recent case-study examples, and with some audience interaction will ask attendees to think through the decision 'to addend or not to addend.' Experts will review foundational case law that has shaped this part of our practice and present a recent case that touched on the subsequent EIR process. The presentation is geared towards general CEQA knowledge and skills for young professionals, and those who have hit roadblocks when addressing project changes in their CEQA documents. In addition to some audience interaction, the delivery will be injected with an attempt at humor told with the help of Dudek's new environmental mascot, 'CEQA Chicken!'

## Glacier Point

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### CEQA on the Fringe

Monday, April 11, 2022

9:00 am – 10:30 am | Room: Salon V | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Kristi Black, JD, ICF, Senior Environmental Planner

**Panelist:** Ricky Caperton, AICP, City of Clovis, Deputy City Planner

**Panelist:** Claudia Garcia, AICP, ICF, Senior Environmental Planner,

#### Abstract:

CEQA can solve all your planning problems! Or, that's what many people seem to want. Members of the public are concerned about traffic congestion, decision makers care about environmental justice, everyone cares about water supply. And then there is home value, views from private homes, and so on. These concerns are real, and the pressure on CEQA practitioners to evaluate them as part of the CEQA process is, too. But what about SB 743 that tells us that traffic congestion is not a metric for significance? And what about the CEQA Guidelines' statement that economic and social impacts are not to be framed as significant environmental effects? What about the idea that evaluation of private views is not required under CEQA? What is a CEQA practitioner to do? This panel will: (1) Review some of the topics CEQA practitioners are commonly asked to address but do not fit squarely in the realm of CEQA. (2) Present thoughts on whether CEQA practitioners should address topics that are not required under CEQA. (3) Share some considerations for where, when, and how those topics should be addressed, including outside of CEQA. Panel attendees will also have an opportunity to share their own experiences and discuss relevant issues with panelists.

## Clouds Rest

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### Updated CalEEMod and CAPCOA GHG Handbook Integrates Climate Mitigation, Adaptation, and Health and Equity

Monday, April 11, 2022

9:00 am – 10:30 am | Room: Salon II | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator/Panelist:** Rich Walter, ICF, Vice President

**Panelist:** Shelley Jiang, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Climate Change Analyst

#### Abstract:

Come and learn about the latest revisions to CAPCOA's GHG Handbook and the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod)! These two commonly used tools for air quality and GHG analysis in California have been fundamentally updated and expanded. The updated Handbook provides holistic guidance for agencies, land use planners, and professionals to collectively analyze air quality emissions, climate risks, and health and environmental burdens of new projects and plans in California. The Handbook integrates these commonly separated, but inextricably linked issues to elevate environmental planning. The Handbook includes 274 emission reduction, climate risk, and health and equity measures. Quantification methods to calculate emission reductions and co-benefits (e.g., vehicles miles traveled) are provided for 86 measures based on the latest research and scientific study. The Handbook includes a novel step-by-step process to identify and score climate exposures, sensitivities, and adaptive capacities of a project to expected impacts of climate change. The Handbook was prepared in collaboration with more than 30 stakeholders from academia, agencies, community organizations, local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and



technical experts. CalEEMod (version 2022) has been completely refreshed as a web-based platform with a geospatial interface. Many of the defaults underpinning the traditional air quality and GHG calculations have been updated. The model now includes a climate risk module that automates the Handbook exposure and risk methodology. Measures from the Handbook have also been integrated into the model, including 50 health and equity measures. The outputs have been streamlined and results can now be viewed on interactive dashboards. The infusion of emissions, climate risk, and health and equity analysis into CalEEMod and the Handbook will hopefully guide the design and construction of projects and plans that achieve healthier neighborhoods and more equitable and resilient communities for years to come.

## El Capitan

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### CEQA, Dam Removal, and Restoration of the Klamath River

Monday, April 11, 2022

10:45 am – 12:15 pm | Room: Salon IV | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Dimitri Antoniou, AICP, Ascent

**Panelist:** Maia Singer, PhD, CED, Stillwater Sciences, Senior Scientist/Water Quality Specialist

**Panelist:** Lauren Dusek, Stillwater Sciences, Wildlife and Fisheries Biologist

**Panelist:** Bob Brown, AICP, SHN, Principal Planner

#### Abstract:

Removing four PacifiCorp hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River, in Northern California and Southern Oregon, represents the most significant dam removal and river restoration effort ever attempted in the United States. The dam removal project would restore native anadromous fish access to potentially hundreds of miles of mainstem river and tributary habitat and would include active riparian restoration along approximately 18 miles of river and tributary confluences currently inundated by reservoirs. In the long term, dam removal would also improve water quality, reduce the incidence of disease among salmonids, and support commercial fisheries and tribal communities that depend on Klamath Basin fisheries as an important cultural resource. This session will bring together members of the consulting team, including Stillwater Sciences and SHN, who assisted the California State Water Board with preparation of the project EIR. The panel will cover the key issues related to EIR development, including how the State Water Board as lead agency determined potential project impacts for a major environmental restoration project given the limited scope of the exception to federal preemption for Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification, with examples from water quality, terrestrial, and wildfire-related analyses, and potentially others; consideration of five project alternatives in addition to the No Project alternative; and uncertainty inherent to the transfer of project-related lands for future public use. Key to success of this large and complex CEQA project was the management of a document development process that included an 1,800-page Public Draft EIR with an additional 600+ pages of appendices, two recirculated sections of the Public Draft EIR at approximately 400 pages, and a Final EIR of over 3,300 pages, including responses to more than 2,500 individual comments delineated across 514 comment documents.

## Valley Loop

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### CEQA Streamlining - Options, Options, Options! Save time, protect environmental resources, and get to construction.

