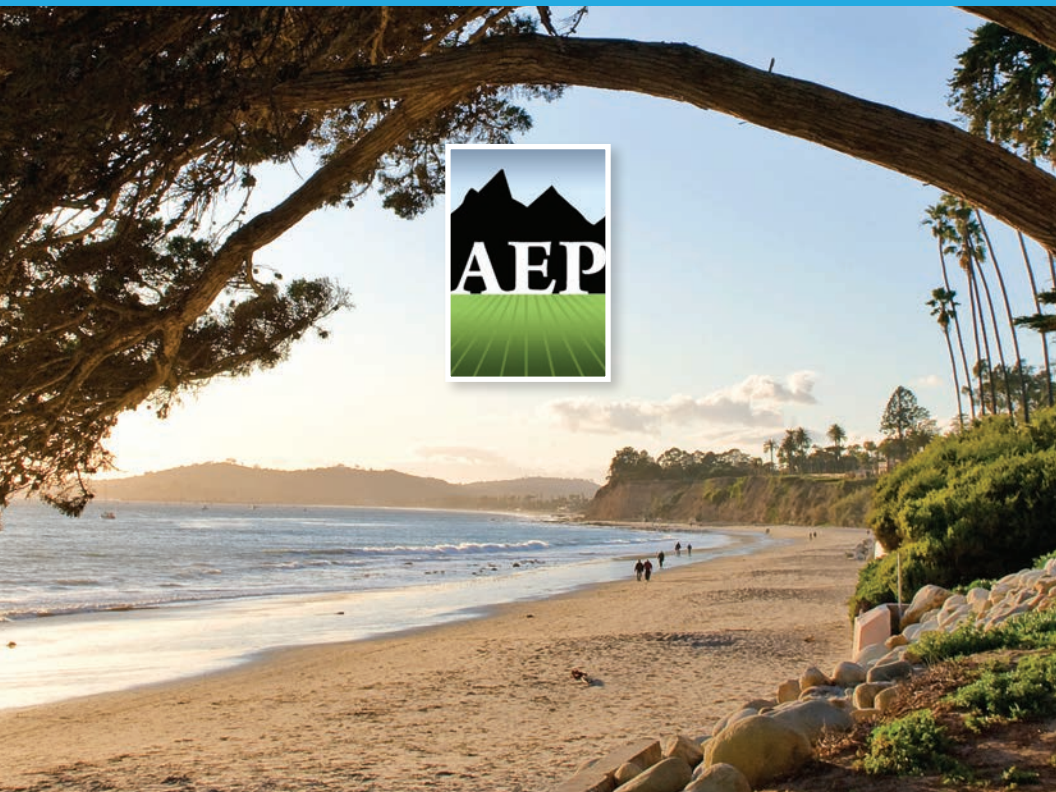




2015 AEP STATE CONFERENCE

Fess Parker Doubletree Resort - Santa Barbara, California - March 22 - 25, 2015



Conference Program

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AEP 2015 Conference-At-A-Glance

Sunday March 22, 2015

11:30 AM – 6:30 PM – **Conference Registration** – Grand Ballroom Foyer

12:00 PM – 5:30 PM – **Exhibitor Setup** – Grand Ballroom

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM – Mobile Workshop

Mobile Workshop

Santa Ynez Valley Sustainable Vineyard/Winery Tour

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM – **Opening Reception** – Grand Ballroom

Monday March 23, 2015

8:00 AM – 6:30 PM – **Conference Registration**

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM – **Breakfast** – Grand Ballroom

8:00 AM – 6:30 PM – **Exhibits Open** – Grand Ballroom

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM – Keynote Speaker

Opening Welcome Keynote Speaker

Mona Miyasato, CEO of Santa Barbara County – **(Grand Ballroom)**

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM – Session Block 1

<i>CEQA Tool Box</i>	<i>Mitigation Banking</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>	<i>Land to Sea</i>
<p>Compiling the Administrative Record: Requirements, Case Law, Practice Tips</p> <p>(Anacapa) CM 1.5 MCLE 1.0</p>	<p>Advance Mitigation (Part 1) Planning Our Way to Success: The Practice and Promise</p> <p>(Santa Cruz) CM 1.5</p>	<p>AEP Climate Change Committee: Post 2020 Reduction Targets in Climate Action Plans</p> <p>(Reagan Room) CM 1.5</p>	<p>Conservation Planning at a Watershed Scale- Demonstrated Examples of Regional Approaches</p> <p>Integrated Planning, Restoration, and Public Access within the Santa Maria River Watershed</p> <p>(Santa Rosa) CM 1.5</p>

**CM and MCLE credits are pending.*

Conference-at-a-Glance

12:15 PM – 1:45 PM – AEP Awards Lunch – (Grand Ballroom)			
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM – Session Block 2			
CEQA Hot Topic	Water Resources	Sustainability	Land to Sea
SB 743 Session #1 – City of Santa Barbara Land Use and Growth Management Program – How it Protects Community Values and Promotes Reduced Vehicle Miles Traveled (Reagan Room) CM 1.5	Overcoming Overdraft: California's New Groundwater Law (Anacapa) CM 1.5 MCLE 1.0	Global Sustainability Across the Centuries - Strategies and Solutions (Santa Cruz) CM 1.5	Completing the California Coastal Trail: Lessons Learned in Coordinated Planning for Coastal Access (Santa Rosa) CM 1.5
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM – Afternoon Break – Grand Ballroom			
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM – Session Block 3			
CEQA Tool Box	Water Resources	Sustainability	
Sustainable and Resilient Landscapes by Geodesign (Anacapa) CM 1.5	Creating Sustainable Communities through Stormwater LID Management (Santa Cruz) CM 1.5 MCLE 1.0	Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle: Issues and Impacts of Urban Infill Development in Established California Communities (Santa Rosa) CM 1.5	
Student and Emerging Professionals Resume Building and Networking for Students, Recent Graduates, and Emerging Environmental and Planning Professionals (Vineyard)			
6:15 PM – 7:30 PM – Dinner Reception – Reagan Room, live music by “The Incrementals”			
7:30 PM – 10:30 PM – AEP Jam Band Party – Reagan Room			

**CM and MCLE credits are pending.*

Tuesday March 24, 2015

7:30 AM – 6:30 PM – **Conference Registration** – Grand Ballroom Foyer

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM – **Breakfast** – Grand Ballroom

7:30 AM – 7:30 PM – **Exhibits Open** – Grand Ballroom

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM Session Block 4

<i>CEQA Hot Topic</i>	<i>Water Resources</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>	<i>Land to Sea</i>
<p>Tribal Cultural Resources in CEQA – AB 52 Explained</p> <p>(Anacapa) CM 1.5 MCLE 1.0</p>	<p>Short and Long Term Strategies to Address Groundwater Supply Shortages in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, San Luis Obispo County</p> <p>(Santa Cruz) CM 1.5</p>	<p>AEP Climate Change Committee: Post 2020 Reduction Targets in Climate Action Plans</p> <p>(Santa Rosa) CM 1.5</p>	<p>The Road Less Traveled - Achieving Coastal Permitting Approvals Through Development of a Public Works Plan</p> <p>Surfing the Waves with the California Coastal Commission</p> <p>Navigating the Coastal Act/CEQA Equivalency Process: A Tale of Two State Agencies</p> <p>(Reagan Room) CM 1.5 MCLE 1.0</p>

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Session Block 5

<i>CEQA Toolbox</i>	<i>Water Resources</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>	<i>Land to Sea</i>
<p>Health Impacts, CEQA and Planning</p> <p>(Reagan Room) CM 1.5 MCLE 1.0</p>	<p>The Role of Seawater Desalination in California's Water Supply Portfolio</p> <p>(Anacapa) CM 1.5</p>	<p>The Sun Also Rises: Successful Permitting and Compliance at a Large-Scale Facility</p> <p>Reconciling Local, State, and Federal Mandates for Renewable Energy Production with Public Policies to Preserve Agricultural Resources</p> <p>Mitigating Impacts to Avian and Terrestrial Species from Renewable Energy Development</p> <p>(Santa Cruz) CM 1.5</p>	<p>Review of Subtidal and Intertidal Habitat Compensatory Mitigation Approaches</p> <p>Lessons Learned from Shoreline Management in Santa Barbara and Malibu</p> <p>(Santa Rosa) CM 1.5</p>

*CM and MCLE credits are pending.

