

CFEE Energy Summit
Negotiating Neutrality: The Future of CO2
April 22-23, 2021

PANELISTS

Session 1

The Next Chapter: California Climate Policy in the Coming Decade

Jared Blumenfeld

Secretary

California Environmental Protection Agency

Jared Blumenfeld was appointed California Secretary for Environmental Protection by Governor Gavin Newsom in January 2019. As Secretary, Jared oversees the state's efforts to fight climate change, protect air and water quality, regulate pesticides and toxic substances, achieve the state's recycling and waste reduction goals, and advance environmental justice. As a member of the Governor's cabinet, he advises the Governor on environmental policy.



Jared is one of America's most innovative environmental leaders, bringing to the agency more than 25 years of environmental policy and management experience at the local, national and international levels. From 2009 to 2016, he served under former President Barack Obama as Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Pacific Southwest, a region that includes California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, the Pacific Islands and 148 tribal nations.

Previously, Jared was Director of San Francisco's Department of Environment from 2001 to 2009, first under former Mayor Willie Brown and then under Gavin Newsom. He and Mayor Newsom worked effectively to make San Francisco "the most sustainable city in the nation" by developing a municipal Environment Code that includes mandatory recycling and composting, bans on Styrofoam and plastic bags, and a 20 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. During his tenure in San Francisco, Jared also was general manager of the city's Department of Recreation and Parks and served on the governing board of the Treasure Island Redevelopment Authority.

Prior to government service, Jared led international campaigns for nongovernmental organizations. He served as Chairman of the U.N.'s World Environment Day in 2005, led the habitat protection program for the International Fund for Animal Welfare, and was Executive Director for the Natural Resource Defense Council's Earth Summit Watch from 1993 to 1995. Jared is also a former chair of the Federal Regional Council, and a founder of Green Cities California and the Business Council on Climate Change (BC3).

Jared graduated from Cambridge College of Arts and Technology, and earned a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of London and a Master of Laws from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall).

Prior to joining CalEPA, Jared founded a private consulting firm to advise clean-tech companies on strategic planning and market development. He also hiked the Pacific Crest Trail, a 2,650-mile route that stretches from the U.S.-Mexico border to the U.S.-Canada border. He continues to host an award-winning podcast on environmental topics, called [Podship Earth](#).

David Hochschild

Chair

California Energy Commission

David Hochschild was appointed chair of the California Energy Commission by Governor Gavin Newsom in February 2019. He fills the environmental position on the five-member Commission where four of the five members are required by law to have professional training in specific areas - engineering or physical science, environmental protection, economics, and law.



Chair Hochschild's career has spanned public service, environmental advocacy, and the private sector. He first got involved in the solar energy field in 2001 in San Francisco as a special assistant to Mayor Willie Brown where Chair Hochschild launched a citywide \$100 million initiative to put solar panels on public buildings. He also cofounded the Vote Solar Initiative, a 60,000-member advocacy organization promoting solar policies at the local, state, and federal levels. He was executive director of a national consortium of leading solar manufacturers and worked for five years at Solaria, a solar company in Silicon Valley. From 2007 to 2008, he served as a commissioner at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

For his work to advance clean energy, Chair Hochschild was awarded the Sierra Club's Trailblazer Award, the American Lung Association's Clean Air Hero Award, and the U.S. Department of Energy's Million Solar Roof True Champion Award. Chair Hochschild holds a bachelor of arts from Swarthmore College and a master of public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He also was a Coro Fellow in Public Affairs.

Marybel Batjer

President

California Public Utilities Commission

Marybel Batjer was named President of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on July 12, 2019, by Governor Gavin Newsom and sworn in on August 16, 2019. On December 30, 2020, Governor Newsom reappointed her as President. Her term ends January 1, 2027.



President Batjer previously served as the first Secretary of the California Government Operations Agency. In this role, she led forward-looking efforts to revamp the way the state approaches data and technology, modernized the civil service system, and led the implementation of key initiatives to green state government and promote renewable energy.

Before heading the Government Operations Agency, Batjer was Vice President for Public Policy and Corporate Social Responsibility at Caesars Entertainment Inc., where she developed and promoted corporate social responsibility policy and initiatives and counseled the senior executive team during a public merger on issues pertaining to reputation management and public policy.

