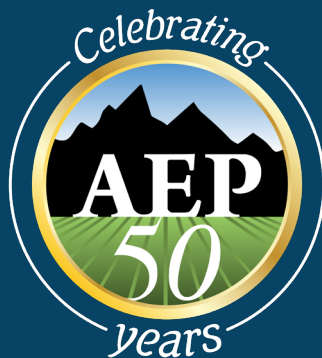


**AEP 2024 CONFERENCE**



**JW MARRIOTT ANAHEIM | MARCH 24-27, 2024**

# Panelist Biographies





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# Panelist Biographies

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**Panelist:** Aaron Allen, PhD, North Coast Branch Chief, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Biography:** Dr. Aaron Allen is the Chief of the North Coast Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Los Angeles District Regulatory Division. His 30-year USACE career has included assignments as a Senior Project Manager and as the Los Angeles District Technical Expert in Dryland Fluvial Geomorphology. Aaron is a regular presenter at national and regional conferences on many issues related to wetland regulations.

**Panelist:** Aaron Gabbe, PhD, Regional Conservation Director, RCA/Riverside County Transportation Commission

**Biography:** Aaron Gabbe has over 14 years professional experience leading stakeholder-driven regional Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, and non-regulatory conservation plans (Regional Conservation Investment Strategies) across a wide range of landscapes and natural communities for a diversity of endangered and threatened fauna and flora in California and Oregon.

**Panelist:** Alan Ashimine, Michael Baker International

**Biography:** Alan Ashimine manages the Environmental Sciences Department of Michael Baker International's Santa Ana office. He is a recognized leader in the practice of preparing CEQA and NEPA documents, and has extensive experience in the research, analysis, and writing of environmental documentation for projects of varying degrees of complexity and controversy. Alan has 23 years of experience and expertise working on environmental documents for regional and local transportation projects. He has managed a range of highly technical CEQA/NEPA studies for locally funded roadways, federally funded local roadways, and projects on the State Highway System. He has expertise working with the Caltrans Standard Environmental Reference (SER) and Local Assistance Procedures Manual (LAPM).

**Panelist:** Alan Fenstermacher, Partner, Land Use and Entitlements, Rutan & Tucker, LLP

**Biography:** Alan Fenstermacher is a partner and Assistant Section Head of Rutan & Tucker LLP's Land Use and Entitlement section, where he specializes in land use and regulatory issues, handling both litigation and transactional matters for public and private clients. He particularly specializes in ensuring compliance with CEQA, including oversight of CEQA document preparation. He also has a substantial amount of experience advising public agencies on the wide variety of issues they face, both as general counsel and special counsel, and currently serves as the City Attorney for the City of Poway. Alan has extensive litigation experience, handling cases involving CEQA, eminent domain, inverse condemnation/takings, fair housing, public contracting/procurement, easement and other real property disputes, and a wide variety of other real estate, land use, and environmental issues, including federal Clean Water Act and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act cases. His litigation experience is critical to informing his transactional advice, as he is well aware of the potential CEQA-compliance pitfalls his clients may face.

**Panelist:** Alex Garber, Senior Technical Planner, EPD Solutions, Inc.

**Biography:** Alex Garber has over 5 years of experience in the areas of environmental and traffic planning and analysis and 3 years of experience with air quality, energy, and greenhouse gas analysis. Alex has prepared transportation planning analyses for projects ranging from focused access studies to vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and level of service (LOS) analyses for large mixed-use projects. Additionally, Alex has experience writing and completing air quality, energy, greenhouse gas, and health risk assessments; preparing spatial analyses using GIS software; and writing CEQA documents. The types of projects Alex has worked on include residential, industrial, commercial, institutional, solar utility, and mixed use at a development level, and specific and general plans at a planning level. Alex has also showed valuable leadership at EPD Solutions by starting the air quality, energy, greenhouse gas, and health risk assessment discipline, as well as developing the transportation skills of new hires.

**Panelist:** Ali Pezeshkpour, AICP, Planning Manager, City of Santa Ana

**Biography:** Ali Pezeshkpour serves as the Planning Manager for the City of Santa Ana and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). He has been working for the City of Santa Ana since February 2011, where he oversees sections and efforts in long-range and advance planning, development processing, public counter, historic preservation and urban design, neighborhood initiatives, environmental justice efforts, and cannabis programs. His environmental experience includes EIRs of various sub-types, MNDs, complex exemptions, and various addenda, including a successful addendum to a 1983 EIR. In addition to working for the City, Ali serves as a part-time adjunct professor for the Rancho Santiago Community College District, where he has taught courses on urban planning and ordinance writing to aspiring code enforcement professionals. Prior professional positions include those with the Cities of Sacramento and Colton and with Mintier Harnish Planning Consultants. Ali holds bachelor's degrees in Community & Regional Development and French from the University of California, Davis and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of California, Irvine. When he is not planning, Ali enjoys playing the piano, writing Wikipedia articles, traveling and camping, and cooking.

**Panelist:** Alisha Winterswyk, JD, Partner, Best Best & Krieger, LLP

**Biography:** Alisha Winterswyk's practice centers on advising public and private clients on an array of federal and state environmental laws, with a specific focus on CEQA and NEPA. A partner in Best Best & Krieger LLP's Environmental Law & Natural Resources practice group, she regularly counsels clients on the substantive and procedural mandates of CEQA/NEPA. Throughout her career, she has reviewed and/or drafted hundreds of CEQA-related documents. As a former assistant city attorney to several southern California cities, Alisha has extensive experience advising planning, engineering, and public works departments. She served as an adjunct law professor at Whittier Law School where she taught California environmental law and has guest lectured at several other Southern California universities on environmental and land use matters, and she frequently speaks on CEQA and land use issues at professional conferences, seminars, and continuing legal education events. Alisha is an advisor and former secretary to the California Lawyers Association Environmental Law Section Executive Committee and the past director and president of the Orange County AEP.

**Panelist:** Alison Imamura, Principal Engineer, Monterey One Water

**Biography:** Alison Imamura is an environmental engineer with a demonstrated history of working in the utilities industry and consulting. She is skilled in all phases of project development, including planning, grant writing, environmental review and permitting, design, compliance, and construction management. Alison is a Professional Engineer and certified planner with a bachelor's degree focused in Civil and Environmental Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and a master's degree in Environmental Engineering from University of California, Berkeley.

**Panelist:** Alison Spindler-Ruiz, Planning Bureau Manager, City of Long Beach

**Biography:** As a systems thinker and relationship builder, I seek to support community health, development, and equity initiatives by leveraging my skills in strategic planning, management, civic engagement and evaluation while applying topical expertise gained through my dual Masters in Urban Planning and Public Administration.

**Panelist:** Amanda Daams, Of Counsel, Best Best & Kreiger

**Biography:** Amanda Daams is of counsel in Best Best & Krieger LLP's Environmental Law & Natural Resources practice group. She assists clients on all issues related to CEQA, NEPA, and associated environmental laws. She takes a pragmatic approach to solving difficult land use issues and advising clients on CEQA, NEPA, the Planning and Zoning Law, the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act, the Subdivision Map Act, and related laws. Amanda has significant experience working with both clients and consultants on various environmental documents, including EIRs, NDs, and addendums, and assisting clients with CEQA exemption determinations. She has reviewed and advised on hundreds of environmental documents, including those related to general plan updates; large-scale specific plans; residential, commercial, mixed use, industrial, and transportation projects; and mining projects across California. She also advises on cultural resources issues (including obtaining permits for a federally recognized Native American Tribe) and environmental justice concerns. Amanda assists clients with the public review process, including assisting public agencies with resolutions and ordinances regarding both CEQA compliance and necessary land use findings. She advises on issues pertaining to the Public Records Act and has successfully defended project approvals in court. Amanda also guides clients through the regulatory approval process and in their pursuit of federal, state, and local permits, including permits from the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She assists clients with the Local Agency Formation Commission process and represents clients before airport land use commissions. Amanda is very active in AEP, serving as the Chapter Director for the Inland Empire Chapter and planning CEQA workshops. She is also a graduate of Leadership Riverside, a program to develop the next generation of leaders by the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce.

**Panelist:** Amanda Dwyer, Sales and Business Development Manager, Westervelt Ecological Services

**Biography:** Amanda Dwyer currently serves as the Sales and Business Development Manager for Westervelt Ecological Service's Western Region Office. In this position, Amanda coordinates with a variety of clients to identify their mitigation needs and possible solutions to ensure their projects are completed in a cost-effective and timely manner. Prior to joining Westervelt Ecological Services, Amanda worked at the California Department of Water Resources doing environmental permit compliance for salmonid restoration projects in conjunction with water infrastructure improvements for California's State Water Project. Amanda received her bachelor's degree in 2014 from the University of California, Davis in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning.

**Panelist:** Amanda Tropiano, Principal, De Novo Planning Group

**Biography:** Amanda Tropiano is a principal with De Novo Planning Group and is responsible for leading the firm's southern California practice. Amanda has successfully managed a wide variety of land use and environmental planning projects for public- and private-sector clients, including numerous general plans, specific plans, corridor plans, strategic plans, sustainability programs, visioning projects, transit-oriented development plans, zoning documents, outreach programs, and CEQA projects. Amanda is an International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)-trained public outreach practitioner and has completed project management training with PSMJ. Amanda also supports the land use due diligence efforts of clients throughout southern California and assists with navigating public agency planning procedures, reviewing existing regulatory direction, facilitating the entitlement process, and serving as a liaison between public agencies and private developers.

**Panelist:** Amy Fischer, President, LSA

**Biography:** Amy Fisher is LSA's President/Chief Operating Officer and serves as a principal/project manager for CEQA/NEPA documents on a variety of development and infrastructure projects. She focuses on responsive project management, innovative problem-solving, and dedication to client needs. With 20 years of experience in environmental studies, Amy has performed principal-level review or conducted more than 200 CEQA/NEPA-related and/or standalone air quality and GHG impact studies for community plans, development projects, and infrastructure improvements. She has a comprehensive knowledge of the CEQA requirements for air quality districts throughout California. Her experience is in assessing both plan- and project-level air quality impacts ranging from criteria pollutant analysis to dispersion modeling and health risk assessments using the latest air quality modeling tools. She is skilled in air quality assessment models including the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod), Emission Factor models (EMFAC/OFFROAD), the Road Construction Estimator Model (RoadMod), and Line Dispersion Models (CALINE). She designs emission reduction strategies to reduce project-specific air quality impacts.

**Panelist:** Andee Leisy, Senior Partner, Remy Moose Manley LLP

**Biography:** Andee is a senior partner at Remy Moose Manley LLP, an environmental and land-use law firm located in Sacramento, California. Her practice focuses on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the California Planning and Zoning Law, and related environmental and land-use laws. She represents and advises public agencies, private companies, developers and citizens groups in administrative proceedings and in trial and appellate litigation.

**Panelist:** Andrew Martin, Senior Climate Action/Adaptation Planner, Ascent

**Biography:** Andrew is a Senior Climate Action/Adaptation Planner in Ascent's San Diego office. He has 18 years of diverse public and private sector experience in local and regional planning throughout California, with an emphasis on managing complicated and controversial climate planning projects for cities, counties, and other public sector clients. Andrew also focuses on the intersection of CEQA and climate change issues. He is well-versed in CEQA requirements for the tiering and streamlining of GHG emissions and has overseen the preparation of several CAPs that serve as CEQA-qualified plans for the reduction of GHG emissions. Andrew previously served as a Regional Planner for the San Diego Association of Governments. He holds a master's degree in City Planning from San Diego State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from California State University, Long Beach.

**Panelist:** Angela Lagneaux, Senior Conservation Planner, Westervelt Ecological Services

**Biography:** Angela Lagneaux is a Senior Conservation Planner for Westervelt Ecological Service's Western Region Office. In this position, Angela oversees the entitlement process for mitigation bank and turn-key mitigation projects. Prior to joining Westervelt Ecological Services, Angela worked as an environmental consultant supporting environmental compliance efforts for a variety of transportation, utility, and development projects throughout California. In her prior role, Angela developed compensatory mitigation plans to address project impacts on biological resources. Angela received her bachelor's degree in 1999 from the University of California, Davis in Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology.

**Panelist:** Angie Harbin, Director of Natural Resources, Rincon Consultants

**Biography:** Angie Harbin is a Director of Natural Resources for Rincon Consultants. She works out of their San Diego office and serves as the Director for projects throughout southern California. Her primary expertise lies with wildlife studies and Endangered Species Act compliance, although she has spent much of her 20+-year career helping clients develop creative mitigation solutions. She has worked in a variety of habitat types throughout California and draws upon her broad experience in regulatory permitting, wetlands, wildlife, and conservation ecology to develop feasible and collaborative solutions to complex land use planning issues. In doing so, her clients garner project approvals but also contribute to long-term conservation of native plant and wildlife species habitats. Angie is an alumnus of University of California, Davis, having received her Bachelor's degree in Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology and her master's degree from the Graduate Group in Ecology.

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

**Biography:** For the last two decades, Anne Crealock has worked in environmental planning, natural resources, water resources, climate adaptation, and fire resilience. While working for a water district in Sonoma County, she helped create and lead a collaborative effort to improve fire resilience to improve forest health, watershed health, and public safety and protect water resources. A case study describing her work in the Lake Sonoma

watershed is featured by the Governor's Office of Planning & Research as part of the Integrated Climate Adaptation & Resiliency Program's Adaptation Clearinghouse. After the devastating fires of 2017, Anne trained to become a wildland fire fighter to help conduct prescribed burns across the North Bay and continues to serve on the steering committee of a prescribed burn association. She also led the County's team for natural resources recovery after the Glass and Walbridge fires of 2020. Anne's passion for fire resilience and climate adaptation brought her to the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) in 2021 as the new Planning & Program Manager. One of her first tasks was to work with consultants (Panorama) to build an environmental compliance program to address wildfire risk reduction projects thoughtfully and efficiently. To date, well over 30 projects have gone through environmental compliance and are currently being implemented, including two projected through the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) with two more in progress. ANNE HOLDS a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Studies and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Studies.