Monday, April 11, 2022

10:45 am – 12:15 pm | Room: Salon I | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Elena Nuno, Stantec, Stantec Consulting Services Inc., Principal Planner/Air Quality Scientist

**Panelist:** Trevor Macenski, Stantec Consulting Services Inc., Senior Principal

**Panelist:** Kaela Johnson, Stantec Consulting Services Inc., Environmental Planner

**Panelist:** Karen Massey, Burbank Housing, Senior Project Manager

#### Abstract:

In this workshop, experienced environmental planners at Stantec will share lessons learned and best practices as they've assisted agencies and private development clients through the process of streamlining for CEQA compliance. Some of the biggest concerns around environmental compliance are related to time, costs, and litigation around CEQA documentation. CEQA provides many options for streamlining that help with time and delay. Stantec's planners will present the various options and highlight the pros and cons of those options as they relate to a project's objectives and level of risk for standard of review. Stantec's planning team has successfully prepared multiple Infill Exemption Packages, Sustainable Communities Environmental Assessments, and Modified Initial Studies that have helped to streamline CEQA compliance for much needed housing projects in the Bay Area as well as large job producing/economic development projects. This session will also include a perspective from the project developer side focusing on affordable housing development. Best practices for agencies to attract housing projects and provide clear communication on processing requirements and expectations will be shared.

## Glacier Point

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### Approaches to Land Use Planning and CEQA Documentation for Housing Element Updates

Monday, April 11, 2022

10:45 am – 12:15 pm | Room: Salon V | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Nick Meisinger, Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc., Environmental Planning and Permitting Specialist

**Panelist:** Tom Gaul, Fehr & Peers, Principal

**Panelist:** Rachel Kwok, City of Santa Monica, Environmental Planner

**Panelist:** Kathleen Mallory, AICP, MA, LEED GA, City of Oxnard, Planning & Sustainability Manager

**Panelist:** Tom Barlett, AICP, City of Calabasas, City Planner

**Panelist:** Wes Speake, City of Corona, Mayor of the City of Corona

**Panelist:** Cally Hardy, City of Los Angeles, City Planning Associate



## Abstract:

The Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) is a state-mandated process that determines the amount of housing growth that must be planned for by each city and county in the Housing Element of their General Plan. The RHNA process begins with a projection of future statewide housing need by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, the apportionment of this need to regional councils of governments, and the eventual allocation to each city and county. There is an undeniable, ongoing housing crisis throughout the State of California. A variety of measures indicate the extent of the crisis, but the underlying cause is insufficient housing supply despite continuing population growth over recent decades. In response to this crisis, both regional allocations and many city and county allocations were significantly larger than past years' targets. This panel, which includes representation from five municipalities within the Southern California Association of Governments region, will compare and contrast planning efforts associated with the 6th Cycle Housing Element Update. The panel will discuss the various approaches to preparing CEQA-compliant documentation, with discussion topics ranging from broad issues surrounding the scope of the analysis to more specific issues including approaches to assessing air quality and human health risk, impacts to historic architectural resources, reductions in public service ratios, and utilities capacity constraints. Fehr & Peers will discuss the complexities of using the vehicles miles travelled metric in accordance with State legislation and guidance. The panel will touch on differences regarding approaches to significance thresholds, methodologies, and mitigation based on types of models, data availability, and local preferences. Finally, the panel will close with a discussion on the implementation of housing policies and programs in the context of the recently adopted SB 9 and SB 10.

## Clouds Rest

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### Fundamentals of Air Quality and Noise

Monday, April 11, 2022

10:45 am – 12:15 pm | Room: Salon II | Credits: AICP 1.5

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#### \*Young Professional Series

**Moderator:** Amy Fischer, LSA, Principal

**Panelist:** JT Stephens, LSA, Principal

## Abstract:

This session will provide a thorough overview on the basics for air and noise analyses. The noise component will address noise criteria for by different regulatory type, such as the Noise Element, Municipal or Zoning Code, and CEQA Thresholds. The presentation will include the following additional noise topics: Understanding which noise metrics are best served for which sources. Understanding nomenclature of terms like 'maximum' that often get confused and misinterpreted. What sources should NOT assessed specifically in an environmental document. How to deal with tonal or impact sources? Specific instances where noise metrics are often misused and how those issues were resolved will be discussed. The presentation will also touch on the fundamentals of vibration metrics. The remainder of the session will focus on air quality basics. The speaker will walk the audience through the CEQA checklist questions for air quality and describe how to research project impacts to prepare responses. The discussion will include identifying and evaluating the regional clean air plan and determining project consistency. Pollutants that should be evaluated in CEQA air quality studies will be described. Particular emphasis will be on determining when sensitive receptors will be effected by a project and how to determine if a health risk assessment is required. The presentation will provide an overview of the CalEEMod model.

### Ready, Set, Go! How and Why to Fast-Track CEQA for Water Projects

Monday, April 11, 2022

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Salon III | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Sally Johnson, Woodard & Curran, Water Resources Planner

**Panelist:** Melissa Whittemore, Supervising Environmental Planner/Project Manager, Rincon Consultants

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

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

**Panelist:** Haley Johnson, Woodard & Curran, Water Resources Planner

#### Abstract:

As climate change serves up more and more severe droughts, fires, and floods, water agencies across California are focused on responding to these impacts. In particular, they're looking toward the next drought and figuring out how to secure our future water supplies. Water projects are key to drought resilience (and climate change adaptation more broadly), and as California faces drier conditions, the pressure is on to complete critical projects as fast as possible. Agencies might have additional drivers for accelerating a project, like disaster recovery, funding availability, or responding to regulations. This panel will discuss reasons to fast-track your water projects and provide tips to speed up your CEQA process! Our panelists will discuss a variety of ways you can move your project along faster. We'll review CEQA approaches like exemptions, tiering, addenda, and robust MMRPs that can keep you from having to re-invent the wheel. Use these to craft your environmental document in a way that can save time as well as money, and get your project in the ground sooner! The panel will share insights on strategies such as: setting up biological and cultural studies to make the most of the time you have; coordinating with the engineering team to streamline permits and avoid re-work; reaching out to regulators early; and streamlining the public review process. Lastly, the panel will provide tips on how to ensure your environmental document sets you up for success in leveraging funding/financing opportunities, and ways to ensure your CEQA process doesn't hold up grant or loan funding for your project. Attendees will leave the session with practical tools to get environmental documents completed and approved as quickly as possible. When it is time to go, you'll have a suite of strategies for fast-tracking your critical projects!

