A G E N D A
CFEE Telecommunications & Technology Conference

Surfing the Techno-Wave...
Can We Keep Riding High and Avoid the Wipe Out?

Everline Hotel, Olympic Valley   August 24-25, 2023

For decades, California has deftly navigated the ever-flowing wave of technology for the overall betterment of our state. Yet with uncertainties about universal broadband, growing unease with the rise of artificial intelligence, and the deepening connectivity of people, business, and government, we face new challenges to ride the cresting wave of technology's promise while minimizing the potential for wipe out.

This conference will convene state leaders to explore how we can best leverage the current ample public and private funding and the ever-expanding world of communications platforms to engineer a beneficial and equitable techno-ecosystem for all of California.

Hybrid Conference Etiquette and Guidelines

Questions & Comments: This is a uniquely interactive forum, and we encourage and expect robust engagement from those around the table and online. We ask our on-site attendees to place your nameplate on its vertical end when you are ready to jump into the discussion. For those joining remotely, you may 1) type your questions into the chat window or 2) use the "raise your hand" function on Zoom to indicate you would like to ask your question directly. Please limit your comments to two minutes.

Chatham House Rule - Cyber Edition: Those of you familiar with CFEE conferences are aware of our time-honored "Chatham House Rule." This means specific comments are not to be attributed to any one person with the goal of promoting a more candid exchange. At this time, video conferencing is an inherently less private forum and confidentiality is not guaranteed; however, we ask that you help us to uphold our longstanding and respected tradition. To that end, this conference will not be recorded, and we ask you not to record the discussions in any fashion or to share specific, attributable remarks. We appreciate you respecting and supporting the Chatham House Rule.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24
Grand Sierra Ballroom A – Lobby Level

11:30 – 12:45pm	Arrival – Check-In and Lunch – Spa Deck
12:45 – 1:00pm	**Welcome – Conference Overview and Roundtable Introductions**

Preview of conference topics, speakers, and goals

Jay Hansen, President & CEO, CFEE

1:00 – 2:30pm	<u>Session 1</u> **The Historic Network Modernization Opportunity – Are We Ready for It?**

With billions of public and private dollars ready to finance universal broadband and network upgrades, California is seemingly poised to make good on its goals of equity and connectivity. Yet the process for leveraging federal and state monies and the overall strategy for modernizing the communications systems is still challenged to coalesce. Our opening panel will assess our progress and consider what more must be done to make the most out of this generational opportunity.

- How close are we to achieving universal broadband? How many Californians have access today?
- How many people currently have access but opt not to sign up for one reason or another? What work is being done to target these households?
- When we talk about network modernization, it is not just about broadband – what is happening with the aging copper telephone system? What happens now that it is time to replace this network? What does it mean for consumers who rely on this tried-and-true form of communication?
- What money is available from the federal government via the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act? How much has California been able to access to date? Is there a deadline for securing this multibillion-dollar funding?
- What is going on with the billions of dollars the state legislature appropriated for middle mile and last mile infrastructure? What projects are underway to fulfill the legislature and the Governor's vision?
- What is going on with the soon-to-be-lost federal subsidy provided in the Affordable Connectivity Program? How can California encourage Congress to continue helping those households relying on this $30/month supplement?

Susan Walters, Regional Director, West, Office of Internet and Connectivity Growth, National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Tony Naughtin, President & Chief Operating Officer, GoldenStateNet

Marc Blakeman, President, AT&T California

Janus Norman, President, CalBroadband

2:30 – 2:45pm	Break
2:45 – 4:00pm	**Session 2** **The Local Angle – Permitting, Building Trust, and Economic Opportunity**

As network providers deploy their infrastructure in response to federal and state incentives and market opportunities, local permitting remains a point of friction that can delay even simple upgrades and add otherwise avoidable costs. For their part, local governments operate in a resource-constrained environment and shoulder broader responsibilities that make expeditious permitting a costly endeavor. How can California make faster progress on universal broadband and technological competitiveness while ensuring local communities have the resources they need to properly vet and benefit from proposed projects?

- What are the various ways that permitting at the local level can slow infrastructure deployment? What does permitting accomplish for the municipality?
- Why might local communities have earnest concerns about certain projects?
- What additional resources do local governments need to make faster determinations on permit applications?
- What best practices have been employed in other states to facilitate faster network buildout while respecting the public interest? How can California cities/counties better share best practices?
- How can network buildout deliver co-benefits to companies and communities?
- Is there a role for the state to create an expedited process?

