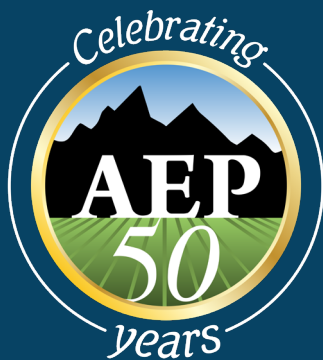


AEP 2025

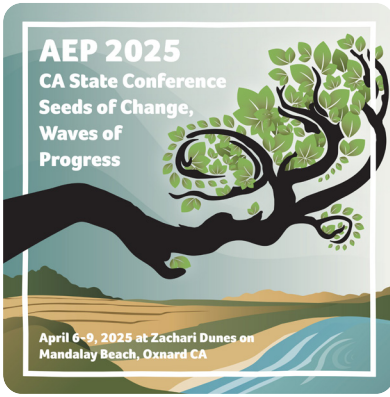
CA State Conference
Seeds of Change,
Waves of
Progress



April 6-9, 2025 at Zachari Dunes on
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Panelist Biographies



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Panelist Biographies



Panelist: Simone Albuquerque, Climate Resiliency Analyst, Sonoma County

As a Climate Resiliency Analyst with the County of Sonoma, Simone Albuquerque manages a wide array of climate-related projects. Her work on a wide range of programs, including mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and waste levels, planning landscape-scale resiliency projects, and overseeing climate funds. Previously, she worked for the Marin Resource Conservation District planning and implementing multi-beneficial conservation projects in the Estero de San Antonio and Tomales Bay watersheds. She has over 6 years of experience in program management and climate resilience and adaptation planning, and a passion for innovative solutions to environmental problems. Simone received her Master of Environmental Science & Management from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a B.S. in Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Moderator: Amanda Antonelli, Senior Environmental Planner, Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Amanda Antonelli is a senior environmental planner and project manager with Rincon Consultants' Ventura Office. She specializes in overseeing the successful completion of CEQA/NEPA documentation, cross-disciplinary technical studies, coastal development permitting, and construction monitoring for potable water, wastewater, stormwater, groundwater, and water reuse projects. Amanda has worked on dozens of infrastructure projects for agencies throughout California, including Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Montecito Water District, Calleguas Municipal Water District, and Casitas Municipal Water District.

Panelist: Rory Baker, Environmental Compliance Coordinator, Sapphos Environmental, Inc.

Rory Baker performs impact analyses for various projects under CEQA and NEPA. She has experience in projects that require varying levels of environmental documentation, including Initial Studies, Categorical Exemption documents, MNDs, and EIRs under CEQA.

Panelist: Ian Barnes, PE, Principal, Fehr & Peers

Ian Barnes is a Principal in Fehr & Peers's Walnut Creek office, who also serves as Senior Market Leader for Northern California. His enthusiasm for transportation and improving communities has led to extensive experience in transportation planning/engineering projects covering a broad spectrum of project types, including infrastructure and land use projects in the wildfire-urban interface in critical locations like the Oakland-Berkeley Hills and Wine Country. Ian is recognized as an international leader in Evacuation Analysis planning, and a national leader in Evacuation Analysis for CEQA and NEPA purposes. In recognition of his expertise, in 2024, Ian was named as the only non-academic practitioner Member of the Transportation Research Board's Standing Committee on Emergency Evacuations, Disaster Response, and Business Continuity (AMR 20). He has a long history of completing programmatic and large-scale project-level CEQA and infrastructure projects throughout the Bay Area and Northern California, particularly on controversial projects that result in large amounts of community concern and potential for litigation. Ian regularly advises statewide agencies on evolving issues in the transportation policy and analysis space.

Panelist: Lisa Battiato, PG, Senior Geologist/Regional Manager, Geocon

Lisa Battiato, a registered Professional Geologist, has more than 28 years of experience providing geologic consulting services throughout California. Her experience encompasses a wide range of projects, including transportation and water infrastructure; educational, medical, commercial, and industrial facilities; mixed-use and multi-family residential developments; and other large-scale land developments. Her technical expertise includes seismic hazard analyses; subsurface fault, landslide, liquefaction, and geotechnical investigations and assessments; geologic mapping; pavement distress mitigation; geotechnical services during utility installation and roadway construction; geologic evaluations of levee stability; project management services for large, hillside grading projects; and supervision of materials testing services during construction. Lisa has been actively involved in determining methods and designs necessary for slope stabilization, seepage, mitigation of collapsible soils, induced soil settlement, expansive soils, subsurface dewatering, and drainage.

Panelist: Camila Bautista, Audubon California

Camila Bautista is an experienced environmental scientist and dedicated conservation advocate currently serving as the Salton Sea and Desert Program Manager with Audubon California. She holds a bachelor's degree in Biology from UCLA and is in the final stages of obtaining a master's degree in Environmental Science from California State University, Los Angeles. Her master's thesis, which won the Farvolden Scholarship at the National Groundwater Association Groundwater Week 2023 conference, focuses on analyzing water sources feeding the Bombay Beach Wetland Project through isotopic analysis. Camila's journey with Audubon California began in January 2020 as an intern with the Salton Sea Program. Her exceptional work led to a part-time Program Coordinator position in 2021, a full-time role as Senior Program Coordinator in 2022, and a promotion to Program Manager in April 2024. Throughout her career at Audubon California, she has demonstrated leadership in key projects, including the Bombay Beach Wetland Project, and has significantly contributed to community engagement and development. Camila grew up in the city of Coachella, only 30 minutes north of the Salton Sea, so her lifelong connection to the region deeply informs her commitment to driving impactful environmental change in her native area.

Panelist: Sean Bechta, Senior Project Manager, Ascent Environmental

Sean Bechta is a senior environmental planner with over 30 years of experience in CEQA, NEPA, and regulatory compliance. He has managed hundreds of compliance documents, permit applications, and technical reports for forest health, conservation planning, land use planning, water infrastructure, and development projects. He is currently working on multiple projects addressing wildfire, fuels management, and evacuation. He regularly collaborates with planners, engineers, architects, technical experts, and other members of the overall project team to address environmental issues during project design, environmental review, permitting, and construction phases. Sean frequently provides training in CEQA, NEPA, and other environmental regulations.

Panelist: Elea Becker Lowe, Climate Assessment Manager, Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation

Elea Becker Lowe is California's Climate Assessment Program Manager at the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI, formerly the Office of Planning and Research). At LCI, she leads an interagency team, alongside diverse partners in academia, government, and across tribal and local communities to provide the best available science and information about California's climate future and uplift adaptive solutions that build long-term resilience. She brings over a decade of experience in federal, statewide, and local climate adaptation policy and planning, including a 5-year tenure with the California Natural Resources Agency and consulting on local sustainability efforts and national climate policy. Elea holds a master's degree in International Environmental Policy from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies.

Moderator: John Bellas, CEQA Technical Director, Michael Baker International

John Bellas is Michael Baker International's CEQA Technical Director for the Los Angeles area. With 25 years of experience, he has managed the preparation of numerous CEQA and NEPA documents for a wide range of projects, including renewable energy projects, urban infill projects, greenfield and brownfield development projects, schools and colleges, parks and recreational facilities, land use plans and programs, and various capital improvement projects. In addition, he regularly provides strategic CEQA guidance to a variety of agencies in Southern California and frequently conducts peer reviews of CEQA documents for lead and responsible agencies. 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: Travis Belt, Natural Resources Director, Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Travis Belt has 23 years of experience with natural resources management in California, Arizona, Nevada, and Hawaii. He conducts special-status species surveys, invasive species management, habitat mapping, and jurisdictional waters delineations; prepares biological reports for CEQA, NEPA, and federal and state endangered species acts compliance; develops project permitting strategies; manages project execution; and performs wildlife and vegetation management. Travis studied watershed, chaparral, and wildfire management, has developed wildfire management plans for the Department of Defense in Hawaii, and participated in California Vegetation Treatment Program analysis for natural resources.

Panelist: Clesi Bennett, Senior Environmental Scientist, California Natural Resources Agency

Clesi Bennett is a Senior Environmental Scientist with the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA). She is leading the production and coordination of research and technical work underpinning CNRA's climate policies and strategic projects. Clesi is managing the 2025 Update to California's Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy and is developing the Senate Bill 27 California Carbon Sequestration and Climate Resiliency Project Registry, to link nature-based solutions and funding.

Panelist: Iddo Benzeevi, President and CEO, Highland Fairview

Iddo Benzeevi is an entrepreneur and co-founder of Highland Fairview, a privately held development company specializing in large-scale industrial, commercial, and residential developments. The company's activities currently cover over 9,000 acres in California with various projects encompassing over 56 million square feet of buildings and facilities. He is an active member of our community and serves on several regional boards. Iddo is a visionary whose ideas and approach to development are now transforming our region. Highland Fairview's Complete Life Cycle approach to development seamlessly integrates the design, construction, operations, and maintenance of buildings as an integral part of the engineering process. This process ensures that projects have minimal impact on both people and the environment. This cutting edge design process has resulted in significant achievement in sustainable development with the award by the U.S. Green Building Council of a LEED Gold Certification to the company's Skechers 1.8 million square feet Facility in Moreno Valley. The facility is recognized as the largest building of its kind to ever been bestowed with this prestigious distinction. Highland Fairview is dedicated to developing projects of the highest quality and sustainability standards, aesthetic relevance, and enduring value for its portfolio and local communities.

Panelist: Amaury Berteaud, Program Manager, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

Amaury Berteaud is the Sustainability Program Manager at the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments. He has experience in energy efficiency, grant management, and public outreach, and a proven track record of implementing successful sustainability initiatives. He has experience designing and managing energy efficiency programs, obtaining funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, and implementing them. Amaury also has deep experience conducting public outreach and building diverse coalitions to obtain funding for regional collaborative sustainability and climate action initiatives.

Moderator: Kristi Black, JD, Principal, Environmental Planning, ICF

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 University of California, Davis Continuing and Professional Education.

Panelist: Kristin Blackson, Vice President, Environmental Planning, WSP

Kristin Blackson is a Vice President with WSP leading the Environmental Planning Division for Southern California. Kristin has 25 years of in-depth experience in environmental planning, policy and instruction. Kristin was employed by the County of San Diego's Planning Department as an environmental planning manager and eventually the CEQA Program Manager. At the County, she coordinated efforts of multi-disciplinary staff and was responsible for CEQA compliance for several County Departments. Her work involves the management and preparation of CEQA and NEPA documents for both private and public projects throughout the region. The list of projects she has managed is comprehensive and includes major transit projects, general plan updates, water master plans, master planned communities, programs and ordinances, and specific plans. In addition to consulting, Kristin teaches CEQA courses for UC San Diego and local jurisdictions across California. Kristin also works on current CEQA legislation representing the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) on the AEP Legislative Committee.

Panelist: Grace Blakeslee, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, Senior Transportation Planner

Grace Blakeslee, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, is the Senior Transportation Planner for the Coastal Rail Trail Project to be located along the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC)-owned Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. She has served as the lead agency and responsible agency representative for implementation of the 20 segments of the Coastal Rail Trail Project along the 32-mile rail line and is the SCCRTC point of contact as the projects move through permitting and mitigation development.

Panelist: Deanna Bolio, Community Outreach Supervisor, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

Deanna Bolio is a Community Outreach Supervisor at Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), where she strategizes and manages community engagement related to public transit, bicycle/pedestrian, and highway project programs. Prior to joining VTA in 2017, Deanna spent several years managing communications for SAGE Veterinary Centers in the Bay Area. She also previously worked in public relations at Stanford Blood Center. A throughline in her career has been taking complicated or technical information and distilling it in approachable terms and concepts for non-technical audiences. Deanna is passionate about equitable and inclusive community engagement and lowering perceived barriers to public participation.

Panelist: Poonam Boparai, MS, Principal, Ascent Environmental, Inc.

Poonam Boparai is a principal at Ascent Environmental and the firm's San Diego office director. She has over 18 years of experience in the public and private sectors conducting climate action planning for local and regional agencies and special districts. With an educational background in Environmental Engineering with a focus on climate science, she applies her expertise to develop effective climate mitigation and adaptation solutions grounded in data and science and informed by community needs and a focus on equitable outcomes. Poonam has in-depth knowledge of the planning and environmental landscape and has helped multiple clients navigate the dynamic framework in climate action planning.

Panelist: Xela Brainin Godinez, Student, Cal State University Channel Islands

Xela Brainin Godinez is a junior at California State University, Channel Islands working towards her B.S. in Environmental Science and Resource Management with a Marine and Coastal Emphasis, as well as minoring in Peace and Conflict Resolution. Aside from school, she is involved in AEP's People and Culture Committee. Xela holds the view that there cannot be equity in conservation without the involvement and voices of Indigenous individuals and communities. She is eager to continue gaining experience through hands-on work, internships, research, and paid opportunities.

Panelist: Raphael Breines, Senior Planner, University of California, Berkeley

Raphael Breines is a career public servant with tremendous experience as an environmental, park, open space, campus, and land use planning professional at various public agencies since 1999. For the past 6 years he has worked as a senior planner at University of California, Berkeley focused on issues affecting the campus's built environment. Prior to working for University of California, Berkeley, he worked for almost 18 years as a park planner for the East Bay Regional Park District, and in that capacity prepared land use plans and CEQA documents for regional parks in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Raphael has a B.A. from University of California, Santa Cruz and a master's degree in Urban Planning from San Jose State University.

Panelist: Victor Briones, Program Administrator, County of Ventura

Victor Briones began working for the County of Ventura in 2021 as an Air Quality Specialist for the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District and joined the Sustainability Division as a Program Administrator in early 2023. He graduated from UC Santa Barbara in 2020 with a degree in Environmental Studies. Victor works as part of the Climate Action Plan team, implementing sustainable initiatives to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change and is the project lead for the EPA CPRG Planning Grant.

Panelist: Becca Bugielski, PE, Director of Strategic Initiatives, MKN & Associates, Inc.

Becca Bugielski has over a decade of experience in the municipal engineering industry. She started her career in Wisconsin where she was named the City Engineer for a community where she managed the City's \$13 million-per-year capital improvement plan. Becca has spent the last several years in California further developing her water and wastewater engineering knowledge, as well as expanding her leadership role at MKN & Associates, where she currently serves as the Director of Strategic Initiatives. She previously acted as MKN's Southern California Operations Manager, where she managed the Ventura, Santa Clarita, Oceanside, and Irvine offices, leading staff focused on water and wastewater infrastructure projects throughout southern California. Becca serves in Program Manager roles for multiple clients throughout the state and is currently the President Elect of the Ventura County Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

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

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 (NAEP) and AEP, where she serves as liaison to the NAEP and is a founder and integral member of the AEP People & Culture 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 EIS/EIRs for projects. She is currently highly engaged in the California High-Speed Rail Project, the largest infrastructure project in the Nation.