## El Capitan

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### The 3 dB Myth: Applying Tiered Traffic Noise Thresholds and Mitigation Strategies

Monday, April 11, 2022

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Salon IV | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Josh Carman, INCE-USA, PlaceWorks, Senior Associate

**Panelist:** Dana Lodico, PE, INCE Bd. Cert., RSG, Director

**Panelist:** Deborah Jue, Wilson Ihrig, Principal & CEO

**Panelist:** James Campbell, City of Newport Beach, Deputy Director, Community Development Dept.

#### Abstract:

Vehicular traffic is one of the most pervasive sources of environmental noise. A function of the total roadway volume, mix and speed of vehicles, time of day, distance from the roadway, and presence of intervening barriers; traffic noise can be the difference between a peaceful night's sleep and another restless night. Traffic noise is more than just an inconvenience or annoyance, however; it has implications for health-based impacts and is a critical but often overlooked environmental justice and equity issue. Low-income housing units are frequently in older structures with

low-quality windows and situated near roadways with increasing traffic volumes. Additionally, the development of highway projects historically divided and isolated many once-thriving minority communities and continue to disproportionately impact them. Most environmental consultants will be familiar with the use of 3 dBA (A-weighted decibel level) as a threshold for a potentially significant traffic noise increase. Less than 3 dBA? Well, it's simply 'undetectable,' right? What if the projected heavy-duty truck mix on a roadway is higher than under existing conditions? This panel will discuss the use of tiered sets of thresholds that consider not just the overall increase-but also the existing and resulting ambient noise levels-to assess the significance of a permanent traffic noise increase. Using the City of Newport Beach, a jurisdiction that currently uses tiered traffic noise thresholds, as a case study, leading noise experts will discuss effective mitigation strategies such as sound barriers and berms (height, material types, shape, absorptive materials, and orientation) and quiet pavement (effectiveness, types, porosity, rubberized asphalt, and pavement joints).

## Valley Loop

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### Planning for the Future: A Panel Discussion on Environmental Careers

Monday, April 11, 2022

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Salon I

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#### \*Young Professional Series

**Moderator:** Kristen Bogue, Michael Baker International, CEQA/NEPA Generalist (Visual/Hazardous Materials)

**Panelist:** Jessica Ditto, Michael Baker International, CEQA/NEPA Generalist (Transportation)

**Panelist:** Kelsey Hawkins, Harris & Associates, CEQA/NEPA Generalist (Air Quality/GHG/Noise)

**Panelist:** John Boarman, Law an Greenspan Engineers (LLG), Principal Traffic Engineer

**Panelist:** Danielle Regimbal, Michael Baker International, CEQA/NEPA Generalist (AQ/GHG/Energy/Noise)

#### Abstract:

A panel of environmental professionals with a variety of backgrounds, expertise, and years of experience will discuss their career paths and how they made it to where they are today. Additionally, panelists will have an interactive discussion on the trials and tribulations students are facing when entering the career force and how students can overcome those obstacles, especially during a pandemic. Finally, a question and answer (Q&A) session will be provided at the end of the discussion for students and young professionals to connect and converse with our panelists.

## Glacier Point

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### ORVs'': Seeking a balance between Wild and Scenic, historic resources and recreation access in Yosemite National Park

Monday, April 11, 2022

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Salon V | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Melanie Greene, Senior Project Scientist, Cardno Now Stantec

**Panelist:** Katie Ross-Smith, Senior Principal- Ecology, Cardno Now Stantec

**Panelist:** Catherine Fong, Park Hydrologist, Yosemite National Park

**Panelist:** Andrea Jacobsma, Senior Project Engineer, Cardno Now Stantec

**Panelist:** Shaun Buckman, Engineer III, EIT, Cardno Now Stantec.

## Abstract:

Motivation for this project was to provide scientific and design support for restoration along a 3-mile Wild and Scenic section of the Merced River in the Yosemite Valley between Happy Isles and Sentinel bridges, a reach of great aesthetic value with on-going intensive human activity and over a century of human disturbances. Restoration is guided by the Merced Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS (2014) with complex and seemingly conflicting goals, and a focus on improving the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV). An overarching restoration goal is to protect and enhance values for which the Merced River was designated a Wild and Scenic River, while providing for present and future public use and enjoyment of those river values. However, pressure of millions of annual visitors, revetments, historic channel-spanning bridges, and valley-bottom infrastructure impact river and riparian processes and conditions, and constrain restoration designs. How do you incorporate lessons learned about these pressures and constraints, and apply the lessons to the Wild and Scenic corridor of the Merced River while accommodating the ORVs that contribute to a functioning river ecosystem? The team's approach was to understand the underlying causes of river impairment to guide development of a restoration strategy. This involved a comprehensive watershed characterization through field investigations and hydraulic modeling. Impacted areas were ranked for their enhancement potential considering natural and human-made constraints. Restoration concepts were developed that incorporate bioengineering, planting, riprap removal, and floodplain reactivation to restore the riparian corridor, channel-floodplain processes and in-channel habitat, thereby improving ORVs. The NPS is committed to improving visitor experience, while protecting natural resources for present and future generations. Visitor use and other man-made constraints will continue to be challenges in sustaining natural resources, but by considering them as part of the designs, we hope that goals will be achieved.

## Clouds Rest

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### Vegetation's Turn to Have Its Day in the Sun - Carbon Storage and Sequestration of Natural and Working Lands

Monday, April 11, 2022

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Salon II | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Jennifer Reed, Dudek, Air Quality Services Manager

**Panelist:** Mike Howard, Dudek, Senior Biologist

**Panelist:** Ryan Allen, Dudek, Urban Forestry Specialist

**Panelist:** Sarah Halterman, Dudek, Air Quality Specialist

## Abstract:

Carbon sequestration is a process by which carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere and stored in a carbon reservoir, such as vegetation. Although natural and working lands (NWL) can remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and sequester it in soil and vegetation, disturbances such as severe wildfire, land degradation, and conversion can cause these landscapes to emit carbon dioxide that was previously stored. California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update emphasized the critical role of managing our NWL to further reduce greenhouse gases and maintain them as a resilient carbon sink. California has also developed an NWL Implementation Plan to evaluate a range of implementation scenarios for NWLs and to identify long-term sequestration goals that can be incorporated into future climate policy. It is clear that California's NWL plays an important role in our achieving our state's public health and climate goals; however, very few carbon storage and sequestration assessments for NWL have been conducted at the local or regional jurisdictional level, and the data and methods for conducting these assessments are just now becoming standardized. Because carbon storage spans many subject areas, a multi-disciplinary effort (forestry, biol-

ogy, climate change, GIS, etc.) across different sectors (public, private, and academic) is one way this analysis is being tackled. And, there are numerous tools being used?? the California Emissions Estimator Model based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Climate Action Reserve Forest Project Protocol, i-Tree, InVEST, the Carbon Online Estimator, and TerraCount. Our panel will present the technical and policy foundation of this interesting topic and examine case studies using different tools such as the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (TBD), Tejon Ranch Ranchwide Carbon Storage Study (spreadsheet-based), City of San Diego Public Works Department Carbon Storage Study (InVEST), and San Diego Regional Carbon Study (TerraCount).

