

PANELISTS

Session 1

Congratulations! Here's What You've Agreed to Build....Now, Get Busy

Siva Gunda

Vice Chair

California Energy Commission

Commissioner Siva Gunda is serving his first term on the California Energy Commission.

Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Gunda in February 2021 to serve as the Energy Commission's public member. Gunda was later appointed to Vice Chair in September 2021.

He is the lead commissioner on energy assessments. Gunda served as manager of the Demand Analysis Office and deputy director for the Energy Commission's Energy Assessments Division. The division forecasts and assesses energy demands and supplies.

Before joining the Energy Commission, he served in a variety of capacities at the Energy Efficiency Institute at the University of California, Davis, including as the director of research, where he directed the institute's operations and research portfolio.

He holds a master of science in mechanical and aeronautical engineering from Utah State University. Gunda is pursuing his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from UC Davis. He is a serious cricket fan and former captain of his college team. He lives with his family in Davis.



Danielle Osborn Mills

Principal of Infrastructure Policy

California Independent System Operator (CAISO)

Danielle Osborn Mills joined the California ISO in May of 2023 as Principal, Infrastructure Policy Development. She is currently leading the ISO's efforts to reform the interconnection process and working to keep infrastructure development on pace with reliability and policy needs. Danielle has over fifteen years of experience on complex energy and environmental challenges in California and the West.



Prior to her work with the ISO, Danielle managed political and regulatory affairs for the West for Pattern Energy Group, and served as the Director of American Clean Power – California. In both roles, she worked with global

leaders in renewable energy development to advocate for the development of clean energy infrastructure and generation. Danielle also served as Senior Policy Advisor to the Large-scale Solar Association and the Senior Nuclear Policy Advisor at the California Energy Commission under then-Chair Robert Weisenmiller and the Executive Director. Danielle has a B.S. in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan and her M.P.A. from the University of Washington, where she focused on Climate Policy.

Michael Wara

**Director of the Climate and Energy Policy Program
Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment**



Michael Wara is a lawyer and scholar focused on climate and energy policy.

Wara is Director of the Climate and Energy Policy Program and a senior research scholar at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment as well as Senior Director for Policy at the Sustainability Accelerator within the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability. Wara organizes and manages cross-functional teams of post docs, legal fellows and graduate students that provide fact-based, bipartisan, technical and legal assistance to policymakers, environmental justice advocates, and tribes engaged in the development of novel climate and energy law and regulation. He also facilitates the connection of Stanford faculty with cutting edge policy debates on climate, energy and climate impacts, leveraging Stanford’s energy, climate and natural resource expertise to craft real world solutions to these challenges.

Wara’s legal and policy scholarship focuses on wildfire, climate mitigation, energy innovation, and regulated industries. He collaborates with economists, engineers and scientists in research on the design and evaluation of technical and regulatory solutions to society's climate and energy challenges.

Wara has served as a Wildfire Commissioner for the California, as a member of the California Catastrophe Council, the oversight body of the California Wildfire Fund, as a consultant to the Senate pro Tem on wildfire issues, and as a consultant to CPUC and OEIS on utility wildfire risk management. Wara has served on multiple National Academy of Sciences and California Council on Science and Technology reports. He is also a member of the Tamalpais Design Review Board.

Prior to joining Woods, Wara was an associate professor at Stanford Law School and an associate in Holland & Knight’s government practice. He received his J.D. from Stanford Law School and his Ph.D. in Ocean Sciences from the University of California at Santa Cruz

Session 2

The Clean Energy Construction Challenge – How Can We Maintain, Expand, and Accelerate?

Alex Breckel

**Director, Clean Energy Infrastructure
Clean Air Task Force**

Alex coordinates and enhances CATF's research, advocacy, and coalition building to ensure the U.S.'s clean energy infrastructure is built at the pace and scale required to meet midcentury climate goals in a fair and equitable manner.

Prior to joining CATF Alex was the Director of Research at the Energy Futures Initiative, a climate and clean energy think tank founded by former Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz. In addition to directing the research team, he specialized on clean energy technology deployment pathways, electricity market transformation, and policy and regulatory frameworks to facilitate clean energy deployment.