**Panelist:** Arthur Black, Principal Transportation Planner, LSA

**Biography:** Mr. Black has prepared traffic, parking, and VMT analyses for numerous land development projects throughout a 17 year career. He prepared the Orange County Sustainable Communities Strategy in 2010 and Long Range Transportation Plans for Orange County in 2014, 2018, and 2022. With the statutory change to analysis of VMT, Mr. Black and LSA have prepared VMT analysis guidelines for multiple jurisdictions throughout the state.

**Panelist:** Audrey Herschberger, PE, Oregon, Project Engineer, Dudek

**Biography:** Mrs. Herschberger has over twelve years of experience in environmental consulting. Starting in the Pacific Northwest, her career began with due diligence and permitting compliance in Oregon and Washington. For the last four years, she has been completing due diligence projects and hazardous materials assessments in California, with a focus on CEQA evaluations.

**Panelist:** Austin Kerr, Air Quality & GHG Analyst, Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Biography:** Austin Kerr is an Air Quality & GHG Analyst in the Planning & Community Development team, where he focuses on implementation of the SB 7 Program. Austin provides guidance about the quantification of GHGs associated with projects seeking Environmental Leadership and Development Project certification. As a CEQA practitioner, Austin brings more than 20 years of experience preparing air quality, GHG, and noise sections of Environmental Impact Reports for land use development and infrastructure projects. He has also managed preparation of CEQA guidance on behalf of air districts and CARB and more recently examined the role of carbon offsets as GHG mitigation. Austin has also overseen the preparation of Health Risk Assessments and noise constraint analyses to support local long-range planning and CEQA documentation. Austin spends his free time coaching youth sports and enjoys traveling and the outdoors.

**Panelist:** Bill Maddux, Urban Crossroads

**Biography:** Bill has over eighteen years professional experience in the field of environmental impact assessment with a primary focus in noise impact analyses including ambient noise measurements, noise modeling for stationary and mobile sources, identifying appropriate thresholds, and development of mitigation measures. Joe has worked on public and private projects in San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, and Kern Counties.



**Panelist:** Brian Leslie, Senior Coastal Scientist / Project Manager, GHD

**Biography:** Brian Leslie leads teams of engineers, scientists, architects, and environmental practitioners to deliver multi-faceted coastal resiliency projects. Brian received a Bachelor of Science in Oceanography from Florida Institute of Technology and a Coastal Engineering Certification from Old Dominion University. Brian has 20 years of experience as a Coastal Scientist, working both in the public and private sectors.

**Panelist:** Brian Mooney, FAICP, Senior Principal, RICK Engineering Company

**Biography:** Brian Mooney is the Senior Principal of the Planning + Design Division at Rick Engineering Company. He has over 45 years of experience specializing in community planning, public outreach, environmental analysis, research, and development of public policy. His extensive experience includes preparation of General and Specific Plans for counties, cities, and tribal governments throughout California that integrate sustainable environmental and cultural values into land use, mobility, and design policy. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor at the New School of Architecture and Design for City Planning. Brian is a member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners and has won numerous awards for his work including a several documentary films he wrote, produced, and narrated, including “The Nolen Plan: Vision, Politics and Memory in San Diego;” “Changing Faces, Changing Places,” examining the need for diversity in the planning profession; and the recently released “Connecting Paradise,” examining visionary planning, cultural diversity, and leadership in the San Diego region from past to present.

**Panelist:** Brian Schuster, Director of Air Quality, Climate, and Acoustics, Environmental Science Associates

**Biography:** Since 2007, Brian has been providing project management and technical air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) services for public and private agencies throughout California. He has developed, planned, and implemented multiple Climate Action Plans (CAPs), and brings extensive emissions modeling and technical air quality and GHG leadership for many prominent and complex CEQA and NEPA projects. In his CAP work, Brian designs comprehensive GHG emissions inventories, evaluates GHG emission reductions from a wide variety of measures, authors planning documents, and engages stakeholders through outreach. He is also a member of the Association of Environmental Professionals Climate Change Committee. Brian has experience conducting pollutant dispersion modeling using AERMOD and CALINE, modeling emissions using CalEEMod, EMFAC, OFFROAD, WARM, and ClearPath (Brian is a former member of the SEEC technical advisory committee). As Project Manager, Brian led CAP projects for the counties of San Bernardino, Sonoma, Marin and Los Angeles, and for the City of Ontario. Brian has also designed a number of interactive excel models for clients, including GHG inventorying tools, a lifecycle GHG waste tool, a health risk assessment screening tool, GHG reduction measure planning tools, and GHG reduction measure implementation tracking tools.

**Panelist:** Bruce Griesenbeck, Senior Associate, Fehr & Peers

**Biography:** Bruce is a senior associate with over 35 years of experience specializing in travel demand forecasting. For the past 17 years, Bruce worked for SACOG, most recently managing SACOG’s internal Data & Analysis group. While with SACOG, Bruce led the development of SACSIM, the first demand simulation/activity-based travel demand model used for preparation of a regional transportation plan and Clean Air Act approval. Bruce coordinated the preparation of three successful Sustainable Community Strategy submittals to CARB (2012, 2016, and 2020), a key element of implementing California’s greenhouse gas reduction policies. Bruce also participated in the statewide working groups involved in implementation of SB 743 and the changeover from LOS to VMT as a primary CEQA measure of transportation system performance and led efforts within

the region to evaluate approaches for measuring VMT and mitigating VMT impacts. In September 2022, Bruce joined Fehr & Peers to assist clients in developing unique and innovative transportation analysis approaches and has led the investigation of how to use infill housing as a VMT mitigation solution.

**Panelist:** Caitlin Gilleran, Senior Project Manager/Senior Planner, Panorama Environmental

**Biography:** Caitlin Gilleran is an experienced environmental consultant who has been conducting research, preparing compliance documents, and ultimately managing complex projects since 2010. During the most recent half of her career, she has focused on ecological restoration, wildfire resilience, and fuel management projects and programs. She was integral to the finalization of several programs, including, but not limited to, the Marin Municipal Water District's Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan; the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Wildland Fire Resiliency Program and refined Prescribed Fire Plan; and the University of California's Vegetation Management Plan for the Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve. Most recently, she is managing the development and implementation of the environmental program for the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) alongside the MWPA Planning and Program Manager. As part of this program, Caitlin has prepared a detailed Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Project Processing Manual; conducted extensive coordination with the MWPA member agencies to assist them in refining fuel and vegetation management projects; led the preparation and filing of over 30 environmental compliance documents; coordinated with environmental stakeholders, the public, agencies, and land managers; and designed training and implementation compliance oversight programs. Caitlin acquired a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Management and Protection, which has served as the foundation of her career.

**Panelist:** Caitlin Greenway, Staff Air Pollution Specialist, California Air Resources Board

**Biography:** Ms. Greenway is a Staff Air Pollution Specialist in the Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division of the California Air Resources Board (CARB). She leads interagency work on funding programs and initiatives that support implementation of regional Sustainable Communities Strategies. She previously served as one of CARB's regional liaisons to Metropolitan Planning Organizations in implementing Senate Bill 375, Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008. Specialties: criteria pollutant and GHG quantification and analysis, land use and transportation planning, environmental planning, sustainable development, green building principles, water conservation, pollution prevention, regional planning, waste management, stormwater, sustainable business practices, Title V, LEED, Clean Air Act, energy efficiency technologies and CEQA/NEPA.

**Panelist:** Cara Lacey, AICP, Associate Program Director, Climate, The Nature Conservancy

**Biography:** Cara Lacey is an urban and regional planning professional. She is currently Director of the Wildlife Corridors and Crossings Program and Associate Program Director in the Climate Program in California with The Nature Conservancy. Prior to The Conservancy, she was the Head of the Project Planning Division at the County of San Diego. Before moving to San Diego, Cara worked as a professional planner on the east coast in New York City; Durham, North Carolina; and West Palm Beach, Florida. She focused on using Transfer of Development Rights/Credits to preserve environmentally sensitive lands and agriculture in Florida while balancing development opportunities. Cara holds a master's degree in Urban Planning specializing in International Development and Peacebuilding studies from the Wagner School of Public Service and the School of Professional Studies at New York University. She also leads the Climate Program's Housing project (a very new endeavor for The Conservancy) to find better housing solutions by reducing sprawl, protecting land and enabling equitable affordable housing, to protect people, animals, and nature.

**Panelist:** Carey Fernandes, AICP, CEQA Practice Lead, Dudek

**Biography:** Carey Fernandes is currently the CEQA Practice Lead for all Dudek offices in California. She has over 25 years as a practicing environmental planner and currently serves on the Board for California APA. Carey started her career with Brian at Mooney and Associates.

**Panelist:** Casey Shorrock, Attorney, Somach Simmons & Dunn

**Biography:** Casey Shorrock, an associate at Somach Simmons & Dunn, is a seasoned advisor in environmental and land use law. With a background in environmental consulting and planning, she offers a holistic perspective, integrating legal strategies with practical insights. Casey has worked with agencies at all levels of government, managing the environmental review process for a variety of successful development and infrastructure projects. She has been recognized as a Rising Star by Northern California Super Lawyers for 2023-2024 and is a member of the California Association of Environmental Professionals. Casey's deep roots in the Sacramento community, coupled with her extensive national and international travels, bring both local and broader perspectives to her work. She attended McGeorge School of Law on a full merit scholarship as an Anthony M. Kennedy Fellow and received the Stauffer Charitable Trust Research Fellow Award for her paper on environmentally responsible and streamlined development in California.

**Panelist:** Chelsea Maclean, Partner, Holland & Knight LLP

**Biography:** Chelsea Maclean is an attorney in Holland & Knight's West Coast Land Use and Environment Practice Group who counsels clients on all aspects of land use development. She regularly advises institutional investors, lenders, developers, landowners, lessees and lessors, and governmental entities with regard to land use restrictions and agreements, as well as entitlement processing and permitting requirements. Clients throughout California call on Chelsea for assistance in obtaining general plan, zoning, use permit, variance, and other entitlement approvals and permits on the West Coast. She counsels on all aspects of regulatory compliance under federal, state, and local laws, with a particular concentration on CEQA, Planning Law, Subdivision Map Act, State Density Bonus Law, and housing laws such as the Housing Accountability Act, SB 330, SB 35, and AB 2162. Specifically, Chelsea's CEQA experience includes helping clients ensure adequate analysis of greenhouse gas, transportation, air quality, noise, and other impact issues facing transit-oriented and urban infill development, and she is also well-versed in the implementation of tiering, streamlining, and exemption mechanisms.

**Panelist:** Chelsea Richer, AICP, Principal, Fehr & Peers

**Biography:** Chelsea Richer has 13 years of experience in transportation planning, focusing on ways to encourage people to diversify their travel patterns to include low-carbon modes—first/last mile planning, multi-modal safety, VMT reduction policy, and transportation demand management (TDM). She leads Fehr & Peers' companywide discipline group on Climate Change & Resilience. Chelsea has a bachelor's degree in public policy from the University of Chicago and a master's degree in Urban Planning from UCLA.

**Panelist:** Cheryl DeGano, Practice Area Leader, Environmental Services Dept. Albert A. Webb Associates

**Biography:** Cheryl DeGano is the Practice Area Leader for WEBB's Environmental Services Department. Cheryl oversees the development and implementation of the QA/QC process, provides technical leadership, and trains and develops associates. Cheryl also manages the preparation and approval of high-profile, complex, CEQA and planning documents for public and private sector clients including the preparation of responses to lengthy

and litigious comments. Cheryl is experienced in the analysis of construction noise using the Federal Highway Administration's Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM). During her 30 year consulting career, in addition to environmental analysis, Cheryl has been responsible for the preparation and processing of development impact fee (Nexus) studies per California Government Code 66000 et seq., government reorganization through LAFCO, and has assisted public agencies and private sector clients finance public facilities/services through the formation and administration of special finance districts. Cheryl has been a panelist and moderator at prior AEP State Conferences.

**Panelist:** Chris Ganson, Air Resources Engineer, California Air Resources Board

**Biography:** Chris Ganson is an Air Resources Engineer at the California Air Resources Board, and he previously spent 10 years at the Governor's Office of Planning and Research serving as Senior Advisor for Transportation under Governors Brown and Newsom, where he led the implementation of SB 743. He has also held positions at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the World Resources Institute, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9, and Caltrans. Chris holds master's degrees in City Planning and Transportation Engineering and a bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences, all from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Panelist:** Christopher Koontz, AICP, Director of Development Services, City of Long Beach

**Biography:** Christopher Koontz, AICP, serves as the Director for the City of Long Beach Development Services Department. He provides leadership and support for the Building, Code Enforcement, Administrative and Financial Services, Housing and Neighborhood Services, and Planning Bureaus and takes an active role in CEQA compliance. He is leading efforts to implement the City's new General Plan Land Use Element, reform the Zoning Code, address and adapt to climate change, and process an unprecedented investment in the City through public and private development projects. He originally joined the City of Long Beach in 2015 as the Advance Planning Officer, overseeing long-range, environmental, historic, and mobility planning. In 2018 he was promoted to the role of Planning Bureau Manager and in 2020 to Deputy Director. Prior to joining the City of Long Beach, Christopher held leadership positions at Los Angeles World Airports (LAX) and the City of Los Angeles. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Policy, Planning and Development and a Master of Urban Planning, both from the University of Southern California.

**Panelist:** Christy Ryan, CPSM, Marketing Director, Ascent

**Biography:** Christy Ryan, Ascent's Marketing Director, has always been fascinated by the natural world and the environmental challenges we face. She started her career as an environmental scientist, conducting fieldwork, evaluating data, and preparing scientific and regulatory reports. Later, she discovered her passion for marketing and joined Ascent, connecting clients with expert practitioners to assist with their complex and confounding planning and environmental challenges.

**Panelist:** Cindy Kinkade, Project Director, AECOM

**Biography:** Cindy Kinkade has 20+ years of experience leading complex and high-profile CEQA/NEPA documents, with a particular focus on transportation improvements and related enhancement projects for Caltrans, District 11 and the San Diego Association Of Governments. She led the consultant team at AECOM for the Coronado Bay Bridge Suicide Deterrent Project MND and continues to lead teams for programmatic evaluation of broadband infrastructure in Caltrans ROW. Cindy has led CEQA/NEPA, permitting, and compliance for two key lagoon restoration enhancements tied to I-5 North Coast Corridor.