Batjer also served as Cabinet Secretary to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger from 2003 to 2005, Chief of Staff to Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn from 2000 to 2003 and Undersecretary at the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency from 1997 to 1998.

Batjer's successful and collaborative management style has gained her the respect of leaders in both the public and private sectors, where she has served on several boards and commissions, including as the former Vice Chair of the State of Nevada Colorado River Commission.

In her role as Secretary of the Government Operations Agency, Batjer has won several awards, including Governing Magazine's national 2017 Public Official of the Year, the American Society for Public Administration (Sacramento Chapter) 2018 Liz Hill Public Official of the Year and California Woman Lead: Woman of the Year. During her service at the Federal level, Batjer was honored with the Medal for Distinguished Public Service with Bronze Palm (highest civilian honor) from the Department of Defense, and the Medal for Distinguished Public Service from the Department of the Navy.

Bree Raum

Vice President, Federal Affairs American Clean Power Association

Bree A. Raum is the Vice President of Federal Affairs. Bree serves as the chief lobbyist, responsible for leading activities to shape legislative policies and develop, implement and manage federal affairs strategies to advance national energy policies and initiatives in support of clean energy.



Her prior experience includes serving as Senior Director of Federal Affairs for the American Gas Association, the national trade association representing natural gas utilities. There she served as the organization's primary federal lobbyist for energy efficiency, environment, appropriations and energy tax issues. Earlier in her career, Bree was the Director of Grassroots Advocacy and WindPAC, for the American Wind Energy Association, where she directed the association's political giving and shaping the industry's national grassroots lobbying program and before that she was at the National Propane Gas Association.

Bree received a Bachelor's degree in Political Science at Salisbury State University, and Master's degrees in Business Administration and in Energy Policy and Climate from The Johns Hopkins University. In 2018, 2019 and 2020 The Hill named Bree as one of the top trade association lobbyists.

Session 2

Less Pain, More Gain: Ensuring an Affordable and Equitable Energy Transition

Robbie Hunter

President

State Building & Construction Trades Council of California

Robbie Hunter is President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California. The Council represents 22 countywide and regional Building Trades councils throughout California, with 365,000 members.

Hunter most recently served as Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. At the council, he completed \$47 billion in Project Labor Agreements, governing work with public and private entities including the Port of Long Beach, NBC Universal and the LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority. Previously, Hunter was Council Representative for the Council, starting in 2009.

Hunter is an Iron Worker, and was president of Local 433, Structural Iron Workers, from 2003 to 2009. He served on the board of the District Council of Ironworkers for California and Nevada, and as a board member/apprenticeship instructor/trainer for the Joint Labor Management apprenticeship program in California and Nevada.

Hunter is a native of Belfast, Ireland. In 1972, he started his apprenticeship with the Irish Transport and General Workers Union as a steel erector working in the Harlan & Wolfe shipyards, where his great-grandfather, John Quinn, helped organize the union in 1906 and built the gantry cranes on the Titanic in 1910. Hunter moved to the US in 1978.



Lance Hastings

President and CEO

California Manufacturers and Technology Association

Lance Hastings currently serves as President and CEO of the California Manufacturers & Technology Association (CMTA), having assumed the role in November 2018. In that capacity, he leads a prominent business-oriented trade association with a legacy of success and engagement.

Prior to joining CMTA, he served as Vice President of National Affairs for MillerCoors. During his 15 years with the brewing industry, Hastings served in state, regional, national and international capacities. His international experience was as Head of Regulatory and Tax Affairs for SABMiller located in London, England from 2012-2015.



Before his extensive career as a manufacturing executive, Hastings was the Vice President of Government Relations at the California Grocers Association and Senior Director for State Affairs at the Grocery Manufacturers of America. Hastings also served as legislative staff in the California State Legislature for almost a decade, concluding as a Chief Consultant in 1997.

Lance is a graduate of California State University at Sacramento with a BA in Economics and Minor in Government.