## Yosemite Falls

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### Nuances of Groundwater CEQA Analysis

**Monday, April 11, 2022**

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Salon III | Credits: AICP 1.5**

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**Moderator:** Eric Schniewind, Dudek, Environmental Geologist/Haz Materials Specialist

**Panelist:** Jill Weinberger, PhD, PG, Dudek, Principal Hydrogeologist

**Panelist:** Trevor Jones, Dudek, Hydrogeologist, PhD

**Panelist:** Carey Fernandes, Dudek

#### Abstract:

Determining CEQA-related groundwater impacts is not always a straight-forward process. Practitioners need to take a more nuanced approach, considering other impacts from mixing waters of varying quality, seawater intrusion or other contamination, groundwater-surface water interactions; lowering well levels or even raising groundwater levels that can flood basements, orexacerbating liquefaction hazards. When planning a project, including a groundwater monitoring program as mitigation to address potentially significant impacts associated will help make the project more successful. Groundwater modeling can be completed to evaluate existing groundwater conditions and how the proposed changes might affect flow patterns and water levels. Typically, groundwater supply impacts can be evaluated through review of a project-specific Water Supply Assessment, applicant-provided will-serve letter, local Urban Water Management Plan, and/or a Groundwater Sustainability Plan. This panel will cover case studies of CEQA projects where a more nuanced approach to groundwater impacts led to successful results. Experts will discuss some of the complications in completing an impact analysis, how to identify other sources of potential significant impacts, effective resources for analysis, as well as what makes for a defensible mitigation measure.

## El Capitan

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### The Project Burner! Considerations for Ever Changing CEQA Wildfire Regulations

**Monday, April 11, 2022**

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Salon IV | Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0**

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**Moderator:** Michael Huff, Dudek, RCA, Urban Forestry/Fire Protection Planning Practice L

**Panelist:** Dana Link-Herrera, Dudek, Urban Forestry/Wildfire Planner and Aesthetics Spe

**Panelist:** Marc Campopiano, Latham and Watkins LLP

**Panelist:** David Sibbet, San Diego County Fire Protection District, Deputy Fire Marshall

## Abstract:

What moves faster than a wildfire in high winds? California's policies and regulations pertaining to wildfire, that's what! The regulations change rapidly and can substantially impact how consultants should approach CEQA Wildfire analyses. Consultants responsible for completing wildfire impact analysis should consider the evolving regulatory requirements and evaluate the project appropriately based on the existing fire environment. What questions should CEQA experts be asking so you won't get burned? What should be included in your Wildfire analysis? Should a focused fire assessment, fire modeling, or fire protection plan be prepared to support the CEQA analysis? Is it ok to scale down the analysis for an infill project outside of the wildland urban interface? How do the latest regulations impact CEQA wildfire analysis? How extensive should evacuation analysis be and does the project need an evacuation plan? Join this session and bring your tough project questions for this experienced panel. This panel will include points of view from a land use attorney, a consultant planner, a fire protection planner, a fire prevention officer, and a municipal planning project manager. These experts will discuss important considerations for completing comprehensive wildfire analysis that directly responds to the significance threshold questions as well as addresses various project related indirect impacts that can stop projects, even after successfully surviving the typically rigorous decision maker process.

## Valley Loop

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### An Introduction to CEQA Transportation Impact Analysis and the Transition to VMT

Monday, April 11, 2022

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Salon I

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#### \*Young Professional Series

**Moderator:** Ronald T. Milam, AICP, PTP, Fehr & Peers, Director of Evolving the Status Quo

**Panelist:** Panelist: Delia Votsch, PE, Fehr & Peers, Senior Engineer

#### Abstract:

Complying with CEQA expectations when analyzing transportation impacts has been quickly evolving due the changes associated with Senate Bill (SB) 743. This session is designed to help young professionals and students understand these expectations and provide some historical reference for why the state has transitioned to VMT as the primary metric for transportation impacts. Analysis methodology, thresholds, and feasible mitigation will all be addressed based on the CEQA Statute, Guidelines, and case law to provide a solid foundation for those new to transportation impact analysis.

## Glacier Point

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### Co-Powerment: Learning from Advocacy Groups to Develop Shared Solutions, Address Priorities, and Create Change.

Monday, April 11, 2022

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Salon V | Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0

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**Moderator:** Elena Nuno, Stantec, Principal Planner/Air Quality Scientist

**Panelist:** Grecia Elenes, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, Senior Policy Advocate

**Panelist:** Caroline Farrell, Center for Race Poverty and the Environment, Executive Director

**Panelist:** Scott Lichtig, CA Attorney General's Bureau of Environmental Justice



## Abstract:

Co-powerment is the acknowledgment of equal power held by residents, communities, partners, decision makers, and other stakeholders and the ability to work together to leverage expertise to truly develop shared solutions to address priorities and create change. What can land use agencies and CEQA practitioners learn from community advocacy groups to better inform land use decisions, improve environmental compliance, and ensure that programs and policies do not disadvantage, but rather benefit, low-income communities of color. This panel conversation will be focused on key areas of interest including affordable housing, climate change, safe and affordable drinking water, environmental justice, equitable investment, and government accountability. The panel will discuss efforts that can be implemented in areas that are already pollution burdened and share best practices for inclusive outreach, accessibility, and responsiveness.