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM – Session Block 6

<i>CEQA Tool Box</i>	<i>Water Resources</i>	<i>Cultural Resources</i>	<i>Watershed Management</i>
<p>Master Planning CEQA: Addressing a 20-Year Master Plan Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and State Revolving Fund (SRF) Funding</p> <p>Get with the Program: Effectively Preparing and Using Programmatic CEQA Documents</p>	<p>Shifting Perception of Water Reuse in Southern California</p> <p>Whiskey is for Drinking: Water is for Fighting Over: the Saga of the Cadiz Litigation 2.0</p>	<p>Unlocking the Black Box: Strategies to Effectively Identify, Preserve, and Mitigate Cultural Resources under CEQA and Section 10</p>	<p>Mill Creek Wetlands Project- Natural Wetlands as Regional Water Quality Solutions</p>
<p>(Reagan Room) CM 1.5 MCLE 1.0</p>	<p>(Anacapa) CM 1.5 MCLE 1.0</p>	<p>(Santa Cruz) CM 1.5</p>	<p>(Santa Rosa) CM 1.5</p>

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM – Plenary Sessions

- **Keynote Luncheon:** Mike Sutton, Vice President, Pacific Flyway National Audubon Society, CDFW Commissioner – **(Grand Ballroom)**
- **AEP CEQA Portal Presentation:** Craig Stevens, Stevens Consulting
- **Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals Presentation:** Mark Gerber, OPHIS Environmental, NAEP Board, ABCEP Board of Trustees

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM – Session Block 7

<i>CEQA Hot Topic</i>	<i>Water Resources</i>	<i>Mitigation Banking</i>	<i>Land to Sea</i>
<p>SB 743 Session #2 – Examining Potential Consequences and Solutions – Diverse Perspectives on SB 743</p>	<p>When It Rains, It Pours: Learning to Comply With California's New Industrial Storm Water Permit</p>	<p>Advanced Mitigation (Part 2) Living the Dream: Insights on Implementation</p>	<p>A Regional Approach to Planning for Climate Impacts in Coastal Southern California.</p>
<p>(Reagan Room) CM 1.5 MCLE 1.0</p>	<p>(Anacapa) CM 1.5 MCLE 1.0</p>	<p>(Santa Cruz) CM 1.5</p>	<p>(Santa Rosa) CM 1.5</p>

**CM and MCLE credits are pending.*

Student and Emerging Professionals

Environmental Planning Professional...the right choice for me?
A Discussion for Success in the Environmental Profession

(Vineyard) (2:15 PM – 3:45 PM – Session Block 7)

3:45 PM – 4:15 PM – **Afternoon Break** – Grand Ballroom

4:15 PM – 5:45 PM – Session Block 8

<i>CEQA Hot Topic</i>	<i>Water Resources</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>	<i>Wildlife Management</i>
SB 743 Session #3 – Practicum: Policy, Practical Tools, Tips, and Techniques for Implementing SB 743 CEQA Guidance	CEQA and the Big Drought Adaptive Management of Agricultural Water Resources During California Drought Conditions	Keeping the Lights On In An Emission-Free Energy Future	It's Not Just Water Under the Bridge: Construction Permitting and Underwater Sound Monitoring and Mitigation for Aquatic Animals Evaluating the Effects of Noise on ESA Listed Species
(Reagan Room) CM 1.5 MCLE 1.0	(Anacapa) CM 1.5 MCLE 1.0	(Santa Cruz) CM 1.5 MCLE 1.0	(Santa Rosa) CM 1.5

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM – **Wine and Cheese Reception** – Grand Ballroom

Wednesday March 25, 2015

8:30 AM – 11:00 AM – **Conference Registration** – Grand Ballroom

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM – **Breakfast** – Grand Ballroom

8:30 AM – 11:00 AM – **Exhibits Open** – Grand Ballroom

Plenary Sessions

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM – **Membership Meeting** – Grand Ballroom

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – **CEQA and Legislative Update** – (Grand Ballroom)

CM | 2.0 MCLE | 1.0

11:00 AM – 1:30 PM – **Exhibitor Tear-Down** – Grand Ballroom

**CM and MCLE credits are pending.*

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TRACK DESCRIPTIONS

The great response to the call for presentations provided a broad framework to draw from. As a result, we have adjusted the tracks to accommodate more than a four track arrangement.

LAND TO SEA

The land to sea track focuses on the challenges, approaches, and success stories for projects along the coast and up into the watersheds. Issues of climate change, access, infrastructure, multi-jurisdiction coordination, navigating the California Coastal Act/Commission will permeate through this track.

CEQA TOOL BOX/CEQA HOT TOPIC

The sessions in these CEQA tracks cover some of the most important and complicated CEQA issues and examine new ways of analyzing environmental effects under CEQA. The sessions include expert panels examining how to improve the “bullet proof” CEQA practice for the administrative record, health impacts, and the elusive programmatic EIR. Sessions will provide real world, practical advice on CEQA “Hot Topics” focused on recent legislation of SB 743 and AB 52. We have dedicated three sessions to latest understanding of the game changing SB 743 in a series progressive presentations.

The track includes the annual **CEQA and Legislative Update** on Wednesday morning with a review of recent case law, legislative changes, new guidance, and a look ahead at emerging issues.

NATURAL RESOURCES / MITIGATION / WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

You will see this represented in several track titles where biological and wetland resources prevail in driving the planning process. Two sessions on approach and practice of mitigation banking, regional wetland restoration for water quality solutions, and project specific mitigations are included.

SUSTAINABILITY

Climate change and renewable energy will form the sessions for the sustainability track. This track brings fresh ideas and effective tools that produce better outcomes.

WATER RESOURCES

Water still flows downhill and hopefully into the ground if there is enough falling from the sky. The water resources sessions cover the implementation of the Groundwater Management Act, urban and industrial stormwater regulatory compliance, and critical water supply issues from groundwater and desalination perspectives.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Along with the AB 52 session, we have assembled the industries foremost experts on cultural resources to provide solutions to effectively identify and mitigate complex cultural resources issues, and Section 106 compliance.

STUDENTS AND EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

This track covers topics geared towards emerging professionals that are in the early stages of their careers or transitioning to the environmental profession, as well as students that are nearing graduation and about to enter the job market. Sessions in this track cover valuable and informational topics focusing on how to build a resume, the benefits of networking, and a general outlook on the profession and what potential employers seek in a student or emerging professional. Through a diverse panel of speakers that have decades of experience in the private and public sectors, the sessions in this track are intended to provide an open forum for students and emerging professionals to ask questions of practicing professionals.



Fellow AEP Members and AEP Conference Attendees:

Greetings! Welcome to the 2015 Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) annual Conference in beautiful Santa Barbara. Our venue, the Fess Parker Doubletree Resort is a destination resort with all the amenities, plus it is right on the beach! It is close to many venues in Santa Barbara and the local area. Mix all that with the richness of the Southern California beach area and environs and this will be a most rewarding and memorable experience for all attendees. On behalf of your AEP Board – WELCOME!

Please join me in thanking our Conference Chair, David Wolff and the Channel Counties Chapter Conference Committee for their hard work, organization, and leadership in making this Conference a success. Their Conference Committee, as well as others helped make this event possible. They have planned an outstanding schedule of sessions and events to challenge and inspire our thinking, give us professional enhancement, and have a lot of fun with various social events (including our own AEP Jam Band session on Monday night in the hotel!!!!). Certainly we cannot forget the tireless efforts of Lynne Bynder – the real ‘mover and shaker’ that brings the whole Conference together year after year. Finally, we all extend a great note of gratitude to our many sponsors – without their help the Conference couldn’t happen. Thank you all!

The programs for the Conference look great and we will have some top-notch presentations. This Conference will have 38 AICP and MCLE credited sessions. These are followed Sunday evening with the Opening Reception in the hotel. All events and sessions take place in the hotel so you don’t need to walk far to find something you enjoy. There will be four themed tracks for the professional sessions: CEQA Toolbox, Water Resources, Sustainability, Land to Sea (natural resources). There are also special programs for and Students and Emerging Professionals. These professional sessions, tours, paper presentations, and panel discussions run Monday through Wednesday at noon. Wednesday has the ever popular presentation of our CEQA update, legislative perspective and update of court cases related to CEQA (this year has a number of CEQA-related cases before the California Supreme Court and decisions on many are due any time). A very worthwhile session for all to stay and hear.

We have two dynamic keynote speakers to set the stage and tone for our conference. Ms. Mona Miyasato, CEO for Santa Barbara County, She will enlighten attendees on the workings of a large public agency and offer insights into land use decisions and the interplay with CEQA. Our second Keynote speaker is Mike Sutton. Mr. Sutton currently serves as a Commissioner for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. He will provide a perspective on California Natural Resources and changes we can anticipate with the DFW. We welcome them both to the conference.