Panelist: Sean Carlson, MS, MURP, ENV SP, Team Manager- Environmental Planning, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Sean Carlson is a Team Manager in the Environmental Planning Section at The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), a regional water wholesaler that provides water for 26 member public agencies that in turn provide drinking water to approximately 19 million people in parts of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura Counties. He oversees a talented team of planners responsible for preparation of CEQA documents and CEQA compliance, as well as permitting for listed species and jurisdictional streams and wetlands. Sean got his start in the environmental field conducting population surveys and implementing habitat restoration projects for salmonid species in Northern California. He has over 20 years of experience, including previous roles as an Associate Environmental Planner at Caltrans and as a Staff Environmental Scientist at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife prior to joining MWD. He holds

a B.A. in Geography from California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, an M.U.R.P. from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and an M.S. in Water Resource Management from California State University, Fresno.

Panelist: Margaret Cederoth, Director of Planning and Sustainability, CA High Speed Rail Authority

Margaret Cederoth is an urban planner with two decades of experience working in sustainable infrastructure and land use and transportation planning throughout the United States and globally. She was appointed by Governor Newsom in 2019 to be the director of Planning and Sustainability for the California High-Speed Rail Authority. She previously led sustainability work for the Authority, and as a consultant she oversaw corporate sustainability initiatives for WSP USA, including their commitment to carbon neutral operations and the development of training and tools for implementing sustainability approaches on a range of infrastructure projects. Margaret has a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Panelist: Cindy Chambers, Senior Planner, County of San Luis Obispo

After earning a bachelor's degree in City & Regional Planning in 1996, Cindy worked in Current Planning for the Cities of Santa Barbara and Paso Robles for 7 years. She then joined Wallace Group in San Luis Obispo as a private-sector planner, processing tract and parcel maps through the County of San Luis Obispo, and conducting condition compliance for major projects. She joined the County of San Luis Obispo's Current Planning Department in 2016 and transitioned to the Diablo Canyon Decommissioning project in 2021. Cindy's experience implementing mitigation measures for the public and private sectors has taught her how to create measures that are defensible yet flexible for a variety of unknown field conditions.

Panelist: Mike Coleman, Environmental Planning Program Manager (Aviation Manager), Denver International Airport, City and County of Denver

Mike Coleman, AICP is an Environmental Planner and Manager with over four decades of experience in environmental planning (CEQA/NEPA) and Environmental Design and Project Management and City and Regional Planning in private and public sector water resource and land development and capital projects. He worked at Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) from 2002 through 2024 in the Bay Area, and prior to that was at the California Bay-Delta Program. For the first half of his career, he was in the San Diego region in public and private sector roles. Mike has been involved with the AEP Monterey Bay-Silicon Valley Chapter Board serving as the Chapter Director since 2015 and is also on the AEP People & Culture Committee. At the 900-employee public agency known as Valley Water, Mike volunteered his time over and above his environmental planner duties to advance Diversity, Inclusion, and Environmental Justice topics and served as a volunteer to the Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI office) as a liaison to the Watersheds Division and Environmental Planning Unit. The Valley Water REDI office was created in July 2020 to strengthen and expand Valley Water's ability to effectively deliver equitable services and to attract, retain, and promote a diverse and talented workforce. REDI seeks to ensure that racial equity and inclusion are principles that are interwoven into all existing policies, programs, and practices and extend through interpersonal, organizational, and community engagement levels.

Panelist: Grace Constantian, Student, University of California, San Diego

Grace Constantian is studying Bioinformatics and Environmental Systems at the University of California, San Diego. She has previously worked at the World Wildlife Fund and the University of California, San Diego Women's Center, and has conducted and presented Biology Education and AI research. She aspires to pursue a career in Pacific Island Conservation. Grace is a member of the AEP People & Culture Committee. In her free time, she enjoys tide pooling and playing pickleball with her friends.

Moderator/Panelist: Emily Creel, J.D., Principal Planning Team Lead, SWCA Environmental Consultants
Emily Creel is a Principal Planning Team Lead for SWCA Environmental Consultants' San Luis Obispo office. She received her Juris Doctor (J.D.) in 2005 and has over 18 years of experience in environmental law and planning in California. She has expertise in drafting and reviewing environmental documents for compliance with relevant federal, state, and local laws. In addition to her role at SWCA, Emily is currently acting as the Legislative Liaison for the Association of Environmental Professionals Channel Counties Chapter. Her depth of experience, critical thinking skills, and keen knowledge of CEQA's legal framework allows her to think creatively within that framework to meet project goals, including development of stable, defensible project descriptions.

Panelist: Chief Esparza, Human Connection Strategist, Association of Environmental Professionals (staff)
Chief Esparza comes to AEP as a believer in the power of stories to nurture empathy and build connections across people of different heritages, cultures, and communities. "What happens when we ask broad groups of people to tell first-person stories about common human experiences and concepts? Any time we focus on our humanity first and foremost, we get deeper, more complete stories of culture and identity. That's how we create onramps to empathy and bridges to human connection." With this background in the social determinants of identity and cultural humility in the workplace, he has brought his expertise to industries, including nonprofit, software, construction, consumer finance, and now to the world of environmental professionals. And as a self-described "nerd," Chief is an unabashed fan of Star Trek, Star Wars, Marvel, and Lord of the Rings (just to name a few of his favorites).

Panelist: Amanda Daams, Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP

Amanda Daams is a partner in the Environmental Law & Natural Resources practice group of Best Best & Krieger LLP. Practicing for 15 years, she represents public agency and private clients in the areas of the California Environmental Quality Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and related environmental laws. She has reviewed and advised on hundreds of environmental documents, including those related to general plan updates, specific plans, residential, commercial, mixed use, industrial and transportation projects, as well as mining projects across California. Amanda is very active in the Association of Environmental Professionals, serving as the Chapter Director for the Inland Empire Chapter and planning CEQA workshops.

Panelist: Jeffrey V. Dagdigian, PhD, Waterstone

Dr. Jeffrey Dagdigian is the owner and lead environmental scientist of Waterstone. He holds a Ph.D. in chemistry and has over 33 years of experience in the evaluation, assessment, remediation, restoration, and/or mitigation of real property. In addition, he has decades of experience in performing site assessments, subsurface site characterizations, remedial planning and costing, evaluation of industrial processes, forensic chemical analysis of contaminants, environmental site restoration, waste minimization, remediation, and wastewater treatment process evaluation. Dr. Dagdigian is currently involved in numerous cases involving per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination, including identifying the sources of various PFAS chemicals in water purveyor well fields.

Based on his lengthy career as an environmental scientist, Dr. Dagdigian is frequently retained as an expert witness for litigated matters. His reputation as an experienced expert witness has caused him to be chosen as the testifying expert for the U.S. Department of Justice and by large corporations where millions of dollars in claims or damages are at stake.

For over 20 years, Dr. Dagdigian has been a part-time instructor for environmental programs at the University of California, Irvine. In this role, he develops and teaches courses addressing environmental issues related to chemistry, environmental due diligence, site characterization, remediation and cleanup standards, regulatory compliance, and innovative technologies related to site assessment and remediation primarily for the continuing education of currently employed environmental professionals.

Panelist: Bill Davilla, Principal and Senior Botanist, EcoSystems West

Bill Davilla has over 40 years of experience providing the full array of biological resources services in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties (and beyond), serving as technical advisor to the Counties of Santa Cruz and Monterey and the University of California, Santa Cruz. He has provided strategic guidance for the biological resources technical reports and EIR analyses for five segments (Segments 5, 8, 9, 10, and 11) of the Coastal Rail Trail. Bill is a team lead as the projects move through permitting and mitigation development.

Panelist: Shelton Douthit, Director, Feather River Land Trust

As Conservation Director, Shelton Douthit leads the Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) in fulfilling its land-saving mission. He works with partners, landowners, staff, and FRLT's Board to move projects forward that permanently protect the critical conservation values of the Feather River Watershed.

Shelton has 20+ years of experience managing fee-title and conservation easement transactions. He previously served as FRLT's Executive Director, overseeing a visionary effort to conserve over 60,000 acres of ecologically important landscapes and working ranches. Before joining FRLT in 2015, he worked as a consultant to the land trust community focusing on land protection and stewardship planning. He assisted land trusts across the West by managing transactions, providing due diligence, and performing program assessments. Shelton and his team assisted with the protection of 75,000 acres of land primarily in the California desert from 2000 to 2015. Prior roles included serving as a project coordinator and then vice president of The Wildland Conservancy (where he assisted with the protection of over 500,000 acres of wildlands) and Executive Director of the Riverside Land Conservancy. Shelton started his 31-year career in the land trust community working with the Sempervirens Fund.

In his role as FRLT Executive Director, Shelton and his team have developed and nurtured partnerships with private landowners, public land managers, and Indigenous leaders. These partnerships have resulted in thousands of acres of land conservation, land management, headwaters protection, working landscapes stewardship, and Indigenous permanent land and water reunions within ancestral territories.

Panelist: Christopher Duran, Principal and Senior Archaeologist, Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Mr. Christopher Duran is a Principal and Senior Archaeologist with Rincon Consultants with over seventeen years of professional experience in cultural resources management throughout California with extensive experience in the Mojave Desert, Great Basin, Sierra Nevada, Central Coast and South Coast regions. He has led and completed projects at various levels including cultural resources monitoring, surveys, evaluations, and data recoveries. Chris has worked with agencies and Native American organizations throughout the state crafting

cultural resources management strategies for the effective treatment of archaeological resources. Chris is an expert at executing cultural resources studies in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Historic Preservation Act and has worked alongside agencies and tribes throughout the state on various complex projects. Most recently, Chris has served as the Principal Archaeologist for Rincon's CalVTP efforts in southern California.

Moderator: Amanda Dwyer, Sales and Business Development Manager, Westervelt Ecological Services
Amanda Dwyer currently serves as the Sales and Business Development Manager for Westervelt Ecological Service's Western Region Office. In this position, she 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, she worked at the California Department of Water Resources conducting 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.

Moderator: Scott Eckardt, Forester/Fire Protection Planner, Dudek
Scott Eckardt is a licensed forester and certified wildland fire manager with 25 years of professional experience in the natural resource management field, specializing in forest resource and fire and fuels management in open space and wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas throughout California. He routinely prepares forest and resource management plans, wildland fire and vegetation management plans, and wildfire hazard and risk and assessments. Scott holds a B.S. in Forestry and Natural Resources Management from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and an M.A. in Geography from California State University, Long Beach.

Moderator: Kate Elliott, Director, Environmental Planning & Compliance, Harris & Associates
Kate Elliott, Director of Environmental Planning & Compliance with Harris & Associates, has served as the EIR project manager for three separate EIRs, covering five segments of the Coastal Rail Trail Project planned along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, which is owned by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission. These include Segment 5, Segments 8 and 9, and Segments 10 and 11.

Panelist: Oscar Escobar, Environmental Associate, Michael Baker International
Oscar Escobar has nearly 4 years of experience in the environmental planning field. His current professional responsibilities include project coordination and preparation of CEQA and NEPA documentation for clients on a variety of projects, including commercial, residential, mixed-use developments, and roadway and utility infrastructure (e.g., natural gas facilities, bridges, right-of-way improvements). Oscar also currently volunteers his time as Co-Vice President of Programs on the Board of the AEP Orange County Chapter, which includes hosting webinars on current analysis trends and legislative changes related to environmental planning.

Panelist: Katherine Fikan, Environmental Planner, Rincon Consultants, Inc.
Katherine Fikan is an Environmental Planner and Project Manager with Rincon Consultants with 7 years of experience. Her expertise spans a broad range of project types, including regulatory permitting, conditional use permits, design review, and the preparation of technical reports, such as opportunities and constraints analyses and qualitative vehicle miles traveled memorandums. She specializes in preparing environmental documents

pursuant to CEQA and NEPA, supporting both public and private developments—from residential, mixed-use, and industrial projects to water infrastructure and supply projects. Katherine has managed the preparation of a variety of CEQA and NEPA documents, including Categorical Exemptions, IS/MNDs, EIRs, Addendums, Categorical Exclusions, EAs, and programmatic and project-level environmental documents.

Panelist: Mindy Fogg, Principal Planner, City of Carpinteria

Mindy Fogg is the current President of AEP and is also a Principal Planner with the City of Carpinteria. She has 23 years of experience as a Land Use/Environmental Planner and CEQA Practitioner in both the private and public sectors. She is currently leading the Long-Range Planning Section in the Carpinteria Community Development Department.

Moderator: Aimee Frappied, Environmental Compliance Director, Sapphos Environmental, Inc.

Aimee Frappied is an environmental planner with a background in sustainability, economics, and resource management. She handles CEQA and NEPA review for various projects throughout California in addition to sustainability documentation oversight.

Panelist: Harold Freiman, Partner, Lozano Smith

Harold M. Freiman is a Partner in Lozano Smith's Walnut Creek office. He represents school districts, county offices of education, and community college districts in such areas as school facilities, property, general education law, governing boards, student issues, business, and general litigation. He is a recognized leader on such topics as developer fees, school district reorganization, surplus property, the Brown Act, and the Public Records Act. Additionally, he provides advice and litigation services related to CEQA to cities, special districts, and educational agencies. Harold has a B.A. in History and Rhetoric from University of California, Berkeley and earned his J.D. at Columbia Law School.

Panelist: Vicky Furnish, REHS, MA, Principal Manager of Environmental Compliance Division, Southern California Edison (SCE)

Vicky Furnish is an accomplished Environmental Professional with extensive experience in the Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) field. With a robust background in Operational Management, Environmental Regulatory Compliance, Government, Emergency Management, and Regulatory Complexities, she has consistently demonstrated a high level of expertise and leadership.

Vicky is currently a Principal Manager at Southern California Edison (SCE) where her primary focus involves natural and cultural resources, water quality and wetlands compliance, hazardous materials and waste management, drinking water, air quality, and sustainability efforts while providing strategic compliance direction and support that informs and builds SCE's compliance posture and risk management. Previous to that, she was the Supervising Environmental Health Specialist with the County of Kern where she led the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) with delegated and enforcement authority around the management of hazardous materials and emergency response. She also served as a Chapter Board Member on the Statewide CUPA Forum Board to implement the Unified Programs effectively and efficiently in partnership with the California Environmental Protection Agency and governing bodies.

Vicky holds a Master of Arts in National Security Affairs with a focus on Homeland Security and Defense from the Naval Postgraduate School. Her academic credentials are complemented by her active involvement in professional development and education, serving as an adjunct professor at a local college.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, Vicky is deeply engaged with the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) Bakersfield Chapter, where she has served on the Executive Board as the Past President and Nominations Chair. Her contributions to the field were recognized when she was named Safety Professional of the Year by the ASSP Bakersfield Chapter in 2020.