His previous work includes developing national policy strategy at the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Systems and Policy Analysis office; supporting federal agencies and the government of Puerto Rico with power system hardening and recovery following 2017's Hurricane Maria; advising the Palestinian Authority on market design, institutional reform, and trans-border power purchase negotiations on behalf of the U.S. Department of State; and advising regulators and market operators in Peru on natural gas and power sector market design.

Alex received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Science from the Technology and Policy Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a focus on international economic development and power systems market design and regulation.



Joe Bentley

**Senior Vice President, Electric Engineering
Pacific Gas and Electric Company**

Barry "Joe" Bentley is Senior Vice President, Electric Engineering, for Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). Bentley, who joined PG&E in March 2021, will serve as the leader for electric engineering, electric process safety, electric design engineering, and instrumentation and control. This new role is accountable for program planning, financial budgeting, and project execution and delivery of all electric engineering projects. He'll report to PG&E's Executive Vice President, Engineering and Strategy



Prior to joining PG&E, Bentley served as the Senior Vice President, U.S. Utility Operations for AES Corporation, a Fortune 500 company that generates and distributes electrical power in 15 countries and employs 10,500

people worldwide. During his 30-year career with AES and its subsidiaries, he held leadership roles of increasing responsibility and span of control including: Vice President, Asset Management, U.S. Utility Operations; Senior Vice President, Customer Operations, Indianapolis Power & Light Company (IPL); Vice President, Power Delivery, IPL; and Vice President, Fuel and Energy Supply, IPL.

Bentley graduated from Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and has completed executive education courses at Georgetown University, the University of Virginia and the University of Michigan.

Kris Cheney

**Executive Vice President for Development
EDP Renewables North America**

Kris Cheney serves as Executive Vice President of EDP Renewables North America (EDPR NA) for the Central, West & Mexico, Environmental Affairs and Energy Storage Analytics. In his role, Kris leads the company's wind, solar, and storage development across SPP, ERCOT, western and southern MISO, WECC, and Mexico, as well as oversees Environmental Affairs and Energy Storage Analytics for the platform.



He is also a member of EDPR NA's nine-person Executive Team and has been with the company since 2009. Kris leads a team who has successfully developed more than 27 wind and solar projects totaling more than 5,000 megawatts (MW) in operation or under construction and has a robust project pipeline to deliver additional growth in the 2020s. He is also responsible for engaging state and local governments and stakeholders to attain an optimal policy, tax, and incentive environment for each new project and is accountable for the overall P&L of the regions.

Prior to joining EDPR NA, Kris served as an associate at Ropes & Gray, LLP, where he performed all aspects of litigation involving intellectual property matters. Kris received a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Kenyon College in 2002 and earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2005.

Chris Hannan

**President
State Building and Construction Trades Council of California**

Chris Hannan was sworn in as President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council in July 2023 after being unanimously elected by the SBCTC Executive Board. Previously, Hannan served as Executive Secretary of the LA/OC Building Trades.



Hannan, a 27-year union member, began his career as an apprentice at Sprinkler Fitters UA Local 709 and became a journeyman, apprenticeship instructor, and then President of the local. Hannan resides in Orange County with his wife and two children.

Session 3

The Customer is Always Right? A Spotlight on California Energy Users

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), assuming the role in November 2018. In that capacity, he leads a prominent business-oriented trade association with a legacy of success and engagement.



Under his leadership, CMTA passed historic legislation to provide a sales tax exemption for manufacturing equipment with a broad, bipartisan coalition. Hastings also grew membership for the fourth consecutive year, including during the COVID pandemic. He also pivoted the communications team to be more focused on visual and digital storytelling to recapture the manufacturing narrative, which has garnered global media attention.

Before joining CMTA, he served as MillerCoors's Vice President of National Affairs. 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.

His passion for community and economic development stems from his time serving on multiple boards. Hastings is on the Board of Directors of the Red Cross Sierra-Delta Chapter and also served in the following capacities: President of the Catholic School Advisory Committee (CSAC) at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Elk Grove, Board of Directors for the Food Industry Association Executives (FIAE), Advisory Board of California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED), and the California Future of Work Commission as an appointee of Governor Newsom, and Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Business Federation (Biz-Fed).