Welcome from the AEP President

All of this adds up to be a superb Conference. I hope you all have a great time while you are here and I hope to chat with many of you. Please enjoy yourself both at the conference and elsewhere in the greater the Huntington Beach area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene Talmadge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'G' and a long, sweeping underline.

Gene Talmadge, MUP



Welcome to the 2015 AEP State Conference!

The AEP Channel Counties Chapter and the 2015 Conference Committee welcome you to this spectacular location right on the beach in Santa Barbara for the AEP 2015 State Conference. Most importantly, thank you for your attendance, sponsorships, and allocating resources as exhibitors. I find one of the most important and enjoyable aspects of the AEP conference are the lively discussions with our colleagues at the booths. Take a moment to visit the sponsors and exhibitors, exchange ideas, and thank them for providing greatly needed

support to AEP for our annual conference. Be sure to fill out the **“Mingle Card”** for a chance to win a 2-night stay at the Fess Parker. We will have a raffle for local wines and a 43” TV to spice things up. Finally, I would like to thank our AEP Executive Director, the conference committee, student volunteers, keynote speakers, panelist, and award winners that comprise the foundation and structure for this conference.

Land to Sea...Strategies to Solutions, the theme was born from the Channel Counties Chapter alignment of our three county area that encompasses a beautiful reach of California coast. We are not unique in that six of the nine AEP chapters have coastal frontage! In planning the conference we wanted to emphasize the challenges that we face along the interface of the land and sea, while recognizing that we are a mostly terrestrial species! Our first challenge was to select 32 presentations from over 70 abstract submittals that would meet the broad interests of conference attendees while keeping with our theme. A special thanks to those moderators who were willing to combine similar topics to maximize our offerings (you know who you are). As a result we have tracts that address water resources, natural resources and mitigation, California Coastal Act compliance, sustainability, along with tracts that address recent legislation on CEQA, cultural resources, and groundwater management. Throw in the CEQA Toolbox for the seasoned practitioner and we have a varied and robust conference. We have the conference at-a-glance and the tract descriptions for quick review with the detailed abstracts in the program for your session selection process. Speaker biographies are in the online program and we will post presentations submitted to us on the AEP website after the conference available to conference attendees. AICP and MCLE credits are available so be sure to sign the forms at the sessions.

Our welcoming keynote speaker to open the conference on Monday is **Mona Miyasato, Santa Barbara County CEO**. We have asked her to inspire us by discussing the challenges of managing the diverse geographic, political, and business interests in the County. Coastal planning, onshore and offshore energy interests, water resources, and north/south county land planning issues to name a few. For the Tuesday lunch keynote speaker **Mike Sutton, National Audubon Society**, we have also asked him for inspiration to help us continue the rigorous work we do to meet the AEP objectives to, ***“to enhance, maintain, and protect the quality of the natural and human environment.”*** Mike brings his broad-based experience as an environmental attorney, conservationist, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioner. We thank them both wholeheartedly for joining us and inspiring us.

Welcome from the Conference Chair

So now, indulge me if you will, it's time for a *Land to Sea* story. On a beautiful and warm 2014 October weekend day in Cayucos, I found myself body surfing (without a wetsuit, it's the only thing I know) in the warm ocean water that for whatever reason you believe, occurred along our coast. The south swell was in, that rhythmic large three wave set that periodically rolls in amidst an otherwise peaceful and gentle surf. Feeling inspired by my youth of long past frolicking in the near shore foam until gaining skills and courage to get munched in the surf at Zuma Beach, I swam out to catch the south swell waves. After catching one and eating one, it was time to relax and sit on the beach for a while. While sitting, sunning, and observing the many folks wading and swimming scattered along the beach like sandpipers, I noticed in particular a little girl, 18 months old as it turns out, in a little pink bathing suit with diaper bottom wandering and weaving in the near shore water. Reminded me of being at the beach with my little girl who is now 28 in NYC! Anyway. The little girl seemingly unattended by an adult was following the outgoing waves in a few inches of water for what seemed like hundreds of feet toward the receding surf and breaking waves, and then retreating landward as the surf would begin to rise. I nervously looked around for a parent whom to my relief was nearby but not directing the little girl at all. The mother's attention was at the whiny 9 year old brother (that made no sense on such a glorious day). But that's beside the point. I continued to watch the little girl follow the rhythms of the ocean out and back several times, not unlike how shorebirds work the water's edge. After my very recent experience with the south swell, I thought to myself, "Oh my, that little girl is fearless. Those big waves are sure to sweep her up." But as I watched her go out and back, out and back (I was ready for a rescue), I realized she did not know fear. She was captured and connected to the natural rhythms of the ocean where it meets the land, with nothing else to cloud her innocence. Talk about inspiration! That little girl's opportunity to be in touch with her true nature comes from our efforts for access and protection of our coasts from land to sea. An essential and important foundation for our connection to earth. I am so fortunate to be here at this place at this time, and thank you all truly for being a part of it for these few days. Peace.



2015 AEP CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

David Wolff – Sage Institute, Conference Chair

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Alison Evans – Dudek

Alyssa Hall – UCSB Bren School

Bill Henry – SWCA

Brian Smith – Independent

David Parker – UCSB Bren School

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REGISTRATION

The Registration Desk is located in the
Grand Ballroom Foyer

Registration Hours

Grand Ballroom Foyer

Sunday, March 22, 2015

11:30 am – 6:30 pm

Monday, March 23, 2015

8:00 am – 6:30 pm

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

7:30 am – 6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

8:30 am – 11:00 am

AICP CM Approval/ MCLE approval

AICP credits have been approved for the 2015 conference. While all sessions qualify, we do not guarantee that the Mobile Workshop and some General Sessions will receive credit. This will be determined at a later date. MCLE credits have been submitted and are pending Approval.

Exhibitor Hours

Exhibitors are located in the
Grand Ballroom

Exhibitor Set Up

Sunday, March 22, 2015

12:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Exhibits Open

Sunday, March 22, 2015

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Monday, March 23, 2015

8:00 am – 6:30 pm

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

7:30 am – 7:30 pm

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

8:30 am – 11 am

Exhibits Tear Down

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

11 am – 1:30 pm

Registration Badges

Please wear your name badge at all times for entry into the events and sessions. Prior to departure, drop your badge holder at the registration desk to be recycled.

Speaker Registration

All speakers and panel members must check in at registration. Please pick up your name badges at the registration desk during registration hours.

Electronic Devices

Please turn off or put in silent mode all cell phones during sessions.

Conference Attire

Business Casual attire is appropriate for all sessions and events.

Additional Greening at the AEP 2015 Conference

- » Lanyards made of recycled materials
- » Program and name badges printed on recycled paper
- » Signage printed on recycled materials
- » Water stations in all meeting rooms - no plastic water bottle policy at conference
- » Food and beverage will only be served in glass materials when possible.

Sustainability In Hospitality



An Eco –friendly business

Our proprietary LightStay system is developed to calculate the environmental impact of our hotel, including energy and water used in our buildings and the waste and carbon they produce. The system measures more than 200 areas of a hotel's operations including housekeeping, paper product use, food waste, chemical storage, air quality and transportation.

"Green" products and services

Our commitment to sustainable practices includes disease resistant planting used in lieu of pesticides, recycling, food waste composting, returning laundering final rinse water to the earth, and the opportunity for guests to participate by utilizing an Energy Conservative "Green Card" by choosing less frequent bed linen and towel changes.

Supporting environmental programs

Hilton Worldwide will be the first major multi-brand company in the hospitality industry to make sustainability a brand standard. What this means is that by December 31, 2011, all of our more than 3,500 properties within our global portfolio of brands will use "LightStay" to measure their impact. We're putting measurement of sustainability performance on the same level as service or quality standards, and it will be evaluated as part of regular property-level reviews.

We have been testing LightStay internally for the past two years, and our recent year-over year results show that the 1,300 hotels that are using LightStay have already conserved enough energy to power 5,700 homes for a year, to save enough water to fill more than 650 Olympic-size pools and to reduce carbon output equivalent to taking 34,865 cars off the road.

Sustainability Recognition

Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort is listed on www.greensantabarbara.com:
under the heading- Green Tourism/Green Lodging:
<http://www.greensantabarbara.com/greenLodging.htm>

We have received a sustainability rating from the California Integrated Waste Management. Their website: <http://www.travel.dgs.ca.gov/Lodging/GreenDirectory.htm>

Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort is a member of the Green Lodging Program of California.