Vicky's dedication to her profession and community is evident through her ongoing commitment to excellence and her proactive approach to environmental compliance and safety.

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

Nick Garrity, PE, is the Southern California Environmental Hydrology & Design Group Director at Environmental Science Associates (ESA). He is a licensed professional civil engineer specializing in coastal engineering and has more than 20 years of experience working with coastal, estuarine, and river systems. He has developed and continually innovates his approaches to the evaluation of coastal flood and erosion risks. Nick's technical experience includes hydrodynamic modeling, flood hazard studies, coastal adaptation and restoration planning and design, geomorphic assessments, environmental impact and vulnerability assessments, and monitoring. His work focuses on incorporating sea level rise adaptation into project planning and design. He also specializes in navigating and communicating complex technical analyses and planning processes in coordination with diverse stakeholder groups, including the public and regulatory agencies.

Panelist: Alicia Gonzalez, Senior Associate | Planning Department Manager, Michael Baker International

Alicia Gonzalez is a Senior Associate | Planning Department Manager for Michael Baker International's Temecula, Ontario, and Palm Desert offices. As a CEQA generalist and planning practitioner with nearly 10 years of experience, Ms. Gonzalez can readily communicate complex engineering and technical matters in a way that is easy for the public to understand. Her favorite CEQA documents to prepare are those that involve streamlining "and CEQA Guidelines Section 15183 Environmental Consistency Checklists and CEQA Addendums are no exception (or should she say exemption?). In addition to her work at Michael Baker, Ms. Gonzalez proudly serves on the Inland Empire Chapter of the Association of Environmental Professionals as Co-Vice President of Programs.

Panelist: Lisa Grayshield, Evaluator researcher of Native Health and Wellness, Washoe Health Center

Dr. Lisa Grayshield is a member of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. She took early retirement from her university professor position to serve her community as an external evaluator and researcher for Native Health and Wellness Programs. She also sits on Washoe Health Center Board of Directors, serves as Executive Director of the Washoe Warrior Society (a grassroots organization of Washoe Community people to promote culture, language, and a return to traditional cultural practices as a means to regain health and wellness in Washoe communities), and is the Board Chair for the newly re-envisioned The Sierra Fund.

Panelist: Melanie Greene, Sr. Associate Environmental Scientist, Stantec

For 25 years, Melanie Greene has pursued her passion as an environmental scientist and planner with working tenure in both the public and private sectors. Melanie's work includes restoration planning and permitting, NEPA/CEQA compliance, water quality mitigation, and monitoring.

Panelist: Kaitlyn Halpin, Associate Consultant, Environmental Planning, WSP

Kaitlyn Halpin is an environmental planning professional with 2 years of experience in environmental impact analysis, hazard mitigation planning, and technical report writing. She serves a range of clients including federal, state, and local governments, and regularly prepares CEQA, NEPA, and FEMA planning and hazard mitigation documents. She is also FEMA badged and has experience with desktop analysis of Clean Water Act Section 401, Clean Water Act Section 404, USFWS, USACE, BLM, CDFW, and Caltrans documents. She has worked on several EIRs, CEQA Addendums to an EIR, IS/MNDs, EAs, EISs, Environmental and Social Impact Assessments, and Environmental Impact Identifications.

Panelist: Sarah Halterman, Dudek

Sarah Halterman is an air quality and climate change specialist at Dudek with over 10 years of experience. She 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. Sarah also prepares carbon storage and sequestration assessments through cross disciplinary collaboration with Dudek's forestry, biology, and GIS teams.

Panelist: Ariel Hamburger, MPH, MA, Planning Manager, County of San Diego

Ariel Hamburger is a Planning Manager with the County of San Diego's Sustainability Planning Division. Ariel works on the intersection between climate change, environmental justice, and health equity. Prior to working as a planner, Ariel spent seven years in public health with a focus on improving the local food system and built environment. Previously, Ariel worked on healthy food access issues at the UC San Diego Center for Community Health and worked on cross-border issues through the County's Office of Border Health. She graduated with honors from San Diego State University with a Master's in Public Health and a Master's in Latin American Studies. She also has a degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from UC Berkeley.

Moderator: Susan J. Harden, FAICP, CNUa, Vice President/Senior Managing Principal, Circlepoint

Susan Harden, FAICP, is Vice President at Circlepoint and the Senior Managing Principal for the Communications Team. Susan 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. Susan is the co-author of Placemaking on a Budget, an APA Planning Advisory Service report. She is also an adjunct faculty member teaching in the graduate program of Department of Urban Planning & Public Policy at University of California, Irvine.

Panelist: Robert Hazard, Board of Directors, Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council

Robert Hazard is a fire protection planner with 36 years of professional experience as a fire marshal, wildfire planner, and firefighter. He specializes in preparing fire protection plans, community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs), and fire management plans, and planning and implementing fuels management projects. He possesses considerable experience in fire and building code life safety regulations, wildland-urban interface (WUI) development project planning and protection, emergency preparedness and response planning, and

public education and information. Robert previously was a firefighter for the Santa Barbara County Fire Department from 1998 to 2024, where he served as fire marshal in his last 5 years, responsible for managing the Fire Prevention Division, including vegetation management, prescribed fire, wildfire mitigation planning, fire inspections, fire code enforcement, development review, fire investigation, defensible space inspections, and public education. He also has 10 years of wildland firefighting experience working for the U.S. Forest Service on an Interagency Hotshot Crew. Robert currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council.

Moderator: Michael Hendrix, Michael Hendrix Consulting

Michael Hendrix is one of California's leading climate change and air quality scientists. He is the recipient of the AEP "Professional Achievement Award," and AEP specifically recognized that "his commitment to balancing the need for industrial, commercial and residential development projects in California with the need for climate resiliency, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and air pollution is evident through his dedication to resiliency planning, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions evaluations and mitigation that significantly reduce potential risks, greenhouse gases and air pollution generated by the expansion of these markets." Michael is the current Chairperson for the AEP Climate Change Committee. In that capacity, he provides leadership within AEP on the issue of climate change risks, adaptation, resiliency, and analysis of greenhouse gas emissions.

Panelist: Paul Herrmann, TE, Senior Associate, Fehr & Peers

Paul Herrmann is part of Fehr & Peers' Emergency Evacuation Planning Working Group that focuses on developing best practices related to emergency evacuation analysis in CEQA. In his 14 years of experience in transportation engineering and transportation planning at Fehr & Peers, he has led a significant number of transportation impact analyses for EIRs, MNDs, and NDs, including, most recently, emergency evacuation assessments. He has led a wide variety of projects, including traffic studies, infrastructure projects, travel demand forecasting, and long-range development plans throughout Southern California.

Panelist: Amy Hoyt, Best Best & Krieger LLP

For more than 30 years, Amy Hoyt has achieved victories in trial and appellate courts for cities, counties and special districts in environmental and public law litigation matters. Amy is a Certified Appellate Specialist, certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. She has extensive experience successfully litigating cases involving the myriad of issues facing public agencies, including matters involving the California Environmental Quality Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and other state and federal environmental laws, planning and zoning law, regulatory takings and writs challenging administrative and legislative decisions. Complementing her work in the courtroom, Amy counsels public agencies and developers on compliance with CEQA, NEPA and other environmental laws.

Panelist: Eric Hughes, Division Manager/Environmental Coordinator, County of San Luis Obispo

Eric Hughes is currently the Division Manager/Environmental Coordinator for the County of San Luis Obispo Planning and Building Department, Current Planning Division. He has been a land use planner for over 15 years, 7 of which have been in the public sector and 8 of which have been in the private sector, and he teaches upper division CEQA courses at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Eric's planning experience

ranges from housing, water policy, cannabis, oil and gas, environmental review, condition compliance monitoring, preparing technical reports, stormwater monitoring, and managing a variety of small and large-scale development projects along the Central Coast and other parts of California. He brings an understanding of what public agencies are looking for in project descriptions.

Panelist: Jessica Humes, Imperial Irrigation District

Jessica Humes, Supervisor Environmental Compliance for the Imperial Irrigation District, was raised in the Imperial Valley before attending the University of California, Santa Barbara to study geological sciences. After completing her bachelor's of science, she returned home and has worked with the Imperial Irrigation District in the Environmental Mitigation Section since 2008. In 2013 she completed a master's in Business Administration with an emphasis on Environmental Management from Ashford University. Jesssica first visited the Salton Sea when she was 7 years old, sparking an interest in science that she still holds to this day. She started as an Environmental Mitigation Aide in 2008, working her way up to Biologist/Environmental Project Manager in 2015. She currently leads the Environmental Mitigation Section, responsible for implementing mitigation measures associated with the Quantification Settlement Agreement Water Transfer and Water Department Operations and Maintenance Activities. Some of the projects Jessica has worked on include burrowing owl population studies of the Imperial Valley, the creation of 1,000 acres of managed marsh for operation and maintenance activities, desert pupfish refugium creation and monitoring program, Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative, Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program, and implementation of over 2,000 acres of proactive dust control projects on playa around the Salton Sea. Jessica has also participated in community organizations, including coaching summer recreation swim teams, youth soccer, and as a small animal 4H leader within Imperial Valley. She lives in Brawley with her husband and two young children. When her family is not at home, they can be found camping or fishing.

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

Alex Garber is a Senior Technical Planner with EPD Solutions, Inc. He has over 5 years of experience in environmental and traffic planning and analysis and 3 years in air quality, energy, and greenhouse gas analysis. Alex has worked on traffic projects ranging from focused access studies to large mixed-use projects analyzing over 50 intersections, roadway segment analyses, and parking analyses. Additionally, he has experience writing and completing air quality, energy, greenhouse gas, and health risk assessment analyses; conducting spatial analyses using GIS software; and writing CEQA documents.

Panelist: Claudia Garcia, AICP, Assistant Director of Community Development, City of Vacaville

Claudia Garcia has been in the environmental planning industry for 12 years in both the private and public sectors. She currently serves as the Assistant Director of Community Development at the City of Vacaville, where she helps to oversee current and long-range planning projects. In her spare time, she 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 from 2016 to 2019.

Panelist: Sherie George, Acting Transportation Review Team Lead, San Francisco Planning Department, Environmental Planning Division

Sherie George is a Senior Planner for the City and County of San Francisco Planning Department, managing complex projects related to land use, transportation planning, and environmental review. Currently serving as Acting Transportation Review Team Lead, she specializes in evaluating transportation impacts in accordance with CEQA and other local regulations. She also supports SF Planning's Equity Action Plan Team. Sherie received her Master of City and Regional Planning from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Prior to working at SF Planning, she was a transportation planner for San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and Caltrans.

Panelist: Matthew Gerken, Associate Vice President, AECOM

Matthew Gerken is an urban and environmental planner who, over the last 23 years, has served a variety public agencies and private developers with comprehensive planning, development plans, economic development strategies, nexus studies, zoning, and environmental review and streamlining. He is the lead author of comprehensive plans and CEQA documents for communities throughout California. Matthew enjoys long walks on the beach discussing integrated land use and environmental planning and CEQA 15183 partial exemption strategies.

Panelist: Gina Gerlich, GIS Analyst & Drone Pilot, Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Gina is a GIS Analyst and licensed unmanned aircraft system (UAS) drone pilot on Rincon Consultants' Data and Technology team and works with large vegetation datasets for carbon sequestration project conducted for clients throughout California.

Panelist: Lisa Gibson, Environmental Review Officer, City and County of San Francisco

Lisa Gibson has over 30 years of experience as an environmental professional. For more than 8 years, she has served as Environmental Review Officer for the City and County of San Francisco where she oversees CEQA review of private and public projects under the jurisdiction of the City and County, including development permits, infrastructure projects, general plans, and legislation. She is the senior CEQA authority to local elected officials, agencies, and other official bodies, and also is Director of the Environmental Planning Division of the SF Planning Department, which she joined in 2000. Prior to joining the public sector, Lisa served as a senior project manager for a Bay Area consulting firm, where she worked for 7 years, overseeing CEQA and NEPA compliance for a wide variety of public agency clients, conducting environmental compliance assessments, and performing hazardous materials investigations. She graduated magna cum laude from UC Davis with a B.S. degree in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning. While in college, she studied for a year abroad at the University of Nairobi, Kenya and worked for two summers as a forest fire fighter. She enjoys hiking, yoga, and time with her son, whose college room overlooks the dorm construction site that made loud student party noise (aka "social noise") impact a CEQA cause.

Panelist: Nicole Gordon, J.D., Partner, Partner The Sohagi Law Group

Nicole Gordon advises public agencies on complex environmental and land use matters at the administrative, trial, and appellate level. She focuses her practice on complex issues and projects under CEQA, NEPA, the federal and California Endangered Species Act, as well as planning and zoning laws. In 2021 she became a co-chair for CLE International's Annual CEQA SuperConference, recognized as the State's leading CEQA legal conference. Nicole is also an Advisor to the Executive Committee of the Environmental Law Section of the California Lawyers Association, which she Chaired in 2018 to 2019. This position places her at the forefront of the environmental law issues with which public agencies must grapple. She has also been recognized as a 2021 to 2024 Southern California Super Lawyer, numerous times as a Super Lawyers "Rising Star," and as one of the Los Angeles Business Journal's "Most Influential Women Attorneys." Nicole is a frequent lecturer on environmental matters at various public and private workshops, including courses and conferences sponsored by CLA, UCLA, Continuing Legal Education, AEP, and the American Planning Association.

Moderator: Matt Goynes, PE, Principal, Fehr & Peers

Matt Goynes is a principal with Fehr & Peers and oversees a wide variety of challenging projects at the nexus of CEQA, land use, and transportation planning. He helps jurisdictions implement vehicle miles traveled (VMT), land use and parking, and roadway safety policies that align their local actions with statewide carbon reduction and roadway safety goals. Matt has over 15 years of experience working on all sizes of CEQA studies and broader planning frameworks such as the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County's VMT and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Model Mitigation program, Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Senate Bill 743 Implementation Technical Assistance program, City of San Mateo's Transit-Oriented Development Pedestrian Plan, and City of Petaluma's General Plan. He leverages the latest research and data-driven approaches to help jurisdictions create defensible CEQA documents that meet local and regional goals related to parking. Matt has a civil engineering degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and is a professional civil engineer.

