

# PANELISTS

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## Session 1

### *The Historic Network Modernization Opportunity – Are We Ready for It?*

#### *Susan Walters*

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



Susan E. Walters joined National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) as a Regional Director for western states. In this role Susan oversees staff responsible for coordinating federal support of the state's broadband and digital equity work. This includes outreach and engagement to all stakeholders such as: state and local governments, community groups, education and healthcare organizations, the covered populations named in the NTIA grant programs and other entities with a vested interest in high-speed internet policy issues and grants.

Susan previously served as the Senior Vice President of the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) where she managed \$70 million in grants over 15 years where her leadership enabled more than 500,000 low-income households to subscribe to the internet and more than a million people to complete digital skills training. In addition, she led the innovative GetConnected! California program promoting the Affordable Connectivity Program. Susan was instrumental in CETF securing legislative support to add \$330 million to increase broadband deployment and digital inclusion work on the Internet for All Now Act of 2017.

Susan brings extensive experience to the job as a strategic thinker and a catalyst for equity and technology ranging across many sectors including: agriculture, community development, and disability. Susan began her legislative career working for Willie L Brown Jr for during the emergence of AIDS/HIV. Susan holds a Master of Public Policy Analysis degree from the Claremont Graduate University and a Bachelor of Science degree Business Administration from University of California at Berkeley. In addition, Susan has a post graduate Certificate in International Communications Policy from the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom.

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#### *Tony Naughtin*

**President & Chief Operating Officer  
GoldenStateNet**



Tony Naughtin has senior executive experience in operating management, business development, and consulting roles. He has been a successful CEO and entrepreneur, and has expertise in developing and executing business models and successful business relationships. He currently serves as President and COO of GoldenStateNet, the Third Party Administrator for

the State of California's large middle-mile network development initiative that will bring broadband services to the many un-served and underserved residents of California living in both rural and urban areas.

Earlier in his career Naughtin co-founded Internap Network Services Corporation (now called "INAP"), serving as its CEO in the company's first 5+ years. At Internap he led the company to \$125 million in annual revenues, and completed two successful public stock offerings. Since that time he has served in senior management, business development, and consulting roles in the network and cloud services sectors and business technology ecosystems. Naughtin has deep experience in advancing opportunities and closing transactions with (or on behalf of) enterprise clients, software and content providers, MSPs/CSPs, and network and data center operators. He began his career in high performance infrastructure services in the 1990s at NorthWestNet, an original gateway provider to the NSFNET.

Mr. Naughtin has served as a board director for a variety of companies, both public and private, and is currently a board director at the Pacific NW Gigapop, and an Advisory Board member of CENIC California Middle Mile Broadband Initiative LLC (dba "GoldenStateNet"). He was also a founding director of the Center for Technology and Entrepreneurship at the University of Washington Foster School of Business. Mr. Naughtin started his career as a staff attorney with Cablevision Systems Corporation in Long Island, New York. He holds a B.A. in Communications from the University of Iowa and is a graduate of the Creighton University School of Law.

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**Marc Blakeman**  
**President**  
**AT&T California**



Marc Blakeman serves as AT&T President – California. In that capacity, he leads the company's government affairs, public policy, philanthropic and social engagement initiatives across California.

Over the course of his 25-year career at AT&T, he has served as President, Mid-Atlantic States, Vice President of External Affairs for AT&T California and as the Regional Vice President of External Affairs in Illinois. He joined AT&T's predecessor, Ameritech, in 1997 after serving in various positions in Illinois state government.

A graduate of Northwestern University with a B.A. in political science, Marc also received his certification in corporate community relations from the John Carroll Graduate School of Management at Boston College.

Marc is an active member of the community, serving on numerous non-profit boards including the Board of Directors of the California Chamber of Commerce, the Bay Area Council and the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy. In his free time, he is a Tony Award-nominated theater producer.

A native of downstate Illinois, Mr. Blakeman resides in the San Francisco Bay Area.

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*Janus Norman*

**President  
CalBroadband**



With more than two decades worth of government relations experience, Janus Norman accepted the role of President of the California Broadband & Video Association, CalBroadband, in April of 2022. Mr. Norman has dedicated his professional life to engaging the policy making process to improve the lives of California, especially the disadvantaged. His commitment to policy work that improves the daily lives of Californians and opens new opportunities for communities across the state is unparalleled. Prior to joining CalBroadband, he has served as the Senior Vice President for Government Relations and Political Operations with the California Medical Association and as a Legislative Advocate for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication Studies from California State University, Sacramento, and a Master of Business Administration Degree from the University of Southern California.