633 East Cabrillo Blvd. Santa Barbara CA 93103
805-564-4333
www.fpdtr.com

General Information

Roundhouse Research

This property was the site for two locomotive roundhouses constructed by the Southern Pacific Railroad.



The first was a brick and timber structure constructed by Southern Pacific in 1911. It had nine stalls with a smoke vent over each one.

The June 29, 1925 earthquake destroyed the roundhouse when south wall collapsed; the roof fell in and crushed several locomotives. 27 Southern Pacific employees also lost their lives in this tragedy. Along with the roundhouse, this earthquake also destroyed the Arlington Hotel, the Cabrillo Hotel, the Potter Hotel, St. Francis Hospital, the San Marcus building, and most of the buildings on State St. The dam at Gibraltar also crumbled and emptied the city reservoir.

Santa Barbara's reconstruction was shaped in large part by Miss Pearl Chase of the Plans and Planting Committee, Community Arts Association. Miss Chase prevented the Southern Pacific from building the stock roundhouse they had planned. Legend has it that in 1926 she barged into the corporate headquarters of the Southern Pacific Railroad in San Francisco, a picture of the Seville bullring in hand, and went straight to the president demanding that Santa Barbara had to have a Spanish themed roundhouse. The resulting structure was a prime example of how a utilitarian building could be made aesthetically pleasing. It became nationally famous in that regard.

From 1926 to 1961 the roundhouse and engine turntable serviced the Southern Pacific Steam Locomotives. Santa Barbara's Freight Station (at the corner of Santa Barbara Street and the railroad tracks) and the Ice Packing House (which was located on the current Fess Parker Resort property) controlled the "Freight and Fruit" from the orchards of Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Montecito. Lemon packing was a major industry for Santa Barbara and Goleta at the time.

The Southern Pacific had a train that started in San Luis Obispo and headed east with just power and a caboose. As it passed towns like Oceano and Guadalupe, it would pick up loaded reefers of produce. The train was affectionately called the Smokey. It would sometimes pick up Lompoc produce left at Surf before heading to Santa Barbara to pick up loaded citrus. Then one more stop in Oxnard before heading to Colton where it would be combined with other area perishable traffic to head east on the Sunset Route.



A painting of the reconstructed roundhouse by Wayne Scarpaci.

The War years of 1942 through 1945 were the busy times for Santa Barbara's rail activity. During the Second World War, over 250 people were employed in the Santa Barbara yards of the Southern Pacific. The Roundhouse would be used to move cars around to make up long haul freights along the eight track yard. The "Pacific" steam engine was generally used as a "helper" to get heavy trains over the passes to the South and North of Santa Barbara.

By 1961 the coast route had converted to diesel power. The structure was then remodeled for warehouse use and the turntable was removed. In September, 1982, the roundhouse was demolished to make way for a resort hotel. The hotel's ground floor Plaza Del Sol symbolizes the historic roundhouse.



The original Roundhouse after being destroyed by the 1925 Earthquake. The southern brick wall fell apart causing the roof to collapse and crush several locomotives.



The Plaza Del Sol in 1986.



The Plaza Del Sol in 2014.



Opening Welcome Keynote Speaker

Mona Miyasato, CEO of Santa Barbara County

Monday March 23rd: 8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

Mona Miyasato is the County Executive Officer for Santa Barbara County, responsible for overseeing an organization of over 4,000 employees and an operating budget of \$920 million. She joined Santa Barbara County in December 2013 after serving for five years as the Chief Assistant County Administrator for Marin County in northern California. Prior to that, she served in various roles with the City of Santa Monica from 1998-2008, including

her final post as Deputy City Manager, and worked in the field of redevelopment and community development in Southern California before that. Mona began her career as a planner with a Los Angeles-based environmental consulting firm, contributing to several EIRs for large public transit projects. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in both Political Science and Economics from the University of California at Berkeley and a Master of Public Policy degree from Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government.



Keynote Luncheon

Michael Sutton, Vice President, Pacific Flyway

National Audubon Society, Carmel Valley, California

Tuesday March 24th: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Michael Sutton is a social entrepreneur and conservation leader who currently works as Vice President, Pacific Flyway with the National Audubon Society. He serves as a member of Audubon's National Leadership Team and oversees Audubon's conservation programs including a \$20 million budget and more than 100 professional staff in California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. In

2007 and again in 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Mike as a member of the California Fish & Game Commission, where he was instrumental in creating the nation's largest network of marine protected areas. He was elected President of the Commission in early 2013. Mike also serves as summer faculty at the Vermont Law School, where he teaches ocean & coastal law. He has finished the second edition of his book, *Ocean & Coastal Law and Policy*, published by the American Bar Association. He has lectured at graduate seminars on conservation issues at universities around the country including Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Stanford, Tufts, George Washington University, and the University of Rhode Island. Previously, Mike served for eight years as Vice President of the Monterey Bay Aquarium where he founded the Center for the Future of the Oceans, the Aquarium's conservation advocacy arm. Mike spent more than a decade in government service, where he served as a special agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and as a park ranger with the National Park Service in Yosemite, Yellowstone, Death Valley, Biscayne, and Virgin Islands National Parks. Mike received a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology from Utah State University and law degree in international and natural resources law from George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C.

Sunday, March 22 — 12:00 PM — 5:00 PM — Mobile Workshop

Mobile Workshop: Santa Ynez Valley Sustainable Vineyard/Winery Tour

Sustainable Winery Tour

Join leaders in the wine and vine industry on a tour of several vineyards and wineries in the Santa Ynez Valley and Santa Rita Hills in the epic wine growing region of northern Santa Barbara. Richard Sanford, Alma Rosa Winery, and Professor Alfredo Koch, PhD., Allan Hancock College, will provide their firsthand knowledge on how local wineries are producing exquisite wines while developing and following sustainable practices, and environmentally responsible cultivation and winemaking techniques. We will visit the Alma Rosa and Brander Winery tasting rooms and associated vineyards, directly observing organic and bio-dynamic methods at work. Attendees will enjoy fine wines with local food pairings and a light organic meal during a delightful afternoon of tasting and touring in beautiful Santa Barbara County. Space is limited.

Leaders:

- » John Karamitsos, Santa Barbara County Project Clean Water Manager
- » Shruti Ramaker, Cardno

Tuesday, March 24 — 12:30 PM — 2:00 PM — Plenary Session (Luncheon)

The CEQA Portal

Speaker:

- » Craig Stevens, Owner, Stevens Consulting

At its November 2015 meeting, the AEP State Board approved the first phase of work on the CEQA Portal, an ambitious plan to develop a web-based tool box to assist anyone who deals with CEQA, including agency staff members, private practitioners, attorneys, elected officials, and citizens. At present, guidance on complying with CEQA is available from a wide variety of sources, but the dispersed nature of this guidance makes it difficult to find an answer to simple (or not-so-simple) questions. Also, given the speed with which CEQA case law changes our practice, it can be equally frustrating to find an answer, but then to see that the source of information is out of date. By harnessing the power of web technology, CEQA guidance information can be put in one location, organized in ways that make it easy for users to find what they need, and easier to keep information up-to-date. Planning for the CEQA Portal has been ongoing, but the first phase of work, which involves creating two of these tools, a series of Topic Papers and a Case Law Database is now underway. This presentation will inform attendees about what the CEQA Portal is, and provide an opportunity for interested parties to help with this effort. Craig Stevens and Kent Norton will be available at the AEP table during the Tuesday afternoon break and throughout the conference to discuss further with any interested parties.

Special Events

Sunday, March 22

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM – Grand Ballroom

OPENING RECEPTION

Get acquainted with your fellow AEP colleagues and vendors at this relaxing, networking reception.

Monday, March 23

12:15 PM – 1:45 PM – Grand Ballroom

AEP AWARDS LUNCHEON

A key strategic goal of the Association of Environmental Professionals is to provide statewide recognition of environmental professionals' best works which contributes to the "enhancement, maintenance and protection of the quality of the natural and human environment." Each year AEP conducts an awards competition culminating in the Awards Luncheon at the annual AEP conference where we celebrate the best-of-the-best environmental documents, professional achievements, and services to environmental profession. Please join Lennie Rae Cooke, Roger Turner and Dev Vrat, AEP Awards Program Co-Chairs, in honoring this year's winners.