Panelist: Brian Grattidge, Senior Project Manager, Dudek

Brian Grattidge is an environmental land use planner with over 25 years of experience. As a consultant, he has worked extensively in the areas of CEQA and NEPA compliance. His project experience includes a wide range of residential, commercial, industrial, mining, educational facilities, and infrastructure projects. He has assisted clients with airport compatibility planning, development review, environmental permitting, specialized planning studies, and project management. Brian managed the preparation of the 2011 California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook for Caltrans. Prior to his consulting work, he was a member of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, where he prepared the 2003 update of the General Plan Guidelines, assisted with the 2003 CEQA Guideline Amendments, contributed to the 2003 draft Environmental Goals and Policy Report, provided CEQA support and technical training, and coordinated state review of environmental documents. Prior to his appointment to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Brian was a planner at the City of Woodland. He is currently an instructor for the University of California, San Diego Extended Learning CEQA program and has been a presenter and lecturer at University of California, Davis Extension, University of California, Berkeley Extension, the American Planning Association California Conference, AEP Conference, and the League of California Cities Planners Institute.

Panelist: Leila Hakimzadeh, AICP, Planning Manager, Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation

Leila Hakimzadeh, AICP, has over 17 years of experience in long-range planning with expertise in urban design, land use, housing, climate, transportation, and open space. Her portfolio includes managing projects and programs for both public and private sectors at state, regional, and local scales in Canada and the United States. She utilizes equity, diversity, inclusion, sustainability, and public health measures to facilitate greater community engagement and create lasting impacts.

Leila has been managing the Planning and Land Use team at the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovate (previously OPR) for the last 3 years, where she has helped in initiation or completion of several planning projects, including wildfire, evacuation, climate action planning, downtown revitalization, and SB 1425 technical advisories and general plan guidelines, specific plan guidelines, and tribal consultation guidelines. Leila's team provides technical assistance to public and state agencies for planning laws and policies.

Panelist: Sarah Halterman, Climate Change Specialist, Dudek

Sarah Halterman is an air quality and climate change specialist at Dudek with over 10 years of experience. She 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. Sarah also prepares carbon storage and sequestration assessments through cross disciplinary collaboration with Dudek's forestry, biology, and GIS teams.

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

Panelist's 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, as well as reviewing land use development and transportation projects for consistency with state Climate goals. Prior to joining CARB, Shannon worked almost 20 years as an environmental consultant overseeing and performing greenhouse gas, criteria pollutant, and health risk environmental impact analyses pursuant to CEQA and NEPA.

Panelist: Jolene Hayes, AICP, Senior Associate, Fehr & Peers

Jolene Hayes has more than 20 years of experience in statewide, regional, and local transportation, land use, and goods movement planning, environmental analysis, and implementation. With a focus on collaboration and stakeholder input, she focuses on the development of sustainable transportation solutions. Her current experience requires a deep level of understanding of community concerns, industry needs, and State economic and environmental sustainability goals to develop cross-cutting solutions that reduce greenhouse gases while fostering economic vitality. Throughout her career, Jolene has planned, prioritized, and implemented a variety of transportation projects, ranging from traffic calming and bikeway improvements to major freight infrastructure projects. She is well-versed in national, regional, and local issues and understands the importance of balancing the movement of goods and people on railways, roadways, and waterways from a national, state, regional, port, and local perspective.

Moderator: Michael Hendrix, Michael Hendrix Consulting

Michael Hendrix is one of California's leading climate change and air quality scientists. He is the recipient of the AEP "Professional Achievement Award," and AEP specifically recognized that "his commitment to balancing the need for industrial, commercial and residential development projects in California with the need for climate resiliency, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and air pollution is evident through his dedication to resiliency planning, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions evaluations and mitigation that significantly reduce potential risks, greenhouse gases and air pollution generated by the expansion of these markets." Michael is the current Chairperson for the AEP Climate Change Committee. In that capacity, he provides leadership within AEP on the issue of climate change risks, adaptation, resiliency, and analysis of greenhouse gas emissions.

Moderator: Paul Herrmann, TE, Senior Associate, Fehr & Peers

Paul Herrmann is a senior transportation engineer and planner that helps lead Fehr & Peers' Inland Empire Office. He specializes in private development work and project-level CEQA documents, focusing on transportation impact assessments, Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) forecasting, and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) mitigation. In his 15 years of experience in transportation, Paul has led a significant number of transportation impact analyses for EIRs, MNDs, and NDs, including large-scale warehouse projects. He has led a wide variety of projects, including traffic studies, infrastructure projects, travel demand forecasting, and long-range development plans throughout Southern California.

Panelist: Lani Ho, JD, Senior Environmental Planner, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)

Lani Lee Ho is a Senior Environmental Planner at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). She is responsible for evaluating environmental impacts of proposed projects pursuant to CEQA and NEPA and managing initiatives to promote environmental sustainability and address climate change. Lani earned a Juris Doctor degree from Santa Clara University and Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature and a Bachelor of Science in Conservation and Resource Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

Panelist: David Hubbard, JD, Partner, Gatzke Dillon & Ballance, LLP

David P. Hubbard is a partner at Gatzke Dillon & Ballance LLP that specializes in the fields of environmental and land use law, with particular emphasis on issues arising under CEQA, NEPA, the federal and state Endangered Species Acts, the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act, the federal Clean Water Act, the California Coastal Act, the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, and the California Planning and Zoning law. In the environmental and land use fields, David routinely addresses matters involving traffic; air quality; water quality; hydrology; noise; hazardous materials; land use compatibility; wildfire and the wildlands/urban interface; aesthetics; sensitive biological resources, including threatened and endangered species; marine resources; and historical/Native American cultural resources. In addition, he has developed special expertise relating to key protected species and has extensive knowledge of water supply issues.

Panelist: Kevin Hunt, Principal Archaeologist, South Environmental

Kevin Hunt is a cultural and paleontological resources management professional with more than 30 years of experience in California. His paleontology experience began in 1991, conducting paleontological monitoring and fossil excavation on a large development project in Orange County. While the bulk of his experience since then has focused on archaeology and cultural resources management, his additional paleontological experience includes conducting locality record searches, survey, construction monitoring, fossil excavation/salvage, and document preparation. Kevin has prepared, contributed to, and managed the preparation of paleontological resource assessments and sections of MNDs, EIRs, EAs, EISs, and EIR/EISs.

Moderator: Andy Johnson, Senior Wildfire Planner, Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Andy Johnson is a senior wildfire planner at Rincon with 18 years of forestry and resource management experience. His experience includes project planning and design, budget management, regulatory compliance, grant writing, implementation oversight, GIS, and sundry field data collection roles. He has managed broad ranging projects including fire and wildland fuel management, California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP), soil health improvement, erosion control, agricultural water use, stream restoration, fisheries habitat production, invasive weed management, and more. Andy has served as the co-chair of the San Luis Obispo Weed Management Area, represented the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (US-LTRCD) on the board of directors of the San Luis Obispo County Firesafe Council, and served as the Central Coast Regional Representative of the Joint Forestry Subcommittee for the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts. He plays a pivotal role with Rincon's Wildfire Protection team as lead author of multiple CalVTP Project Specific Analyses. Andy's practical field experience merges effectively with his understanding of wildfire hazard reduction and regulatory compliance.

Moderator: Samuel Johnson, Associate, Best Best & Krieger LLP

Samuel Johnson is an associate in Best Best & Krieger LLP's Environmental and Natural Resources Law practice group. For his undergraduate career, he studied Environmental Economics at the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability. He continued studying the intersection of economics, the environment, and the law during law school, where he served as the Vice President of Southwestern's Environmental Law Society. Samuel's work in water quality began during his clerkship with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, where he was tasked with analyzing federal and state regulatory and legal developments concerning emerging contaminants. Since joining BBK, Samuel's work has focused on emerging contaminants like per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. In addition, he handles Clean Water Act, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and other water quality issues for Cities and Special Districts across California.

Moderator: Lexi Journey, Natural and Working Lands Program Manager, Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Lexi Journey manages projects and a team dedicated to developing innovative analysis and policies to improve the resilience of communities and ecosystems through nature-based solutions on natural and working lands. Lexi and her team bring this expertise to a wide range of planning and implementation efforts across the state, and her team has completed most of the Natural and Working Lands Plans throughout the state that include a carbon stock inventory and sets nature-based solution targets. She also works closely with CAL FIRE and the California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI, formerly the Office of Planning and Research) to support communities obtain grant funding for nature-based solution projects.

Panelist: Spencer Kallick, Esq., Operating Partner, Allen Matkins, Century City Office

Spencer Kallick provides legal advice on complex land use entitlements and real estate transactions, including entitlements and CEQA/NEPA approvals. With decades of experience, he provides concierge legal services to deliver efficient, practical project solutions, navigating myriad federal, state, county, and city land use and zoning regulations; CEQA; the California Coastal Act; and Density Bonus Law. Spencer's resume includes urban infill, mixed-use, transit-oriented, affordable housing, senior living, digital signage, hospitality, multifamily, and retail projects, with experience across virtually every major property asset class. As a former city attorney handling land use matters, he also brings to projects his first-hand knowledge of government processes at the federal, state, and local levels, providing strategies and legal approaches to achieve results.

Moderator: Laura Kaufman, AICP, VP, Environmental Services, Envicom Corporation

Laura Kaufman, with over 30 years of experience in the fields of urban planning and environmental compliance, specializes in CEQA/NEPA compliance. She has prepared, managed, and overseen the preparation of a wide array of environmental documents within a variety of market sectors, including mixed-use, residential, commercial, industrial, renewable energy, seaports, and oil and gas. Most recently, with the prevalence of infill projects, she has participated in discussions on the level of analysis detail required for seemingly minor projects with sometimes major issues. Laura's participation in AEP has included serving as a document awards committee member, AEP Workshop moderator, AEP Institute session moderator, and Los Angeles Chapter Director.

Panelist: Matt Kelly, Principal Transportation Planner, Contra Costa Transportation Authority

Matt Kelly works as the Principal Transportation Planner for the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), the Congestion Management Agency and Sales Tax Authority for Contra Costa County, a county of 1.1 million residents in the San Francisco Bay Area. His work focuses on implementing the Contra Costa Measure J Growth Management Program and Congestion Management Program and maintaining CCTA's travel demand forecasting model, in addition to managing a variety of multimodal transportation studies around the county. Prior to joining CCTA in 2006, Matt worked in the Systems Planning Branch at Caltrans, District 4 in Oakland. He is a graduate of the University of California, Davis with a B.A. in Geography.

Panelist: Carole Kendrick, City of Beaumont Interim Community Development Panelist's Title: Interim Community Development Director and Director & City of Hemet Mayor ProTem

Carole Kendrick has been in the planning field for 28 years and a professional planner for over 20 years. As a graduate of Redlands University, with professional certificates in Land Use and Environmental Planning from the University of Riverside, California, and CEQA in Practice from University of California, San Diego, she has practiced planning in several jurisdictions in Riverside County. She is currently a member of the Hemet City Council and serves as a board member of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority and the Western Riverside Council of Governments. Carole is a member of the American Planning Association, Association of Environmental Planners, Municipal Management Association of Southern California, California Association of Local Economic Developers, California Planning Roundtable – Planning Leadership Academy, and the International Conference of Shopping Centers.

Panelist: Austin Kerr, Greenhouse Gas & Air Quality Analyst Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)

Austin Kerr has served as a Greenhouse Gas & Air Quality Analyst at the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) for more than 3 years. He evaluates whether projects that apply for CEQA judicial streamlining meet their applicable greenhouse gas (GHG) requirements. In addition, he is exploring best management practices regarding the preparation of GHG and Energy impact analyses in CEQA, and for related mitigation. Prior to joining LCI, Austin spent more than 20 years preparing air quality, GHG, energy, and noise sections of CEQA and NEPA documents for land use development and infrastructure projects throughout California. 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.

Panelist: Jennifer Kaminsky, Manager, Electric Assets & Compliance, San Diego Gas & Electric

Jennifer Kaminsky is currently the Manager- Electric Assets & Compliance at San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E). Her team has responsibility for oversight and management of SDG&E’s electric distribution inspection program, joint asset management, and other California Public Utilities Commission compliance reporting. She formally worked as a Project Manager at SDG&E specializing in complex transmission and distribution construction projects, as well as the development the SDG&E’s first drone inspection program. Prior to that, she worked in SDG&E’s Environmental Department on large utility construction projects and with Burns & McDonnell as an Associate specializing in environmental permitting, regulatory, and compliance matters for a variety of projects. She is a licensed attorney and a graduate of the University of Michigan (Go BLUE!).

Panelist: Sean Kilkenny, Partner, Nolen Communities

Sean Kilkenny has 17 years of experience across the real estate industry, including land acquisition, project planning, and entitlement processing, project management, CEQA review, land development, new home design, and construction. His career began with a private property owner developing portions of the Otay Ranch Master Plan Community. During his 8 years at JPB Development, Sean was part of a team that managed entitlements for the University Villages Project, a nearly 1,400-acre master plan that included a Land Exchange with the City of Chula Vista to establish a 4-year university, approval of 6,897 new homes, three elementary schools, over 80 acres of parks and community purpose facilities, and the associated public and private infrastructure improvements. His focus was the review of CEQA technical reports and the EIR, as well as preparation of the project’s Public Facilities Phasing and Financing Plans, Fiscal Impact Analyses, General Plan Amendments, and Air Quality Improvement Plans. Thereafter, he was hired by Davidson Communities, a private family homebuilder, to lead Forward Planning, where he managed efforts to secure Final Maps, Design Review and Coastal Development permits, grading and improvement plan permits, architectural and building permits, and coordination efforts between land acquisition and land development to bring projects to permit-ready status. In 2017 Sean joined Dudek as a Project Manager to lead multi-disciplinary teams in the preparation of complex technical studies and EIRs for master plan projects such as the San Diego State University (SDSU) Mission Valley Campus Master Plan and SDSU Mission Valley Design Guidelines. In 2017 Sean and his business partner founded Nolen Communities, LLC, a real estate development firm focused on creating highly amenitized communities where residents can live, work, and play. As a Partner at Nolen, he is involved in all aspects of the firm’s projects, including site identification and underwriting; preparation of purchase offers

and purchase agreements; due diligence; project design and site planning; preparation of studies, plans, and reports; coordination with lead agencies and planning staff; lobbying efforts; financing; community outreach; and others. He is involved in the San Diego Building Industry Association, is part of the County of San Diego Technical Advisory Working Group and City of Carlsbad Industry Advisory Group, and is the immediate past Chair of SBCS (formerly South Bay Community Services), a non-profit that provides a variety of social services to clients across San Diego County.

Moderator: Megan Kilmer, Associate, Best Best & Krieger LLP

Megan Kilmer is an attorney in Best Best & Krieger LLP's Environmental Law & Natural Resources practice group. Megan assists clients in transactional and litigation matters concerning environmental and natural resources law, with a focus on the California Environmental Quality Act.