**Panelist:** Claudia Garcia, AICP, Principal Planner, City of Berkeley

**Biography:** Claudia Garcia is a principal planner and the environmental review officer at the City of Berkeley. As part of the current projects team, she oversees environmental review of development projects, code enforcement, and those pesky ministerial actions! In her spare time, Claudia serves as a director-at-large for the AEP State Board and is charged with conference awards and student outreach. A trivia tidbit about Claudia is that she served as a Planning Commissioner for the City of Richmond.

**Panelist:** Daniel Swenson, DEnv, Senior Permitting Specialist, Environmental Science Associates

**Biography:** Dr. Daniel Swenson is a senior permitting specialist at Environmental Science Associates (ESA) who served as a regulator with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for 20 years, including as a Regulatory Section Chief for the Los Angeles District. He led a team of project managers, overseeing the review of complex permit applications under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. His primary responsibilities at ESA include providing project management; permitting strategies; preparation and review of permit applications and supporting documentation such as wetland delineations, alternatives analyses, and habitat mitigation and monitoring plans; and advising his clients and ESA staff regarding the most current regulations governing aquatic resources. Previously, Dr. Swenson was the Regulatory Branch Chief for the Baltimore District covering Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C.

**Panelist:** Darin Neufeld, AICP, Director, Harris & Associates

**Biography:** Darin Neufeld has over 17 years of experience in environmental planning and project management, 8 of those working for lead agencies. He specializes in sustainability and CEQA compliance and has experience with renewable energy, climate action planning, adaptation and resilience, sea-level rise, and long-range planning projects. He has managed complex projects, including climate action plans, general plan elements, community plans, climate action plans, and large-scale renewable energy projects. Darin is a member of the AEP Bay Area Chapter Board and AICP.

**Panelist:** Diego Velasco, AICP, Principal and Founder, Citythinkers

**Biography:** Diego Velasco is a native San Diegan who has been practicing design and planning in the San Diego region for more than 20 years. Over this timespan, Diego has worked closely with multiple communities in San Diego and across California. His work spans all scales and contexts, from affordable infill housing to campus planning, specific plans, master plans, design guidelines, and recently, coastal resilience planning for private- and public-sector clients alike. As a practicing architectural designer, a Certified Planner, and an academic, Diego advances our region's conversation about urban design through work that is grounded in the community.

**Panelist:** Dina Gass, Senior Engineer, PlaceWorks

**Biography:** Dina is a member of the Environmental Planning team and Technical Services Group at PlaceWorks. She provides technical support related to hydrology, water quality, and utilities, including third-party peer reviews, water supply assessments, written verifications of supply, and utility capacity reports. Dina also processes, oversees, and manages CEQA projects as a project manager and contributes research, analysis, and review "particularly in the fields of water quality, hydrology, utilities, and hazards and hazardous materials" and prepares CEQA-compliant documents. Dina came to PlaceWorks with eclectic experience in the fields of sustainability, environmental engineering, and sustainable watershed management. She was an assistant professor of sustainability and an environmental engineer in the Gulf and Caspian regions.

**Panelist:** Dr. Michael Anderson, State Climatologist, Dept. Water Resources

**Biography:** Michael Anderson is the State Climatologist for California, a collaborative position between the State and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration to provide climate data services for the state. Michael began working in the Department of Water Resources Division of Flood Management (DWR-DFM) Forecasting Section in July 2005 and became State Climatologist in 2007. He came to DWR after extensive graduate and postgraduate work at U.C. Davis in the area of hydroclimate system modeling, monitoring, and evaluation. He received his Ph.D. in 1998 and M.S. in 1993 in Civil and Environmental Engineering from UC Davis. He received his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University in 1991. As State Climatologist, Dr. Anderson has managed the atmospheric river research program working with the academic community and local and federal agencies to improve the understanding of these key contributors to flood events in California. He has contributed to the State's climate change assessments and has provided guidance to the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan since its inception in 2012. Currently Dr. Anderson works in the Executive Division of the Department of Water Resources providing technical knowledge and advice for climate resilient resources management in a changing climate.

**Panelist:** Elena Nuño, Air Resources Specialist, Dudek

**Biography:** Elena Nuño (she/her) is an air resources specialist with 19 years of experience in environmental consulting and project management. She provides analysis and documentation for CEQA and NEPA compliance and project management support for a variety of public and private projects. Her technical specialty is preparing thorough and legally defensible air quality and GHG impact assessments using air quality models, such as the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod), Caline-4, AERMOD, and MOVES3, that accurately characterize a project's impacts and provide applicable strategies or mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts. Elena has been involved as an AEP Central Chapter Board member since 2007 and is currently serving as the Chapter Director.

**Panelist:** Eli Krispi, Senior Associate, PlaceWorks

**Biography:** Eli Krispi works on planning projects to reduce environmental impacts, increase resiliency to a changing climate, and address equity and justice issues. As a planning and sustainability professional, he draws on experience implementing sustainable policies, a science-based education focused on the nexus of the built environment and the natural world, and a data-driven analytical approach to problem solving. Eli's work includes climate action and adaptation plans, public safety and hazard plans, and environmental justice and resilience strategies, along with comprehensive planning efforts. His current projects include the Contra Costa County General Plan and Climate Action Plan, the Solano County regional Safety and Environmental Justice Element updates, and the City of Salinas General Plan and Climate Action Plan, among many others.

**Panelist:** Elizabeth O'Donoghue, Director, Sustainable & Resilient Communities, The Nature Conservancy

**Biography:** From 2006 to 2009, Liz O'Donoghue served as the Director of External Affairs, where she oversaw the California program's engagements with government and stakeholders at the federal, state, county, and local levels. From 1999 to 2006, she worked at the western regional headquarters of Amtrak, first as Director of Communications, Government, and Public Affairs, then as Director of Strategic Planning. From 1993 to 1999, Liz served as legislative assistant for U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, specializing in transportation and natural resource policy. Before that, she worked in a public policy firm in Princeton, New Jersey, consulting with major corporate clients on environmental, health care, and transportation issues. Liz holds a B.A. in Government from Oberlin College and a Business Administration certificate with distinction from U.C. Berkeley Extension.

**Panelist:** Elizabeth Pollock, Senior Associate, Remy Moose Manley, LLP

**Biography:** Elizabeth Pollock is an attorney at Remy Moose Manley, LLP, where she focuses on CEQA, NEPA, Planning and Zoning Law, and other environmental and land use laws. She represents agencies, private applicants, and community organizations throughout all phases of the administrative entitlement processes and writ litigation. She also teaches Planning and Environmental Law at UC Davis Continuing and Professional Education. A trivia tidbit about Elizabeth is that she has raised two service dog puppies for Canine Companions for Independence.

**Panelist:** Emily Capello, Senior Manager, Panorama Environmental

**Biography:** Emily Capello has worked in environmental planning and permitting since 2007 focusing on infrastructure projects that support solutions to climate change and adaptation. She authored sections for the first wave of modern solar thermal and solar photovoltaic CEQA/NEPA documents in California. After several years of working on individual projects, she was part of the management team for County and Bureau of Land Management planning documents to address the influx of renewable development in California. Since starting at Panorama in 2020, Emily has taken an active part in the permitting of vegetation and fire management project for the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority and managed several Project Specific Analyses for shaded fuel breaks and fuel reduction zone projects that each held individual value while also tying into a larger overall fire resiliency strategy. She began her career as a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay and holds a master's degree in Environmental Science and Policy.

**Panelist:** Emma Rawnsley, Senior Environmental Planner/Project Manager, AECOM

**Biography:** Emma Rawnsley has nearly 20 years of environmental planning experience and has managed CEQA and/or NEPA environmental review documents for a wide range of projects throughout California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. A self-professed "CEQA Nerd," she co-leads AECOM's internal CEQA-NEPA Practice Circle, sharing best practices, latest developments, and lessons learned with AECOM's team of environmental professionals. Emma has been a Board Member of AEP's Monterey Bay- Silicon Valley Chapter since 2017 and currently serves as Chapter President.

**Panelist:** Eric Sundquist, Acting Deputy Director, Sustainability, Caltrans

**Biography:** Eric Sundquist joined Caltrans in 2021. In his role of sustainability advisor, he serves as program manager for vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction and SB 743 implementation. Prior to working at Caltrans, he worked as the director of the State Smart Transportation Initiative (SSTI) at the University of Wisconsin. SSTI works with state Departments of Transportation nationally to modernize policy and practice around policy goals, including environmental protection, equitable transportation service and impacts, and cost-savings. Eric has been active in the Transportation Research Board, chairing the Social, Economic, and Cultural Issues Section and serving as paper review coordinator for the Major Cities and Transportation and Sustainability Committees. He has a doctorate in City and Regional Planning and a master's degree in Public Policy, both from Georgia Tech, as well as a master's in humanities from the University of Richmond and a B.A. from Miami University.

**Panelist:** Erika Lovejoy, Director, Accelerating Restoration, Sustainable Conservation

**Biography:** Erika is the director of Sustainable Conservation’s Accelerating Restoration Program, where she develops innovative policy and regulatory incentives to increase the pace and scale of habitat restoration in California. Major projects include collaborating with landowners, NGOs, and government agencies on statewide policies and programmatic permits to promote aquatic habitat restoration and related multi-benefit projects. As an established expert in creating regulatory and process efficiencies within government to advance environmental goals, Erika has implemented several environmental programs and been an active contributor to California’s Cutting the Green Tape Initiative. Before joining Sustainable Conservation, Erika served in lead and technical roles as an environmental scientist/planner for California’s Water Boards, Coastal Commission, and Department of Water Resources, as well as San Francisco County. She has also managed a major watershed planning effort for the South San Francisco Bay, helping to mediate stakeholder conflicts and develop lasting water quality protection solutions.

**Panelist:** Fernando Sotelo, Principal Engineer, Kittelson & Associates, Inc.

**Biography:** Fernando Sotelo is a principal with Kittelson & Associates with 23 years of experience in CEQA and the technical aspects of transportation planning. His experience includes development of transportation demand management (TDM) plans and ordinances for regional and local agencies, SB 743 implementation for agencies, preparation of TDM plans for land development projects, and preparation of traffic impact analyses. He is also a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) International SB 743 Task Force and has been a contributor to recent ITE white papers on VMT and Sustainability, such as ITE’s Guide to SB 743 and ITE’s VMT as a Metric of Sustainability.

**Panelist:** Florentina Craciun, AICP, Senior Environmental Planner, San Francisco Planning Department

**Biography:** A Senior Environmental Planner with the Environmental Planning Division, San Francisco Planning Department, Florentina Craciun holds a master’s in Urban and Regional Planning from UCLA and a B.A. in history from University of California, Santa Barbara. Florentina prepares and manages environmental documents for the San Francisco Planning Department that consists of a variety of projects from development to linear projects and transportation.

**Panelist:** Gabriela Duran, Associate Environmental Planner, Caltrans

**Biography:** Gabriela Duran is an Associate Environmental Planner with the Division of Environmental Analysis at the Caltrans Orange County District office. She has 16 years of experience in research, data analysis, and reviewing and preparing environmental documents for compliance with CEQA and NEPA related to natural resources, water resources, air quality, hazardous waste, cultural resources, climate change, sea level rise, vehicle miles traveled analysis under CEQA and effects of cumulative impacts analyses, and growth-related indirect impacts. She also has many years of experience leading, organizing, and facilitating transportation project activities with regional, state, and local partner agencies.



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

**Biography:** Haley is a water resources planner with 14 years of experience in environmental analysis, planning, and compliance in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. Haley is passionate about implementing water projects in an environmentally responsible manner. To her, the best thing about her job is seeing the completion of projects close to home to which she was lucky enough to contribute. She possesses expertise in Urban Water Management Plans, CEQA, NEPA, Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas analysis, Noise analysis, benefit/cost analysis, and funding applications and administration. As a project manager, Haley has experience managing budgets and schedules, overseeing teams and subconsultants, and interfacing with clients. She has written dozens of technical reports which have been published with the Federal Register and State Clearinghouse. Her CEQA experience includes initial study (IS) checklists, environmental impact reports (EIRs), mitigated negative declarations (MNDs), addendums, CEQA-plus documentation, notices of exemption (NOE), constraints analyses, responses to comments, and third-party peer reviews. Haley's professional background includes work in the legal services field where she supported expert witnesses in matters of environmental and natural resource economics.

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

**Biography:** Haseeb Qureshi has been working in the field of air quality, climate change, health risk assessment, and transportation planning and analysis since 2006. In this time, he has authored numerous air quality, health risk, greenhouse gas, traffic impact analysis studies, and provided input into project design to promote sustainability and walkability for projects ranging from small development projects to citywide General Plan updates and large-scale specific plans. Recent activities include efforts to inventory greenhouse gas emissions for various projects and provide recommendations to reduce carbon impacts through innovative mitigation strategies. Mr. Qureshi is also proficient in the use of unique software tools such as CalEEMod, AERMOD, ISCST3, CALINE4 and EMFAC.

**Panelist:** Hayden Beckman, Senior Planner, City of Huntington Beach

**Biography:** Hayden Beckman is a Senior Planner in the City of Huntington Beach, Community Development Department. Mr. Beckman has over 5 years of planning experience at the City and over 2 years of experience as an environmental specialist for the Port of Long Beach. As a Senior Planner for the City of Huntington Beach, Mr. Beckman has managed numerous planning, permitting, and development projects, many of which required intensive peer reviews of supporting technical reports and assessments.