## Yosemite Falls

### Cutting Edge Then - Outdated Now: The Challenges of Meeting Modern Educational Needs and Maintaining Historic Facilities

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

8:45 am – 10:15 am | Room: Salon III | Credits: AICP 1.5

**Moderator:** Julian Capata, Massetti Consulting, LLC, Environmental Programs Manager

**Panelist:** Carey Upton, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, Chief Operations Officer

**Panelist:** Andrew Goodrich, AICP, Architectural Resources Group, Senior Associate, Architectural Historian & Prese

**Panelist:** Paul Travis, AICP, Historic Resources Group, Managing Principle

## Abstract:

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) adopted Board Policy 7113: FACILITIES- Historical Resources in 2021 for the purpose of outlining objectives and establishing procedures for the treatment of historical resources on district campuses. SMMUSD owns over 15 educational sites, which together contain over 100 individual buildings, some of which date from the mid-20th century or earlier. Some of these buildings might be or may contain elements that potentially have historical significance. In addition to the Board Policy, the District also prepared Administrative Regulation 7113, which requires preparation of historic resource inventories (HRI) for each campus prior to approval of a master plan or design of a school facilities project in order to identify any historical resources on the campuses. In the spring of 2021, the District retained Historic Resources Group and Architectural Resources Group to prepare HRIs of five elementary school campuses and two middle school campuses ahead of implementation of proposed Campus Plans. The HRIs included outreach to stakeholder groups, including the Santa Monica Conservancy, detailed site visits and literature review. The District desired to respect the historic fabric of its schools with the new campus plans. The District undertook the HRIs in the effort to strike a balance between preserving the historic fabric of its schools while supporting the District's core mission of 'extraordinary achievement for all while simultaneously closing the achievement gap' by promoting conditions that foster student health and academic success. The panel will discuss the challenges of designing for 21st century students when the classroom is a model of 20th century educational philosophy; working with the various stakeholders; and balancing the needs of preservation and new construction. Unlike converting a bank to a restaurant, educational facilities have very specific programs and functions, so can the old meet the needs of today's students?

## El Capitan

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### Mitigation Measures, how they get implemented may change the way you write them.

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

8:45 am – 10:15 am | Room: Salon IV | Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0

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**Moderator:** Stephanie Standerfer, Albert A. Webb Associates, Vice President

**Panelist:** Brian Knoll, PE, Albert A. Webb Associates, Chief Operating Office

**Panelist:** Cheryl DeGano, Albert A. Webb Associates, Principal Environmental Analyst

**Panelist:** David Smith, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP, Associate

**Panelist:** Kristine Day, City of Beaumont, Assistant City Manager

#### Abstract:

Our panel will be comprised of an Engineer, CEQA Attorney, Assistant City Manager and a seasoned CEQA Practitioner. The Moderator-lead discussion will first start with a brief tutorial as to what CEQA says makes the most defensible mitigation measures. We will then explore some real-world scenarios experienced by the panelists where mitigation measures became problematic to implement in the real world — either through engineering logistical limitations, costs from the Lead Agency perspective, or legal risk. We will provide an interactive portion where the audience will get to participate in the dissection and/or creation of mitigation measures that will not run into trouble later when trying to be implemented. The panel will also then discuss what happens when mitigation measures need to be changed for various reasons after CEQA is complete, and offer strategies for doing so. The audience is encouraged to bring their own real-world examples of when mitigation measures went bad.

## Valley Loop

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### The Push for Affordable Housing: How to Make Sure Your CEQA Document is Positioned to Help Your HUD NEPA Document

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

8:45 am – 10:15 am | Room: Salon I | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Elena Nuno, Stantec, Principal Planner/Air Quality Scientist

**Panelist:** Trevor Macenski, Stantec Consulting Services Inc., Senior Principal

**Panelist:** Megan Basinger, City of Santa Rosa, Interim Director

**Panelist:** Stacey Parks, Stantec Consulting Services Inc., Senior Scientist

#### Abstract:

With the increased push for affordable housing in CA coupled with increased federal spending; more and more housing developments are needing to complete NEPA reviews. This Panel will present on HUD's new EA eGuide and the updated changes based on the October 22, 2021 guidance. Provide case studies of CEQA and NEPA documents as case studies and provide municipalities with tips and tricks for your CEQA and NEPA document compliance.

## Glacier Point

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### How VMT is Changing Transportation Impact Mitigation in CEQA Documents

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

8:45 am – 10:15 am | Room: Salon V | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Tim Erney, AICP, PTP, CTP, Kittelson & Associates, Inc., Senior Principal

#### Abstract:

With the 2013 adoption and 2020 implementation of Senate Bill 743 (SB743), city, county and state agencies have needed to revamp their approach to determining transportation impacts from Level of Service (LOS) to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)-based metrics. With these changes, traditional mitigation measures are no longer applicable, and agencies are having to develop innovative approaches to address increases in VMT per capita and VMT per employee for new development projects. To start, the panelists will discuss the challenges of accurately estimating VMT from travel demand models and differences in VMT methodologies and thresholds. From this information, there will be a roundtable discussion on how different types of VMT reduction programs, including the use of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) techniques and mitigation banks and exchange programs, can be utilized to address citywide and regional VMT impacts. Blending viewpoints from both public agency staff and industry experts, the session will include the pros and cons of different mitigation approaches, how measures will need to be incorporated into environmental documents, how to document the efficacy of mitigation measures and evidence to support VMT reductions, the potential for legal challenges, and issues with consistency with previously adopted general/specific plans. In addition, the panelists will share their thoughts on how the changes in transportation analysis requirements under CEQA will continue to evolve as the state-of-the-practice advances through court rulings and new rules/regulations. The panel will include consultants who specialize in the preparation of environmental documents and transportation analysis, plus city/agency staff in community development and planning departments.

## Clouds Rest

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### Legal Professionals' Guide to Carbon Offsets

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

8:45 am – 10:15 am | Room: Salon II | Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0

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**Moderator:** Michael Hendrix, LSA Associates, Inc.

**Panelist:** Jennifer Reed, Dudek, Air Quality Services Manager

**Panelist:** John McDougal, Element Markets

**Panelist:** Danielle Morone, Gatzke, Dillon, & Ballance LLP., Partner

**Panelist:** Brian Schuster, ESA, Senior Managing Associate

#### Abstract:

This panel discussion will provide the criteria needed to develop legally defensible carbon offsets using established protocols and the judgments in a series of Appellate Court cases in San Diego County to highlight what is needed to use carbon offsets as legally sound CEQA Mitigation. The panel will discuss two carbon offset projects, one unsuccessful, and one successful to provide real world examples of lessons learned and how carbon offsets can successfully weather court challenges. The panel will consist of an attorney, a carbon offset verifier, a planner from the University of California (UC) in charge of the UC System carbon offset program, and the AEP Climate Change Committee.