Moderator: Dan Klemann, WSP- Assistant Vice President / UCSB- Lecturer, WSP and University of California Santa Barbara

Dan Klemann is a land use and environmental planner with over 25 years of experience, primarily serving public sector organizations located in the central and southern coastal areas of California (e.g., Counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura). His expertise includes CEQA and NEPA compliance, general plan development and administration, zoning ordinance development and administration, and compliance with other California resource conservation and planning laws (e.g., Surface Mining and Reclamation Act and Williamson Act). Dan also serves as a part-time lecturer for the University of California, Santa Barbara Environmental Studies Program, teaching courses on environmental planning.

Moderator/Panelist: Erik de Kok, AICP, Director of Interdisciplinary Planning, Ascent

Erik de Kok is Ascent's Director of Interdisciplinary Planning. He works across Ascent's practice areas and market sectors to offer holistic, innovative, and integrated approaches to address evolving and complex community and environmental challenges. With over 27 years of professional planning, project management, and team leadership experience, he has intimate knowledge of the planning process and deep familiarity with California's planning issues and legal requirements. He has prepared and implemented a variety of long-range planning projects, including community and neighborhood plans, general plans, climate action and climate adaptation plans, and sustainability and resilience plans.

Panelist: Alexandra Kookootsedes, Habitat Restoration Ecologist, Dudek

Alexandra Kookootsedes has over 7 years of professional experience in native habitat restoration and mitigation working both in the public and private sectors. She has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Management and Protection with a focus on Plant Ecology from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. She works as a Habitat Restoration Ecologist for Dudek and has worked with the City of San Diego Stormwater Department Mitigation Team for over 3 years providing technical expertise in native habitat restoration and assisting with management of mitigation projects ranging from pre-planning, implementation, monitoring, and long-term planning.

Moderator: Hannah Kornfeld, AICP, Climate Practice Leader, Ascent

Hannah Kornfeld is the Climate Practice Leader at Ascent, overseeing the Climate Action and Adaptation Planning Practice. She has experience developing and managing a variety of climate action and adaptation planning efforts and enjoys the challenge of solving complex climate policy issues at the local level. Her expertise is in decarbonization strategy development, policy analysis and prioritization, and crafting meaningful community engagement activities. Hannah seeks to bridge the gap between technical analyses, ever-evolving California climate regulation, and local policymaking on all of her projects. She served as the project manager for the consultant team that supported Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments' Monterey Bay Natural and Working Lands Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Study.

Panelist: Sharon Kramer, Principal, H.T. Harvey & Associates

Dr. Sharon Kramer is a senior marine biologist and Principal at H. T. Harvey & Associates with more than 30 years of experience in the ecology of marine, estuarine, and freshwater ecosystems, including over a dozen years as a biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She leads environmental permitting efforts, environmental effect assessments and research, and planning and feasibility studies for H. T. Harvey's marine renewable energy projects. Sharon has a Ph.D. in Marine Biology from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, an M.S. in Zoology from the University of Hawaii, and a B.A. in Aquatic Biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Moderator: Eli Krispi, Senior Associate II, Climate Action & Resiliency, PlaceWorks

Eli is a Senior Associate on the Climate Action and Resilience Team at PlaceWorks, where he manages planning projects for cities, counties, and other public agencies. He works to improve sustainability practices, including greenhouse gas emission reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and environmental justice and equity. Eli's work sits at the nexus of the natural and built environments, and his career in sustainability has included work for public governments, institutions, and private companies. He has developed and implemented sustainability policies and practices at levels ranging from offices of a dozen people to statewide and multi-state efforts. Eli graduated Phi Beta Kappa with high honors from the University of California, Santa Barbara with degrees in Geography and Environmental Studies, and received a Masters of City and Regional Planning with distinction from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Panelist: Alison Krumbein, J.D., Senior Principal Counsel, Senior Principal Counsel University of California Office of the President

Alison Krumbein joined the Office of the General Counsel as Senior Land Use Counsel in September 2018. Her practice involves environmental and land use counseling and litigation, with a focus on CEQA. Prior to joining the University of California Office of the President, Alison practiced environmental and land use law with The Sohagi Law Group in Los Angeles and with the Land Use Group at Bingham McCutchen in Walnut Creek, where she served as review editor of the 26th edition of Curtin's California Land Use and Planning Law. Prior to attending law school, she worked as a legislative aide for San Francisco Supervisor Barbara Kaufman. Alison is a graduate of Northwestern University (B.A., honors 1995) and the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco (J.D., magna cum laude 2003).

Panelist: Natalie Kuffel, Deputy Director of Land Policy, Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)

Natalie Kuffel is currently the Deputy Director of Land Policy at the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI). Her portfolio includes land use planning and policy, CEQA policy, judicial and permit streamlining for infrastructure and housing projects, and the State Clearinghouse. She previously served as LCI’s Land Use Counsel and as the Legislative Director under the Brown Administration. Prior to state service, she was a practicing CEQA attorney, a clerk for a federal district court judge, and the community partnerships coordinator for a homeless services nonprofit.

Panelist: Anya Kwan, Associate, Best Best & Krieger LLP

Anya Kwan is an associate in Best Best & Krieger LLP’s Environmental and Natural Resources Law practice group. With previous experience as a chemist, she brings her interest and background to her practice, including assisting cities and water districts with understanding the scientific basis of mandated water quality standards. Although Anya primarily works on matters involving per- and poly- fluorinated alkyl substances and HF183, she also monitors which chemicals are likely to become an emerging contaminants before regulations are implemented. In addition, Anya is involved with water supply planning for her clients. She handles reviewing any water supply assessments, water supply verifications, water shortage contingency plans, and urban water management plans.

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

Angela Lagneaux is a Senior Conservation Planner for Westervelt Ecological Service’s Western Region Office. In this position, she oversees the entitlement process for mitigation bank and turn-key mitigation projects. Prior to joining Westervelt Ecological Services, she worked as an environmental consultant supporting environmental compliance efforts for a variety of transportation, utility, and development projects throughout California. In her prior role, she 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: Brooke Langle, Vice President, Northern and Central California, SWCA Environmental Consultants

Brooke Langle is the Vice President of Northern and Central California for SWCA Environmental Consultants. She has 30 years of experience in environmental consulting, including conducting biological resources assessments, regulatory permitting, environmental inspection, biological monitoring, and environmental training on large and complex projects across the United States. After she graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly SLO), she worked for several environmental consulting firms, including as the national environmental compliance manager for a major international firm. She has served in leadership positions on a number of non-profit boards and has taught a variety of courses at Cal Poly SLO.

Panelist: Cheryl Laskowski, Principal/Owner, Cheryl Laskowski Consulting

As the Policy Manger for California Climate Investments, Cheryl Laskowski led the development of Funding Guidelines, Investment Plan, and multiple Annual Reports. As a consultant, she raised millions of dollars in revenue to develop climate and energy action plans across Southern California. Cheryl developed tools for local governments to understand and track their greenhouse gas emissions, develop policies to reduce emissions, and develop compliance (CEQA) documents.

Moderator: Susan Lee, M.S., Vice President, Aspen Environmental Group

Susan Lee has been at Aspen Environmental Group for over 30 years. She is a CEQA/NEPA project manager for large infrastructure projects, with experience focused on large energy projects, including electric transmission, utility-scale solar, pipelines, and energy policy and planning. She has an M.S. in Applied Earth Science from Stanford University and a B.A. in Geology from Oberlin College.

Panelist: Alexandra Lee-Gardner, Senior Planner, Fehr & Peers

Alexandra is a senior transportation planner at Fehr & Peers who helps clients develop safe and equitable transportation systems with a focus on community engagement. She has played a key role in planning and outreach efforts ranging from comprehensive safety plans, bicycle planning, and community transportation master plans to VMT mitigation and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plans. Prior to working at Fehr & Peers, Alexandra worked on bicycle/pedestrian planning and safety efforts for both the public and private sector in the Central Coast region.

Panelist: Dana Link-Herrera, AICP, Wildfire Resilience Planner, Dudek

Dana Link-Herrera is a project manager, wildfire resilience planner, and CEQA specialist with 8 years of experience and a strong foundation in urban and environmental planning. She has a diverse background working in natural resource management, public universities, tribal communities, community outreach, permitting support, and environmental analysis. Dana specializes in wildfire resilience planning and environmental review for vegetation management projects. She conducts regulatory setting research, existing conditions documentation, analysis of post-project conditions, and drafts feasible mitigation measures when necessary. Dana has managed and contributed to multiple wildfire resilience projects throughout California, in coordination with local fire safe councils, fire departments, and local government, including multiple projects in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

Panelist: Laura Male, AICP, Environmental Compliance Team Lead, Sapphos Environmental, Inc.

Laura Male specializes in environmental compliance documentation pursuant to CEQA and NEPA. She serves as a project manager, technical author, and reviewer and has served as project manager for Categorical Exemption documents, MNDs, EIRs, addenda to EIRs, supplemental EIRs, and subsequent EIRs in accordance with CEQA. Laura served as CEQA project manager for the Revisions to the County Floodway Maps for the Santa Clara River Categorical Exemption.

Panelist: Jessica McCool, Resilient Community Associate Planner, CA Strategic Growth Council

Jessica McCool is a Resilient Community Associate Planner for the Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program team at the California Strategic Growth Council. The CRC program funds new construction and upgrades to existing facilities to serve as neighborhood-level community resilience centers. These centers will provide shelter and resources to community members during climate emergencies, as well as offer meaningful and impactful services and programs year-round, investing in both the physical and social infrastructure needed to strengthen both climate and community resilience. In this role, she supports with program development, implementation, and administration while serving as the team's Communications Liaison, leading outreach and communication efforts. Jessica holds a B.A. in Sociology with minors in Environmental Studies and Italian Studies from Chapman University. Samala Chumash from Santa Ynez, Jessica is deeply connected to her ancestral homelands and passionate about environmental stewardship and community engagement. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, hiking, cooking, playing guitar, and spending time with family.

Panelist's Name: Terri McCracken, Principal, Principal PlaceWorks

Terri McCracken has over 20 years of environmental planning experience and has been with PlaceWorks since 2010. As a Principal, she is responsible for managing environmental review projects and is focused on the application of CEQA as well as other federal and state environmental regulations and guidelines. Terri has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Education from the University of Oklahoma and a bachelor's degree in Urban Studies and Planning from California State University, Sonoma.

Panelist: Joe McDermott, PE, Assistant General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Joe McDermott is a registered professional engineer in the State of California with over 30 years of experience in the civil engineering profession. He holds both a bachelor's degree in Engineering and a master's degree in Public Administration. Starting in early 2018, Joe began working with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, where he is now the Assistant General Manager and provides guidance and oversight for engineering, facilities maintenance, and water and wastewater operations, including development and implementation of the District's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Panelist: Bridget McDonald, JD, Associate Attorney, Remy Moose Manley, LLP

Bridget McDonald is an associate attorney in the Sacramento-based boutique law firm of Remy Moose Manley, LLP, which specializes in environmental and land use law. Her practice focuses on land use, environmental, and housing law, handling all phases of the land use entitlement and permitting processes, including administrative approvals and litigation. Her practice includes CEQA, the State Planning and Zoning Law, the Housing Accountability Act, the State Density Bonus Law, the California Coastal Act, the Ralph M. Brown Act, NEPA, state constitutional matters, civil and administrative procedure, and numerous other land use, zoning, environmental, and housing statutes.

Panelist: Dustin McKibben, Fire Captain, Santa Barbara County Fire Department

Dustin McKibben started his career in the construction and automotive industries before becoming a seasonal firefighter with CAL FIRE Butte and Monte Vista Units from 1997 to 2000. He has since worked with the Santa Barbara County Fire Department for over 24 years, where he is currently Fire Captain in the Fire Prevention Division (VMP 30). Dustin has been involved in many unique and challenging historic calls, notably the Montecito Debris Flow, Isla Vista Sabado Tarde incident, 101 Gas Tanker spill (no Fire), Helicopter Down call (no fatalities), and many Wildland Fires. Dustin holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from Chico State University and an associate's degree in Fire Technology from Palomar College. He lives and grew up in the Goleta Valley, where he built his family home.

Panelist: Jennifer Medina, Hydrogen Engineering Team Lead, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)

Jennifer Medina is the Hydrogen Blending Engineering Manager at SoCalGas. She leads a team of engineers responsible for the design and safety evaluation of various hydrogen and hydrogen blending projects under SoCalGas's Aspire 2045 sustainability strategy, which aims to accelerate the transition to clean energy and increase its accessibility and affordability.

She joined the company in 2011 after graduating from California State University, Long Beach with her bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. Before joining the hydrogen engineering group, Jennifer was involved in gas storage and transmission projects, leading testing efforts during the commissioning stages for the company's Pipeline Safety Enhancement Program projects. She joined the hydrogen blending strategy

team in 2020 where she works with engineers internally and externally to help design new hydrogen and hydrogen blending station projects.

One of the recently completed projects is the [H2] Innovation Experience, North America's first-ever clean hydrogen-powered microgrid and home, located in Downey. This project demonstrates how hydrogen can support the move towards cleaner energy and shows that it is a viable solution today, not just a future aspiration. The project features clean hydrogen production and storage for an approximately 2,000-square-foot home that can draw power from solar panels and convert excess renewable energy into clean hydrogen. Jennifer believes that the insights gained from this project will shape the energy infrastructure not just in California, but across the nation.

Jennifer participates in several professional organizations in Southern California including the AIChE Center for Hydrogen Safety, Society for Women Engineers (SWE), and the Western Energy Institute.

Moderator: Heidi Mekkelson, Senior Managing Director, ICF

Heidi Mekkelson is a Senior Managing Director with ICF's Environment and Planning Division. She has 21 years of experience in the preparation and management of environmental analysis documentation pursuant to CEQA and NEPA. She has successfully managed environmental documentation for a diverse range of projects, including urban infill developments, renewable energy facilities, programmatic plans, climate action plans, and habitat conservation plans. She has been an invited speaker at several AEP workshops and conferences and is an instructor for University of California, Davis continuing and professional education courses related to CEQA. Heidi has a BS in Environmental Studies from USC and an MSL in Water and Environmental Law from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

Moderator: Alexis Mena, LEED AP, Associate Principal, PlaceWorks

Alexis Mena has been an environmental and urban consultant with PlaceWorks since 2008. As an Associate Principal, she specializes in overseeing large in-house and subconsultant teams preparing complex environmental review documents. Her work at PlaceWorks has focused on environmental review and planning for a range of land use, smart growth, transportation, and sustainability projects. Prior to joining the private sector, she worked for the City of Berkeley on its Downtown Area Plan. Alexis has a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Vassar College and a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from University of California, Berkeley's College of Environmental Design.