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**Session 2**

*The Local Angle – Permitting, Building Trust, and Economic Opportunity*

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*Jeff Bellisario*

**Executive Director  
Bay Area Council Economic Institute**



Jeff Bellisario is Executive Director of the Bay Area Council Economic Institute. He supports a wide range of Institute research through project management, research design, and analysis. His research interests lie at the intersection of community development and finance, and his past projects include analyses of Bay Area housing programs, public-private partnerships for infrastructure, and the economic impacts of transportation investments.

Prior to joining the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, Jeff worked in Chicago in various portfolio management and investment analysis positions for John Hancock Financial Services and State Farm. Jeff holds an MPP degree from the UC-Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy and a BS in Finance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He enjoys long runs through the hills of the East Bay and cheering on his favorite baseball team, the Chicago Cubs.

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## Steve Monaghan

### Director, Information and General Services Agency Nevada County



As Director of the Information and General Services (IGS) Agency, Steve is responsible to plan, organize, and direct nine county business units which include Information Systems, Public Library System, County Airport, Facility Management, Capital Facilities, Office of Emergency Services, Central Services, Energy Services, Cable TV, and Centralized Purchasing. IGS has an annual operating budget of over \$24M, annual capital budget up to \$20M and is staffed by over 100 employees.

Public CIO Magazine with the California State CIO Academy named Steve the California *CIO of the Year* and the Center for Digital Government presented Steve their *Top 25 Doers, Dreamers, and Drivers of Technology in Government* award. The California County Information Services Directors Association (CCISDA) gave Steve their Visionary Award for IT Leadership and Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) presented Steve with their President's Award for exceptional service to rural counties in the area of broadband and technology advocacy.

The County of Nevada has received numerous awards for technology leadership and excellence placings in the Center for Digital Government and the National Association of Counties (NACo) National Digital Counties Survey first place six times, and ranking in the overall top three slots 20 times under Steve's tenure.

In addition to technology and broadband, Steve's passion is being an "organizational engineer", building high performing – healthy - effective organizations that best serve their customers and the community, and making Nevada County a great place to work.

Steve has a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and a minor in Business Administration. He holds various industry certifications that include Certified Government Chief Information Officer, Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control, Certified Information Systems Auditor, and Certified in the Governance of Enterprise IT. Steve is a CSAC Credentialed County Executive, CSAC Fellow, CSAC Instructor, and lead the effort to create the CSAC/CCISDA County Technology Executive Credential program.

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## Joshua Hickman

### Business Operations Bureau Manager City of Long Beach



City Representative Hickman is a Business Operations Manager for the City's Public Works Department. In his current role, Mr. Hickman is responsible for managing internal services that support the Department's diverse services, process improvements, and internal and external partnerships. He joined the City in 2017 as a Program Manager. Prior to joining the City, Mr. Hickman gained over 15 years of experience managing and delivering multiple capital investment projects focusing on sustainable development. He has a Master's Degree in Green Building from the San Francisco Institute of Architecture and a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Construction Management.

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## **Rudy Reyes**

**Regional Vice President and Associate General Counsel  
Verizon**



Rudolph M. Reyes (“Rudy”) is regional vice president and associate general counsel for Verizon. He leads legal/regulatory, public policy and local engagement now in half the country including CA. Rudy previously served as chief regulatory counsel, chief legislative counsel, vice president of government affairs, and regional vice president for Verizon in the western United States before achieving his current position.

Recognized as a Verizon “manager of the year” finalist in 2022, Rudy has grown a team of highly engaged legal, government affairs and local engagement professionals who embrace their mission to champion policies that enrich lives and build the digital future, community by community. Rudy’s team works with state, local and community leaders to streamline deployment of advanced wireless and fiber-optic communications infrastructure and address complex, multi-jurisdictional issues involving consumer protection, network resiliency, public safety and digital equity and inclusion.