### Multi-Jurisdictional Wildfire Planning through Joint Powers Authorities

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

10:30 am – 12:00 N | Room: Salon III | Credits: AICP 1.5

**Moderator:** Tania Treis, Panorama Environmental, Principal

**Panelist:** Anne Crealock, Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, Planning and Program Manager

#### Abstract:

This session will provide the audience with a detailed example of how a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) can be used for multi-jurisdictional wildfire planning and implementation. The Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) was formed with the passage of Measure C and includes 17 tax authorities. The JPA was formed to address comprehensive wildfire prevention, education, and emergency management. The entity is comprised of a board, operations led by fire officials and town managers, and a technical advisory committee. The benefits of the model include taxpayer dollars dedicated to fire prevention activities that benefit the communities and a more cohesive approach among entities with a legal framework to plan and fund various types of work. Speakers will address the formation of the JPA and the funding mechanism, which includes an annual budget of nearly 20 million dollars. Our panel will also address the types of work covered by the MWPA, ranging from wildfire detection, notification, evacuation, physical projects to reduce fuel, planning projects, defensible space, grant management, and public education. The session will also provide more details on the nuts and bolts of the Annual Work Plan process that is the foundation of this comprehensive approach. We will discuss how the planning is implemented, compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act, permitting, and implementation. Implementation is also being supported through the preparation of a comprehensive manual that describes the various methods and tools to perform the work, from outreach through use of Categorical Exemptions and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Vegetation Treatment Plan Program Environmental Impact Report. Our session will provide this information through a discussion of a few of the successes from the 2021 Work Plan.

## El Capitan

### Opening the Golden Door: A Deep Dive into Defensible Mitigation

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

10:30 am – 12:00 N | Room: Salon IV | Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0

**Moderator:** Peter Minegar, AICP, Michael Baker International, Associate Vice President/Department Manager

**Panelist:** Yara Fisher, AICP, Helix Environmental Planning, Inc., Principal Planner

**Panelist:** Mark Teague, AICP, Placeworks, Principal

**Panelist:** Fareeha Kibriya, Michael Baker International, Planning Department

#### Abstract:

Are you devoting enough time to developing mitigation measures? Are you considering the practicality of how they will be implemented? With the recent Golden Door V. County of San Diego ruling, CEQA practitioners were harshly reminded of the fact that an EIR can lose in court based on mitigation measures alone. As CEQA practitioners, we often limit the amount of time and careful consideration required to develop measures that meet the requirements of CEQA, while also satisfying a range of stakeholders and decisionmakers. This session will take a deep dive into the challenging questions surrounding developing defensible and effective mitigation measures. How do we create mitigation measures that can be effectively implemented and monitored by agency staff? How should the Golden Door deci-

sion influence how we prepare all mitigation measures (not just those related to GHG) moving forward? How do we navigate the fine line between deferring mitigation versus deferring analysis? To answer these questions, we will dive into the CEQA guidelines, explore recent court cases, and evaluate real-life examples of mitigation measures gone wrong to inform best practices that should be utilized when preparing mitigation measures for every project.

## Valley Loop

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### The Federal Funding Frenzy: What If My Project Receives Federal Funding?

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

10:30 am – 12:00 N | Room: Salon I | Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0

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**Moderator:** Ryan Bensley, AICP, LSA, Associate/Senior Environmental Planner

**Panelist:** Christina Maxwell, AICP, LSA, Senior Environmental Planner

**Panelist:** Alisha Winterswyk, Best Best & Krieger LLP, Partner/Attorney

**Panelist:** Jennifer Clark, AICP, City of Fresno, Director

**Panelist:** David Lewis, Riverside County Transportation Commission, Capital Projects Manager

#### Abstract:

Within the first year of the Biden Administration, the proposed once-in-a-generation infrastructure package has dominated many conversations surrounding the federal budget. The Biden Infrastructure Plan is unique not only due to its substantial price tag, but also in the scope of the improvements beyond what is typically considered infrastructure. Federal, state, and local agencies are now seeing opportunities for federal funding to be available for not only highways, bridges, and transit, but also for hospitals, education, broadband, veterans facilities, remediation, utilities, and public housing. Many agencies already have projects programmed in their Capital Improvement Programs and are looking to begin the procurement process, or they may be mid-way through environmental clearance and design but are now considering the implications of procuring federal funds. In this panel session, planning and legal experts will discuss the requirements that come into play if a project receives federal funds. In particular, this session will discuss what constitutes a federal nexus and triggers NEPA, joint CEQA/NEPA documents for a single lead agency, the process for managing separate CEQA and NEPA lead agencies, specific lead agency requirements that may come into play depending on the funding allocation (e.g., Caltrans Local Assistance, State Revolving Funds), the shelf life of CEQA documents and supporting studies and/or permits, and additional environmental topics required for NEPA (e.g. Section 4(f), Section 106).

## Glacier Point

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### Diversity and Inclusion - From Public Involvement to Mitigation, Traditionally Marginalized and Underrepresented Groups

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

10:30 am – 12:00 N | Room: Salon V | Credits: AICP DEI 1.5, MCLE 1.0

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**Moderator:** Chad Moffett, Mead & Hunt, Inc., Market Leader, Cultural Resources

**Panelist:** Richard Sucre, Deputy Director, Current Planning Division, Southeast Team, Historic Preservation & Planning Information Counter, San Francisco Planning Department

**Panelist:** Helen Blackmore, Branch Chief, Architectural History, Office of Cultural Resource Studies, Caltrans, District 4

**Panelist:** Shannon Davis, Director, Architectural History, ASM Affiliates

## Abstract:

Environmental justice, racial equity, and the inclusion of traditionally marginalized and underrepresented groups is an important topic. Little guidance exists to support municipal, state and federal agencies relative to the purposes of CEQA, Section 106 review under the National Historic Preservation Act and other regulations. While there is academic literature, it is unclear how these efforts are filtering into the on-the-ground practice to assess the effects to historic properties associated with these groups. This session emphasizes the urgency of dialogue and education. As a first step, greater awareness of the ways that public involvement can better ensure inclusivity is needed. These efforts may result in more meaningful mitigation measures when impacts on historical resources are unavoidable. This session will provide an overview of the opportunities to better identify and engage traditionally marginalized and underrepresented groups. Speakers will provide a review of resources available and share innovative approaches on how agencies and practitioners can address this topic. Speakers will discuss the development of Cultural Districts in San Francisco and work in Nevada to engage the Latin@ community. The examples will highlight strategies to increase the effectiveness of public outreach to these groups. Speakers will then discuss the importance of developing meaningful mitigation measures for the affected communities. Speakers will highlight how Caltrans provided creative mitigation in the city of San Diego, along with strategies to develop meaningful mitigation that went beyond the traditional practices and standards. The session will include training and a list of tools that can be used for both public involvement and finding more meaningful dialogue through a project.