Panelist: Zach Miller, Principal Transportation Planner, Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)

Zach Miller is a Principal Transportation Planner at the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI). He specializes in addressing transportation impacts under CEQA, in particular the requirement for vehicle miles traveled (VMT) analysis as the basis for transportation impacts. Additionally, Zach is leading an effort to establish a state interagency task force to develop a VMT mitigation banking framework that provides the opportunity for qualified infill housing developments to serve as mitigation for transportation and housing projects that have significant VMT impacts under CEQA. Prior to joining LCI, he spent over 15 years working on a variety of project types in the fields of transportation planning, long-range planning, land use planning, and environmental impact analysis. Based on previous experience at the Sacramento Area Council of Governments and in CEQA consulting and transportation consulting, Zach understands the challenges of transportation planning from multiple perspectives.

Moderator: Araceli Mohseni, Outreach Specialist, Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)

Araceli Mohseni is an Outreach Specialist with the CEQA Judicial Policy Team at the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI). In this role, she focuses on outreach, communication, and providing technical assistance to support the CEQA Judicial Streamlining program. Prior to this, she worked as a Bilingual Business Outreach Liaison in the Office of Small Business and DVBE Services, where she assisted small businesses in securing contracts with the state of California

Panelist: Matthew Moore, Project Manager, Circlepoint

Project Manager in Circlepoint’s Environmental Services Group, Matthew Moore uses his powerful blend of experience in the environmental, legal, and political realms to provide holistic and innovative solutions to CEQA/NEPA compliance. He holds a bachelor’s in Political Science and a master’s in Urban Planning with a focus on Environmental Planning, and formerly served as a legal analyst for the federal government and as a representative for both California and New York state legislators. Since entering the environmental consulting field, Matthew has managed numerous CEQA/NEPA documents for a wide variety of developments, including mixed-use infill, residential, commercial, office, manufacturing, education, and public facility projects, as well as active transportation infrastructure, ecological restoration, and citywide plans and policies.

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

Danielle Morone is a partner at Gatzke Dillon & Ballance LLP. She represents lead agencies and project applicants on CEQA and NEPA compliance for a variety of project types, including residential and non-residential, university campus, and airport development. As part of this practice, she works with environmental consultants from multiple disciplines but devotes a measurable portion of her practice to air quality regulation and greenhouse gas emission reduction analyses. In this respect, Danielle has considerable expertise in the preparation of emissions inventories for criteria air pollutants and greenhouse gases, health effect evaluations for criteria air pollutant and toxic air contaminants, and plan-level consistency studies concerning the intersection of air quality, greenhouse gas, land use, and transportation.

Panelist: Stuart Muerth, Associate Project Environmental Planner, SWCA Environmental Consultants

Stuart Muerth is an environmental planner with SWCA Environmental Consultants based out of Pasadena. With just over 4 years of environmental planning experience, he has a background in working on both sides of CEQA—that is, the preparer’s side and the litigator’s side! Stuart’s experience has given him a unique understanding of what challenges arise when preparing a project description. He will bring a refreshing insight including what project opponents may be looking for to poke holes in a project description and best practices for preparing a defensible document. He also has expertise in conducting air quality and greenhouse gas emissions modeling for a broad range of proposed development projects.

Panelist: Megan Musolf, Assistant Planner, City of Carpinteria

Megan Musolf is a planning professional with 2 years of experience in the public sector. After finishing her undergraduate degree in the University of California, Santa Barbara’s Environmental Studies program in June 2023, she completed planning internships at both the City of Carpinteria and City of Goleta, and now works as the City of Carpinteria’s Assistant Long-Range Planner. She primarily works to implement the City’s various Housing Element programs, including rezoning land for higher-density housing, creating objective design standards for multifamily and mixed-use developments, updating the City’s Accessory Dwelling Unit and

Density Bonus ordinances, and working on tenant protection ordinances. She uses her skills in public speaking and professional writing to craft effective staff reports and presentations for City Council, Planning Commission, and Architectural Review Board hearings. Outside of work, Megan serves as the Social Media Officer for the Central Coast Section of the American Planning Association.

Panelist: Andrew Mutziger, Manager-Planning, Monitoring and Grant Division, San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District

As the Policy Manger for the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District's (APCD) planning and grant programs, Andrew led the development of the CEQA Thresholds updates and emission reduction mitigation projects. He has been with the APCD for over 23 years and oversees the APCD's CEQA Guideline updates and grant programs.

Moderator: Darin Neufeld, AICP, Director, Harris & Associates

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. He has experience with safety elements, renewable energy, climate action planning, adaptation and resilience, sea-level rise, and long-range planning projects. Darin has managed complex projects, including climate action plans, general plan elements, community plans, climate action plans, and large-scale renewable energy projects. He has processed over 50 projects using the CEQA 15183 Exemption. Darin is a member of the AEP Bay Area Chapter Board and American Institute of Certified Planners.

Panelist: Jesse Norris, Coordinating Lead Author for the Los Angeles Regional Report for California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment, Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at UCLA

Jesse Norris is an Assistant Researcher in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at UCLA. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom, focusing on fine-scale processes within midlatitude storms. He came to the United States as a postdoc at University of California, Santa Barbara before moving to UCLA. His research concerns changes to mean and extreme precipitation in a warming climate, both at global and regional scales. He is particularly interested in how the weather systems associated with extreme precipitation interact with the complex topography of the western United States. He is currently the Coordinating Lead Author for the Los Angeles Chapter of California's 5th Climate Change Assessment.

Panelist: Mark Noyes, Senior Ecologist, Stantec Consulting Services

Mark Noyes is an ecologist with 18 years of restoration and ecology experience in California terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems. He routinely conducts aquatic resource delineations, special-status species surveys, and habitat assessments for clients as part of analyzing project effects and impacts and preparing permit applications for public- and private-sector clients. As project manager and technical lead, Mark has managed all stages of mitigation site establishment, including initial site reconnaissance and due diligence, entitlements, biological baseline data collection, mitigation and management plan development, and site monitoring. He routinely uses this experience with clients to assist with mitigation planning during the early phases of project development and agency coordination during the permitting process so that projects can be implemented on time and without unanticipated mitigation costs.

Panelist: Miguel Nuñez, Principal, Fehr & Peers

Miguel Nuñez has over 17 years of experience in transportation planning, managing complex transportation and environmental studies throughout Southern California. He has led vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and CEQA analyses for a wide variety of land use and transportation project types and scales of development, including review and application of state and local screening criteria, CEQA VMT analysis requirements and thresholds, and non-CEQA level of service and circulation assessments. In addition to evaluations of more traditional project types, Miguel has been involved in the environmental review of new and emerging technologies such as bike share programs and mobility hubs. His project analyses have been successfully used for a variety of environmental review processes, ranging from Categorical Exemptions to MNDs to EIRs.

Panelist: Elena Nuno, Senior Air Resources Specialist, Dudek

Elena Nuno is an air resources specialist with 23 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 greenhouse gas impact assessments using air quality models, such as the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod), AERMOD, and MOVES, 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 Central Chapter Director.

Panelist: Emily Nye, Agricultural and Environmental Sustainability Spec, Ventura Resource Conservation District

Emily Nye is the Agricultural and Environmental Sustainability Specialist for the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (VCRCD). She is passionate about finding equitable solutions to build resilient communities, as well as empowering and collaborating with the community on farming practices and regenerative agriculture. At VCRCD, she manages programs and grants implementing climate smart practices on working lands and addressing resource concerns, including water, soil, energy, and habitat conservation.

Moderator: Jasmine Osman, PlaceWorks

Jasmine Osman's particular interests in the planning profession include law, social equity, and the environment. At PlaceWorks, she assists both the planning and environmental teams on a wide range of projects for public- and private-sector clients—from industrial and residential developments to school facilities, parks and public works projects, specific plans, and general plan updates. With 7 years of CEQA experience and a CEQA Practice certificate from UC San Diego Extended Studies, she mostly assists the environmental team with managing projects and preparing CEQA analyses and documentation. As a project manager, Jasmine is skilled at coordinating efforts between clients, subconsultants, and the internal PlaceWorks team while ensuring projects are delivered on time, within budget, and of a high quality. Her organizational skills and attention to detail have proven to be beneficial for all.

When Jasmine assists the community planning team, her understanding of the principles of sustainability is augmented by her experience with the nuts and bolts of sustainable practices and low-impact development. She researched hydromodification, urban runoff alternatives, and water stewardship in San Diego canyons; assisted with the sustainable design for a park in Tijuana, Mexico; and prepared a crime and safety action plan

for the neighborhood of Del Cerro as part of her master’s program capstone project. Jasmine has participated in community outreach events where she presented plan and design options; prepared materials with SketchUp, ArcGIS, and other programs; and fielded questions from the public about everything from recycling to hazardous waste to incentive programs.

Panelist: Matt Ottoson, Principal Planner, RRM Design Group

Matt Ottoson is currently a Principal Planner with RRM Design Group. With over 12 years of experience in the field, he is passionate about working side-by-side with clients and communities to help them achieve their visions and goals by bringing a holistic approach to the land development, planning, entitlement, and environmental compliance process. For clients and communities to truly be successful, he believes that a strong bridge between the various land development disciplines is necessary to ensure the right project is developed for a particular site—one that simultaneously creates place while enhancing value. Matt brings a valuable perspective to the panel through his experience working for project applicants as an agent, including collaborating with developers to draft an initial project description and facilitating revisions throughout the

Panelist: Jhaid Parreno, Community Engagement Manager, Catalyze Silicon Valley

Jhaid Parreno is the Community Engagement Manager at Catalyze SV (CSV). As a graduate research, Jhaid focused on LGBTQ+ inclusion in disaster science and policy. At CSV, Jhaid fosters partnerships, oversees community engagement services, manages the Community Engagement Ambassadors and Leaders team, and organizes educational events. With four years of experience as an educator, Jhaid previously worked as a Community Coordinator at The Tech Interactive, co-developing initiatives to enhance STEM access for families and students of color. She also led The Tech’s Community Advisory Committee and contributed to the IDEA Steering Committee. Passionate about elevating marginalized voices, Jhaid is dedicated to community co-creation and ensuring that all voices are heard.

permitting process in a manner that meets the needs of project stakeholders while maintaining clients’ project goals and objectives.

Panelist: Hannah Park, of Counsel, Best Best & Krieger

Hannah Park is a seasoned CEQA attorney specializing in environmental law. She currently is of counsel in Best Best & Krieger’s Environmental Law & Natural Resources practice group, where she advises public agencies and private developers on navigating the complexities of federal and state environmental laws, with a particular focus on CEQA. She has successfully represented her clients both in the environmental review process and litigation, on a diverse range of environmental documents, including EIRs, NDs, and addendums, and assisted clients with CEQA exemption determinations. Hannah’s expertise extends to project entitlements, land use planning, and environmental impact assessments.

Moderator: Michael Parker, AICP, Principal, Ascent

Mike is a CEQA and NEPA project director and principal in charge of Ascent's Berkeley office drawing from 21 years of environmental planning and urban planning experience. Mike is currently leading Ascent’s AI Collaborative, AI Policy Team, and M365 Copilot Pilot Program. 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. Mike was formerly a planner at the City of Sacramento and therefore understands behind-the-counter municipal processes. This understanding helps Mike to coordinate seamlessly with city staff and to more accurately forecast city staff needs, including

internal review and schedule needs. He is the co-chair of the annual Continuing Legal Education (CLE) CEQA Conference in San Francisco, and he also serves on the board of the Sacramento Valley Section of the American Planning Association.

Moderator/ Panelist: Paul Philley, AICP, Transportation and Climate Change Program Manager, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

Paul Philley, AICP is the Program Supervisor of the CEQA and Land Use section at the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District. His team works to protect the public health of 1.5 million breathers through development review and policy advocacy in the land use and transportation sectors. He has a BS in Geology from CSU Bakersfield as well as an MA in Urban Planning from UCLA. He currently serves on the Board of the Sacramento Transportation Management Association as well as the President Emeritus of the Sacramento Air District Employee Association.

Panelist: Frank Petrilli, Partner, Coblenz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP

Frank Petrilli is a land use attorney at Coblenz, Patch, Duffy & Bass and helps clients navigate the land use and entitlement process, with a focus on infill projects in the Mid-Peninsula, Silicon Valley, and Santa Cruz areas, including technology and life science campuses, residential and mixed-use projects, hotels, and other projects. He takes a pragmatic and collaborative approach to serving his clients, taking into account the political and practical considerations that face new development in order to achieve the outcomes that matter most for his clients. Frank is skilled at resolving problems at all stages in the development process, from early planning through entitlement and construction, including negotiating agreements with local agencies and regulatory agencies, including the California Coastal Commission, and land use litigation. Frank is listed in “The Best Lawyers in America” in the Land Use and Zoning Law category. In 2020 he was named among the “Top 40 Under 40” attorneys in California by the Daily Journal. Since 2017, he has been a Legal 500 recommended and Super Lawyers top rated Land Use & Zoning attorney. Frank also guest lectures on land use and real estate litigation at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law and serves on the Board of Directors for the San Mateo County Economic Development Association and chairs its Housing, Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Panelist: Jeff Phillips, Conservation Banking Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ventura Field Office

Jeff Phillips is the conservation banking coordinator and a senior fish and wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) field office in Ventura. He started with the USFWS under the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) while earning his master’s degree at the University of California, Santa Barbara’s Donald Bren School of Environmental Science & Management in 2004. He was appointed to a full-time Presidential Management Fellowship position upon completion of his master’s degree in June 2005. Since then, he has worked as an environmental contaminants biologist specializing in natural resource damage assessment and oil spill response for the Ventura field office (2005–2007) and Pacific Islands field office in Honolulu, Hawaii (2007–2010), then as the geographic division supervisor for the Ventura field office South Coast division (2010–2015), and most recently as the Ventura field office Conservation Banking Coordinator (2015–present). He is also an adjunct faculty member at Antioch University, Santa Barbara, teaching environmental science and biology courses in the undergraduate B.A. program (2015–present).

Panelist: Bill Piazza, Owner, Air Quality Dynamics

Bill Piazza has over 30 years of experience in the field of environmental health and safety, with particular expertise in both air dispersion modeling and health risk assessments. He has completed hundreds of risk and hazard assessment studies associated with both air toxic exposures and soil/ground water vapor intrusion. Bill has characterized and modeled the contaminant emissions of more than 2,000 commercial and industrial operations. His work extends to initial assessments to intense response to comments efforts. Bill has applied his skills to assist projects and clients in both the public and private sector, providing sound approaches that meet the standards of the most discerning legal reviewers.