Rudy’s team negotiated a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership with the City of Sacramento, resulting in the Capital City being named one of the first 5G cities in the world. This groundbreaking technology partnership led the company to announce similar infrastructure development agreements with the cities of Los Angeles, San José, Oakland, San Diego and Long Beach, paving the way for 5G in those cities. Rudy’s team’s achievements have been featured in Vanguard Law Magazine as well as in a Hispanic Executive story entitled “The future is here.” Rudy has also appeared on ABC30 Fresno and KCRA3 Sacramento to speak about the company’s network deployment strategy.

Rudy loves to share his story of being a “scholarship kid” who was given a life-changing opportunity at the age of 16 to leave his hometown in Texas to attend Milton Academy in Massachusetts on full scholarship. After graduating cum laude from Milton in 1990, Rudy attended Harvard College, graduating in 1994 magna cum laude, and Harvard Law School, graduating cum laude in 1998. Rudy and his husband, Brody, live in San Francisco with their son, Pablo.

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## **Session 3**

### **Cybersecurity in the Age of Cyber-Everything**

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## **Valerie Cofield**

**Chief Strategy Office  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency  
Department of Homeland Security**



Valerie M. Cofield serves as the Chief Strategy Officer of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Ms. Cofield serves as the principal policy and strategic adviser to CISA leadership and senior management, integrating strategy across all the organization’s mission areas and ensuring policy, strategy, and operational consistency throughout the agency.

Prior to CISA, Ms. Cofield served at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for 22 years in a variety of roles. She was a Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) for the Cyber Capabilities Branch within the FBI's Cyber Division where she led coordination and deployment of the division's technical tools and capabilities, and oversaw cyber-related training, recruiting, hiring, and budgeting for the division. She also served in a senior executive role as chief of staff of the Science and Technology Branch and as a DAD of the Digital Transformation Office (DTO), where she engaged with interagency partners and other key stakeholders on policy issues related to current and emerging technologies and their impact on law enforcement.

In 2019, Ms. Cofield was selected as the FBI's senior detail to the Cyberspace Solarium Commission. This Congressional Commission was authorized through the FY2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Its mission was to develop a national strategy for preventing cyberattacks of significant consequences. While on the Commission, Ms. Cofield was a Senior Director and Task Force Lead. The Commission completed its report in March of 2020 with over 75 recommendations, 25 of which were included in the FY21 NDAA and enacted into law. Ms. Cofield holds a bachelor's degree in Economics with a minor in Accounting from UCLA.

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### **Ben Gordon**

#### **Senior Vice President, Chief Information Office & Chief Digital Officer San Diego Gas & Electric and Southern California Gas Company**



Ben Gordon is senior vice president, chief information officer and chief digital officer for Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), Sempra's regulated California utilities.

As chief information officer, he develops and executes policy and strategic initiatives for all matters related to information and digital technologies – ranging from cybersecurity and customer experience to big data analytics – to mitigate threats and drive business growth. He oversees an information technology team dedicated to optimizing IT infrastructure performance and decreasing enterprise risk across technology networks, data centers and end-use devices.

As chief digital officer, Gordon is focused on fostering new ideas to drive corporate innovations, enterprise-wide culture change and the rapid technology adoption necessary to become leaders of digital transformation in the energy sector. Gordon joined SoCalGas and SDG&E in August 2018 and previously held the title of vice president, technology operations and infrastructure management.

Prior to joining the utilities, he was vice president of technology for Molina Healthcare in Long Beach, California. In that role, he led Molina's technology operations, including the creation and execution of a modernization program for the company's technology platforms, implementation of cloud-platform technologies, and consolidation of technology infrastructure to more efficiently run the company's call centers and critical applications.

Gordon's previous experience also included holding management positions at Three Dimensional Resource Planning, a technology solutions and services company, and at the Apollo Education Group, a provider of higher education programs. Gordon has a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Northern Arizona University and a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Florida.

## *Dr. Tony Coulson*

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



Tony Coulson, Ph.D., is the executive director of the Cybersecurity Center and full professor of Information and Decision Science in the Jack H. Brown College at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB). During his tenure at CSUSB, Tony has led more than 20 grant-funded cybersecurity projects totaling over \$18 million. Dr. Coulson also led the establishment of a nationally acclaimed cybersecurity program that spans business, computer science, national security studies, criminal justice, and public administration. The program is designated as a Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security.