**Panelist:** Heather McDaniel McDevitt, Senior Archaeologist, Dudek

**Biography:** Heather McDaniel McDevitt is a cultural resources leader and project manager with over 18 years' experience including management of public and private contracts spanning a wide range of market sectors. Ms. McDevitt's ability to secure and retain clients is due to an understanding of industry needs and bringing clients customized service with a responsive, solution-based approach strengthened by a strong working expertise in regulatory compliance. Ms. McDevitt's technical expertise encompasses faunal analysis, human osteology, geographic information system, ground penetrating radar and her professional experience provides significant knowledge and practical experience with state and federal regulations, such as CEQA, NEPA, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act including the application of permits. Ms. McDevitt has worked on projects for and in cooperation with the National Park Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National

Aeronautics and Space Administration, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Smithsonian Institute, California State Parks, California Department of Transportation and US military bases. Ms. McDevitt believes that creating a workplace where professionals at all levels and backgrounds can grow and thrive in a collaborative, challenging and inspirational environment is the responsibility of every leader. She passionately enjoys and considers it a great honor to mentor colleagues through the development of practical tools and a commitment to genuine, compassionate, and innovative leadership. Ms. McDevitt's has also served as an adjunct professor at community and state institutions for courses in physical and cultural anthropology, archaeology, and GIS and enjoys continuing to share her passion for the discipline of archaeology as a cohost on the CRM Archaeology Podcast aired on the Archaeology Podcast Network.

**Panelist:** Heidi Mekkelson, Managing Director, ICF

**Biography:** Heidi Mekkelson is a Managing Director with ICF's Environment and Planning Division. She has over 20 years of experience in the preparation and management of environmental analysis documentation pursuant to CEQA and NEPA. Her project experience includes documents for residential, mixed-use, office, life sciences, commercial/retail, entertainment, adaptive reuse, transportation, and renewable energy projects. Heidi has also prepared programmatic analyses for general plans, specific plans, climate action plans, and habitat conservation plans. Her work is focused in the Bay Area and southern California, and she has extensive experience managing CEQA documents for private development projects in the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles.

**Panelist:** Henry Eckold, Climate Adaptation Planner, Dudek

**Biography:** Climate Planner with a passion for helping communities build resilience to the trials of tomorrow.

**Panelist:** Ian Adam, VP, Specialty Practice, Fuscoe Engineering

**Biography:** Ian Adam is the Vice President of Specialty Practices at Fuscoe Engineering and has over 25 years of experience in water quality regulations, watershed planning, water supply planning, municipal stormwater compliance, and infrastructure evaluations. He recently assumed management of Fuscoe's survey and geospatial operations and is currently focused on integrating watershed management with geospatial data collection and asset management. Ian served as the project manager for the Water Wheel project on behalf of the City of Newport Beach and was responsible for completing the initial site location, conceptual layout, and CEQA impacts analysis for the project.

**Panelist:** Ione Stiegler, NCARB, FAIA, Principal Architect/Founder, IS Architecture

**Biography:** Ione Stiegler is the founder and principal architect for IS Architecture and is experienced in all facets of historic preservation. She specializes in applying the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and has completed projects implementing all four approved treatments—Restoration, Preservation, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction. Ione worked closely with various branches of Caltrans to develop and evaluate options for the Coronado Bay Bridge Suicide Deterrent project, plus was active in outreach to the State Historic Preservation Officer and other stakeholders.

**Panelist:** J.T. Stephens, Principal Noise and Vibration Specialist, LSA

**Biography:** J.T. Stephens is a Principal Noise and Vibration Specialist with 20 years of experience and is part of LSA’s environmental technical staff. Mr. Stephens has overseen the preparation of hundreds of noise and vibration studies for a variety of projects, many of which have been the subject of rigorous peer review. Mr. Stephens has completed noise studies in multiple states including California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Michigan, and Minnesota. Mr. Stephens is proficient in the use of various traffic noise models, the Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), the Aviation Environmental Design Tool (AEDT), SoundPLAN Noise Prediction Software, and INSUL, a noise prediction software for building façades and partitions. Mr. Stephens has provided support to multiple clients in regard to construction design for residential buildings to ensure a desirable interior environment.

**Panelist:** Jacob Armstrong, Chief of Operations Land Development Division, County of San Diego Planning & Development Services

**Biography:** Jacob Armstrong is currently the Chief of the Land Development Division with the County of San Diego Planning & Development Services (PDS). The Land Development Division works with communities, industry groups, applicants, and stakeholders to provide planning and engineering review services for land development projects. Jacob joined the County of San Diego in 2018, and previously worked for Caltrans as the Chief of Land Development-Intergovernmental Review for 18 years. Prior to Caltrans, he worked briefly at the County of Riverside as a Land Use/Transportation Specialist and as a Project Manager for a private hotel project. Jacob has been involved in many land development coordination projects and local land use and transportation issues, and he has also been involved in many statewide transportation policy issues, particularly SB 743 and VMT. He helped develop and author the County of San Diego’s Board-adopted Transportation Study Guide for implementing VMT as the new transportation metric under CEQA. Jacob earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies & Planning at the University of Oregon, attended Graduate School at San Diego State University for City Planning, and earned his master’s degree in Land Use and Transportation Planning at San Jose State University.

**Panelist:** JJason Uhley, PE, General Manager/Chief Engineer, Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

**Biography:** Jason Uhley is the General Manager of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Jason is a registered civil engineer with over 25 years of experience in stormwater management including flood risk management, stormwater quality management and stormwater conservation. Jason has a B.S. in Civil Engineering and a Masters in Public Administration with an emphasis in Water Agency Management. Jason serves as the Secretary for the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies and the Vice Chair of the Riverside County Water Task Force.

**Panelist:** Jennifer Gress, Division Chief, Sustainable Transportation, California Air Resources Board

**Biography:** Jennifer Gress is the Chief of the Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division at the California Air Resources Board, where she focuses on promoting policies that provide a range of affordable housing and transportation options that support building decarbonization, accelerate the transition to zero-emission transportation, and reduce vehicle miles traveled. Before this position, Jennifer was a Senior Policy Advisor to Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, where she was responsible for policy development related to housing and community development, transportation, and sustainability. She was also a consultant to the

Senate Transportation and Housing Committee, where she focused on air quality, ports and goods movement, active transportation, and public-private partnerships, among many other transportation-related issues. Jennifer has a Ph.D. in Social Ecology from the University of California, Irvine, where she studied housing and community development.

**Panelist:** Jennifer Hernandez, Partner, Holland & Knight

**Biography:** Jennifer Hernandez has practiced land use and environmental law for more than 30 years, and leads Holland & Knight’s West Coast Land Use and Environmental Group. Ms. Hernandez divides her time between the firm’s San Francisco and Los Angeles offices. Ms. Hernandez is the only California lawyer ranked by her clients and peers in Chambers USA in the top tier of both land use/zoning and environmental lawyers. In addition, she was recognized as the top environmental litigator of the year in the San Francisco Bay Area by Best Lawyers, and received a California Lawyer of the Year award from the State Bar of California for her work on California’s largest and most innovative land use and conservation agreement between her private landowner client and five major environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club and Natural Resources Defense Council. She also has received numerous civil rights awards for her work on overcoming environmentalist opposition to housing and other projects needed and supported by minority communities. During his tenure as mayor of San Francisco, Willie Brown named October 9, 2002, as “Jennifer Hernandez Day” in San Francisco in honor of her work as a “warrior on the Brownfields” to restore and redevelop former industrial lands. Ms. Hernandez is the longest-serving minority board member (23 years) of the California League of Conservation voters, was appointed by President Clinton to serve as a trustee for the Presidio National Park in San Francisco, and serves on the board of directors for California Forward and Sustainable Conservation. Ms. Hernandez works for private sector, public agency and nonprofit clients on a broad range of projects in Bay Area, Southern California and Central Valley communities, including infill and master-planned mixed-use housing and commercial projects, university and research facilities, transportation and infrastructure projects, renewable and other energy projects, and local agency plan and ordinance updates. She has written three books, and more than 50 articles, on environmental and land use topics, and regularly teaches land use, environmental and climate law in law and business schools, colleges and seminars. She also serves on the firm’s Directors Committee and received the firm’s highest honor “the Chesterfield Smith Award” for her community service. Ms. Hernandez graduated with honors from Harvard University and Stanford Law School, and clerked for Region 20 of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) before beginning her land use and environmental law career. Ms. Hernandez is the daughter and granddaughter of steelworkers and was raised in Pittsburg, California. She and her husband live in Berkeley and Los Angeles.

**Panelist:** Jennifer Kelley, Senior Associate, PlaceWorks

**Biography:** Jennifer is an environmental planning professional with experience leading CEQA and NEPA analyses for development and infrastructure projects. Prior to joining PlaceWorks, Jennifer was a project manager at Parker Environmental Consultants, where she managed MNDs and EAs for affordable housing projects and was a deputy project manager on large-scale EIRs. Jennifer’s expertise covers senior-level review of documents; coordination with clients, subconsultants, and public agencies; keeping project schedules and budgets; and supervising junior staff. She has conducted field investigations and noise monitoring, writes proposals, and creates presentation materials for interviews.

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

**Biography:** Jennifer Reed is an air quality specialist/environmental planner with 16 years of experience. She leads Dudek's air quality services team and has been responsible for the management, analysis, and technical leadership of projects subject to compliance with CEQA and NEPA. Jennifer has completed numerous environmental documents in support of a diverse range of public and private developments. She specializes in air quality, GHG emissions, health risk assessment, and energy technical analyses, and continues to be on the forefront of evolving science, emissions modeling computer programs, regulatory framework, and case law.

**Panelist:** Jennifer Ziv, Project Manager, Woodard & Curran

**Biography:** Jennifer has over 25 years of experience as an Environmental Planner. Her broad skill set serves local, state, and federal agencies including many municipalities and water districts in California. She has expertise in compliance with CEQA/NEPA documentation with a focus on water, wastewater, and reuse projects. She also has experience with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water permitting and compliance (municipal, industrial and construction), and US Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act compliance (Section 404 and 401 permits) and California Dept of Fish and Game Code Section 1600 Agreements. Jennifer has managed preparation of numerous CEQA documents for water district clients, regularly strategizes with clients on ways to streamline the CEQA process and deliver legally defensible, high quality CEQA documents.

**Panelist:** Jeremiah LaRose, Associate, Fehr & Peers

**Biography:** Jeremiah LaRose is a multi-modal transportation planner and project manager with a background in transit service planning and operations. He has helped many clients throughout California with comprehensive transit system analyses and service planning, policy studies, access studies, and integration of transit in Complete Streets design. He has worked extensively across disciplines, including VMT analysis and travel behavior analysis. Prior to joining Fehr & Peers, Jeremiah served as the Manager of Operations & Service Planning for the Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST), a public transit agency serving 14 communities in New Hampshire.

**Panelist:** Jessica Coria, Director of Air Quality and Climate Change Service, LSA Associates

**Biography:** Jessica Coria is the Director of Air Quality and Climate Change Services at LSA. With almost a decade of experience, she served as a Regional Program Manager at the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and as a consulting Senior Scientist prior to her current position. Jessica has an M.S. in Environmental Science and Policy from John Hopkins University and a B.A. in International Relations: Global Environment, Health, and Natural Resources from University of California, Davis. Her expertise includes regulatory compliance, air quality impact analysis per CEQA requirements, health risk assessments, air dispersion modeling, sustainable project design, air pollution control measures, and GHG emissions mitigation. She has extensive experience in project management, staff mentoring, client relationships, and knowledge of CEQA requirements for air districts throughout California. Jessica's CEQA experience includes conducting technical evaluations and overseeing the preparation of EIR air quality, greenhouse gas, and energy analyses for Specific Plans, General Plans, Climate Action Plans, and Housing Element Updates, as well as mixed-use, commercial, residential, and industrial warehouse projects in southern, central, and northern California. Jessica currently serves on the Board of Directors for the AEP Central Chapter.

**Panelist:** Jessica Ditto, Senior Project Manager, Michael Baker International

**Biography:** Jessica Ditto provides assistance in the preparation of environmental and planning studies for public- and private-sector clients under CEQA and NEPA for a range of infrastructure, industrial, redevelopment, and residential developments, among others. Project responsibilities include management, research, analysis, and writing of environmental documents for compliance with federal, state, and local impact assessment criteria. Jessica also has extensive experience preparing environmental documentation for transportation infrastructure projects. She has worked on highway projects in Caltrans districts throughout California, managing the preparation of Categorical Exemptions/Exclusions, MNDs/EAs, and EIRs. She is considered an expert in navigating the unique challenges, community concerns, and environmental constraints associated with linear transportation projects.

**Panelist:** Jessica Sisco, IAP2, AICP, Associate Director, AECOM

**Biography:** Jessica Sisco is a stakeholder engagement manager and senior planner at AECOM with over 20 years of experience. She has a special emphasis on climate change, environmental science, and stakeholder engagement and facilitation. She is bilingual and has the ability to clearly communicate complex technical information to diverse audiences and to build consensus. Jessica coordinated closely with a Caltrans Public Information Office (PIO) to design and implement the virtual public meetings during the MND process on Coronado Bay Bridge Suicide Deterrent project.

**Panelist:** Jill Sunahara, Northern California Biological Resources Director, ESA

**Biography:** Jill Sunahara is the Northern California Biological Resources and Land Management Group Director at ESA and has 23 years of experience focused on environmental compliance and permitting in water and natural resources management markets across the West Coast. With a technical focus on environmental compliance strategy for habitat restoration projects and programmatic permits, Jill has successfully led permitting efforts for several key clients, including the California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife/Fish and Game Commission, State Water Resources Control Board's Clean Water Act Section 401 General Order for Restoration Projects Statewide, and for many habitat restoration and infrastructure improvement projects throughout northern California.

**Panelist:** Jim Blanke, Senior Technical Leader, Woodard & Curran

**Biography:** Jim Blanke will discuss the history of and current state of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

**Panelist:** Jim Minnick, Director of the Planning and Development Services, County of Imperial

**Biography:** Jim Minnick has been the Director of Planning and Development Services at the County of Imperial for over 15 years and been responsible for both the General Plan updates focusing on renewable energy and leads the Lithium Valley Specific Plan team. He has an M.A. in City Planning.