## Yosemite Falls

### Navigating the Challenges and Pitfalls of Cultural Resources Management

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Salon III | Credits: AICP 1.5

**Moderator:** Tony Overly, ESA, Cultural Resources Practice Lead

**Panelist:** Monica Strauss, ESA, Southern California Cultural Resources Director

**Panelist:** Michael Vader, ESA, Cultural Resources Specialist

**Panelist:** Dr. Margarita Jerabek-Bray, ESA, Architectural Historian, Art Historian, and Historic Preservation Consultant

## Abstract:

Addressing cultural resources within both state and federal regulatory contexts is becoming increasingly more complex. This session will examine how lead agencies and project applicants can best navigate the multi-jurisdictional requirements of CEQA, NEPA, and Section 106 of the NHPA as well as avoid some pitfalls borne out in new case law, changing regulation, and evolving policy. Important court decisions provide clarification to aspects of the environmental review process as it relates to cultural resources. Some implications of *League of Protections for Architectural and Historic Resources v. City of Oakland* (1997) 52 Cal.App.4th 896, *Madera Oversight Coalition, Inc. v. County of Madera* (2011) 199 Cal.App.4th 48, and *Save the Agoura Cornell Knoll v. City of Agoura Hills* (2020) 46 Cal.App.5th 665, will be reviewed with regard to 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. Even without shifts in case law, the successful coordination and integration of Section 106 consultation within NEPA or CEQA review timelines has always been challenging. Changing CEQ regulations and increased importance placed on environmental justice are also starting to drive shifts in official policy further changing cultural resources compliance. When, taken as a whole, these trends are signaling changes in norms and legal expectations for what comprises reasonable timelines, sufficient analysis, appropriate impact disclosure, and best practices for mitigation for cultural resources compliance.



## El Capitan

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### Law, Ethics & CEQA

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Salon IV | Credits: AICP Law 1.5, AICP Ethics, MCLE 1.0

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**Panelist:** Nic Cardella, Wanger Jones Helsley PC

**Panelist:** Hunter Castro, Wanger Jones Helsley PC

## Valley Loop

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### Warehouse-A-Ware- Ness

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Salon I | Credits: AICP 1.5, MCLE 1.0

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**Moderator:** Jennifer Reed, Dudek, Air Quality Services Manager

**Panelist:** Sarah Owsowitz, Best, Best and Krieger, LLP, Of Counsel

**Panelist:** Haseeb Qureshi, Urban Crossroads, Associate Principal

**Panelist:** Chantal Power, AICP, Interwest, Senior Planner

**Panelist:** Patrick Cruz, Dudek, Project Manager

#### Abstract:

As we rely more and more on online retail, warehouses are increasingly becoming an integral part of our economy and landscape with no signs of slowing down. Attention from environmental groups, opposition, and public agencies, such as the California Air Resources Board, on warehouse development is also growing. With this increased interest, preparing a legally defensible environmental analysis is critical. Given their unique characteristics, there are a lot of complexities to consider when evaluating a warehouse project, such as properly selecting the correct trip generation rate to use, identifying the correct methodology to assess VMT (does long-distance truck VMT count?), and tailoring assumptions to accurately capture emissions from long-distance heavy-duty truck trips. Adding to the intricacy is that warehouses are often built speculative for a yet-unidentified tenant; how do you adequately evaluate potential impacts under this scenario? And what about environmental justice concerns? This panel with extensive warehouse experience will present best practices for preparing California Environmental Quality Act analyses for warehouse/logistics development projects. They will cover all the nuances of warehouse development. Did you know that a key assumption that needs to be nailed down is whether a warehouse would include cold storage/refrigeration or not? If not, then this panel is for you! If so, then please join us for a lively discussion!

## Glacier Point

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### EPA Grants? Explore how EPA Grant funds can accelerate community planning and environmental review.

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Salon V | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Neil Doran, Principal Geologist, Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

**Panelist:** Drew Wilson, Supervising Planner, City of Fresno

**Panelist:** David Holmes, ES Technical Leader for Brownfields (US), Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

## Abstract:

The US EPA provides millions of dollars for community based planning to help incentivize the redevelopment of distressed communities. This panel will explore how to help position your community to apply for funds, provide case studies on how funds have been utilized in the past, and how you can leverage federal dollars to help with the revitalization effort within your community.

## Clouds Rest

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### Rising to the Challenge of Carbon Neutrality

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm | Room: Salon II | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Sam Ruderman, Ascent Environmental, Climate Change Analyst

**Panelist:** Elaine Marshall, City of Milpitas, Deputy Public Works Director

**Panelist:** Abby Young, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Climate Protection Manager

**Panelist:** Hannah Kornfeld, AICP, Ascent Environmental, Air Quality and Climate Change Specialist

## Abstract:

Since the adoption of California's greenhouse (GHG) reduction targets, hundreds of cities and counties throughout the state have adopted local climate action plans (CAPs). The first generation of CEQA-qualified CAPs focused primarily on meeting a 2020 target, aligning with the State's goal of reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. The second generation of CEQA-qualified CAPs focus on achieving GHG emissions reductions consistent with the State's 2030 GHG reduction target, but what happens after that? With political momentum, a change in federal leadership, Climate Emergency declarations, and California's carbon neutrality goal for 2045, how will public agencies continue to successfully mitigate GHG emissions and what do CEQA-qualified CAPs look like after 2030? Our panelists will provide unique perspectives from the local, regional, and state levels regarding plans, policies, and pathways to reduce GHG emissions beyond 2030. Progressive CAP updates, new CEQA GHG thresholds, California's 2022 Scoping Plan, and more! This session aims to showcase how local agencies are planning for long-term climate change mitigation, what air districts are doing to help, and how the State is preparing the path for this transition. If you are excited to dive into the details about how California can meet its post-2030 GHG emissions reduction goals, this session is for you! Join us for a discussion about how your agency can climb towards a low-carbon future in California!