Severin Borenstein
Professor and Researcher
Energy Institute at Haas



Severin Borenstein is E.T. Grether Professor of Business Administration and Public Policy at the Haas School of Business and faculty director of the Energy Institute at Haas. He is also Director emeritus of the University of California Energy Institute (1994-2014). He received his AB from UC Berkeley and PhD in Economics from MIT. His research focuses on business competition, strategy, and regulation. He has published extensively on the airline industry, the oil and gasoline industries, and electricity markets. His current research projects include the economics of renewable energy, economic policies for reducing greenhouse gases, and alternative models of retail electricity pricing. Borenstein is also a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, MA.

He served on the Board of Governors of the California Power Exchange from 1997 to 2003. During 1999-2000, he was a member of the California Attorney General's Gasoline Price Task Force. In 2010-11, Borenstein was a member of U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood's Future of Aviation Advisory Committee. In 2012-13, he served on the Emissions Market Assessment Committee, which advised the California Air Resources Board on the operation of California's Cap and Trade market for greenhouse gases. In 2014, he was appointed to the California Energy Commission's Petroleum Market Advisory Committee, which he chaired from 2015 until the Committee was dissolved in 2017. Since 2015, he has served on the Advisory Council of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. In 2019, he was appointed to the Governing Board of the California Independent System Operator.

Mark Toney
Executive Director
TURN - The Utility Reform Network



As executive director since 2008, Mark Toney aligns the TURN legal, organizing, legislative and communication staff to fight for affordable, clean and safe energy and phone service for all California residents, with a special focus on low-income households, communities of color, immigrants, and rural communities.

Mark currently serves on the boards of ACLU Northern California, Consumer Federation of California, National Whistleblower Center, and California Shakespeare Theatre.

In 2021, Mark was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California by Governor Gavin Newsom.

Mark served as executive director of Center for Third World Organizing for four years, and for Direct Action for Rights & Equality for eight years. He holds a B.A. from Brown University, a Sociology Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, and has been a Kellogg National Leadership Fellow, National Science Foundation Fellow, and Echoing Green Fellow.

Laura Lewis

Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)



Laura Lewis was named general counsel for SMUD in April 2014. She serves as the chief lawyer and manages the utility's legal office and its staff of six attorneys. She also serves as the secretary to SMUD's elected Board of Directors. Lewis reports to the Board and to SMUD's chief executive officer & general manager. She has responsibility for all legal matters in which SMUD is a party or has an interest.

Lewis first joined SMUD in 1997 as a staff attorney, serving in that capacity through 1999, after which she moved to the San Francisco law firm Davis Wright Tremaine. In 2002, she returned to SMUD as a senior attorney. In 2010, she became assistant general counsel and in 2013 was appointed chief assistant general counsel.

As chief assistant general counsel, Lewis oversaw legal matters relating to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), wholesale markets, and transmission. She served as chair of the Energy Regulatory Task Force of the Large Public Power Council (LPPC), which involved negotiating and crafting strategic positions among disparate public power members and representing LPPC interests before FERC and NERC.

As general counsel, Lewis is responsible for managing and coordinating all SMUD legal matters, including litigation, contested regulatory agency proceedings, settlement discussions, and claims management. She also operates as a strategic resource for the Board of Directors, CEO & general manager, and executive management on the development of SMUD policies, strategies, programs and initiatives.

Lewis is a member of the American Bar Association and the State Bar of California. She earned her juris doctor at McGeorge School of Law, where she also won membership in the Order of the Coif honor society. She received her bachelor's degree in political science at the University of California, San Diego.

Session 3

Bumpy Road Ahead? The Drive to Net Zero – Transportation and Beyond

Curt Augustine

**Senior Director of Policy & Government Affairs
Alliance for Automotive Innovation**

Curt has been with Auto Innovators since its inception and was previously with the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers since 2009. Curt serves as the Auto Innovators' chief legislative representative before policymakers in the Western United States and works with our members to formulate policy-based strategies for legislative and regulatory issues.



Previous to joining the auto industry, he served as Deputy Legislative Secretary to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and was responsible for legislation related to transportation, business, financial, economic development, and local government issues. Additionally, Curt served for eight years in the Gov. Pete Wilson Administration in various executive capacities and has also headed a construction industry non-profit association tasked with workforce development policy issues.