**Panelist:** Joan Valle, Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Chief of Regulatory

**Biography:** Joan Valle is the Chief of Regulatory for the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Joan has 20 years of experience in environmental planning, with much of that time spent managing staff, subs, projects and programs, related to environmental regulations such as the CEQA, NEPA, and the CWA. Joan enjoys negotiating project terms and conditions and finding win-win solutions with the resource agencies

and other stakeholders. She also enjoys lobbying state and federal decision makers in an effort to improve policy that benefits the County of Riverside and other communities. Joan serves on the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA) Flood Management Committee, where she meets with confers with other agencies and USACE Headquarters on federal laws and policy such as 404 permits, 408 permits, and the Water Resources Development Act.

**Panelist:** John Bellas, CEQA Technical Director, Michael Baker International

**Biography:** John Bellas has 24 years of experience as a CEQA/NEPA practitioner and serves as Michael Baker International's CEQA Technical Director for the Los Angeles/Orange County Region. He has managed the preparation of numerous CEQA and NEPA documents for a wide range of projects, including land development projects, long-range plans and programs, educational facilities, water supply and distribution projects, renewable energy projects, roadway improvement projects, community facilities, and parks and recreational facilities. In addition, John regularly provides strategic CEQA guidance to a variety of cities in southern California. Two notable examples include the City of Pasadena, where he serves as the City's environmental coordinator and is responsible for overseeing all the City's environmental documents, and the City of Los Angeles, where he provides peer review of EIRs for major projects for the Department of City Planning. John is also an experienced CEQA instructor, having conducted specialized CEQA training programs for agencies and served as a panelist for CEQA training sessions hosted by professional organizations.

**Panelist:** Josh Carman, Director – Noise, Air Quality & GHG, Rincon Consultants

**Biography:** Josh Carman has over 20 years of experience in the field of acoustics and air quality and has participated in the environmental review and monitoring process for a wide variety of projects in California, Washington, Nevada, and New York. He prepares noise, air quality, GHG, and community health risk assessments for environmental impact studies (CEQA/NEPA) and technical studies using federal, state, and local guidelines and methodology. His experience includes complex project- and program-level analyses of general plan updates; specific plans; mixed-use development; traffic, transit and rail; vibration-sensitive; industrial; infrastructure, utilities, and telecommunications; long-term and remote construction noise and vibration monitoring; and underwater construction (e.g., pile driving) projects. Josh is certified in the use of the FHWA's Traffic Noise Model (TNM), SoundPLAN, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency AERMOD air dispersion model.

**Panelist:** Julia Chase, LEED, GA, Chief Resilience Officer, City of San Diego

**Biography:** Julia Chase is the City of San Diego's first Chief Resilience Officer. In this role, she oversees the City's climate adaptation and resilience work program, including implementation of Climate Resilient SD, the City's comprehensive plan to address sea level rise, wildfire, extreme heat, and flooding. She is also leading development of the Coastal Resilience Master Plan, which will identify nature-based solutions for locations along the coastline that are vulnerable to sea level rise. Julia previously led the completion of the City of San Diego's Coastal Erosion Assessment, Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessments, Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, and strategy and plan development for Climate Resilient SD. Prior to her current role, Julia worked in the private sector, supporting climate resilience planning at the federal, state, and local level, including adaptation strategy development and prioritization, energy resilience, innovative funding strategy, and risk assessments. She has also previously worked in local government and focused on long-range planning for

water resources and sustainability initiatives. She is an active member of the American Society of Adaptation Professionals and the International Society of Sustainability Professionals and holds a Sustainability Excellence Professional and LEED Green Associate certifications. Julia holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from Villanova University and Master of Science in Environmental Science from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

**Panelist:** Kelly Bray, LEED, Principal Sustainability Planner, Harris & Associates

**Biography:** Kelly Bray is a land use professional with more than 14 years of experience in diverse, environmentally focused project management. She has successfully led numerous environmental and sustainability projects across the country and earned the San Diego APA Young Planners Group Mentor of the Year Award in 2019. Her areas of expertise include sustainability and climate action planning, policy development and implementation, CEQA compliance, and public/private entitlements. She is also proficient in budget and scope management, client and staff coordination, and proposal preparation. On the technical side, Kelly has led greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions analyses for multiple jurisdictions and has led the preparation of climate action and sustainability plans, including the development and implementation of strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change. Throughout Kelly's career, many prominent regions have benefited from her leadership, including cities throughout the San Francisco Bay and the County of San Diego. Not only has she managed public/private partnership projects, but Kelly has also worked in policy implementation, public communication, and social justice engagement.

**Panelist:** Kim Clyma, JD, Senior Environmental Planner/Project Manager, Woodard & Curran

**Biography:** Kim Clyma will discuss CEQA and Case Law

**Panelist:** Kim Clyma, Senior Environmental Planner/Project Manager, Woodard & Curran

**Biography:** With over 16 years of environmental science planning and permitting experience, Kim thrives on finding solutions that benefit her clients, the environment, and their communities. Kim puts her multi-disciplinary background to work daily, drawing on her legal, planning, science, and GIS experience to contribute a unique perspective to any team she is on. Kim has managed and contributed to a variety of assessment, planning, design, and permitting projects across disciplines and sectors but is focused on water. Emphasizing her work on complicated multifaceted projects Kim has conducted constraints analyses, CEQA/NEPA reports (EIRs, EAs, IS/MNDs, CEs, ERs, etc.), alternative analyses, permitting strategies and applications (CWA 401, 402, 404, CDFW 1602, CVFPB Encroachment Permits, Williamson Act, local codes, FAA, FERC), technical and field studies (water quality, visual, biology, air quality, cultural, farmlands, noise), engineering environmental support, and spatial analyses. Kim's unique perspective obtained from her involvement in the realms of water and environmental law results in the production of strategic solutions, defensible documents, and unique compliance strategies.

**Panelist:** Konnie Dobrev, Vice President of Environmental Planning, EPD Solutions

**Biography:** Konnie Dobrev is Vice President of Environmental Planning at Environment | Planning | Development Solutions, Inc. Konnie holds a B.A. in Environmental Analysis & Design, Minor in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of California, Irvine and a Juris Doctor from Pepperdine University School of Law. Konnie's more than 20 years of public and private sector planning and legal experience have made her an expert in entitlements, environmental and policy planning, a keen analyst and an effective writer



of environmental documents. She has managed and prepared environmental documents for a diverse range of projects and clients: small-scale residential and large planned communities, commercial office, industrial, mixed-use, and schools. Konnie has been a planner with the City of Lake Forest and a planning consultant for the cities of Irvine, Anaheim, and Rancho Santa Margarita. In law school, Konnie specialized in alternative dispute resolution and was also a full-time extern for the Honorable Warren J. Ferguson, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Konnie's diverse planning and legal experience provides her with a unique understanding of planning and zoning law, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). She is frequent lecturer on CEQA for the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) CEQA Workshop series. Konnie is a longtime AEP member and currently serves as the organization's Executive Vice President.

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

**Biography:** Kristi Black is an environmental project manager with a focus on managing teams preparing CEQA documents, largely for public agencies and often for litigation-sensitive projects or projects with complex or novel issues. She has experience with a number of project types with a special focus on infrastructure projects and controversial projects and also enjoys teaching and connecting with others in the field through AEP, internal trainings, and as an instructor at UC Davis Continuing and Professional Education. A trivia tidbit about Kristi is that her first real teaching experience was as a volunteer for the Prison University Project teaching students at San Quentin Prison.

**Panelist:** Kristie Nguyen, Senior Associate I, Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas, PlaceWorks

**Biography:** Kristie Nguyen is a senior associate on the air quality, GHG, and noise team at PlaceWorks. She has prepared over 100 air quality and GHG assessments for cities, agencies, and sole-source clients throughout northern and southern California. Kristie's key projects include assessments for the Malibu Middle/High School Modernization Project EIR, Laguna Niguel City Center Project EIR, The Mercury Project IS/MND, Wedgeworth K-8 School and Residential Development Project EIR, UC Berkeley Long Range Development Plan EIR, and the Brea Mall Mixed Use Project EIR

**Panelist:** La Mikia Castillo, Principal, Castillo Consulting Partners

**Biography:** La Mikia Castillo (she, her), whose work in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors has spanned from education and economic justice, to public health, environmental justice, child welfare and juvenile justice, has over two decades of experience in leadership development, strategic planning, design thinking, grassroots community organizing, youth engagement, policy advocacy, and systems change. A commitment to social justice, racial equity, and social change permeates each aspect of her personal and professional life. She supports organizations and enterprises with developing, implementing, and assessing data-driven strategies, designs and facilitates leadership development trainings, conducts equity assessments, and moderates critical conversations around race, bias, and equity. Her expertise lies in helping companies effectively embed equity, inclusion, diversity, access, and anti-racism into their leadership, policies, practices, and procedures so they can best support and retain their people. An Afro-Latina who was born and raised in South Central Los Angeles, La Mikia is a first generation alumna who has committed her life and career to developing leaders, investing in communities, and promoting equity. She holds bachelor's degrees in Ethnic Studies and Urban Studies & Planning from University of California, San Diego, dual master's degrees in Public Policy and Urban Planning, and Certificates in Public Management, Political Management, and the Ross Minority Program in Real Estate

from University of Southern California, where she serves as an adjunct faculty member at the Sol Price School of Public Policy. La Mikia also teaches Black, Latino, and Latin American Relations courses in the Pan African Studies Department at California State University, Los Angeles.

**Panelist:** Lance Park, Senior Associate, PlaceWorks

**Biography:** Lance Park is a highly experienced air quality analyst preparing CEQA analyses for long-range planning documents and individual land use development projects. As an air quality scientist, he has prepared extensive emissions modeling and calculations consistent with various California air quality management district (AQMD) methodologies, including but not limited to South Coast AQMD, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, the Bay Area (BAAQMD), and Sacramento Metro AQMD. At PlaceWorks, Lance functions as a leading expert in air quality, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, health risk, and energy CEQA analyses. He trains and mentors air quality technical staff; attends and directs client calls, attorney consultations, and public hearings; and offers strategic insight into different CEQA document types and streamlining opportunities with project clients and lead agencies. Lance is also 40-hour HAZWOPER certified, is currently attaining certification as a Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control-In Training and Certified Energy Analyst accreditations, and has several years' experience conducting Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Construction Site Monitoring.

**Panelist:** Lauren Peachey, Assistant Environmental Planner, LSA

**Biography:** Lauren Peachey is an assistant environmental planner in LSA's Point Richmond office. She graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 2022 with degrees in Environmental Management and Protection, Political Science, and Biology, where she began her career in the environmental non-profit sector working to provide environmental sustainability upgrades to small businesses. As an assistant environmental planner at LSA, Lauren assists with the preparation of environmental documentation for land development and transportation projects throughout California. Her primary responsibilities include providing project management assistance for a variety of projects, performing CEQA/NEPA hydrology/water quality analysis, and conducting research and analysis for environmental compliance with CEQA and NEPA.

**Panelist:** Lindsay Ortega, AICP, Vice President, Sagecrest Planning + Environmental

**Biography:** Lindsay Ortega is Vice President of Sagecrest Planning + Environmental. She is a certified planner and has worked in the areas of planning, development, marketing, and community outreach since 2004. She has experience managing entitlement applications and environmental documents in over 70 jurisdictions throughout California and has worked as a planner in a number of cities, including Anaheim, Huntington Beach, San Juan Capistrano, and Brea. Lindsay leads a team of experienced project planners responsible for managing and processing a variety of environmental documents and project entitlements. She has a degree in Political Science and Public Affairs from UCLA and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of California, Irvine.

**Panelist:** Lisa Maier, Urban Forestry & Fire Planning Analyst, Dudek

**Biography:** Biographical Info: Lisa Maier is an urban forestry and fire protection analyst with 6 years experience as an environmental planner, specializing in fire protection and evacuation planning with experience in CEQA/NEPA document preparation, long-range land-use planning, trail planning, and emergency management planning. In addition, Ms. Maier's work with several community-based non-profit organizations serves as the foundation of her skill set in community outreach and education. She works with clients to identify and mitigate environmental concerns, produce defensible CEQA/NEPA documents, and strategize effective public outreach efforts.

**Panelist:** Manira Sandhir, AICP, Planning Manager & Zoning Administrator, City of San Mateo

**Biography:** Manira Sandhir has 15 years of Land Use Planning and CEQA/NEPA experience, both in the public and private sectors, and has managed or overseen preparation of several environmental documents, including EIRs and Initial Studies for urban and rural projects.

**Panelist:** Margaret Sohagi, Managing Partner, The Sohagi Law Group

**Biography:** Margaret Sohagi, managing partner of The Sohagi Law Group, PLC practice for the last 30 years, has focused on assisting cities, counties, and other public agencies navigate the legal complexities of land use, CEQA, and NEPA. She provides constructive, practical legal advice, working directly with lead agency counsel, staff, and appointed elected officials. Margaret's prior career as a city planner gives her invaluable insight into the intricacies of complex project development and review.

**Panelist:** Marie Campbell, Principal and CEO, Sapphos Environmental, Inc.

**Biography:** Marie Campbell is principal and owner of Sapphos Environmental, Inc, a minority- and woman-owned small business enterprise. She serves as an elected at-large board member for the National Association of Environmental Professionals and the California AEP, where she serves as the co-chair for the AEP Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. 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 NEPA and 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 EISs and EIRs for projects. Marie is currently highly engaged in the California High-Speed Rail Project, the largest infrastructure project in the nation.

**Panelist:** Mark Teague, Managing Principal, Environmental, PlaceWorks

**Biography:** In over 35 years of public- and private-sector experience, Mark has worked throughout California in agencies large and small and is considered an innovative problem solver. His projects range from planned communities, shopping center EIRs, general plan and zoning code updates, impact fees, and public outreach for projects highly scrutinized by the public. Mark is often able to offer a unique approach to meeting a critical goal of a project. Mark is also an experienced public speaker and regularly presents at the League of California Cities Planning Commissioner's Academy on topics such as design guidelines, CEQA compliance, and how to read an EIR.