Master of Ceremonies: Carol Metcalf, Comic / Actress / Writer

Monday, March 23

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM – Reagan Room

DINNER RECEPTION

Enjoy food and live music with "The Incrementals", (folk, rock, Americana).

Monday, March 23

7:30 PM – 10:30 PM – Reagan Room

AEP JAM BAND

Environmental professionals by day, musicians by night....our very own AEP Jam Band is back by popular demand! The Jam Band is an AEP conference tradition established around fire pit at the Hyatt Newport Beach in 2005. Don't miss this fun night of dancing and singing to all your favorite tunes with your friends.



- » Aaron Brownwood, ICF, guitar and dobro
- » Bill Halligan, PlaceWorks, guitar
- » Scott Morgan, OPR, bass
- » Bill Prince, Retired!, guitar
- » Charles Smith, ICF, drums
- » Chris Stabenfeldt, Ecorp, sax
- » David Wolff, Sage, harp

Tuesday, March 24

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM – Grand Ballroom

WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION

This popular reception hosted by AEP is our way of thanking our sponsors, exhibitors and attendees for their support of the AEP Conference. Don't forget to stop by and visit with the exhibitors throughout the conference for a chance to win a prize.

2015 AEP AWARDS LUNCHEON

Lennie Rae Cooke, Roger Turner and Dev Vrat
AEP Awards Program Co-Chairs

Monday, March 23 — 12:15 PM — 1:45 PM — Grand Ballroom

Master of Ceremonies: Carol Metcalf, Comic / Actress / Writer

A key strategic goal of the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) is to provide statewide recognition of environmental professionals' best works which contributes to the *"enhancement, maintenance and protection of the quality of the natural and human environment."* Each year AEP conducts an awards competition culminating in the Awards Luncheon at the annual AEP conference where we celebrate the best-of-the-best environmental documents, professional achievements, and services to environmental profession.

Award winners continually advance state-of-the-art environmental analysis and the presentation of this analysis to the public and to decision makers is attractive and public friendly format. Please join your professional colleagues in congratulating the 2015 AEP award recipients as we review their achievements and distribute the prestigious Mountain Trophies and Certificates of Appreciation.



AEP wishes to express its sincere thanks to the volunteer AEP Awards Jury and to AECOM our Gold Sponsor, for their support and for the production of the videos highlighting this year's award winners.

Learn more about these winning projects and programs on AEP's website, www.califaep.org, and in upcoming articles in the Environmental Monitor.



AEP 2015 AWARDS PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

Lennie Rae Cooke, VCS Environmental
San Juan Capistrano, CA

Roger Turner, Roger Turner & Associates, Inc.
Riverside, CA

Dev Vrat, AICP, Urban Studies and Planning Department
California State University, Northridge

AEP 2015 AWARDS JURY

Dev Vrat, AICP, Jury Chair
Professor, Urban Studies and Planning Department, California State University Northridge

Nancy Ferguson, The Altum Group

Leslie Moulton, Senior Vice President, Water Practice Lead, ESA

Anne Surdzial, Director of CEQA/NEPA Services, Ecorp Consulting

Laura Kaufman, Director of Environmental Services, Envicom

Antoinette Romeo, Planner III, County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department

Honey L. Walters, Principal, Senior Air Quality and Climate Change Specialist
Ascent Environmental, Inc., Sacramento, CA

AEP appreciates the weeks of document review, completion of rating forms, mid-week conference calls, and consensus evaluation provided by the all volunteer jury.

AEP 2015 AWARDS MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Carol Metcalf, Actress, Comic, Writer, www.comedybycarol.com

AEP 2015 AWARDS PHOTOGRAPHER

Vanessa Weber
www.vanessaweberphotography.com



AEP 2015 AWARDS VIDEO PRODUCTION



The production team consisted of Beth Anna Cornett and David Denniston.

PUBLIC INFORMATION / EDUCATION AWARDS

MERIT AWARD

A Practical Guide for Planning Healthy Communities

PlaceWorks

In the category of Education, PlaceWorks receives a Merit Award for the *Practical Guide to Healthy Communities*. From town halls to the nation's capital, we have experienced a wave of interest in "healthy communities". The purpose of the project was to create a planning tool that summarizes practical applications of the healthy communities' movement for planners, environmental scientists, and transportation engineers. Reams of literature have been written on virtually every topic related to health. This guide unravels a wealth of research providing tools to diagnose the health of communities, understand evidence-based research, and principals to help professionals create healthier environmental for people to work, apply and enjoy their lives.

The Jury found the Practical Guide to be an excellent introduction and summary document which raises awareness of an emerging and very important planning issue in our communities. It provides the basics on planning for healthy communities and the importance of good health in America today in a beautiful presentation.

OUTSTANDING AWARD

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Northside Plan Update

Prepared for the Los Angeles World Airports

Prepared by AECOM, Gibson Transportation, ENVIRON, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, Greer Dailey, and Maleman Ink Public Relations

An Outstanding Award in the category of Public Involvement is given for the LAX Northside Plan Update. The Northside Plan Update represents a paradigm-shift for how LAX engages community stakeholders: it was the first time the airport truly asked the community what it wanted to see built in the area instead of simply presenting a plan created before public input was received. The project consists of the Northside Design Guidelines and Standards and the Draft Environmental Impact Report. The project's best features are its community-driven process, sustainability features, and incorporation of context-sensitive design that responded to community and private sector interests for more open space, native landscaping, and compatibly designed and scaled development. Through an early, iterative, and dynamic outreach process, the LAX Northside Plan Update increased the public's awareness of environmental issues and facilitated their role in the environmental planning, analysis, and review process. Rather than simply presenting information, LAWA

hosted larger meetings in an open house format where participants could engage technical consultants, ask questions, and view early draft environmental findings. The final project received overwhelming support from various stakeholders, including those interest groups that typically oppose LAWA plans.

The Awards Jury was impressed with the quality of the materials and the 3-D model. It found the management of the sheer volume of stakeholder interests to be impressive. They noted that the comprehensiveness of the outreach program is evident in the small number of comments received on the EIR for the Plan.

AEP BOARD SERVICE CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Steve Noack, PlaceWorks, Executive Vice President

Laura Kaufman, Envicom, Los Angeles Chapter Director

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS DOCUMENTS

OUTSTANDING AWARD

Goleta Beach County Park 2.0 Project EIR

Prepared for the County of Santa Barbara

Prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure

The Goleta Beach Management Retreat Project EIR utilizes sophisticated wave run-up modeling to provide detailed assessment of the impacts of storm wave height, wave direction and period, beach width and steepness and the potential for wave run up, flooding, and related damage to Goleta Beach park facilities in Goleta. This information was used for the analysis of potential impacts to coastal access and coastal dependent and related recreation at Goleta Beach, which receives an average of 1.5 million visitors annually. The EIR provided a detailed yet accessible review of extremely complex analysis of long-term large scale climatic cycles including the of El Niño Southern Oscillation and Pacific Decadal Oscillation, weather patterns, storm intensity, wave run up, sand movement along the coast, and coastal erosion. AMEC worked with Santa Barbara County staff to craft alternatives to address adverse effects to coastal recreation due to coastal erosion and shoreline retreat and to address changes to coastal processes and key associated Local Coastal Plan and State Coastal Act policies. The EIR provided decision-makers with a full range of options from which to select the best approach to manage the shoreline and coastal processes and address coastal erosion, park protection, and public access.

The Jury found the level of detail and comprehensive analysis of coastal process impressive and informative. The methodology and analysis is clearly presented. The document is well organized and easy to follow with a comprehensive summary of the project, an introduction that provided a history of the site and understanding of the EIR process. The project description was thorough and provided a good overview. The introduction to the environmental analysis provided a clear map of the impact analysis to follow in each of the subsequent sections. The authors did a good job of explaining the problems, proposed solutions and resulting impacts in clear language and graphics so that readers unfamiliar with the project site and/or shoreline issues can understand the issues. It can serve as a great tutorial on these issues. The Introduction has a good discussion of complicated beach erosion and planning management history of the site. There are excellent explanations of scientific terms used in the in text, footnotes, and callout boxes for non-scientist readers. The document includes good use of annotated aerial and other photographs to illustrate existing conditions, project features, and potential impacts.