Moderator: Brianna Pilkinton, Senior Principal, Business Center Practice Leader, Stantec

Brianna Pilkinton is driven to find creative solutions for complex problems. She proudly supports major energy clients navigating the energy transition and decarbonization efforts. In her current role with Stantec, she is a Practice Leader responsible for overall growth in Southern California and Hawaii and is also Stantec's Account Manager for Sempra Energy. Over the past two decades, she has led multidisciplinary teams through environmental assessment, permitting, and compliance across energy, oil and gas, transportation, community development, and technology sectors. She specializes in CEQA and NEPA implementation, managing risks and seeking innovative, and cost-effective solutions. Brianna is dedicated to equity and advancing women in STEM careers. She volunteers for organizations like the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, Association of Women in Water, Energy and Environment (AWWEE), Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP), and WTS San Diego County, where she is a Director-at-Large and past President. Brianna is honored to have received the Engineering News Record (ENRs) California Top Young Professionals Award in 2019 and San Diego Metro Magazine's 40 under 40 Award in 2018. In her spare time, Brianna has united her professional interests with fulfilling creative pursuits by founding a modern dance company that is devoted to the intersection between nature and the human experience.

Panelist: Haseeb Qureshi, Principal, Urban Crossroads

Haseeb Qureshi is a Principal at Urban Crossroads, Inc. He 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, and 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 evaluate vehicle miles traveled in CEQA documents and aligning model-based data with air quality and greenhouse gas emissions calculations.

Panelist: Andrew Raaf, Environmental Manager- Santa Barbara County Flood Control District

Andrew Raaf is the Environmental Manager for the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, having served at the County since 2009. His career milestones include steelhead trout dam-removal projects, community recovery after wildfire and debris flow, and managing several regional environmental programs. Andrew's career and training involves wildlife biology, water resources, and natural resource throughout the United States. He is a graduate of University of California, Santa Barbara and Kansas State University.

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

Travis has been with the City of San Jacinto for the past 6 years as the Community Development Director and most recently Deputy City Manager, Development Services where he oversees the Community Development and Public Utilities Department. Travis oversaw the development and implementation of Envision San Jacinto's General Plan 2040, the City's comprehensive General Plan update. Travis spent the first 12 years of his Career as a Planner with the City of Riverside. His academic foundation is rooted in a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of California, Riverside. Subsequently, Travis attained a Master's Degree in Public Administration from CBU.

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

Emma Rawnsley has nearly 20 years of environmental planning experience, managing 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 broad team of environmental professionals. Emma has been an AEP Chapter Board Member since 2015 and served as Monterey Bay- Silicon Valley Chapter President from 2023-2024.

Panelist: Chris Read, Principal, Raimi + Associates

Walker Wells is a Principal at Raimi + Associates, a mission-driven urban planning and sustainability consultancy. He works with cities, neighborhoods, and community organizations to further green building, climate action, and sustainable development practices through technical guidance, stakeholder facilitation, and innovative policies and programs. He is a certified urban planner, a LEED Accredited Professional, Green Rater, and a lecturer in Green Urbanism at the Claremont Colleges and UCLA Urban Planning. Walker is a 2013 Fulbright Fellow with the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm and a member of the LEED for Cities Committee at US Green Building Council. Walker holds Bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Environmental Studies from the University of California Santa Barbara and a Master's of City and Regional from the California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo. He also studied at Lund University in Sweden. Prior to joining Raimi + Associates, Mr. Wells was the Executive Director at the non-profit Global Green.

Panelist: Jennifer Reed, Air Quality Manager, Dudek

Jennifer Reed leads Dudek's air quality services team, has over 17 years of experience, and has been on the Climate Change Committee since 2019. She specializes in air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, health risk assessments, energy technical analyses, and climate action and adaptation planning. Jennifer has been responsible for the management and technical leadership for numerous public and private development projects subject to compliance with CEQA and NEPA.

Moderator: Shannon Reese, Supervising Planner, County of Santa Barbara

Shannon Reese is a Supervising Planner in Development Review for the County of Santa Barbara, serving the community she was raised in. She has eight years of experience in the public sector, specializing in development review, housing regulation, process improvement, and CEQA implementation. She also serves as a Planning Commissioner for the City of Buellton. Shannon holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Geology and a Minor in Environmental Systems and Society from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Panelist: Jose Rivera, EIT, Associate Engineer, City of Oxnard- Public Works Traffic Engineering Division

Jose is an associate engineer that has worked in the City of Oxnard Public Works department for the past 7 years. At the City of Oxnard, he has been involved in the development process on the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plan that will be adopted by the City once it is finished. One of the challenges around schools is the traffic congestion created during drop off and pick up times. One of the goals of the SRTS plan is to enhance existing infrastructure and recommend improvements to encourage students/parents to walk to school, in a safer and more pedestrian-friendly environment. Jose is an Engineer-in-Training (EIT) with a Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering from California State University, Northridge.

Panelist: Justin L. Robertson, AICP, Senior Planner, PLACE Program, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Division of Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Justin Robertson leads the community pedestrian planning efforts at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH) PLACE Program (Policies for Livable, Active Communities and Environments) and provides active transportation and urban forestry leadership within the department. He received his Master of Urban and Regional Planning from UCLA and his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from California State University, Northridge. Prior to PLACE, he worked as an associate planner in mobility planning for the City of Glendale, as a community organizer in tobacco policy at LADPH, and as a communications aide to Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge.

Panelist: Vicky Rosen, AICP, Environmental Planner, Michael Baker International

With 10 years of experience, Vicky Rosen manages and prepares CEQA/NEPA clearance documents assessing environmental impacts for a variety of project types throughout California, including schools, parks, and other community facilities; water, energy, and transportation infrastructure; and mixed-use developments. She also has experience conducting public outreach and mitigation monitoring. Vicky has volunteered as a one-on-one mentor and coach for first generation freshman college students, and has been a guest lecturer on CEQA at California State University, Long Beach.

Moderator: Christine Rothman, AICP, Development Program Manager, III, City of San Diego Stormwater Department Mitigation Team

Christine Rothman has almost 30 years of professional experience in urban planning with nearly 10 years focused on stormwater infrastructure and mitigation. She has a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture and a master's degree in City and Regional Planning. Christine supervises the team that finds, designs, permits, implements, and maintains compensatory wetland mitigation under the Municipal Waterways Maintenance Plan for the City of San Diego Stormwater Department.

Moderator: Daniel Rubins, PE, Senior Associate, Fehr & Peers

Daniel thrives on complex transportation and land use projects with interesting challenges that require innovative solutions and improve communities. Recently, Dan has been working with local and regional jurisdictions to develop VMT thresholds, conduct VMT assessments, and create feasible VMT mitigation actions. He leads the Fehr & Peers Bay Area Resilience Regional Working Group and is passionate about decarbonizing the transportation system. Dan served as the project manager for the Equitable VMT Mitigation Program Framework for Santa Clara County. Where the project team conducted research about options available, facilitated deep-dive conversations, tracked questions raised, and incorporated stakeholder input on each option presented.

Panelist: Kimberly Ruddins, City of Ontario Sustainability Program Manager at City of Ontario

Kim has worked at the City of Ontario for 14 years and currently sits as the Sustainability Program Manager. She is a crucial part of the City of Ontario's planning initiatives, including completing the City's recent comprehensive general plan update, The Ontario Plan. She now is working towards implementing major parts of The Ontario Plan including revitalization of the Downtown, buildout of the Ontario Ranch, and bringing a new minor league baseball team to the City.

Panelist: Manira Sandhir, Planning Manager/ Zoning Administrator, City of San Mateo

Manira Sandhir has 18+ 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, Initial Studies, Addendums, and Exemptions for urban and rural mixed-use, housing, institutional, and industrial projects. She has also led general plan and housing element updates and code amendments, including incorporating streamlining and process improvements for housing development.

Panelist: Ken Sansone, SL Environmental Law Group

Ken Sansone is Senior Partner at SL Environmental Law Group, where he exclusively represents utilities, municipalities, states, and private entities in contamination lawsuits, including claims over per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), perchlorate, 1,2,3 trichloropropane (TCP), and 1,4-dioxane. He has obtained more than \$140 million in recoveries for water systems in California to treat TCP, and currently represents more than 250 water systems and other public agencies across the country in PFAS contamination cases. Ken served as lead trial and appellate counsel to the City of Pomona, and, in September 2021, obtained a \$30 million jury verdict for the City for the costs of cleaning up perchlorate contamination from the use of tainted fertilizer products made by SQM, a multinational mining company, and successfully defended the verdict on appeal.

Prior to joining SL Environmental Law Group, Ken served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of New Hampshire. He has nearly 25 years of experience handling complex civil and criminal cases in federal and state trial and appellate courts. Ken received his law degree from New York University and his undergraduate degree, magna cum laude, from Duke University, where he was alternate captain of the men's ice hockey team. He was also a one-day Jeopardy! champion in 2016.

Panelist: Brian Schuster, Director Air Quality, Climate, Acoustics, ESA

Brian Schuster has over 15 years of project management and technical air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) experience. He has developed, planned, and implemented Climate Action Plans (CAPs) for public and private agencies throughout California. He has authored more than 30 EIRs in compliance with CEQA and NEPA guidelines. In his CAP work, Brian designs comprehensive greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories, evaluates GHG emission reductions from a wide variety of measures, authors planning documents, and engages stakeholders through outreach. As Project Manager, Brian led CAP projects for the Counties of San Bernardino, Sonoma, Marin, and Los Angeles, and for the City of Ontario. He also has experience conducting pollutant dispersion modeling using AERMOD and CALINE and has prepared many health risk assessments for complex development projects. He has extensive emissions modeling experience using CalEEMod, EMFAC, OFFROAD, WARM, and ClearPath and is on the SEEC technical advisory committee. Brian has 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: Tammy Seale, Principal, PlaceWorks

Tammy Seale is a Principal at PlaceWorks and leads the firm's Climate Action and Resilience Practice. She is an environmental planner focused on local sustainability and climate action planning. She is a co-author, with Michael Boswell and Adrienne Greve, of *Climate Action Planning: A Guide to Creating Low-Carbon, Resilient Communities* (2019), a guidebook that provides resources, best practices, and tools to address climate change mitigation and adaptation in the local planning process.

Panelist: Samantha Senaldi, Consultant, Environmental Planning, WSP

Samantha Senaldi is an environmental planning professional with 2 years of experience in environmental impact analysis, hazard mitigation planning, and interagency coordination. She has a workload balanced between client interface, including those from federal, state, and local governments/agencies and private companies, and technical writing. She has worked on a variety of different environmental documents, including EIRs, IS/MNDs, EAs, Notices of Exemption, and Environmental and Historic Preservation review processes and Work Plans. Analytical experience includes assessing project-related impacts on different resource areas (e.g., agricultural resources, air quality, utilities and public services, wildfire) and conducting compliance reviews for a range of federal and state laws, regulations, and executive orders.

Moderator: Coleen Shade, Principal- Environmental Planning, Stantec

Coleen Shade has 35 years of Natural Resources, Land Use, and Environmental Planning experience with a career focus on the landscapes, unique resources, and communities of the Sierra Nevada.

Moderator: Jennie Shield, Western Regional Director, Great Ecology

Jennie is a seasoned environmental professional with nearly two decades of experience in strategic environmental planning, regulatory compliance, and natural resource management. As the Western Regional Director at Great Ecology, she leads a multidisciplinary team in delivering innovative, ecologically based solutions for environmental planning, conservation, and restoration projects. Jennie's expertise is rooted in her tenure as a civil servant with the Department of the Navy, where she served as a Senior Researcher and Marine Resource Specialist. In this role, she supported the Navy's At-Sea environmental compliance and permitting processes, analyzing anthropogenic impacts on marine species and habitats and developing mitigation strategies. She has authored and peer-reviewed key regulatory documents, including Environmental Impact Statements and Biological Assessments under NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. With a strong background in collaborative leadership, project management, and technical analysis, Jennie brings a strategic and solutions-driven approach to environmental challenges. She holds a Master of Environmental Management from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University.

Panelist: Anastasia Shippey, Senior Planner, Sacramento County Planning & Environmental Review

Anastasia Shippey has worked as an environmental planner for the past 7 years and worked as a consultant on a variety of projects, including transportation, development, and restoration before joining the County of Sacramento. Since joining the County in early 2024, she has worked as the environmental analyst on several different projects, including being a lead person for the environmental review of the first standalone battery energy storage system (BESS) in the County. Anastasia has also been part of several pre-application meetings for other BESS projects and is continuing to expand her knowledge of the environmental review of these facilities.

Panelist: Kerrie Skillen, M.E.S., Vice President, U.S. Renewables Sector Leader, Environmental Services, Stantec

Kerrie Skillen is the National Renewable Energy Sector Leader for Stantec, where she leads a team of environmental service professionals dedicated to expanding the company's renewable energy business across the United States. She began her environmental consulting career after graduating from the University of Waterloo, in Canada, with a master's degrees in Environmental Studies. She joined Stantec in 2005, where she has taken on a series of leadership roles, eventually relocating to the United States in 2021.

With over 19 years of experience in the renewable energy sector across both Canada and the United States, Kerrie has a diverse range of project experience, from large-scale wind and solar installations to energy storage and grid modernization initiatives. Her expertise spans the life cycle and technical aspects of renewable energy systems, making her an advisor and collaborator for internal and external stakeholders. She has led power and renewables projects under a variety of regulatory frameworks and is well-versed in adapting to shifting regulatory frameworks and evolving market conditions.

In addition to leading numerous successful renewable energy projects, Kerrie has played an instrumental role in Stantec's environmental services energy transition strategy, emphasizing technological innovation, regulatory insight, and market-driven approaches.

With a passion for sustainability and a proven track record of delivering impactful results, Kerrie is an advocate for the continued advancement of renewable energy and environmental stewardship.

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

Stephanie Standerfer is a Vice President and Director of WEBB's Environmental Services Department. She has over 25 years of experience in the environmental industry. At WEBB, she leads a team of environmental professionals embedded within civil engineers, transportation planners, hydrologists, and landscape architects, among others. Stephanie focuses on CEQA compliance for small, medium, and large public and private projects. She has managed all levels of CEQA documents for healthcare clients, community college districts, water districts, cities, counties, and private developers. Her varied project experience working with project proponents, local jurisdictions and regulatory agencies allows her to foresee and navigate challenges that arise during CEQA compliance. Stephanie regularly oversees and coordinates with large teams of environmental planners, engineers, and architects and actively assists her clients through the environmental compliance gauntlet.