Jeff Bellisario, Executive Director, Bay Area Council Economic Institute

Steve Monaghan, Director, Information and General Services Agency, Nevada County

Joshua Hickman, Business Operations Bureau Manager, City of Long Beach

Rudy Reyes, Regional Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, Verizon

4:00 – 4:15pm	Break
4:15 – 5:30pm	**Session 3** **Cybersecurity in the Age of Cyber-Everything**

The expansion of the virtual world has connected communities, devices, and people like never before. Of course, the cybersphere is also rife with malicious actors eager to exploit anyone and anything. In 2022 alone, California experienced 140 million malware attacks, billions of phishing attempts, and

countless other digital crimes that amounted to an estimated $2 billion in losses. How can we best protect the public against this pervasive and growing threat?

- What are the primary cyber-threats facing the average Californian?
- What are the differences between malware, ransomware, phishing, and DDOS/IoT attacks? How common are they?
- What sectors in California are regularly fending off cyberattacks? What are the costs – financial and otherwise – if and when such attacks are successful?
- How are companies and governments hardening systems against malign behavior? How do we keep pace with the proliferation of the Internet of Things, especially as "smart" homes, cars, and infrastructure become more commonplace?
- How many cybersecurity professionals are employed in the state of California today? What is being done to invest in the future of this essential workforce?

Valerie Cofield, Chief Strategy Officer, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security

Ben Gordon, Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer & Chief Digital Officer, San Diego Gas & Electric and Southern California Gas Company

Tony Coulson, Professor and Executive Director, Cybersecurity Center (CSC), California State University, San Bernardino

6:30pm	Reception & Dinner – Pavilion

Reception to begin on the Pavilion at 6:30pm. Dinner to follow.

<u>FRIDAY, AUGUST 25</u>
Grand Sierra Ballroom A – Lobby Level

7:30 – 9:00am	Breakfast – Grand Sierra Ballroom B
9:00 – 10:15am	<u>**Session 4**</u> **The Many Conduits of Connectivity: Enabling the Right Tech for the Right Situation**

Communications platforms are not created equally. Whether it is cable, wireless, satellite or another form of connectivity, each technology has its own unique engineering specs, performance capabilities, and costs. How can California facilitate the tailored and equitable buildout of these different technologies?

- What are the different types of broadband technologies used by Californians?
- What situations would call for fiber? Wireless? Satellite?
- What does it mean to "future-proof" networks? How can California future-proof infrastructure in an industry that continues to innovate rapidly?
- By connecting state funding with requirements of 100 Mbps download and upload speeds, how does that affect network deployment?

Kori Cordero, CEO, Yurok Telecommunications Corporation

David Witkowski, Executive Director, Civic Technology Initiatives, Joint Venture Silicon Valley

Lisa Scalpone, Worldwide Consumer Lead, Business Development, Project Kuiper, Amazon

10:15 – 10:30am	Break
10:30 – 12:00pm	<u>**Session 5**</u> **On the Cusp of an AI Revolution…Real Talk About Risks and Rewards**

After the recent rollout of ChatGPT, alarm bells began ringing that the long-hyped birth of artificial intelligence (AI) is at hand. Complicating this already fraught development is fundamental confusion about what AI is and is not. For our final session, our panel of AI experts will shed light on its serious risks, its extraordinary possibilities, and the broader landscape of AI-like tools that we already use and embrace.

- What is "artificial intelligence?" Is ChatGPT considered AI?
- What other recent advancements have experts excited/worried?
- What is "artificial general intelligence," and how close are we to engineering this truly groundbreaking technology?

- What are the primary risks that come from AI? Who is in charge of identifying and managing that risk?
- How might AI positively transform society? What rewards await those that harness its vast potential?
- What are the workforce implications?
- What are the different types of AI-like technologies that already exist in our daily lives? How do we craft policy that distinguishes between AI, algorithms, and other automated computer technologies?
- What does AI "alignment" mean?
- How can policymakers place appropriate guardrails around AI development and use in a world where nations, companies, and individuals are feverishly racing deeper into the unknown?

Peter Hallinan, Senior Manager of Applied Science, Responsible AI, Amazon Web Services

Vincent Liu, MD, Senior Research Scientist, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente

Thomas Strohmer, Director, Center for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Research, UC Davis

Gretta Duleba, Director of Communications, Machine Intelligence Learning Institute

12:00pm	Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Jay Hansen, President & CEO, CFEE

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