**Panelist:** Matt Goyne, PE, Principal, Fehr & Peers

**Biography:** Matt Goyne is a principal with Fehr & Peers and oversees a wide variety of challenging projects at the nexus of climate, land use, and transportation planning. He helps jurisdictions adopt and implement VMT policies that align their local actions with statewide carbon reduction goals through his work on the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County VMT and GHG mitigation program, Metropolitan Transportation Commission SB 743 Implementation Technical Assistance program, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Climate Roadmap, and the City of Petaluma's Climate Emergency VMT Reduction Framework. Matt has 15 years of experience working on general plans, transportation plans, and all sizes of CEQA studies. He leverages the latest research and data driven approaches to help jurisdictions create defensible CEQA documents and ambitious carbon reduction implementation plans. Matt has a civil engineering degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and is a professional civil engineer.

**Panelist:** Matthew McFalls, Senior Air Quality & GHG Specialist, Ascent

**Biography:** I am an air quality and climate change expert with 15 years of dedicated experience. My passion lies in preserving and improving our natural surroundings. Throughout my career, I have gained comprehensive knowledge in examining and mitigating air quality issues. In my free time, I enjoy hiking and spending time outdoors, soaking up the natural beauty of the world around us. Whether exploring new trails or simply relaxing in a quiet spot, I find solace in nature and draw inspiration from its majesty. When I'm not working or enjoying the great outdoors, I like to unwind with my co-workers and friends over a cold beer and a homemade meal. Currently, I split my time between the enchanting settings of San Diego and the awe-inspiring Eastern Sierra, finding a balance between my commitment to environmental planning and personal fulfillment through outdoor adventures. I value the camaraderie that comes with working as part of a team, and I believe that a relaxed and supportive work environment is key to success in any field.

**Panelist:** Matt Voss, Branch Supervisor, Environmental Analysis, Caltrans D11

**Biography:** Matt Voss is a senior environmental planner for Caltrans, District 11 in San Diego with over 20 years of environmental planning experience on diverse transportation projects. He leads NEPA/CEQA project delivery and is also a Certified NEPA Quality Control Reviewer. He was the Caltrans environmental senior lead on the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge Suicide Deterrent Project. Matt has also worked on the I-5 North Coast Corridor and, while working for Caltrans in Fresno, led environmental compliance on CA High Speed Rail (Merced to Fresno).

**Panelist:** May Lau, Southern California Permitting Program Manager, ESA

**Biography:** May Lau is the Southern California Permitting Program Manager at ESA with 19 years of experience in the environmental consulting industry. Her primary responsibilities include providing project management, permitting strategies, review of permit applications and supporting documentation, and leading agency consultations and negotiations. May's management and technical capabilities include review and preparation of environmental documents in compliance with NEPA, CEQA, and the federal and state Endangered Species Acts; wetland and jurisdictional delineations; Clean Water Act permitting; streambed alteration agreements; coastal development permits; mitigation planning; biological assessments; and natural resource studies. She was a part of the team that developed the Section 401 General Order for Restoration Projects Statewide.

**Panelist:** Meghan Macias, TE, Director of Technical Services, EPD Solutions, Inc

**Biography:** Meghan Macias has over 20 years of experience in the transportation planning field and has worked on hundreds of projects throughout the Southwest, including land development, infrastructure, active transportation, and Master/Specific/General Plans. She has a proven track record of managing complicated and controversial projects to achieve defensible and implementable solutions to technical issues. Meghan has a deep understanding of the regulations and methodologies used by regional and local agencies, including application of local traffic study guidelines, CEQA, and SB 743. She uses her experience to provide strategic transportation planning services to public- and private-sector clients. Meghan's work is focused on providing implementable solutions that satisfy various stakeholders, including developers, local agencies, and affected citizens.

**Panelist:** Melissa Dugan, AICP, Supervising Transportation Planner, City of Irvine

**Biography:** Melissa Dugan, AICP, leads the Transportation Planning and Project Development Division for the City of Irvine, and has been a member of the transportation industry for more than 25 years. A graduate of California State University, Long Beach, Melissa served as a consultant to various clients and has worked on a variety of projects, from small development studies to leading multidisciplinary teams through major engineering projects. She is currently responsible for transportation master planning, preliminary engineering, and environmental clearances for all City improvement projects. This includes grant applications and funding management for the Public Works and Transportation Department. Since joining the City in 2017, she and her team have made tremendous strides to create a network of healthier roadways and sustain or improve the quality of life.

**Panelist:** Meredith Canterbury, Senior GIS Specialist, LSA

**Biography:** Meredith Canterbury is a Senior Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist and GIS Discipline Lead at LSA. She is primarily responsible for the GIS project management, impacts analysis, ad-hoc mapping requests, project-specific website creation, and data creation/conversion to a Geodatabase format. Meredith's specific responsibilities include working with ArcGIS 10.9 and its various extensions (including 3D Analyst and Spatial Analyst), ArcGIS Pro, scripts and models, data manipulation, computer-aided design (CAD), and MicroStation to GIS conversion; implementing overlay analysis, proximity analysis, data management, and validation; and basic script programming of GIS tasks and automated cartography. She works with numerous disciplines within the realm of environmental planning, including CEQA and NEPA compliance, noise analysis, transportation design, biological constraints, wetland delineations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, architectural-history investigations, cultural resource mapping, climate analysis, and land use mapping. Meredith has a B.A. in Geography/Environmental Analysis from California State University, Fullerton.

**Panelist:** Meredith Parkin, Vice President, ESA

**Biography:** Meredith Parkin is a Vice President at ESA with over 28 years of distinguished experience. She has assisted both public agencies and private interests in addressing regulatory challenges, with a focus on identifying challenges early through the integration of policy and compliance during all phases of project development, from planning through construction. Her expertise includes CEQA/NEPA and environmental permit strategy development, regulatory agency coordination, preparation of compliance documents and

permit application packages, negotiation of permit conditions, implementation of mitigation measures, and environmental compliance and permitting for multi-benefit projects and programs at the federal, state, and local levels. Meredith led the preparation of the Program EIR for the Section 401 General Order for Restoration Projects Statewide.

**Panelist:** Michael Hendrix, Principal, Michael Hendrix Consulting

**Biography:** Michael Hendrix is the current Climate Change Committee Chair and has been on the Climate Change Committee since its inception in 2007. Michael has over 27 years of experience in air quality and GHG emissions, CEQA/NEPA, and climate change analysis. In spring 2022, he formed his own consulting firm focused on climate change, air quality, and climate action planning.

**Panelist:** Michael Huff, Urban Forestry/Fire Protection Planning Practice, Dudek

**Biography:** Michael Huff is founder and manager of Dudek's Urban Forestry/Fire Protection Planning team with 29 years experience as a forester and fire protection planner. Mr. Huff specializes in management of community-wide and project-specific fire protection plans, wildland urban interface (WUI) fire management plans, wildfire hazard reduction projects, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) supporting technical documents, Oak Woodland impact and mitigation plans, urban and community forest management plans, forest and tree inventories, impact analysis studies, and tree hazard evaluations. Mr. Huff possesses considerable project issue resolution experience and focuses on working within the regulations to provide creative, cost-saving solutions to his clients. He routinely participates in public hearings, strategy sessions, and provides public presentations.

**Panelist:** Michael Keinath, Principal & Service Line Lead, Ramboll

**Biography:** Michael Keinath has over 15 years of experience in environmental science and engineering, with special emphasis on air quality and climate change, human health risk assessment and product stewardship. He has advised clients from various industries, including ports and rail, quarries and mines, foundries and recyclers, chemical manufacturers and consumer products suppliers, in addition to property developers and local planning agencies. Michael has estimated emissions and modeled dispersion of numerous sources of airborne contaminants, using the results to conduct human health risk assessments under federal, state and local regulations, including California's Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Proposition 65 (Prop65) and the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program (AB2588). He earned an MSE in chemical engineering and an MSE in environmental engineering from the University of Michigan, and a BS in chemical engineering from Stanford University.

**Panelist:** Michael Krause, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer, South Coast Air Quality Management District

**Biography:** Michael Krause is Assistant Deputy Executive Officer in Planning, Rule Development and Implementation at the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). In this role, he oversees stationary source rule development for toxics and criteria pollutant rules, CEQA, and AB 617 efforts. Michael started his career at the SCAQMD in 1991 as an Assistant Air Quality Engineer in permitting working on a variety of air polluting sources, then progressively promoted to his current position. Over his 31 years, he oversaw a number of rule projects, including regulation of refinery equipment, continuous emissions monitoring systems (CEMS), flares, fence line monitoring, combustion equipment, toxics, coatings, and adhesives, and upgrades to the Flare Event Notification System (FENS). Michael was the lead for area source control measures for the 2022

Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) and was instrumental in the development of the 2012 and 2016 AQMPs. Earlier in Michael's career, he wrote dozens of CEQA environmental assessments and led the effort to create the California Emission Estimator Model (CalEEMod) used statewide.

**Panelist:** Mike Parker, AICP, Principal, Ascent

**Biography:** Mike Parker, AICP, is a CEQA and NEPA project director and principal in charge of Ascent's Berkeley office, drawing from 20 years of environmental planning and urban planning experience. He has successfully directed and managed the CEQA process for large and small projects throughout the state, with a concentration in northern California. His diverse project experience includes residential, mixed-use, and industrial development projects; general plans; large-scale specific plans; open space projects; educational facilities; and major criminal justice facilities. Many of these projects involved intense public controversy. Mike was formerly a planner at the City of Sacramento and therefore understands "behind-the-counter" municipal processes. This understanding helps him to coordinate seamlessly with city staff and to more accurately forecast city staff needs, including internal review and schedule needs. He is also the current legislative director of the Sacramento Valley Section of the American Planning Association.

**Panelist:** Mindy Fogg, Planning Manager, County of Ventura

**Biography:** Mindy Fogg is the current President of AEP and a Planning Manager with the County of Ventura. She has 22 years of experience as a Land Use/Environmental Planner and CEQA Practitioner in both the private and public sectors. Mindy is currently leading the Commercial and Industrial Permitting Section in the Ventura Planning Division.

**Panelist:** Moe Zarabi, LEED AP-ND, Senior Land Use/Environmental Planner, County of San Diego

**Biography:** Moe Zarabi is a Senior Planner working for the County of San Diego's Planning & Development Services with over 20 years of experience in the public sector through various authorities in the southern California region. Currently, under the Building Services Division, Moe helps manage renewable energy and resiliency permitting and green building code programs. Moe published academic studies related to the effectiveness of public policies promoting renewable energy. Moe's undergraduate emphasis was in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Political Science, with graduate work with a Masters of Public Policy from San Diego State University, and Moe is a credited LEED Associate Professional in Neighborhood Design.

**Panelist:** Natalie Cochran, Water Resource Planner, Woodard & Curran

**Biography:** Natalie has eight years of experience as a water resources planner and specializes in Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation and grant writing. She also has extensive background focused on water policy issues surrounding the Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley.

**Panelist:** Nick Meisinger, Environmental Planner and Permitting Specialist, WSP Environment & Infrastructure

**Biography:** Nick Meisinger is an environmental planning and permitting specialist with over a decade of experience preparing environmental documentation compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In this capacity, Nick has managed or contributed to dozens of projects for various jurisdictions throughout Central and Southern California related to hazard

mitigation and resiliency, including critical infrastructure repair projects, hazardous fuel treatments, and shoreline management projects. In 2020 Nick managed the preparation of the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Montecito Debris Nets, a system of metal mesh nets intended to mitigate potential for life threatening damage from debris flows following the Thomas Fire in 2017. More recently, Nick is supporting FEMA Region X with the preparation of NEPA-compliant Environmental Assessments (EAs) for hazardous fuels treatment projects within the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. These EAs, each of which evaluate the impacts of treatments across hundreds of acres of public and/or private property, often involve challenging issues related to cultural resources and special status species. Nick also has a long history of managing the preparation of Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) for shoreline management projects including the Goleta Beach County Park Managed Retreat Project 2.0, Broad Beach Renourishment Project, Aliso Creek Restoration Project, and the Sandyland Revetment Project, each of which deal with shoreline management issues and infrastructure planning issues in response to sea level rise, coastal erosion, and flooding. Nick holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from UC Santa Barbara.

**Panelist:** Nick Sadrpour, Senior Coastal Scientist/Project Manager, GHD

**Biography:** Nick Sadrpour is a coastal scientist with 9 years of working experience at the intersection of research, policy, and project management in California. He focuses on envisioning innovative solutions for communities to adapt and manage sea level rise, erosion, flooding, and other coastal hazard impacts with a focus on coastal sediment management. Nick received a Master of Science in Coastal and Watershed Science and Policy from California State University, Monterey Bay and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Loyola Marymount University.

**Panelist:** Nicole Morse, Principal, T&B Planning, Inc.

**Biography:** Nicole Morse, Esq. is an owner/partner at T&B Planning, Inc. and has 22+ years of experience managing CEQA compliance projects for public- and private-sector clients. Her background as an attorney and environmental compliance consultant makes her an expert in legal strategy for CEQA documents. She leads CEQA strategy and document preparation, quality-control reviews documents and associated technical reports for compliance with CEQA and other regulatory requirements, and is a frequent presenter at public meetings and hearings. Nicole has prepared and managed CEQA compliance documents for a wide range of project types, including downtown and corridor redevelopment programs, general plan housing elements, urban infill, industrial, entertainment venues, and master planned communities. Nicole has a Juris Doctorate from Whittier Law School and a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Ecology from the University of California, Irvine.

**Panelist:** Nicole Vermillion, Principal, PlaceWorks

**Biography:** Nicole Vermillion oversees project staffing and timing for the PlaceWorks air quality, GHG, and noise technical team's impact evaluations under CEQA. She is responsible for expanding and fine-tuning the team based on changes in technology, legislation, and client needs and for ensuring that PlaceWorks air quality and GHG studies are defensible and consistent with recent case law. Nicole closely follows the rapid changes in requirements and the latest information on CEQA thresholds and analysis methodology. She has performed numerous GHG emissions inventories for individual projects as well as citywide emissions inventories for general plans. As a member of AEP's Climate Change Committee, Nicole has contributed to white papers addressing GHG emissions inventories for climate action plans and general plans, post-2020 GHG thresholds, and Friant Ranch.