## Yosemite Falls

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### Understanding the Complex Evolution and Practice of AB 52

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Salon III | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Heather McDaniel McDevitt, RPA, Dudek, Archaeologist

**Panelist:** Kristin Starbird, Dudek, CEQA Project Manager

**Panelist:** Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians (Chumash), Tribal Chair

**Panelist:** Adam Kanold, Montecito Water District, Assistant General Manager / Engineering Manager

## Abstract:

Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) established a new relationship between public agencies and Native American tribes, defining a new class of resources and impacts under CEQA. It has been over 5 years since AB 52 was signed into law and implementation of the bill has proven more complex each year as the practice of tribal consultation becomes more dynamic and challenging. This panel will consider how AB 52 and the coordination between lead agencies, tribes, and CEQA practitioners has developed from each participant's perspective. In retrospect, is AB 52 being practiced in the manner each panelist envisioned at its inception? What are the pitfalls of current approaches to AB 52? How can AB 52 be implemented differently or more effectively? How do both entities in the 'government to government' process adequately ensure that the original spirit of the bill is retained and exercised properly? The implementation process of AB 52 can be rigorous, especially considering the different goals, pressures and considerations of lead agencies, Native American tribes, cultural resources experts, and CEQA practitioners. This panel will discuss lessons learned and offer recommendations and candid dialogue between the participants presenting the varied perspectives of the process. The goal of this panel is to provide a better understanding of the AB 52 process and its execution so that a greater appreciation for diverse perspectives can be reached and a good working understanding of the bill can eventually be gained.

## El Capitan

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### Public Outreach: Fostering Community Participation in the Preparation of Successful Planning and CEQA Processes

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Salon IV | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Gina Sawaya, Wood PLC, Environmental Analyst

**Panelist:** Taylor Lane, Wood PLC, Project Manager

**Panelist:** Nick Meisinger, Wood PLC, Project Manager

**Panelist:** John Parke, County of Santa Barbara, 3rd District Planning Commissioner

**Panelist:** Matthew Wilkins, KTUA, Associate

**Panelist:** Jill Van Wie, County of Santa Barbara, Capital Division Manager

## Abstract:

Public outreach and stakeholder engagement are essential components in local and regional programming and planning, as well as the development of project and program CEQA compliance documents. Developing an effective stakeholder and public outreach program is a critical tool for informing the planning process and addressing the needs and concerns of both key stakeholders and members of the public. The best programs, plans, and projects are those that infuse public and stakeholder feedback into planning processes for popular, logical results and plans. However, each agency may take different approaches to fostering public participating, and CEQA provides little guidance on how to develop and facilitate effective community outreach, and how best to incorporate the results of these outreach efforts. Our panel of experts will discuss strategies for developing outreach campaigns that can achieve a balance between the needs and concerns of public and the budgetary and schedule constraints of the planning and CEQA process. We'll be talking about what considerations should be made with respect to public participation when initiating the planning and CEQA process, identifying who should be engaged through the process, what platforms and tools are best for engaging with stakeholders and the public, and what to do with the feedback that is received. We'll discuss several different projects with different approaches, but with similar goals of achieving an informed and effective planning process with popular buy in. Such projects include the Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan EIR, Santa Barbara County Active Transportation Plan, and Santa Barbara Countywide Recreation Master Plan. The focus will be on strategy, effective tools, key considerations, and potential pitfalls for agency staff, planners, and CEQA practitioners, so bring your questions and 'what ifs'. Attendees will learn about the best available planning tools, analysis methodology, and approaches to navigate the outreach process.

## Valley Loop

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### MMRPs That Have It All: Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Programs that work for CEQA, CEQA-Plus, Permits, and Grants

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Salon I | Credits: AICP 1.5

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**Moderator:** Jennifer Ziv, Woodard & Curran, Water Resources Planner

**Panelist:** Haley Johnson, Woodard & Curran, Water Resources Planner

**Panelist:** Sally Johnson, Woodard & Curran, Water Resources Planner

#### Abstract:

What is a perfect mitigation measure? Could you (yes, you!) implement it? Is it clear, feasible, specific, and robust, with measurable performance metrics? Does it check the boxes for CEQA, CEQA-Plus, permitting and funding requirements? Often, CEQA Mitigation Measures are not easily executed. Mitigation Measures must be crafted with a wide audience in mind; they will be implemented by the lead agency and construction contractors, monitored by permitting and funding entities, and relied upon for successful public outreach. An effective MMRP keeps all stakeholders in mind and follows current best practices set forth from the Guidelines and case law. This presentation covers nuts and bolts and best practices for MMRPs. If there are multiple steps, make clear what happens at each and where offramps are. Incorporate permitting and grant administration requirements in your MMRP. Know the lead agency's standard measures. We present examples that detail responsibilities: the 'what' 'who' 'when' that make MMRPs work for everyone. We invite the audience, young professionals, and students to read and discuss successes and shortcomings of example MMRPs. This panel will highlight MMRPs from two water supply projects constructed simultaneously in the San Dieguito River Valley. The MNDs met CEQA-Plus standards to streamline NEPA concurrence should the lead agency, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, pursue federal funding. The MMRPs tracked measures required by City of San Diego, USFWS and CDFW alongside CEQA-Plus Measures. Mitigation addressed impacts in the quiet lagoon on listed birds, residences, and San Dieguito River water quality. Mitigation Measure tracking for funding of the West Bay Sanitary District Recycled Water Project in Sharon Heights will be presented. State Revolving Fund disbursements are tied to demonstration each quarter that measures are implemented. Mitigation Measures are clearly written so construction contractors can successfully document compliance and funding disbursements are processed without delay.

## Glacier Point

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### CalVTP: CEQA's Role in Increasing the Pace and Scale of Wildfire Resilience

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm | Room: Salon V | Credits: AICP 1.5

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

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

**Panelist:** Shannon Johnson, CA Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, Acting Deputy Chief, Environmental Protection

**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 PEIR for a qualifying later activity. Learn if CalVTP and its Program EIR can help your agency or community more quickly reduce wildfire risks.