Stephen Konig

**Director Government and Public Affairs, West Region
Marathon Petroleum Corporation**

Stephen (Steve) Konig is Director of Government and Public Affairs for Marathon Petroleum Corporation (MPC), located in Sacramento, CA. Steve works to advance MPC's business interests and drive key policy issues with state and local elected officials and regulators in MPC's West Region states. Steve has worked in the energy industry for his entire career spanning over 25 years. Prior to his current role in government affairs, Steve held various maintenance and operations management, project management, discipline engineering and performance management roles. Steve holds B.S. degrees in both Mechanical Engineering and Geological Sciences from Cal Poly, Pomona and an MBA from the University of Southern California (USC).



Steve, his wife Peggy and their two college-age sons Seth and Shane have a passion for all things outdoors.

Darnell Grisby

**Executive Director
TransForm**

A national thought leader in transportation policy and the mobility justice movement, Darnell Grisby joined TransForm as Executive Director in 2020. In March 2021, he was appointed to serve on the California Transportation Commission by Governor Gavin Newsom.



When Darnell was growing up in Southern California, limited transportation options, under-investment, and over-policing shaped his perspectives and set him on a path to public service and advocacy. He believes

that explicitly anti-racist policy will confront the interlocking systems of oppression that underlie so many of our housing and transportation investments and policies, with economic and social benefits for all.

Prior to joining TransForm, Darnell spent nine years as Director of Policy Development and Research at the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), where he helped to raise its profile and the impact of its advocacy. Previously, he served as a legislative director and senior advisor in the California State Legislature and a lobbyist in Sacramento before working at Reconnecting America, a think tank devoted to smart growth. He has deep policy expertise in housing affordability, transit-oriented development, and the intersection of transportation and housing finance.

Darnell has been quoted or featured in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, National Public Radio, and Bloomberg, and many other outlets. He earned his bachelor's degree in political science at UCLA and a Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Sally Benson

Director, Global Climate and Energy Project
Professor, Energy Resources Engineering
Stanford University



Sally M. Benson, who joined Stanford University in 2007, is the Precourt Family Professor in the Department of Energy Resources Engineering in the School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences; she studies technologies and pathways to reducing greenhouse gas emissions including geologic storage of CO₂ in deep underground formations and energy systems analysis for a low-carbon future. She is the Co-Director of the Stanford Center for Carbon Storage and the Stanford Carbon Removal Initiative. She served at the Director and Co-Director of the Precourt Institute for Energy from 2013 to 2020. She also served as the Director of the Global Climate and Energy Project from 2009 to 2019.

Prior to joining Stanford, Benson was Division Director for Earth Sciences, Associate Laboratory Director for Energy Sciences and Deputy Director at LBNL.

Professor Benson serves on the Board of Directors for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Climate Central. Currently she also serves on the Advisory Boards for Argonne National Laboratory and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Princeton's Carbon Mitigation Initiative, Princeton's Adlinger Center, Japan's Initiative for the Cool Earth Forum, and the Lahore University of Management Science in Pakistan. Over the past several years she participated in a number of National Academy of Sciences, Secretary of Energy, and National Petroleum Council research needs assessments related to carbon management. She also is on the Editorial Board for Energy and Environmental Sciences.

Session 4

The Long Goodbye: What Does a Soft Landing for Natural Gas Look Like?

Maryam Brown

President

Southern California Gas Company

Maryam Brown is president of Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), a Sempra Energy regulated California utility. Previously, Brown was vice president of federal government affairs for Sempra Energy.

Prior to joining Sempra Energy in 2016, Brown served as the senior energy and environment counsel for the Office of the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. From 2011 to 2012, she was the energy chief counsel for the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce. From 2010 to 2011, she was policy counsel for the U.S. Senate's Republican Policy Committee. Before that, she was manager of public policy and strategic planning for ConocoPhillips.

Brown serves on the board of directors of the California Chamber of Commerce and the California Business Roundtable. She holds both a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a law degree (Order of the Coif) from Louisiana State University.