**Panelist:** Olivia Mattair, Assistant Environmental Planner, LSA

**Biography:** Olivia Mattair serves as an assistant environmental planner in LSA's Irvine office. She holds degrees in Environmental Studies and Sociology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Though she is still in the early stages of her environmental planning career, she holds several years of experience in the ecological nonprofit and customer service sectors, which have each provided her with valuable soft skills that she has been able to apply to her work in the industry. As an assistant environmental planner at LSA, Olivia has gained familiarity with a diverse range of projects as well as business development practices. As her career progresses, she seeks to ultimately specialize in environmental justice and equity as they relate to the CEQA and NEPA processes. Olivia is an active participant in her company-sponsored Toastmasters club, which she utilizes to boost her public speaking and interpersonal skills.

**Panelist:** Patrick Angell, Principal, Ascent

**Biography:** Pat Angell has over 30 years of experience serving as a project director and manager and technical analyst for a variety of projects. His experience includes establishing environmental review divisions for cities, coordinating and facilitating large-scale private and public projects. He is currently the Chapter Director for the Superior California Chapter of AEP and also serves as the chair of the AEP CEQA Portal Committee. He was the chair for the 2023 State AEP Conference.

**Panelist:** Philip Nitollama, TE, City Traffic Engineer, City of Riverside, Public Works Department

**Biography:** Philip Nitollama has over 20 years of traffic engineering, transportation planning, and traffic operations experience with a history of working in both the private and public sectors. As the City Traffic Engineer for the City of Riverside, he oversees the Traffic Engineering Division and Traffic Signal Shop Division, providing leadership to ensure high performance and a customer service-oriented work environment. He oversees division objectives such as the completion of the Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP), establishment of a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Mitigation Bank, and the Fees & Exchanges Program. Philip has been licensed as a California State Traffic Engineer (TR 2410) for over 17 years and has served as a Subject Matter Expert Consultant for the State of California for the preparation of the Traffic Engineering Exam. His day-to-day responsibilities include direct engagement with City Council Members, residents, consultants, and other stakeholders to identify and evaluate traffic and transportation related solutions and develop a plan of action to mitigate impacts.

**Panelist:** Phuong Nguyen, PE, Senior Transportation Engineer, CR Associates

**Biography:** Phuong Nguyen has 15 years of experience providing engineering services to the transportation industry. He has conducted multiple evacuation analyses using microsimulation and transportation demand models. Over the years, Phuong has improved evacuation analysis methodology by including the multiple variables associated with human behavior during an evacuation scenario. Phuong has worked closely with fire protection experts, fire chiefs, law enforcement, and public works departments to ensure that each evacuation analysis remains up to date with the latest OPR technical advisory, emergency operation plans, and published case law.

**Panelist:** Pierre Glaize, Air Quality and Climate Change Specialist, ICF

**Biography:** Pierre Glaize is a senior air quality and climate change specialist with approximately 8 years of experience. He has extensive experience in research, preparation, and analysis consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a variety of environmental planning projects involving redevelopment, infrastructure, residential, mixed use, institutional, and commercial uses. His expertise includes air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) impact analyzes; climate action planning, and health risk assessments (HRAs).

**Panelist:** Poonam Boparai, Principal, Air Quality and Climate Change, Ascent

**Biography:** Poonam Boparai is an Ascent principal and the firm's San Diego office director. She has over 12 years of experience in the public and private sectors conducting air quality and GHG analyses and climate action planning. She possesses a unique skill set that combines technical expertise with a keen understanding of planning and environmental policy. She has successfully applied her expertise in assisting agencies such as the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego Unified Port District, and County of San Diego with air quality and climate change policy development, analysis methodologies, GHG reduction strategies, and development of GHG thresholds of significance. A long-time resident of San Diego, Poonam has in-depth knowledge of the local planning and environmental landscape and has helped multiple clients navigate the dynamic regulatory framework in CEQA and climate action planning.

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

**Biography:** Rachel Kwok serves as the environmental planner for the City of Santa Monica, and is responsible for the preparation and review of CEQA documents in the City. Ms. Kwok has over 20 years as an environmental planner, specializing in CEQA. She has been involved in the completion of numerous EIRs and negative declarations for City plans and infrastructure projects including the Downtown Community Plan and 6th Cycle Housing Element, as well as private development projects ranging from commercial office, residential, and mixed use projects. Prior to her career at Santa Monica, she worked as a principal planner in the private sector preparing EIRs and MNDs across the Los Angeles County region. Ms. Kwok holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning from UC Davis, and a master degree in Environmental Management from Brown University

**Panelist:** Rachel Struglia, CEQA Principal, Dudek

**Biography:** I came to Dudek more than a decade ago to start the CEQA/NEPA practice in Orange County. We started the team with one and now have a vibrant practice with environmental planners at all levels managing projects of all types and sizes. I have a passionate interest in water and wastewater infrastructure projects and I also specialize in infill development and redevelopment projects focused on mixed use. I am a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, the American Planning Association, the Association of Environmental Professionals, and the Orange County Water Association. Specialties: Water and wastewater infrastructure projects, infill development

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

**Biography:** Rich Walter has 31 years of experience in environmental planning, compliance strategy, permitting, and mitigation development and implementation. He has worked on numerous controversial and complex environmental planning and compliance projects. Rich has directed and participated in environmental impact assessment, alternatives analysis, and regulatory compliance for these portions of the California High-Speed Rail System: San Francisco to San Jose, San Jose to Merced, Central Valley Wye, and the Merced Station Relocation. As part of that work, Rich directed detailed assessments of air quality and greenhouse gas impacts and benefits of both construction and operations. Rich has also led an ICF Climate Action Planning practice since 2006 that has developed municipal and community climate action plans, GHG inventories for hundreds of communities across the U.S., general plan policies addressing climate change, cost-benefit analyses of emission reduction strategies, studies of adaptation to sea level rise, as well as numerous National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents addressing GHG emissions, climate change effects, resiliency, and adaptation. Rich is also a key author for the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) white papers on climate action planning as well as California Air Pollution Control Officer's Association (CAPCOA) white papers on CEQA and Climate Change and on Climate Change and General Plans. He also speaks often at conferences on greenhouse gas inventories, climate action plans, and integration of GHG reduction analysis and climate adaptation into environmental review documents at the state and federal level.

**Panelist:** Ricky Williams, AICP, Land Use/Environmental Planner- Sustainability, County of San Diego

**Biography:** Ricky Williams, AICP, is a Senior Planner with the Sustainability Planning Division of the County of San Diego's Planning & Development Services. He focuses on implementation of climate action planning efforts, including zero-emissions vehicle infrastructure and deployment, community energy resiliency, building electrification, and regional climate planning collaboration. This work has included management and implementation of the County's Electric Vehicle Roadmap, preparation of localized clean mobility studies for unincorporated communities, and leading County involvement in regional planning efforts, including the Accelerate to Zero (A2Z) Emissions Collaboration. Ricky holds a B.S. in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University and a Master's of City and Regional Planning and M.S. in Transportation Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

**Panelist:** Robert Stein, Assistant City Engineer, City of Newport Beach

**Biography:** Bob Stein is an assistant city engineer who specializes in water quality, preservation of receiving waters within the city of Newport Beach, and watershed restoration projects that will improve the health of the city's various watersheds and ultimately keep its ocean waters healthy and trash free. Bob served as the City's project manager for the Water Wheel project from pre-entitlement all the way through construction, which is anticipated to be completed later this year (2024). He led the initial design concepts, many of which were later incorporated into the final construction documents.

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

**Biography:** Ronald T. Milam, AICP, PTP, is the director of evolving the status quo at Fehr & Peers and co-leads the company's research and development. He is actively involved in a variety of project work and spends time teaching transportation planning, modeling, and transportation impact courses for UC Berkeley Tech Transfer and UC Davis Extension. A unique part of Ron's experience is thinking long-term and helping clients understand the future outcomes of their decisions. His recent work has focused on disruptive trends and new metrics to help inform challenging transportation policy and technical questions.

**Panelist:** Ryan Bensley, AICP, Principal, LSA Associates, Inc.

**Biography:** Ryan Bensley is a principal environmental planner in LSA's Irvine office. He is responsible for managing the preparation of environmental documents for a variety of transportation and land development projects. His primary responsibilities include coordinating and conducting research and analysis for environmental documents prepared in compliance with CEQA and NEPA. Ryan has more than 15 years of successful project management experience, including the preparation of environmental documents in support of numerous land development projects across California; however, the foundation for his career in environmental planning was laid when he was taking film classes in college and working in the apartment management industry. Over the years, Ryan has established a diverse repertoire of soft skills gained through his work and life experience. A dedicated Toastmaster and a strong believer in the value of "people helping people," he has a strong interest in ensuring that planners are using all tools available to not only evaluate the environmental impacts associated with projects, but to build meaningful connections between consultants, lead agencies, project applicants, and communities.

**Panelist:** Ryan Shum, Senior Planner, San Francisco Planning Department

**Biography:** Ryan Shum is a Senior Planner in the Environmental Planning division of the San Francisco Planning Department. He manages and prepares environmental review for both private and public sector projects and also has a background in transportation planning and urban design. Notable environmental review projects that Ryan recently helped manage include the City's Housing Element 2022 Update and the Shared Spaces program, which is the City's program for curbside parklets, street closures, and more. Ryan has also led internal department efforts to streamline the environmental review process and improve the usability of environmental documents.

**Panelist:** Sabrina Teller, JD, Partner, Remy Moose Manley, LLP

**Biography:** Sabrina Teller is a partner at Remy Moose Manley, a Sacramento firm focusing on CEQA, NEPA, and other environmental and land use laws. She represents public agencies, private applicants, and community organizations throughout all phases of the administrative and entitlement processes and writ litigation.

**Panelist:** Sam Wang, Program Supervisor, CEQA IGR, South Coast Air Quality Management District

**Biography:** Sam Wang is an air quality professional with over two decades of extensive experience across both the public and private sectors. Currently serving as a Program Supervisor in the CEQA IGR Unit at South Coast Air Quality Management District, he holds a pivotal role in leading a team responsible for reviewing CEQA documents, conducting air quality impact modeling, providing comment letters, and developing CEQA policies. Sam has held diverse positions within the District, including Senior Air Quality Engineer and Air Quality Specialist, where he conducted engineering evaluations and permitting; contributed to the Air Quality Management Plan; reviewed air quality, GHG, and health risk assessments; and prepared CEQA lead agency documents, emission estimates, and control technologies for various regulations and for projects across industries, transportation sectors, and public agencies.

**Panelist:** San Boyce, Environmental Planner, Caltrans, District 11

**Biography:** San Boyce is an associate environmental planner for Caltrans, District 11 with over 10 years of environmental planning experience. She specializes in NEPA and CEQA project delivery on transportation projects and was involved in the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge Suicide Deterrent and Rehabilitation Project. San has also worked for Caltrans in Stockton and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, DC.

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

**Biography:** Sarah Halterman is an air quality and climate change specialist at Dudek with over 10 years' experience. Ms. Halterman specializes in the preparation of air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, energy, and health risk analyses subject to CEQA and NEPA compliance, as well as climate action and adaptation planning. Ms. Halterman also prepares carbon storage and sequestration assessments through cross disciplinary collaboration with Dudek's forestry, biology, and GIS teams.

**Panelist:** Sarah Holm, Environmental Division Manager, Dokken Engineering

**Biography:** Sarah Holm is the Environmental Manager of Dokken Engineering's environmental division. She has over 16 years of experience in the various stages of environmental compliance, including biological resource evaluations, NEPA/CEQA documentation, regulatory permitting, biological mitigation, and overseeing environmental aspects of construction. Sarah specializes in transportation projects throughout the State of California. For biological mitigation, Sarah has developed and overseen the long-term success of numerous on-site revegetation projects, off-site habitat creation projects, and creative mitigation solutions involving invasive species removal programs, habitat enhancements for specific endangered species, and collaborative mitigation with land trusts, non-profits, and federal agencies.

**Panelist:** Scott Anders, Director, Energy Policy Initiatives Center (EPIC) at USD School of Law

**Biography:** Scott Anders has 20 years of experience in energy and climate policy. Anders is the director of the Energy Policy Initiatives Center (EPIC) at USD School of Law, where he works on regulatory and policy issues related to advancing a low-carbon economy. He has authored and co-authored numerous reports and papers, and is a frequent speaker, on topics including energy efficiency, distributed generation, renewable energy, and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Prior to joining EPIC, Mr. Anders was a senior manager at the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE), where he directed regulatory activities and a portfolio of energy programs funded under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. He also worked as a policy researcher for a Washington D.C. policy think tank and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali (West Africa). He holds a BA in international politics from Muhlenberg College and an MA in public policy from the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy.

**Panelist:** Scott L. Shapiro, JD, Former Managing Partner, Downey Brand

**Biography:** Scott Shapiro is an attorney licensed in California and Nevada who is highly regarded for his expertise in flood protection improvement projects throughout California's Central Valley and the West, as well as his successful track record on issues of water rights and water supplies. Scott is currently helping clients with more than two billion dollars in projects in California and the West. With a special focus on massive flood protection improvement projects, Scott advises clients through regulatory, contractual, financing, political, and

legislative challenges. Scott usually acts as General or Special Counsel for local public agencies and works to translate myriad legal challenges into risk assessments that the clients can evaluate. Scott is a partner in the California-based law firm of Downey Brand and sits on the Advisory Board of the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies.

**Panelist:** Shannon Baer, Senior Planner, RICK Engineering Company

**Biography:** Shannon Baer is a Senior Planner with the RICK Planning + Design team and currently serves as the Project Manager for the Lithium Valley Specific Plan. She has an M.A. in City Planning from San Diego State University and a B.A. in Environmental Planning from Sonoma State.

**Panelist:** Shannon Hatcher, Air Pollution Specialist, California Air Resources Board

**Biography:** Shannon Hatcher is an air pollution specialist with the California Air Resources Board (CARB). An area of Shannon's focus at CARB is strengthening local and regional land use planning to further state climate goals. He helped author the Local Actions Appendix of the 2022 Scoping Plan, and his primary responsibilities in LPS include reviewing land use development and transportation projects for consistency with state climate goals, as well as coordinated outreach to local governments and air districts. Prior to joining CARB, Shannon worked almost 20 years as an environmental consultant overseeing and performing GHG, criteria pollutant, and health risk environmental impact analyses pursuant to CEQA and NEPA.