Hastings most recently earned his Executive MBA and has a BA in Economics and a Minor in Government from California State University at Sacramento and is on the Board of Directors of the Sac State Alumni Association. Hastings has been featured and interviewed for his work in global and national media outlets, including ABC and NBC News, CNN, Politico, and the Wall Street Journal, among other publications. In 2023, Hastings was recognized as one of Sacramento Business Journal's Most Admired CEOs.

Jordan Weiszhaar

**Senior Manager, Data Center Energy Strategy, US West
Microsoft**

Jordan Weiszhaar is a Senior Manager of Data Center Energy Strategy at Microsoft, with responsibility for the company's US West Data Center portfolio. In this role, Jordan develops and executes on energy policy and commercial strategies to meet Microsoft's Cloud and Artificial Intelligence demand growth and clean energy objectives.



In previous roles at Microsoft, Jordan has managed Microsoft's Bay Area data center energy portfolio, including data center power interconnection and rate negotiation strategy. In that role, Jordan spearheaded the development of California's largest microgrid in North San Jose, which plans to utilize renewable natural gas. Jordan holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a Master of Public Policy from the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago.

Jed Hwang

**Senior Director, Strategy
Wonderful Real Estate Development**

Jed Hwang works for the real estate division of The Wonderful Company, a privately-held food and farming business. He is responsible for strategy at Wonderful Industrial Park, a 1,600 acre master-planned logistics campus near Bakersfield, CA that is home to multiple Fortune 500 businesses and nearly 10,000 employees. Jed's duties include land use entitlements, community development, infrastructure, supply chain, and energy strategy.



Previously, Jed worked for nearly a decade in management consulting including Wonderful's Strategy Group and at Deloitte Consulting. Jed holds a BS in Business Administration from Cal Poly SLO, along with an MBA and MPH from UC Berkeley.

Technology Showcase – CARIBOU Mobile Biomass Unit
Project Representatives

Kieran Mitchel

**CEO
CARIBOU Biofuels, Inc.**

Kieran Mitchell is the founder of Caribou Fuels, Inc. and worked with the State University of New York Foundation to earn the exclusive license for Caribou Biofuels, Inc. to commercialize an innovative gasifier/pyrolysis system. This gasifier/pyrolysis system was developed at the State University of New York, Cobleskill and converts



biomass & trash into a liquid or gaseous biofuel. Kieran is also a co-founder of Scaled Power, Inc., a company that develops ultra-compact, clean emission turbine-generators. Kieran transitioned into becoming an entrepreneur after working as an executive in business development for 25 years with Abbott Laboratories and Beckman-Coulter. He holds a BS in Business, CPA Examinations (California), and an MBA in Strategic Leadership from Dominican University, in California.

Blake Simmons
Chief Technical Officer
CARIBOU Biofuels, Inc.



Blake Simmons, Ph.D., is the Director of the Biological Systems and Engineering Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (biosciences.lbl.gov). He also serves as the Chief Science and Technology Officer and Vice-President of the Deconstruction Division at the Joint BioEnergy Institute (www.jbei.org), a DOE funded project tasked with the development and realization of next-generation "drop-in" biofuels and bioproducts produced from sustainable, non-food lignocellulosic biomass. He has been working in the renewable energy and biofuels field for 20 years, and has published over 350 publications and holds over 20 patents

Todd Willie
CEO
Flory Industries



Todd serves as CEO of Flory Industries, he previously held the position of CFO. Todd Wille joined Flory Industries, Inc. from ShareSafe Solutions, LLC, a SaaS provider of clinician software to health systems, physician groups and government agencies, where he has served as President and Chief Financial Officer. Prior to that, Todd Wille was the founder and managing partner of Wille Advisory Group, LLC, an executive consulting and advisory firm for early-stage entrepreneurs, after founding Bluon Energy, LLC, a manufacturer of innovative refrigerant product for the HVAC, refrigeration, and transportation market. Todd is experienced in taking leadership roles of increasing responsibility and is a financial leader with a proven track record of delivering profitable growth for various businesses throughout his career. He is a Certified Public Accountant with experience in auditing, accounting, and consulting.