Panelist: Vida Strong, MUP, Vice President, Aspen Environmental Group

Vida Strong has extensive experience in environmental engineering and project management, with an emphasis in the application of CEQA and NEPA in analysis, permitting, and management of large mitigation monitoring efforts for controversial development projects. She has worked with developers and agencies in the design of industrial projects that meet the objectives of the developer while minimizing environmental impacts. She has managed the mitigation monitoring, compliance, and reporting programs for dozens of industrial projects on behalf of the permitting agencies and developers. Vida has a Master of Urban Planning degree from San Jose State Univ and B.S. in Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Panelist: Qaim Syed, Lead Project Manager – Development, NextEra Energy Resources

Qaim Syed is on the renewable development team at NextEra Energy Resources and has helped progress over 1 gigawatt of energy storage projects within the state of California, ranging from permitting efforts all the way through to operation. Qaim graduated from the University of Central Florida with both a bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's in Engineering Management. While today Qaim primarily focuses on energy storage projects, he has been in the energy industry for over 5 years with previous experience working on gas and wind turbine projects throughout the country.

Panelist: Lauren Tarpey, Attorney, Shute, Mihaley, & Weinberger LLP

Lauren Tarpey is an attorney at Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger. She represents public agencies, community organizations, and joint powers authorities on a broad range of environmental, land use, and local government issues, including crafting strategies to decarbonize buildings. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Tarpey served as a law clerk for the Honorable R. Brooke Jackson on the United States District Court for the District of Colorado. Ms. Tarpey graduated from Stanford Law School, where she served as Co-Editor in Chief of the Stanford Environmental Law Journal. She also earned a Joint Master of Science degree from the Stanford Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources. Ms. Tarpey graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Chicago with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Public Policy.

Panelist: Mike Thompson, Vice President of Project Development, Plenary Americas

Mike Thompson is a developer of large-scale infrastructure projects spanning transit, buildings, energy, and natural resources. As Vice President of Project Development at Plenary Americas, he specializes in collaborating with government partners to design, permit, fund, and implement successful public-private partnerships. His prior role as an early member of The Boring Company involved leading the startup in evaluating project economic feasibility, undertaking concept design and due diligence, and securing entitlements, environmental clearances, and government approvals for transportation projects across the United States, including the Vegas Loop, the largest entitled underground transit network. Past career experiences include developing and managing water and energy infrastructure projects and consulting roles in environmental and geotechnical engineering. He is motivated to leverage his experience managing teams and navigating regulatory landscapes to deliver innovative infrastructure solutions. Mike holds a B.A. Geology from Washington & Lee University and an M.S. in Geology from California State University, Long Beach. In his free time, he enjoys traveling the world to add to his rock collection and spending time with his wife, son, and golden retriever.

Panelist: Vanessa Toscano, Principal Planner, HELIX Environmental Planning

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 17 years of experience overseeing the environmental review process for a wide range of private development, infrastructure, transportation, and higher education projects. She is the Chair of the AEP People & Culture Committee and is a member of the San Diego Chapter of AEP.

Panelist: Valerie Vartanian, Natural Resources Land and Wetland Program Manager, Pest Management Coordinator, Naval Base Ventura County

Valerie Vartanian is a Natural Resources Manager at Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC). She has over 40 years of experience working in the environmental field. Early in her career she worked as a Park Ranger for Los Angeles County where she managed wildlife sanctuaries and developed and implemented nature programs for the public and schools; during that time, she also taught elementary school science. Eventually, Valerie became a Project Manager for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) of California and focused on restoring riparian habitats (mostly through invasive plant control and coordinating watershed-wide partnerships throughout Southern California). She earned degrees in Natural Resources Management, Outdoor Recreation, and Biogeography. Later, Valerie moved to the Midwest where she worked for the Missouri Botanical Garden as the director of a collaborative bi-state initiative to coordinate habitat restoration efforts. She later accepted a position on TNC's Global Invasive Species Team as the Horticulture Liaison, which was co-supported by the botanical garden. She traveled around the country meeting with businesses, organizations, and agencies to help them develop new strategies that enable them to adopt Codes of Conduct that provided guidance on eliminating invasive plant species from their inventory. Valerie is currently responsible for managing wetland habitats on NBVC, which includes Port Hueneme, Point Mugu, and San Nicolas Island. Most of her work revolves around habitat restoration for an on-site mitigation bank, reviewing projects that may impact wetlands, and developing Clean Water Act permits in response to projects and operations. In addition, she has been involved in developing climate smart strategies to help protect the base from increasing storm damage. In the 15 years she has worked on base, there have been many storm damage events that threaten military readiness. Her involvement on base has led to a National working group that includes agencies, organizations, businesses, and local governments all working together on strategies that strength coastal resilience.

Panelist: Steve Velyvis, Partner, BWS Law

Steve Velyvis is a well-respected land use and environmental law attorney with over 24 years of expertise advising and representing public agency and private clients in administrative proceedings and before federal and state trial and appellate courts. He has extensive experience with and works daily on complex CEQA compliance and litigation matters. His CEQA advice and litigation counsel work has spanned numerous, wide-ranging projects, including various residential, mixed use, industrial (wine production, desalination, canal/water supply, e-commerce warehouse), commercial, public works (dam removal, creek storm drain outfall repair, multi-modal roadway), and planning (area/specific plan, comprehensive general plan update, housing element, all-electric reach code ordinance) projects. While Steve has extensive experience with a multitude of environmental laws, he is most experienced with CEQA, having represented parties on all three "sides" of the CEQA equation. In other words, in addition to successfully representing Burke's many municipal and public agency clients, he has also successfully represented numerous private clients (e.g., project applicants and project opponents). In this regard, Steve distinguishes himself as a leading CEQA practitioner. His deep and varied experience gives him invaluable insight into what all three sides on a given CEQA project are thinking at every step along the way. This unique perspective also enables him to develop cutting-edge legal strategies aimed at resolving conflicts and prevailing in litigation, as opposed to simply posturing or falling back on routine "cookie cutter" advice and litigation tools. In sum, Steve draws on his collective experience to help Burke's clients think outside the box and routinely provides successful, cost-effective results.

Panelist: Nicole Vermillion, Principal, PlaceWorks

Nicole Vermillion combines broad perspective and big-picture thinking with a good technical grounding to find workable solutions to environmental constraints. She is an air quality specialist with over 10 years of experience in air quality and greenhouse gas assessments for CEQA analyses. Nicole is involved in nearly every one of the firm's CEQA projects and closely follows the rapid changes in requirements and the latest information on CEQA thresholds and analysis methodology. She has performed numerous greenhouse gas emissions inventories for individual projects as well as citywide emissions inventories for general plans. Nicole participated in the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's CEQA greenhouse gas significance thresholds working group for development projects and beta tested the CalEEMod program for the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Panelist: Mark vonTillow, Fire Inspector II, City of Santa Barbara Fire Department

Mark vonTillow is a native Californian and started his career in 1985 on the Tahoe National Forest. He came to the Los Padres National Forest in 1987 and has worked on engines, Hotshots, and helicopters throughout his career. Mark has been an Incident Management Team member for 20 plus years, was the incident commander for California Team 3 for 4 years, and is a prescribed burn boss and fire manager and holds numerous other Incident Command System (ICS) qualifications. He has extensive fire experience across the country as well as experience with all hazard responses such as Hurricane Rita in Texas and the space shuttle discovery recovery mission. He also commanded the Whittier, Thomas, and Sobranes Fires, to name a few. He is a member of the L-580 cadre leadership in action. Mark received the Paul Gleason lead by example award for initiative and innovation in 2006 for the family support branch of the Esperanza incident where he served as a family liaison for one of the firefighters during the incident. Most recently, he served as a hospital and family liaison officer for a burn victim on a hotshot crew in 2015. Mark also has extensive background in fuels mitigation work while he was with the U.S. Forest Service. He retired as the division chief for the Santa Barbara Ranger district where he served in that position for the last 8 years of his career with the U.S. Forest Service. Mark currently is the wildland specialist for the Santa Barbara City Fire Department.

Panelist: Brian Wallace, Executive Director, The Sierra Fund (Indigenous Lead NGO focusing on the Sierra)

Brian Wallace is the Sierra Fund Chief Executive Officer and served as an elected official of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California from 1979 to 2006, which included four 4-year terms as the Tribal Chairman. In addition to providing leadership for the re-envisioned The Sierra Fund as an Indigenous knowledge and technology sharing platform, he is bridging the gap between traditional wisdom and contemporary science to foster long-term, culturally centered sustainability.

Panelist: Rich Walter, Vice President, ICF

Rich Walter has 32 years of experience in environmental planning, compliance strategy, permitting, and mitigation development and implementation. He has directed and participated in environmental impact assessment, alternatives analysis, and permitting processes for a variety of proposed planning processes and developments, including General Plans, Specific Plans, mixed use, and residential projects; resorts; schools; flood control; water pipelines; wetland restoration; roads, highways, and bike paths; vineyards; industrial parks; telecommunications; commuter, intercity, and high-speed rail; and habitat restoration. He has managed projects that comply with NEPA, CEQA, the federal and California Endangered Species Acts, NHPA, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, California Coastal Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, and other state and local mandates. Rich also co-leads ICF's California municipal climate action planning practice, which includes advising municipal and private clients on addressing climate change in general plans, regional transportation plans, climate action plans and projects, and actions undergoing NEPA/CEQA review.

Moderator: Nicole West, Senior Supervising Environmental Planner, Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Nicole West is a Senior Supervising Environmental Planner and Project Manager with Rincon Consultants' San Luis Obispo Office. She has over 20 years of experience in the management and preparation of environmental documents in compliance with CEQA and NEPA. Her project experience spans a wide range of project types throughout Central and Southern California, including development/redevelopment, transportation, water/wastewater infrastructure, renewable energy, and utility projects. Nicole is currently serving as the Vice President of the Channel Counties Chapter of AEP and has served as Membership Director for the last several years.

Moderator: Melissa Whittemore, Senior Environmental Project Manager, Michael Baker International

With 23 years of experience, Melissa Whittemore's professional responsibilities include project management, preparation of CEQA/NEPA compliance documents, and training emerging environmental planners and project managers. She has worked on a variety of projects, specializing in complex transportation, renewable energy, and water/sewer projects throughout California, as well as CEQA/NEPA clearance for habitat conservation plans, affordable housing projects, and other land development projects. Melissa currently volunteers as Co-Director of Student Membership and Outreach on the Board of the AEP San Diego Chapter, where she hosts events for college students interested in the environmental field and provides informal mentorship as students transition into professional careers.

Panelist: Whitney Wilkinson, MS, Supervising Planner, County of Santa Barbara

Whitney Wilkinson is currently a Supervising Planner for the County of Santa Barbara. She works in the Long Range Planning Division of the Planning and Development Department where she currently supervises the Safety Element update project, Environmental Justice Element project, Utility Scale Solar Ordinance amendments project, and others. She served as project manager over the last 5 years on the Safety Element update that included updates to its wildfire policies, the management of an Evacuation Traffic Modeling Study, and development of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan, all of which have touched on wildfire's importance to planning in Santa Barbara County. She holds a master's degree in Environmental Science and Management from the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management and a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from the University of California, Santa Barbara. In her spare time, Whitney enjoys trail running, playing beach volleyball, and spending time with her husband and kids.

Panelist: Loren Witkin, REA, LEED, AEP/AHERA Accredited, CEO, Citadel EHS.

Loren Witkin, with over 37 years of experience in the environmental, health, safety, and sustainability industry, oversees and manages complex, multi-disciplinary project teams for regulatory compliance projects. Before founding Citadel EHS, he managed a program that developed, implemented, and enforced policies for the identification and remediation of environmental contaminants on 17+ million square feet of property for UCLA, then subsequently handled Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) matters and due diligence for public and private clients at a national consulting firm. Actively working to raise lead poisoning awareness, he was a founding member of both the California Medical Association Ad Hoc Committee on Lead and the National Lead Abatement Council's California Chapter. Loren holds multiple industry certifications; is a frequent speaker on various EH&S issues at universities, public agencies, and industry conferences; has provided litigation support for complex asbestos-related matters; and is active in professional organizations, including ULI, City of Hope Real Estate Council, AJU's Real Estate Executive Council, and L.A. Central City Association.

Panelist: Patricia Wood, PE, Senior Civil Engineer, Los Angeles County Public Works

Patricia Wood is a Senior Civil Engineer at Los Angeles County Public Works, Stormwater Engineering Division.

Panelist: Renee Yarmy, LEED AP O+M, Program Director, Maritime Sustainable Development, Port of San Diego

Renée Yarmy has over 20 years of experience in sustainable development, architecture, climate action planning, and project management. She serves as the Program Director for Maritime Sustainable Development at the Port of San Diego. In this role, she develops and implements strategic electrification, decarbonization, and clean freight projects to meet the clean air goals of the Port's Climate Action Plan and Maritime Clean Air Strategy (MCAS). Example projects include microgrid development, electrification of Port operational equipment across the supply chain to advance zero emissions strategies, and implementation of data tools to broaden port-wide visibility into emissions reductions progress.

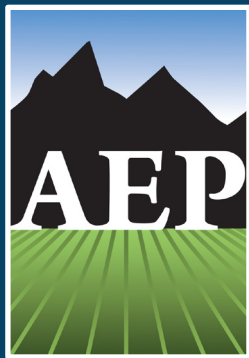
In addition to her role at the Port, Renée teaches at the University of California, San Diego Extension for the Sustainable Business Practices certificate program. Prior to joining the Port, she served as a sustainability consultant responsible for advising west coast ports, as well as international, federal, and local government agencies. In these capacities, Renée developed and managed sustainability, energy management, asset management, and outreach programs.

Renée is also the recent recipient of the Women in Smart Energy (WISE) 2024 Award. She has served on the board of directors for the American Planning Association – San Diego Section from 2010 to 2020. She is currently the co-chair of the San Diego Chapter of Women in EVs. She has an established track record developing policies, guidance documents, and implementation tools to meet agency-specific sustainability, climate planning, and outreach goals and objectives.

Renée holds a Master of Sustainable Development from University of New South Wales, Australia, a Bachelor of Architecture from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and is a LEED AP O+M. “Renee is a force to be reckoned with at the Port of San Diego,” said Maritime Director Joel Valenzuela, Port of San Diego. “Renée has a hand in nearly all our electrification efforts across our entire supply chain, from shore power at our marine terminals for ocean-going vessels, to the microgrid at the Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal. While this has been a team effort, Renée’s leadership has been vital to these projects.”

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

Abby Young is the Manager of the Bay Area Air Quality Management Districts Climate Protection Program. During her seventeen years at the Air District, Abby has developed and overseen \$7+ million in local climate protection grant programs, developed CEQA greenhouse gas thresholds of significance and guidance, and produced technical guidance and assistance programs for local governments in developing and implementing climate action plans. Prior to working at the District, Abby spent eleven years as Director of the US Cities for Climate Protection Campaign at ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, overseeing the development of training programs, software and research to assist local governments in achieving their climate protection goals.



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