Dr. Coulson is a globally recognized cybersecurity expert and leads the CAE Community Cybersecurity Education ([caecommunity.org](http://caecommunity.org)) as an NSA National Resource Center for over 265 colleges and universities. He has consulted on cybersecurity issues for Congress, federal agencies, and private organizations. He belongs to several boards and has won numerous academic, national, and community awards. Prior to his academic career, Dr. Coulson had a successful industry career for over 17 years as an executive and an entrepreneur, starting his first successful technology business when he was 14 years old. He holds a Ph.D. in Management Information Systems from Claremont Graduate University.

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## **Session 4**

### **The Many Conduits of Connectivity: Enabling the Right Tech for the Right Situation**

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## *Kori Cordero*

**CEO**

**Yurok Telecommunications Corporation**

Kori Cordero (they/them) is a tribal and federal Indian law attorney and currently serves as the CEO for Yurok Telecoms. Mx. Cordero has been a key part of the Yurok Tribe and Yurok Telecoms efforts to bring broadband to the Yurok Ancestral Territory. Since 2019, they have worked to help advance the Yurok Tribe's broadband initiatives while serving in multiple leadership roles within the tribal government, including Deputy General Counsel for the Yurok Office of the Tribal Attorney, Director of the Yurok Office of Self Governance and the Yurok Telecoms outside legal counsel.



Cordero currently serves on the board of the ACLU-Northern California and has held a myriad of leadership positions within the American Bar Association and National Native American Bar Association. Their legal practice includes civil litigation, telecommunications, energy, cultural and environmental resource protection, and restorative justice across tribal, federal, and state forums. Mx. Cordero graduated from the UCLA School of Law with two specializations in Critical Race Studies and Public Interest Law and Policy. Outside of work, Cordero dedicates their time volunteering to advance the rights of tribes and increase the number of Native people entering the legal profession.

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## *David Witkowski*

### **Executive Director, Civic Technology Initiatives Joint Venture Silicon Valley**



David Witkowski is a wireless and telecommunication industry expert and leader who became Executive Director of Joint Venture's Wireless Communications Initiative (WCI) in 2015.

David's passion for technology and wireless began as a hobby during childhood and continued during his service in the US Coast Guard where he led deployment and maintenance programs for mission-critical radio, radar, and data networking systems. After earning his BSEE from University of California @ Davis, with a study emphasis on communications theory and RF/ microwave design, he held managerial and leadership roles for companies ranging from Fortune 500 multi-nationals to early-stage startups. David is the CEO of Oku Solutions LLC, a company that provides professional services consulting to the wireless telecommunications industry and local governments.

David serves as Co-Chair of the Deployment Working Group at IEEE Future Networks, Co-Chair of the Wireless SuperCluster at Global City Teams Challenge (a NIST-hosted project), on the Board of Expert Advisors for the California Emerging Technology Fund. He is a Fellow in the Radio Club of America, a Senior Member of the IEEE, and a Life Member of the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society.

David is the author of "Bridging the Gap : 21st Century Wireless Telecommunications" (Joint Venture Silicon Valley - 1st Ed.: 2016, 2nd Ed.: 2019) and "Economic Impacts to Residential Real Estate from Small Wireless Facilities" (Joint Venture Silicon Valley - 2021), co-editor of "Public Wi-Fi Blueprint" (GCTC @ NIST – 2017) and "The Municipal Internet of Things Blueprint" (GCTC @ NIST - 2019), co-author of "5G vs. Wi-Fi: Challenges for Economic, Spectrum, and Security Policy" (Journal of Information Policy - 2021), co-author of "Carrier & Public Wi-Fi" (Mobile Experts LLC - 2015), co-author of "Deployment - International Network Generations Roadmap" (IEEE - 2021), and co-author of "HayWired Scenario, Chapter S, Vol. 3 - Telecommunications and ICT" (U.S. Geological Survey - 2021). He has written feature articles and op-eds for CIO Review, EETimes, IEEE Microwaves Magazine, Make:Magazine, Mercury News, MissionCritical Communications, QST, RCR Wireless, San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Insider, and Urgent Communications. He has presented and moderated panels at APCO (National and Regional), CTIA, DAS & Small Cells Congress, IEEE (International Microwave Symposium, and 5G World Forum), IoT World, IWCE, League of California Cities (Annual Conference, City Managers Conference, and Public Works Officers Institute), GSMA Mobile World Congress - Americas, RCA Technical Symposium, State Of The Valley, TPRC, and Wireless West.