OUTSTANDING AWARD

Revised Analysis of Impacts to Public Trust Resources and Values Broad Beach Restoration

Prepared for the California State Lands Commission

Prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure

The Broad Beach Restoration Project is a unique environmental analysis document that evaluates the impacts of beach nourishment and dune restoration for a highly eroded stretch of coastline in the City of Malibu. The Analysis of Impacts to Public Trust Resources (APTR) is the first of its kind in the State of California to be developed for a privately-funded project. The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA. Yet, the project would affect a range of public trust resources and values, including coastal access, recreation, and marine resources. The Broad Beach restoration Project APTR pioneered a custom approach and methodology to comprehensively evaluate the potential impacts to resources. The APTR provides comprehensive analysis of coastal processes and a state-of-the-art analysis of marine biological resources (including intertidal, subtidal, and open water habitats).

The Jury found this document interesting because it was not an EIR per se, since the project is exempt from CEQA. So the methodology can be considered unique in that the authors utilized similar CEQA evaluation techniques modified to suit the project. Overall the authors did an excellent job in explaining the mechanics and expected results of proposed beach nourishment and dune restoration techniques, and providing an exhaustive selection of alternative solutions. The document provides an excellent analysis of the balance between human uses and the environment. There is good use of text, footnotes, and callout boxes to define scientific terms for the lay reader. Overall, the Jury found this to be a unique

document which serves as an excellent guideline document for decision makers. The thorough evaluation and presentation of all facets of the project and discussion of the issues enables the decision makers to make an informed decision.

OUTSTANDING AWARD

EIS Merced Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan

Prepared for the National Park Service

Prepared by ESA Associates and the Yosemite National Park Planning Division

The Merced Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan/EIS (MRP/EIS) provides a 20-year framework for protecting and enhancing resources and user capacity along 81 river miles in Yosemite National Park across a 26,500-acre planning area. The best features of the MRP/EIS are the ways in which it responds to the multitude of interests represented by project stakeholders, including traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups, recreationists, tourists, and the very resources the park was established to protect 150 years ago. Over 60 public meetings were held at various stages of plan development and NEPA analysis contributing to a key feature of the MRP/EIS.

The Jury determined this to be a stellar job. Expressing their admiration enormity of the task, they referred to the plan as a “beast.” They found this to be an outstanding example of a comprehensive, multifaceted long range plan which incorporates sustainable actions and long term management of natural and cultural resources, public access/use and compliance with requirements of the National Scenic River designation. It provides a comprehensive discussion of methodologies/actions incorporated into the project to ensure that the project adheres to the requirements for National Scenic River designation as well as environmental laws, regulations and policies. It demonstrates excellent outreach to all users of Yosemite National Park. It includes an excellent description of the planning process and the balance of biology and hydrology resources with public access and local economic concerns. The plan uses a unique approach to qualitatively measure how visitor use affects river values is used as a trigger for mitigation. After 10 years, anyone could pick this up, know the process, and know why the decisions were made.

AEP CHAPTER ACTIVITY

OUTSTANDING AWARD

Northern California Conference

Prepared for Underserved AEP Members in Northern California

Prepared by Christina Ryan, Peter Masson, Tanya Sundberg, Pat Angell, Katherine Waugh, Chris Mundhenk, Alex Jewell, Emily Bacchini, Janet Dallas

The AEP Superior California Chapter and the San Francisco Bay Area Chapters are recognized for the Northern California Conference held in Anderson, California in October 2014. For years, the Chapters have considered ways to reach out to AEP members in the northern, more rural reaches of California that are a part of our chapter areas, but prior efforts garnered limited support. The Conference featured sessions and events focused on the needs of our under-served members including: both basic and advanced CEQA training, NEPA training; Tribal involvement overview for CEQA and NEPA practitioners; and panel discussions of local interest (e.g. SMARA overview and the environmental impacts of marijuana cultivation). The two AEP Chapters made a special point of reaching out to local agency representatives, the resulting attendee mix of consultants and agency representatives provided enlightening discussion during sessions and excellent networking opportunities.

The AEP Jury found this conference to be a great, successful effort to reach an underserved area of our state. It was clearly a huge effort to plan this conference. It provided a complex, well-designed program, responsive to local topics of interest. It provided training, including CEQA/NEPA to all participants as well as an excellent selection of topics which were specific and directly applicable to the region. In addition, the planning committee provided excellent outreach particularly to non-AEP members.

CLIMATE CHANGE

OUTSTANDING AWARD

City of Santa Barbara Climate Action Plan (2012)

Prepared by the City of Santa Barbara Community Development Department with Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure and UC Santa Cruz

The City of Santa Barbara Climate Action Plan (CAP) brings together both ongoing and new policies and programs addressing climate change into one comprehensive yet concise document, providing a vehicle for common understanding by the public, decision-makers, and staff. The CAP provides a 20-year plan for City climate change actions, including: strategies for both carbon emissions reduction and adaptation planning; programs for City governmental operations/facilities and the community at large. The Plan is integrated with other long-range plans, which promotes implementation of CAP strategies. The CAP also goes beyond carbon reduction directives to incorporate strategies addressing adaptation to climate change effects on the City. The CAP incorporates existing city Sustainability Policies, recognizes Existing Measures in Place, identifies future carbon reduction strategies including energy efficiency & green building, renewable energy, travel & land use, vegetation, waste management, and water conservation.

The AEP Awards Jury commented that this Climate Action Plan could be a “model for the state.” The Jury found this to be a comprehensive, easy to read document. The authors did an excellent job of explaining how elements of the Climate Action Plan are integrated with the City's other long-range plans, and how the City was able to incorporate elements of similar work being done by the University of California, Santa Barbara and the County of Santa Barbara.

PLANNING DOCUMENT

OUTSTANDING AWARD

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan

Prepared for the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

Prepared by RRM Design Group, Rincon Consultants, Inc., and W-Trans

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan merges multiple community priorities, namely separated bike/pedestrian facilities for active transportation purposes and facilities that provide coastal connectivity, into one cohesive planning document. The Plan is the outcome of an extensive interagency and public process, the product of

years of work and an enormous outpouring of public participation. Most importantly, it demonstrates the extraordinary range of benefits that a superb trail can bring to a community. These benefits include a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and protection of the natural environment, health, economic vitality, greater public understanding and appreciation of our coastline, improved transportation efficiency, and vastly increased accessibility.

The Jury found that the format of the document to be clear which communicates the project well. The Jury noted that the trail plan is designed to integrate and connect for comprehensive planning: "88 parks, 42 schools and over half the county's population." There will be 32 miles of "rail trail" and much of the trail will be adjacent to Coastal connections (i.e., parks, beaches, etc. in the coastal zone). It's a practical plan that provides design details and project implementation information (cost estimates and funding sources identified). The plan is a large scale, complex effort- covering a large area and involving many stakeholders, including environmental organizations and agencies, as well as the usual list of state and local planning agencies. The trail cross sections were very helpful to allow the reader to visualize the future trail design. Photos, maps and other visual aids were also nicely done.

OUTSTANDING AWARD

Camp Pico Blanco Scout Reservation Conservation Plan

Prepared for the Boy Scouts of America Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council

Prepared by EMC Planning Group Inc.

Camp Pico Blanco is nearly 800 acres of along the Little Sur River, surrounded by the Ventana Wilderness and Los Padres National Forest, a crowning jewel of Scouting properties. The project consists of an outline and prioritization of sustainable environmental practices for the camp so that Scouts can continue to safely utilize the site without adversely impacting the high quality natural resources present in this unique wilderness. The Plan's environmental stewardship strategy strives to balance protection of biological resources with continued recreational use of the property, providing the safest possible camping conditions with regard to wildfire threats and hazards.

The Jury observed that the Conservation Plan clearly states its purpose and goals, plan and implementation. The use of symbols for priority and timing of action items was a nice touch. The proposed three-year implementation program provides as relatively aggressive program to ensure completion. The Jury liked how chapters are organized by very clear, focused issues, such as "Steelhead" and "Sudden Oak Death." This approach worked well for this type of document and the geographic scope. Issues and action items are very clearly explained - requiring little to no "interpretation." The document is produced in a nice, easy-to-read format with visual imagery that helps convey the meaning.