**Panelist:** Shelah Riggs, Principal Regulatory Specialist, MNS Engineers

**Biography:** Shelah Riggs is a regulatory project manager with 24 years of experience in California and Oregon preparing CEQA/NEPA documents and regulatory compliance documents under the Clean Water Act, Sections 404 and 401; the federal Endangered Species Act, Sections 7 and 10; California Coastal Act; California State Porter-Cologne Act; California Endangered Species Act; and California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600–1616. Shelah has conducted numerous wetlands and streambed delineations in accordance with the US Army Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual and Arid West Region Supplement methodology throughout California. She maintains an excellent rapport with resource agency staff and has successfully negotiated and assisted in implementing favorable mitigation conditions for a variety of public and private projects located within environmentally sensitive areas.

**Panelist:** Shelby Rust Busó, Chief Sustainability Officer, City of San Diego

**Biography:** Shelby is the Chief Sustainability Officer and Deputy Director (Climate Action & Climate Equity), Sustainability and Mobility Department for the City of San Diego. She leads the team's work developing, implementing, and reporting on the City of San Diego's Climate Action Plan. The team coordinates policy development and project management related to decarbonization of the built environment, access to clean and renewable energy, mobility & land use, circular economy and clean communities, resilient infrastructure and healthy ecosystems, and emerging climate actions. Shelby has previously served as the Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Miami and the Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Atlanta as well as a Director for the US Green Building Council. She holds a Juris Doctorate and master's degree of Environmental Policy from Vermont Law School and Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, Environmental Studies, and Spanish from Wake Forest University in North Carolina.

**Panelist:** Shonda Herold, Senior Project Manager, Affirmed Housing

**Biography:** Shonda Herold is a seasoned professional with a diverse background in community development, urban planning, and affordable housing. She currently serves as a Senior Project Manager at Affirmed Housing, a leading for-profit affordable housing developer headquartered in San Diego. In her role at Affirmed Housing, Shonda is instrumental in the acquisition, financing, and development of affordable housing projects throughout southern California, furthering the organization's mission of providing quality housing solutions to underserved communities throughout California. Shonda has worked to develop nearly 1,000 affordable housing units and financed over \$438 million dollars in total development costs over the past 15 years using federal, state, and local agency funding sources, including Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, Tax Exempt Bonds, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 221(d)(4), local agency funding, and project-based Section 8 vouchers. Before joining Affirmed Housing, Shonda served as a Project Manager with the City of Riverside, overseeing the affordable housing funds, managing the City's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), and assisting at-risk individuals in finding viable housing options. Her 8 years of experience in City Planning with multiple public agencies, including the Cities of Rancho Cucamonga, Banning, and Riverside, have provided her a comprehensive understanding of the intricate dynamics between government agencies, private developers, and community stakeholders in achieving sustainable urban development.

**Panelist:** Stephanie Standerfer, Vice President, Environmental Services, Albert A. Webb Associates

**Biography:** Stephanie Standerfer, Vice President of Environmental Services at WEBB, has worked as an environmental planning project manager for over 20 years, focusing on CEQA matters for small, medium, and large public and private projects. Stephanie has managed all levels of CEQA documents for healthcare clients, community college districts, water districts, cities, counties, and private developers. Her varied project experience allows her to foresee and navigate challenges that arise during CEQA compliance. As an expert in CEQA implementation throughout Inland Southern California, she provides local agencies training in CEQA processing. Because of her reputation as a CEQA authority, clients seek out Stephanie's assistance in peer reviewing CEQA documents and guidance on CEQA and MSHCP processing strategies. She works closely with clients to help them navigate the intricacies of environmental regulatory compliance. Stephanie has either been a moderator or panelist at prior AEP and APA State Conferences.

**Panelist:** Stephen Stoewer, Senior Project Manager, City of Anaheim

**Biography:** Mr. Stephen Stoewer, as a City of Anaheim employee for over 22 years, is dedicated and passionate towards helping residents improve their quality of life. Mr. Stoewer has many roles for the Economic Development department, his responsibilities include; Successor Agency Property Management, Environmental Assessment and Remediation of Contaminated Properties, Capital Improvement Projects, Parking Management, and Property Management. Mr. Stoewer is passionate about cleaning up contaminated properties for future residential and commercial development that will ultimately improve our resident's quality of life.

**Panelist:** Susan Harden, FAICP, CNUa, Senior Managing Principal, Communications, Circlepoint

**Biography:** Susan Harden, FAICP, Senior Managing Principal with Circlepoint, has a broad background in community development, engagement, and planning. For over 27 years, she has built her career around community-based planning and visioning, striving to create a network of healthier, more livable communities, downtowns, and neighborhoods. She has provided community engagement and planning services to public and private sector clients across the country. In 2012 Susan was appointed to the California Planning Roundtable,

an organization of experienced planning professionals whose mission is to provide a forum for prominent planners to exercise creativity and leadership. She is a member of the Advisory Board for the Department of Urban Planning & Public Policy at University of California, Irvine where she is also an adjunct faculty member teaching in the graduate program. Susan has been a member of the Transportation and Traffic Commission in her home of Laguna Niguel since 2020.

**Panelist:** Tania Treis, Principal, Panorama Environmental, Inc.

**Biography:** Tania Treis has 22 years of experience managing the CEQA/NEPA and permitting processes for a wide range of projects. She is the Founding Principal and President of Panorama. Tania's expertise includes leading program and project definition, alternatives analysis, policy analysis, and environmental review for energy, water, and natural resource-focused projects. She has worked with many different public and private clients across the San Francisco Bay Area, eastern California, and Nevada. Tania has graduate degrees in biology and geology.

**Panelist:** Taylor Morgan, Diversity & Recruiting Professional, Ascent

**Biography:** I have over 6 years of human resources experience with a focus on leadership in DEI programs and initiatives. I'm passionate about creating a culture of belonging and empowerment for all employees. My passion evolved from my own personal experiences and has transitioned into a career that I love. I am a people person, and through People Resources I can connect, uplift, and all employees here at Ascent.. I'm originally from Alameda, California, but I've lived in Sacramento since completing my undergrad. I love this city and its diversity! Some of my hobbies are attending music festivals, doing puzzles, and upcycling secondhand fashion. I also enjoy spending time with friends and family and learning new things. I believe that life is a journey and we should embrace every opportunity.

**Panelist:** Tina Wallis, Founder/President, Wallis Law Group

**Biography:** Tina Wallis, Principal A highly regarded land use attorney and authority on California's Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Tina Wallis guides private and public sector landowners and developers through complex entitlement and permitting processes, CEQA compliance, litigation challenging entitlements and permits, and due diligence for complex land use and environmental issues. Ms. Wallis began her legal career advising counties, cities, and special districts on land use, public works, general government, airport, and landfill matters. During this time, she built a reputation as a fair and respectful problem solver, and is thus esteemed by those with whom she negotiates on her clients behalf. Ms. Wallis serves both the legal and wider communities as an advocate for affordable housing, youth services, and excellence in the study and practice of law.

**Panelist:** Tom Grahn, Senior Planner, City of Ontario

**Biography:** With over 35 years of public-sector planning experience, Tom is part of Ontario's Advance Planning team focusing on long term projects including the City's recently updated general plan (The Ontario Plan) and updating the Ontario Development Code. His projects also include development application reviews for commercial, industrial, residential, and mixed use development proposals, project related general plan and specific plan amendments, as well as project related environmental analysis including EIRs, EIR Addendums, MNDs, and Neg Decs.



**Panelist:** Tracy Zinn, AICP, President, T&B Planning, Inc.

**Biography:** Tracy Zinn is an owner/partner of T&B Planning, Inc. and serves as the firm's President and CEO. She has 30+ years of CEQA compliance experience and is respected for preparing documents that are easily understood, technically accurate, and legally defensible. Tracy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), and is a member of the California Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP), American Planning Association (APA), Commercial Real Estate Development Association (NAIOP), Inland Empire Chapter Board of Directors, and Legislative Affairs Committee.

**Panelist:** Travis Randel, Deputy City Manager, Development Services, City of San Jacinto

**Biography:** Travis Randel is a skilled public servant with a wealth of experience in municipal government and urban planning. He currently serves as the Deputy City Manager of Development Services for the City of San Jacinto, where his leadership and expertise play a pivotal role in advancing the city's strategic initiatives and enhancing the quality of life for its residents. Prior to his current role, he held the position of Community Development Director for the City of San Jacinto, where he spearheaded various community development projects and played a crucial role in shaping the city's growth and development. Before joining the City of San Jacinto, Travis accumulated a diverse range of experiences in urban planning and municipal management serving in multiple planning capacities for the City of Riverside. These roles allowed him to develop a comprehensive understanding of the intricacies of city planning and governance. Travis earned his bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of California, Riverside, where he cultivated a deep appreciation for the environmental aspects of urban development. Subsequently, he pursued a master's degree in Public Administration from California Baptist University, further enhancing his skill set and knowledge in public sector management.

**Panelist:** Tyler Farmer, Chief, Sustainability Planning Division, County of San Diego

**Biography:** Tyler Farmer is the Chief of Operations for Sustainability Planning, which is a strategic planning division focused on sustainability topics at the County of San Diego's Planning & Development Services. He has over 15 years of experience in sustainability planning, design, and construction and has worked on projects across the country. In his current role, he guides the development and implementation of planning efforts for conservation, climate action, zero-emission vehicle, groundwater, and general sustainability subject areas. Tyler has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Colorado, Boulder with an emphasis on policy.

**Panelist:** Tyson Sohagi, The Sohagi Law Group, PLC

**Biography:** Tyson Sohagi's practice focuses upon environmental law, land use and planning law, the Coastal Act, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Public Trust Doctrine, and Election Law. Mr. Sohagi received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from UC Berkeley that assists with SLG's review of issues involving complex legal and technical issues. He advises public clients on complex matters such as infrastructure projects (transmission lines, port facilities, airport facilities, intermodal and on dock railroad facilities, utility plants), mass transit fees, general plans and specific plans, specific development proposals, and other land use issues. Many of his projects have involved complicated issues pertaining to historic resources, water supply, sea water intrusion, groundwater, water quality, stormwater, wastewater,

cultural resources, air quality, greenhouse gases, hazardous materials, noise, and geology. Mr. Sohagi also has substantial experience related to transportation analysis, including operational analysis involving airports (including internal airport circulation), intermodal railways facilities, development projects, construction work, county and city-wide programmatic analysis, as well as non-vehicular analysis including multi-modal analysis utilizing new Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) metrics. Mr. Sohagi has been involved in numerous litigation matters in the California Superior and Appellate Courts involving issues pertaining to CEQA compliance, Coastal Act compliance, zoning compliance, the Public Trust Doctrine, election law and ballot measures, hydrology and water quality, water supply, geology, traffic and circulation, historic and archaeological resources, and biological resources. Mr. Sohagi is also involved with the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties, including preparation of several amicus briefs in the California Supreme Court and numerous publication requests.

**Panelist:** Vanessa Toscano, Principal Planner, HELIX Environmental Planning

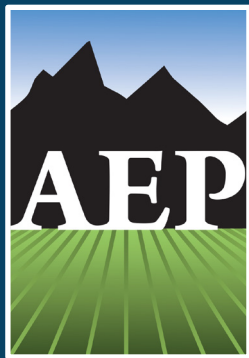
**Biography:** Vanessa Toscano (she/her) is a Principal Planner and Group Manager at HELIX Environmental Planning. She is on the Southern California Environmental Planning Group management team and has 16 years of experience overseeing the environmental review process for a wide range of private development, infrastructure, transportation, and higher education projects. Vanessa is on the State AEP Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and is a member of the San Diego Chapter of AEP.

**Panelist:** William Halligan, ESQ, Senior Director/Senior Environmental Counsel, Harris & Associates

**Biography:** An environmental practitioner and attorney with more than 30 years of experience in private- and public-sector planning, Bill has prepared hundreds of environmental documents for a diverse range of projects throughout California. Throughout his career, Bill has leveraged his specialty in land use and environmental law to help agencies continually withstand legal challenges related to CEQA. He has prepared hundreds of environmental documents for a wide range of projects throughout California, including general plans, specific plans, government facilities, large-scale master planned communities, and mixed-use development. Bill's varied background affords him an exceptional understanding of planning and zoning law, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). His involvement during high-level discussions and negotiations with the California State Attorney General's office regarding analysis of greenhouse gas emissions led to the avoidance of a potentially damaging lawsuit. Bill currently serves as State President of the 1,700 member Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP). As a member (and former chair) of AEP's Legislative Review Committee, Bill works directly with AEP's lobbyist and the State Legislature on proposed legislation related to CEQA. The committee provides analysis, prepares comment letters, and conducts direct lobbying on legislative bills relating to CEQA. He recently served on the working group for AB 2323 for Assembly Members Friedman and Chiu. Bill also teaches an annual "CEQA Hot Topics" class at the Capitol for legislators and staffers. Bill is a frequent guest lecturer on CEQA and associated case law for University of California's Irvine and Riverside campuses, Cal Poly Pomona, and AEP. He has also has extensive experience providing third-party review of environmental documents for legal and technical adequacy.

**Panelist:** Darrin Trageser, Air Quality and Climate Change Specialist, ICF

**Biography:** Darrin Trageser is an air quality and climate change specialist with extensive experience using various air quality models to conduct air quality and GHG analyses, including CalEEMod, EMFAC, CT-EMFAC, CALINE, AERSCREEN, AERMOD, CMAQ, VISCREEN, and PLUVUE II, in addition to experience with UNIX/Linux operating systems. He has experience writing a wide variety of CEQA and NEPA air quality and GHG analyses for projects throughout California. Darrin earned a Master of Science degree in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of California, Davis in 2014, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Washington in 2009. Relevant coursework included aerosols, air pollution, atmospheric chemistry, atmospheric turbulence, FORTRAN, computer modeling, ecosystem biochemistry, and climate change, water, and society.



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