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## *Lisa Scalpone*

### **Worldwide Consumer Lead, Business Development Project Kuiper, Amazon**



Lisa Scalpone heads worldwide consumer and business planning for Project Kuiper at Amazon. Previously, she was vice president and general manager at Viasat, a California-based satellite telecommunications company. She served for six years on Colorado's Broadband Deployment Board. She previously practiced corporate law and clerked for a federal judge.

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## Session 5

# On the Cusp of an AI Revolution...Real Talk About Risks and Rewards

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**Peter Hallinan**

**Responsible AI Lead  
Amazon Web Services**



Peter W. Hallinan leads initiatives in the science and practice of Responsible AI at AWS AI, alongside a team of Responsible AI experts and researchers. His team works across the AWS portfolio of generative and “classical” AI services to assess and improve service design and performance. These efforts include the recent launch of AWS AI Service Cards, resources that enhance transparency around issues of fairness, safety, explainability, robustness, privacy, and security.

Peter has deep expertise in AI (PhD, Harvard) and social entrepreneurship (Blindsight, sold to Amazon) and has served as a consulting professor at the Stanford University School of Medicine and as the president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar.

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**Vincent Liu, MD, MS**

**Senior Research Scientist, Division of Research  
Kaiser Permanente**



Vincent Liu, MD, MS, is a senior research scientist at the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Division of Research. He also directs the Systems Research Initiative, a multidisciplinary team at the Division of Research supported by The Permanente Medical Group (TPMG). His work focuses on the intersection of sepsis, acute severe illness, informatics, and health care delivery with a goal of building towards a learning hospital system. He is a widely recognized expert in applied informatics. Dr. Liu is board certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Disease, Critical Care Medicine, and Clinical Informatics. He practices pulmonary and critical care medicine with TPMG.

Dr. Liu is the Regional Director of Hospital Advanced Analytics in Kaiser Permanente Northern California. He has led and served on committees for the American Thoracic Society, the Society of Critical Care Medicine, the National Quality Forum, and the National Institute for General Medical Services. He has served on multiple NIH grant review committees and the National Commission on Quality Assurance's Utilization Measure Advisory Panel. He is an editorial board member for Critical Care Medicine. He is also an active mentor and leads the TPMG Informatics Fellowship Program.

Dr. Liu received his undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his medical degree from New York University. He completed his residency training at New York University Hospitals (Bellevue) and a chief residency at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He also completed a pulmonary and critical care medicine fellowship and has master's degrees in Health Services Research and Biomedical Informatics, both from Stanford University.

## *Thomas Strohmer*

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



Thomas Strohmer is an expert in the mathematical methods of data science, information theory, numerical algorithms, and applied harmonic analysis. He has extensive experience in inter- and transdisciplinary research and has worked on data science and AI applications in medical diagnostics, molecular biology, communications engineering, image analysis, and defense

Thomas Strohmer received the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in mathematics from the University of Vienna, Austria, in 1991 and 1994, respectively. He was a Research Assistant at the Department of Mathematics, University of Vienna, from 1991 to 1997. He spent one year as an Erwin-Schrödinger Fellow at the Department of Statistics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA, and then joined the Department of Mathematics at the University of California in Davis in 1998, where he is currently a Full Professor. His general research interests include data science, applied harmonic analysis, numerical analysis, signal- and image processing, and information theory. He was a recipient of awards include the 2013 IEEE Signal Processing Society Best Paper Award and the 2014 SIAM Outstanding Paper Prize. He is on the editorial board of several journals. He also serves as a consultant to the industry in the areas of artificial intelligence, telecommunications, bioengineering, and signal- and image processing.

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## *Gretta Duleba*

**Director of Communications  
Machine Intelligence Learning Institute**



Gretta Duleba is Communications Manager at the Machine Intelligence Research Institute (MIRI), a non-profit organization established to ensure that smarter-than-human AI has a positive impact on the world. A software industry veteran with experience building and running large-scale systems including Google Maps and Google Analytics, Gretta has now turned her attention to preventing catastrophic outcomes due to AI. She advocates for multinational treaties shutting down the continued development of frontier AI systems more powerful than those already deployed. When it comes to continuing to develop more capable AI systems, we're not ready. Let's shut it down.