OUTSTANDING AWARD

Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan

Prepared for the County of Santa Clara, the cities of San Jose, Gilroy, and Morgan Hill, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, Santa Clara Valley Water District and the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency

Prepared by ICF Jones and Stokes

The Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan is a landmark collaborative effort among six local agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that creates a new regional approach in programmatic endangered species permitting and protection in Santa Clara County. The Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan benefits eighteen (18) critical plant and wildlife species, including the San Joaquin Kit Fox, Western Burrowing Owl, California Tiger Salamander, and the Bay Checkerspot Butterfly. The 2013 approved Plan protect and enhance ecological diversity and function within more than 500,000 acres of Santa Clara County by protecting 47,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat in Santa Clara County

The AEP Awards Jury found this comprehensive habitat conservation document to be well organized, well written, easy to follow, and likely very usable for the environmental professionals, planners and developers. It is an excellent example of how to line up HCPs with land use plans. It works to balance the needs for urban and rural development, agriculture and ranchland, as well as for parks and open space conservation land. The companion brochure is nicely done in terms of photos, process diagrams, maps and also did a good job of summarizing the plan. It was well written, to be understood by the general public (with a glossary, for example), and it provided the agency's website in a large font, to save paper and to direct the reader to further information. The project also includes great PowerPoint presentations and visuals.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE DOCUMENTS

OUTSTANDING AWARD

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Northside Plan Update

Prepared for the Los Angeles World Airports

Prepared by AECOM, Gibson Transportation, ENVIRON, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, Greer Dailey, and Maleman Ink Public Relations

An Outstanding Award in the category of Public Involvement is given for the LAX Northside Plan Update. The Northside Plan Update represents a paradigm-shift for how LAX engages community stakeholders: it was the first time the airport truly asked the community what it wanted to see built in the area instead of simply presenting a plan created before public input was received. The project consists of the Northside Design Guidelines and Standards and the Draft Environmental Impact Report. The project's best features are its community-driven process, sustainability features, and incorporation of context-sensitive design that responded to community and private sector interests for more open space, native landscaping, and compatibly designed and scaled development. Through an early, iterative, and dynamic outreach process, the LAX Northside Plan Update increased the public's awareness of environmental issues and facilitated their role in the environmental planning, analysis, and review process. Rather than simply presenting information, LAWA hosted larger meetings in an open house format where participants could engage technical consultants, ask questions, and view early draft environmental findings. The final project received overwhelming support from various stakeholders, including those interest groups that typically oppose LAWA plans.

The Awards Jury was impressed with the quality of the materials and the 3-D model. It found the management of the sheer volume of stakeholder interests to be impressive. They noted that the comprehensiveness of the outreach program is evident in the small number of comments received on the EIR for the Plan.

OUTSTANDING AWARD

Inventory and Analysis of Coastal and Submerged Archaeological Site Occurrence on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf

Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (POCS)

Prepared by ICF International, SEARCH, Inc., Davis Geoarchaeological Research

The Inventory and Analysis study area consists of a 1-mile-wide strip of land along the coast stretching from the United States (U.S.)/Canadian border to the U.S./Mexican border and extending westward 200 miles. The inland study area differs from previous inventories, by extending the width to include a greater number of onshore historic archaeological and built properties, that might be subject to direct or indirect impacts resulting from offshore development. Understanding the distribution of cultural resources and resource types, as well as areas of high cultural resources sensitivity, will help BOEM identify areas along the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf that are suitable for renewable energy activities. On a project level, understanding cultural resources types and distribution of specific historic properties will help inform early decisions on site selection for individual projects.

The AEP Awards Jury gives kudos for such a proactive undertaking. The jury immediately discovered that this was a major effort – it pro-actively provides a detailed evaluation of off-shore submerged (and shore-front) cultural resources from northern WA through CA for use as a resource and planning document. This report was prepared for US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), pursuant to off-shore energy projects, but it would be useful for any project in the study area. The document is well-written, clearly organized and well-researched. The report is extensively cited to the source, to document the data and findings used. It uses state-of-the-art technical GIS methods and bathymetry.

AL REYNOLDS MEMORIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

John Nall

John Nall was the former Principal Environmental Specialist for the County of San Luis Obispo. John's distinguished career in environmental planning and service to AEP extends over decades and includes work in the public sector until his untimely passing in 2012.

Bill Henry, AICP Energy Specialist for San Luis Obispo County from 1986-1991, has this to say about John:

I've worked with many environmental professionals over the course of my career. If I could point to one person without hesitation as "the" example environmental planning professional who demonstrated the core values of our profession, who lifted and inspired professional confidence in those around him, who taught and inspired, who you would be proud to work with, and who truly loved his job and profession – the person I would point to is John Nall.

John inspired teamwork, camaraderie, and pragmatic approaches and solutions in difficult situations. John had an uncanny ability to identify with, work with, and ultimately earn the respect of engineers, architects, developers, politicians, and anyone else who found themselves in the environmental review process. John's ability to connect with people from many walks of life with widely varying objectives and intentions, enabled him to clearly and concisely convey complex processes, convey unpleasant news, and find reasonable and beneficial solutions in seemingly untenable situations. I believe the County's many environmental documents, projects, recommendations, and decisions were the better due to John's involvement.

Ellen L. Carroll, San Luis Obispo County Planning Manager/Environmental Coordinator said:

John was the ultimate ambassador for environmental protection and sustainability. By day he was known as the CEQA and land use planning Guru. He was a family man who loved and cherished his family and friends. On week-ends and vacations, John was the trusted leader of back country expeditions where he enjoyed California's rugged beauty. John lived his life with love and gusto for environmental stewardship that enable him to make such an incredible difference on so many projects and most importantly, on the quality of our lives.

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM – Session Block 1 – (Anacapa)

CEQA Tool Box**Compiling the Administrative Record: Requirements, Case Law and Practice Tips****CM | 1.5 MCLE | 1.0**

CEQA document preparers should be thinking about how to organize the administrative record from the very beginning of any CEQA project. When a lead agency anticipates that a CEQA document may be judicially challenged, extra care must be taken in compiling the CEQA administrative record. Getting the appropriate documents into the administrative record is very important, because its contents often determine CEQA litigation outcomes. The time and costs can be considerable, and case law is confusing on when documents can properly be withheld from the administrative record. The objectives of this session are to provide participants with a working understanding of statutory requirements for compiling the CEQA administrative record; when documents can be excluded based on the attorney-client, deliberative process, and other privileges; and reconciling sometimes conflicting case law interpretations. Expert panelists will share practical practice tips for effective compilation of the administrative record, from the perspectives of lead agencies, consultants, and attorneys. Practical advice will cover challenging topics such as how to handle Public Records Act requests, e-mails, hearing transcripts, administrative drafts, applicant communications, and documents in consultant files.

Moderator:

- » Al Herson, Of Counsel, Sohagi Law Group

Panelists:

- » Nicole Hoeksma Gordon, Partner, The Sohagi Law Group
- » Lloyd Zola, Partner, Metis Environmental Group

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM – Session Block 1 – (Santa Cruz)

Mitigation Banking**Advance Mitigation (Part 1) Planning Our Way to Success: The Practice and Promise****CM | 1.5**

When developing or improving infrastructure in ways that impact natural ecosystems, landscapes, and species, transportation agencies (as well as developers of land and other infrastructure) are required to contribute to the conservation of regional natural resources through compensatory mitigation. Traditionally, transportation agencies plan and implement environmental mitigation project-by-project and relatively late in project

development. Due to its piecemeal nature, the conventional approach can be more prone to delays, experience higher costs, and be less ecologically effective compared with mitigation planned earlier and across multiple projects. In contrast, advance mitigation planned regionally promises to reduce project delays and mitigation costs, and to improve mitigation quality by reflecting larger conservation goals and priorities. This session introduces the concept, theory and practice of advance mitigation planning; how it differs from traditional practices; and why it has increasingly attracted attention from planners and other stakeholders. Panelists provide a 360-degree look at this practice and its promises and challenges from the perspective of conservation interests, infrastructure project sponsors, and natural resource agencies with regulatory oversight.

Moderator:

- » Keith Greer, San Diego Association of Governments, Environmental Mitigation Program

Panelists:

- » Liz O'Donoghue, The Nature Conservancy – 10,000' ft view
- » Aaron Allen (USACE) – Regulatory Perspective (tentative)
- » Gian-Claudia Sciara – Business Case for Mitigating in Advance (advance acquisition)
- » Stuart Kirkham / Amy Bailey – Caltrans – Project Sponsor Perspective

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM — Session Block 1 — (Reagan Room)

Sustainability

AEP Climate Change Committee: Post 2020 Reduction Targets in Climate Action Plans

CM | 1.5

Cities and Counties are developing plans that look well beyond year 2020 and for consistency climate action plans need to set GHG reduction targets that match. However, a 2050 goal set by the State and the Kyoto Protocol is not technologically feasible. So what is a jurisdiction to do? This panel session will discuss legally defensible and feasible GHG reduction targets in Climate Action Plans (CAPs) and summarize the recently published AEP White Paper; "Setting Post 2020 Reduction Targets." The panel will then engage the audience in a debate on feasibility and legal adequacy of various types of post 2020 reduction targets that can be used in CAPs. The emphasis will be on problem solving for representatives of local jurisdictions within the audience.