Merrian Borgeson

Senior Scientist, Climate & Clean Energy Program

Natural Resources Defense Council

Merrian Borgeson champions stronger climate policies by providing analysis and strategic guidance to help us shift to efficient, renewable energy. She works closely with policymakers and stakeholders at the state, regional and national levels.

Prior to joining NRDC, she worked as a team leader at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. She also served as the first director of the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia and as the managing director (and later the board chair) of the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies. Borgeson is currently a trustee for the Goggio Family Foundation and sits on the advisory boards of the Schumacher Center for New Economics.

She holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford University, a master's from the University of California, Berkeley, Energy and Resources Group; and an MBA from Berkeley's Haas School of Business. She is based in San Francisco.



Martin Adams

General Manager & Chief Engineer Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Martin L. Adams is the General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).



Mr. Adams brings to the post more than 35 years of experience, leadership, and understanding of LADWP operations. Mr. Adams was previously the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the LADWP. Prior to that, he served as Senior Assistant General Manager - Water System. He has been involved in local and regional water issues for more than 30 years with a career that has touched on most every aspect of Los Angeles' water system, including planning, design, and operation. Prior to leading the Water System, he headed the LADWP Water Operations Division, which is responsible for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the City's water supply system.

A civil engineer by training, Mr. Adams is a native of Glendale, California, and attended Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Outside of work, he also serves as Chairman of the Board of the new San Fernando Community Health Center and recently completed nine years on the Water and Power Board for the City of Burbank.

Chris Rogers

Mayor City of Santa Rosa

After being elected in 2016 and re-elected in 2020, Chris was selected by his colleagues to serve as the youngest Mayor in the history of Santa Rosa. He represents the city on:



- Sonoma County Transportation Authority
- Regional Climate Protection Authority
- Sonoma Clean Power
- California League of Cities Mayors and Councilmembers Legislative task force
- Sonoma County Health Action
- Santa Rosa's Open Government and Community Engagement subcommittee (Chair)
- Santa Rosa's Climate Action subcommittee (Chair)
- Santa Rosa's Long term finance subcommittee (Chair)
- Association of Bay Area Governments executive committee

Additionally, Chris represents all nine Sonoma County cities on the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) board of directors, the consolidated oversight board of redevelopment agencies (Chair), pillole per il sesso and chairs the California League of Cities Environmental Quality committee statewide.

Chris lives in downtown Santa Rosa with his Fiancé, Sarah, a local nurse, their dog Rufus, two cats Leo and Flora, and four chickens Beatrix, Egrit, Minerva, and Ethel. Chris has a Masters in Public Administration from Sonoma State University and a Bachelors in Political Science from U.C. Santa Barbara.

Session 5

Alone in the Dark...What Will It Take to Avert Future Blackouts?

Elliot Mainzer

**President and Chief Executive Officer
California Independent System Operator**

Elliot Mainzer is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the California Independent System Operator (ISO). The ISO is responsible for managing the flow of electricity that serves 80 percent of California and a small portion of Nevada. The CAISO also runs a real-time energy market for utilities in eight western US states and conducts reliability coordinator services for most balancing authorities in the West.



Mr. Mainzer is committed to using leading-edge policies and new technologies to accelerate California's drive towards the reliable decarbonization of its electric power grid. He started in his new role at the ISO on September 30, 2020 following a successful 18-year career at the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) where he was at the forefront of transformational changes in the western electricity market.

While serving as BPA's administrator and CEO from 2013-2020, Mr. Mainzer effectively navigated the agency through a period of tremendous industry change and economic headwinds by improving the agency's long-term cost competitiveness and financial resiliency, modernizing assets and system operations, and positioning BPA as a more responsive and agile business partner.

In recent years, Mr. Mainzer has co-chaired the Western Electric Industry Leaders Group to support greater western market and policy coordination on such topics as resource adequacy, transmission development, and carbon accounting. He has also served as the Chair of the U.S. Entity for the Columbia River Treaty with Canada and on the boards of the Electric Power Research Institute, and the Utility Wind Integration Group.

A native of San Francisco, Mr. Mainzer has an undergraduate degree in geography from U.C. Berkeley, and master's degrees in Business Administration and Environmental Studies from Yale University. Mainzer and his wife Margaret have twin boys. He is also an amateur jazz saxophonist and dedicated student of jazz theory and history.