Session 4

Real Talk on Nuclear Power, Carbon Capture, and Other Decarbonization Opportunities

Amy R. Halloran

**Director, Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Grid Modernization
Sandia National Labs**

Amy Halloran is the director of Sandia National Laboratories' R&D programs in the nuclear energy fuel cycle and grid modernization. She leads Sandia's 300+ researchers who perform fundamental and applied R&D to create a safe, secure, and resilient energy future for the nation. The research focuses on developing an advanced electric grid with reliable resources and storage; enhancing the safety, security, safeguards, and economic viability of nuclear energy; and advancing the science and engineering of nuclear waste management.



Previously, as senior manager of renewable energy technologies, Halloran led Sandia's R&D programs in wind energy, solar energy, water power, geothermal energy and the water/energy nexus to improve the reliability, reduce the cost, and decrease the regulatory burden of renewable energy and water supplies. Halloran's started her career at Sandia as manager of the geophysics and atmospheric science department, a team developing leading-edge technical solutions for the Department of Energy (DOE), the Department of Defense (DOD), and industrial customers in nuclear threat detection, climate measurement, and oil and gas extraction. She also oversaw Sandia's work on the North Slope of Alaska for DOE's climate program.

Prior to joining Sandia, Halloran was with CH2M HILL for 22 years, finishing her tenure as vice president of federal program development. She and her teams delivered projects in contaminated soil and groundwater investigation and remediation, industrial waste treatment, compliance audits, and energy efficiency for the DoD, DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency, and private industry.

Halloran has a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion and received the New Mexico Technology Council's annual Women in Technology Award in 2019. She is Sandia's campus executive for the University of Illinois; a past president of both the New Mexico Engineering Foundation and the Society of American Military Engineers, Albuquerque Post; and a former community panel chair for the United Way of Central New Mexico. Halloran earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Virginia Tech and a master's degree in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has been licensed as a professional engineer since 1994.

Steve Bohlen

**Senior Director, Office of Government and External Affairs
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory**

Steven Bohlen serves as senior director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's (LLNL's) Office of Governmental and External Affairs.



In this role, Bohlen partners with the senior management team to develop and manage strong and productive relationships between the Laboratory and various governmental stakeholders. He is responsible for planning and guiding the Laboratory's governmental relations program and advocacy efforts, as well as building a strategy for engagement with the local community, various boards and councils and partners such as the Livermore Lab Foundation.

Bohlen recently returned from assignment in Sacramento as the acting state geologist and head of the California Geological Survey within the California Department of Conservation (DOC). Previously, he served the DOC as state oil and gas supervisor, laying the foundation for a modern, science-based program to regulate oil and gas under the guiding principle of public and environmental safety. Prior to his assignment with the state of California, Steve served as the program manager for the Lab's Energy and Homeland Security Program (E-Program) in the Global Security Directorate.

Bohlen holds Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in geology and geochemistry from the University of Michigan and an A.B. in liberal arts and geology from Dartmouth College.

Bob Dean
Business Manager
I.B.E.W., Local 1245

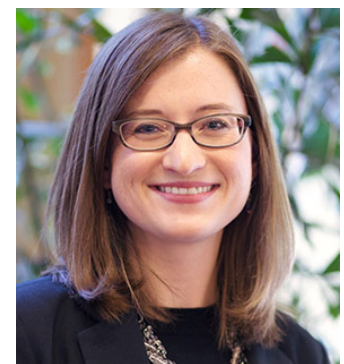
Bob Dean is the Business Manager of IBEW Local 1245 and represents 27,000 members in the Utility, Transportation and Communications industry as well as Government energy workers. IBEW 1245 is the largest Local in the IBEW. He joined the Local 1245 staff in 2006 as a Business Rep, he spent several years as one of IBEW 1245 principal negotiators concentrating on Electric, Solar, Storage and Wind. He spent ten years in the U.S. Navy as a Sonar Tech. Bob spent fifteen years as a Transmission Electric System Grid Operator and Hydro Plant Operator for PG&E before joining IBEW Local 1245.



