



CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION
ON THE ENVIRONMENT
AND THE ECONOMY

DRAFT AGENDA

CFEE Telecommunications & Technology Conference

Saddle Up!

How to Keep Ahold of the Reins Without Breaking Stride

August 8-9, 2024

Technically complex, with industry moving faster than the speed of government, the technology and telecommunications domain poses major policymaking challenges. Add in the fact that California must also contend with federal preemption and global marketplaces, you are left with a confusing policy landscape where it is hard to know how best to serve the public interest.

How do we maintain the innovation that is the hallmark of the industry and California's preeminent role as the place for the world's innovators while providing the appropriate policy framework so our technologies serve our people and businesses?

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

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

Preview of conference topics, speakers, and goals

Jay Hansen, President & CEO, CFEE

1:00 – 2:00pm

Session 1**Show & Tell: A Hands-On Technology Experience**

To legislate and regulate technology, one must have a deeper understanding of how the machinery actually works. Our opening session will provide a hands-on learning experience to see the newest gadgetry in action. We will also learn about the underlying systems that connect us at the speed of light and bring machines to life.

Speaker/Demo, Cisco

Speake/Demo, NRG Vivint Smart Home Platform

Brian Raymond, Founder/CEO, unstructured

2:00 – 2:15pm

Break

2:15 – 3:45pm

Session 2**The “Broadband for All” Vision – How Are We Doing?**

In recent years, “Broadband for All” has been the animating policy that both the Legislature and the Newsom Administration have rallied around. Accelerated during the pandemic and boosted by billions of public and private dollars, is it 'Mission Accomplished?' If not, what else remains to be done?

- What would “Broadband for All” functionally mean if we achieved our stated goals? How close are we to realizing this objective? What metrics are we using to answer this question, and do they tell the whole story?
- Local permitting challenges, a lack of coordination, and consumer adoption are often cited as barriers to achieving universal broadband – have we successfully addressed these obstacles? What could solve these problems?
- Do we need additional enabling policies to buildout our telco infrastructure?
- What is driving private investment decisions? What truth is there, if any, to assertions of price gouging and redlining certain communities and households?
- What more can the state do to ensure public dollars are spent efficiently and wisely?
- Are we tied to old technologies like copper wire that slow industry from further innovation and investment?

Robert Osborn, Director, Communications Division, California Public Utilities Commission

Speaker, Comcast

Marc Blakeman, President, AT&T California

Sunne McPeak, President & CEO, California Emerging Technology Fund

3:45 – 4:00pm	Break
4:00 – 5:30pm	<p><u>Session 3</u> Riding the Open Range – California’s Path to Success</p>

At the federal level, the Biden Administration and Congress have teamed up to invest and secure critical supply chains. Policies like the CHIPS Act and the pivot away from China is reshaping industry as we know it – all while fantastical new technologies are being deployed at breakneck speed. How can California ride these winds of change to ensure the Golden State remains a global hub of innovation?

- What is the U.S. policy of “friendshoring?” What countries will be new technology and supply chain partners? How should California plan for increasingly fraught relations with China?
- Despite its reputation as a difficult state in which to operate, California still boasts one of the world’s largest and most advanced economies – why does California remain a desirable place to do business? What can be done to bolster these advantages?
- What technology developments are happening globally, and how California position itself to benefit from rapidly emerging and evolving industries?
- What investments are being made to California’s backbone communications infrastructure to enhance our educational institutions and workforce development opportunities?

Kim Lewis, Vice President, Government Relations, CENIC

Sean Randolph, Senior Director, Bay Area Council Economic Institute

Emily Desai, Senior Deputy Director, Global and Strategic and External Affairs,
California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
(GO-Biz)

6:00pm	Reception & Dinner
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

7:30 – 8:45am	Breakfast
8:45 – 10:15am	<u>Session 4 - Part One</u> Boosting AI Upsides – Saving Lives, Saving Time, and Securing Our Future

Our first panel will explore the very real potential for AI to better our lives. Healthcare, manufacturing, automotive, and agriculture – among many other sectors – are already benefitting from AI advancements. What can be done to ensure the public enjoys the spoils as machine intelligence ascends?

- How are artificial intelligence and other similar technologies already making our lives better? What new advances are coming soon that public officials should know about?
- How can policymakers ensure Californians are truly benefitting from novel technologies while heading off unwanted outcomes? What public, private, and academic partnerships could be developed to advance this goal?
- What AI technologies can state and local governments use to better serve their communities?
- How can “good” AI systems help to combat against “bad” AI systems, particularly relating to cybersecurity and misinformation?

Ron Robinette, Deputy Secretary and Chief Information Officer, Government Operations, State of California

Alex Barrios, President, Educational Results Partnership

Trey Suttan, CEO/Co-Founder, Siftwell

Will Cutler, Head of Tech Policy and Deputy to the United Kingdom Tech Envoy to the United States, British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

10:15 – 10:30am	Break
10:30 – 12:00pm	<u>Session 4 - Part Two</u> Mitigating AI Downsides – Misinformation, Misalignment, and More

As the AI revolution takes shape, we are getting a clearer picture of the very real challenges inherent to an AI-powered world. This panel will explore the potential downsides when bad actors and innocent users alike mix with artificial intelligence. We will consider how California policymakers can help to steward a responsible AI environment.

- What is AI “alignment?” What work is being done to prevent AI misalignment?
- Should industry be left to their own devices to ensure their AI systems are developed and deployed responsibly?
- With the proliferation mis and disinformation online (which can be turbocharged by AI and algorithms), can state-level policy introduce some sanity to our degraded information ecosystem?
- What can we expect from this election season as AI delivers quick and low cost options to influence voters?
- How is the demand for AI computing affecting our energy and water infrastructure? How can we ensure investments in AI do not undermine our climate and environmental goals?
- What jobs might be created as well as eliminated by AI? What plan should we consider for potential disruptions in the labor force?

Brandie Nonnecke, Associate Professor and Founding Director, CITRIS Policy Lab, UC Berkeley

Rudy Reyes, Regional Vice President and Deputy General Counsel
State Regulatory, Government Affairs & Local Engagement, Verizon

Laura Waters, Senior Corporate Counsel, AI Legal, Amazon Web Services

Samantha Gordon, Chief Program Officer, TechEquity

12:00pm

Closing Remarks and Adjournment