Ed Randolph

**Deputy Executive Director for Energy and Climate Policy
California Public Utilities Commission**

Edward Randolph is Deputy Executive Director for Energy and Climate Policy at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Prior to serving in this capacity, Mr. Randolph was the CPUC's Director of Governmental Affairs and Senior Policy Advisor.



Mr. Randolph joined the CPUC in 2010 from his position as Chief Consultant to the California State Assembly's Committee on Utilities and Commerce, a position he held since 2003 where he worked extensively on expanding California's use of renewable power, the creation of the California Solar Initiative, and energy efficiency legislation.

Prior to his role with the Committee on Utilities and Commerce, Mr. Randolph served as Senior Consultant to Assemblymember Lloyd Levine, as both Chief of Staff and Senior Consultant to former Assemblymember Joe Canciamilla, and as Chief of Staff to Former Assemblymember Lou Papan. Mr. Randolph earned a B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego, and a Juris Doctorate degree from the McGeorge School of Law where he graduated with great distinction.

Beth Vaughan
Executive Director
CalCCA



Beth is CalCCA's first executive director, a post she has held since 2017. Beth oversees the association's advocacy, policy and communications efforts; coordinating a diverse and growing membership of community choice energy providers serving customers across California. She frequently presents CalCCA's positions on various policy issues at the California Legislature and California Public Utilities Commission, and is a regular speaker at energy industry events.

Prior to joining CalCCA, Beth served as executive director of the California Cogeneration Council where she advocated for companies operating combined heat and power facilities. She has worked extensively in both the public and private energy sectors, consulting with government agencies, non-profits, and private sector interests on energy, climate, and environmental public policy issues. Beth served five years as senior advisor to environment and conservation cabinet ministers in the New Zealand parliament. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Queen's University in Canada, and Master of Science from Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand.

Travis Kavulla
Vice President of Regulatory Affairs
NRG Energy



Travis Kavulla is Vice President of Regulatory Affairs at NRG Energy, where he works to ensure that energy markets continue to deliver value for electricity consumers. Travis Kavulla joined NRG after a decade of work as a government regulator and energy policy expert.

Before joining NRG, Travis held a position at R Street Institute, where he led the think tank's energy and environmental policy program. Prior to that, Travis served eight years as a utility commissioner at the Montana Public Service Commission, during which time he served as the President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and as a member of the Electric Power Research Institute advisory

council. He also had the opportunity to serve on the governing body of the Western Energy Imbalance Market, one of North America's largest electricity markets.

During his work in public life, Travis has written dozens of articles and speeches on energy and telecommunications policy and regulation. Travis has a master's degree in history from the University of Cambridge, where he was a Gates Scholar, and a bachelor's degree in history from Harvard University.

Hunter Stern

Assistant Business Manager

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 1245



Hunter Stern plays a key role for the IBEW Local 1245 in coordinating local, state and federal energy and worker friendly policy which impacts IBEW members. Mr. Stern is responsible for protecting the interests of his members employed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Nevada Energy, Sacramento Municipal Utility District and 35 other utilities in California and Nevada, as well as workers at line and line clearance tree trimming contractors employed by these utilities. Stern joined Local 1245 in 1994, and through his years of work with IBEW, has built an extensive knowledge of state and federal legislative and regulatory issues and the design and implementation of clean energy policies. In addition, he works with a wide variety of organizations to coordinate outreach, stakeholder development and grassroots support for initiatives that create and support good paying jobs, while providing clean, reliable and affordable energy to California and Nevada customers.

Recently, Stern served as a Co-Chair of the Resilience Subcommittee of the Biden for President Policy Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment.

Additionally, Stern serves as President of the North Valley Labor Federation, representing over 100,000 workers in Central California and is a member of the Workforce Alliance of the North Bay, the only regional workforce development organization in California. Previously, he served on several other labor organizations and focused on workforce development.

Mr. Stern graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Brown University. While at Brown, Stern was goalkeeper for its soccer team, serving as Co-Captain his senior season. Mr. Stern also played professional soccer with the San Jose Earthquakes (1985-88).