At Local 1245 he has sat on the Joint Apprenticeship training committee, negotiated general contracts with multiple employers as well as negotiated the Locals first contracts for Solar and Wind technicians. He led the way on IBEW 1245's foray into Electric Vehicle, Storage and Drone work. He is currently focusing the Local and its members to face the many competitive, legislative, and regulatory challenges facing the California Utility Industry, and the modernization of Transmission grid.

Katelyn Roedner Sutter
California State Director
Environmental Defense Fund

Katelyn leads and coordinates EDF's political engagement and advocacy work in California, and supports the organization's water, climate, energy, and transportation policy goals in the state including implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act.



In the over five years Roedner Sutter has been with EDF, she has led state-level engagement on climate policy in California elsewhere across the Western United States and contributed to EDF's work on international carbon markets. She has co-led the organization's Environmental Justice Council and serves as the Assembly appointee to California's Independent Emissions Market Advisory Committee. Prior to joining EDF, Roedner Sutter led the environmental justice program at Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Stockton.

Katelyn has worked on environmental justice issues in California's San Joaquin Valley focusing on air quality, climate change, and local land use. She had led coalition work to advocate for policy change, lobbied lawmakers on behalf of rural and environmental justice communities in California, and worked with faith communities to spur action on climate change.

She holds a MA, Ethics & Social Theory, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, a BA, International Affairs, economics concentration from The George Washington University, Washington, DC

Session 5

Spreading the Financial Load

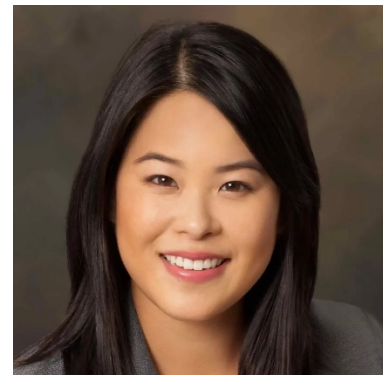
Christine Hironaka

**Senior Advisor for Energy
Office of Governor Newsom**

Christine Hironaka Deputy is the Senior Advisor for Energy to Governor Gavin Newsom.

She previously served as Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs at the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). Prior to joining CalEPA, Christine served as Assistant Director for Policy Development at the California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), where she served as Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs. She also served as a legislative assistant in the Office of State Senator Mark Leno, and as a capital fellow in the Office of State Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny

She received her BA in History from Stanford University.



Matt Baker

**Director, Public Advocates Office
California Public Utilities Commission**

Matt Baker was appointed by Governor Newsom to direct the Public Advocates Office at the California Public Utilities Commission in February of 2022. Prior to that, Matt was the Deputy Secretary for Energy at the California Natural Resources Agency. Before joining California state government, he was the Energy and Climate Program Officer for the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Matt also served on the Colorado Public Utilities Commission from 2008 until May 2012, where he



regulated electric and gas utilities. From 2003 through 2007, he served as the Executive Director of Environment Colorado. Prior to that Matt was the Director of the Colorado Public Interest Research Group.

Matt has held many leadership positions, including vice chair of the National Association of Regulated Utility Commissioners' Committee on Natural Gas, the Transit Alliance, the Interest Energy Alliance, and the Colorado Pollution Prevention Partnership. Matt has a bachelor's degree in history from Penn State.

Debra Gore-Mann
President & CEO
The Greenlining Institute

Debra Gore-Mann (she/her/hers) is the President & CEO of The Greenlining Institute. Debra has over 25+ years of leadership experience in nonprofit and private research universities and over ten years of private sector business development expertise having worked in investment banking, international infrastructure development and engineering. Debra received her B.S. in Management Sciences and MBA in finance from Stanford University. She serves on multiple nonprofit and foundation boards that work to serve communities whose works include criminal justice, nonviolence, youth educational opportunities, supporting young adults in sports and economic opportunity. Currently Debra serves on the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Community Advisory Council (chair); PG&E Community Advisory Group; California Organized Investment Network; and Nonprofit Insurance Alliance California Board of Directors.