Moderator:

- » Nicole Vermilion – PlaceWorks

Panelist:

- » Michael Hendrix – Atkins Global
- » Rich Walter – ICF International
- » David Mitchell – FCS International
- » Cheryl Laskowski, PhD – Atkins Global
- » Tammy Seale – PMC

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM – Session Block 1 – (Santa Rosa)

Land to Sea

Conservation Planning at a Watershed Scale – Demonstrated Examples of Regional Approaches

CM | 1.5

The term “watershed” is entering the public’s consciousness with the ever increasing challenges of water supply, climate change, natural disasters, and water quality. Regional approaches are receiving greater attention ranging from stormwater regulation to mitigation strategies to environmental education. Preservation with a regional focus rather than jurisdictional limits is gaining attention and support. This panel discussion will demonstrate successful regional conservation programs/models for a watershed approach to conservation, recreation, and water quality protection. Shawna Anderson, AICP, Principal Planner for the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority, will feature panelists with direct experience planning and implementing watershed-based natural parks in San Diego County – a region of 11 watersheds that drain to rivers, estuaries, and the Pacific Ocean.

Joining Shawna Anderson will be Cheryl Goddard, Program Manager for the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department; Robin Shifflet, Project Manager for the Park Planning Section of the City of San Diego’s Planning Department; and Mark Williams, Associate Principal at AECOM. The panelists represent broad regional planning experience with watersheds in San Diego County and with implementing regional open space river parks within diverse areas. The San Diego River Park Master Plan, completed in 2011, is the City of San Diego’s guide to future development along the 17.5 miles of the San Diego River - the vision to “Reclaim the valley as a common, a synergy of water, wildlife and people”. The San Dieguito River Park focused planning area lies within a 55-mile long rivershed through both urban and rural back country that is managed by a collaboration of six jurisdictions and multiple public and private land owners. The County has been integrating its habitat conservation planning with recreation planning and watershed-based stormwater management to better balance the needs and goals of each program.

Moderator:

- » Shawna Anderson, AICP, Principal Planner, San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority

Panelist:

- » Cheryl Goddard, Program Manager, County of San Diego Parks & Recreation
- » Robin Shifflet, Development Project Manager, City of San Diego Planning Department
- » Mark Williams, CPSWQ, CPESC, QSD, Associate Principal, Water Resources, AECOM

Integrated Planning, Restoration, and Public Access within the Santa Maria River Watershed

Bret McNulty, Central Coast Manager with RECON Environmental and former land use planner and project manager with Santa Barbara County will moderate a panel discussion identifying challenges and best practices related to integrated planning and public access in the Sisquoc/Cuyama/Santa Maria Rivers watershed and the effects on the residents of the City of Guadalupe. The session will provide an overview of the history of land use in this large, diverse watershed and generally describe the effects of Twitchell Dam, as well as urban and rural land uses on the river. Decision-maker and project proponent perspectives and factors separating residents from participation in restoration and eco-tourism planning efforts at nearby county, state and national parks including coastal access at Point Sal, the Santa Maria River, and Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. The panel will discuss overall coordination between the County of Santa Barbara, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other resource agencies for long term planning and management of surface and groundwater resources, a 146-acre wildland habitat restoration project along the seven-mile Santa Maria River Levee, and the effectiveness of capital projects in the region.

Moderator:

- » Bret McNulty, RECON Environmental

Panelists:

- » John Karamitsos, County of Santa Barbara, Project Clean Water Manager
- » Frances Romero, Central Coast Director of FORMA Design
- » Tom Fayram, Deputy Director of the Santa Barbara County Public Works Water Resources Division
- » Rachel Couch, Project Manager with the California Coastal Conservancy
- » Rob Hobbs, Senior Restoration Ecologist with RECON Environmental

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM – Session Block 2 – (Reagan Room)

CEQA Hot Topic

SB 743 Session #1 – City of Santa Barbara Land Use and Growth Management Program – How it Protects Community Values and Promotes Reduced Vehicle Miles Traveled.

CM | 1.5

The objective of this session is to learn growth management strategies for communities that are largely built out and at the limits of their traffic capacity. Attendees will come away with practical policies that have created economic growth, increased density and diversity of land uses, preserved roadway capacity, and established a rich mix of alternative transportation, all developed prior to the current CEQA direction for Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) focus. Using the City of Santa Barbara's recently adopted growth management ordinance based on the 2011 General Plan Sustainability Framework, speakers will highlight the strategies used to flexibly maximize density in a way that preserves limited traffic capacity. Speakers will also draw from the history of Santa Barbara's land use growth management, which has resulted in much infill development with high standards for historic preservation and architectural and landscape design. The program directs development to commercial areas with a healthy mix of uses and multi-modal mobility options. The traffic congestion standards that limit development options include Level of Service (LOS). The discussion will highlight how this policy approach works for Santa Barbara along with the new State direction on using VMT for CEQA environmental review. An experienced City Planner, Transportation Planner, and Private Development Consultant will each share their role, experience, and perspective developing, proposing, and implementing these innovative growth management strategies.

Moderator:

- » Bettie Weiss, City of Santa Barbara

Panelists:

- » Robert Dayton, City of Santa Barbara
- » Lisa Plowman, RRM Design

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM — Session Block 2 — (Anacapa)

Water Resources

Overcoming Overdraft: California’s New Groundwater Law

CM | 1.5 MCLE | 1.0

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act is the first legislation in California to regulate groundwater. It mandates the preparation by 2022 of “Groundwater Sustainability Plans” (GSPs) for more than 100 groundwater basins identified by the Department of Water Resources as “high priority” or “medium priority” basins. While enabling local agencies with considerable new powers—most notably the authority to assess fees and regulate pumping—it also imposes substantial responsibility on these agencies to collaborate, find solutions for overdraft, and achieve sustainability within 20 years. If local agencies fail to prepare or successfully implement a GSP to achieve sustainability in a basin identified as high or medium priority, the Act authorizes the State to manage that groundwater basin and regulate groundwater use. While building on previous groundwater management legislation, the Act now specifically acknowledges multiple benefits and uses of groundwater, including environmental uses, and compels collaboration between water agencies and planning agencies. This panel will present the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act from multiple perspectives: technical, legal, and planning. It will summarize the technical framework, including the factors used to identify basins subject to the Act, the identification of local agencies to develop GSPs, and the elements required in a GSP. Legal ramifications—and unresolved issues—will be discussed, including the potential for conflict with water rights, the role of the State Water Resources Control Board, the development of legislation to streamline adjudications of water rights, and the intersections between the Act and CEQA, such as requirements imposed by SB 610 and 221 on certain large developments. The panel will also discuss the Act’s requirements for enhanced coordination between water agencies and land use planning agencies, the role of the local general plan, and strategies for improving planning/water agency collaboration.

Moderator:

- » Iris Priestaf, Todd Groundwater

Panelists:

- » Stephanie Hastings, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
- » Pete Parkinson, AICP

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM – Session Block 2 – (Santa Cruz)

Sustainability**Global Sustainability Across the Centuries - Strategies and Solutions****CM | 1.5**

This session will provide an overview of sustainability practices and principles in the United States from ancient times to the present. It will have two parts, the first will provide an international historical perspective on sustainability utilized by different cultures around the world during the past four thousand years (e.g., Inca, Roman, Greece, China, etc.). The second part will explain the sustainability movement in the United States referencing major historical figures such as Daniel Burnham and Frederick Law Olmstead along with major movements (“City Beautiful”, etc.) and developments or improvements which incorporated sustainability into their design, or represented landmark achievements in the field of sustainability. The focus of this session will be on historical changes and trends rather than details of technical improvements or characteristics of specific projects. The attendees will obtain an expanded appreciation of the long history of sustainable practices in the world and specifically in the U.S. Don’t forget your passport!!

Moderator:

» Kent Norton, LSA

Panelists:

» Katheryn Best, LSA

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM – Session Block 2 – (Santa Rosa)

Land to Sea**Completing the California Coastal Trail: Lessons Learned in Coordinated Planning for Coastal Access****CM | 1.5**

The California Coastal Act was enacted in 1976 by the State Legislature to provide long-term protection of California’s spectacular 1,100-mile coastline and to enhance public access to the coast. Coastal Act policies and programs initiated formal planning for the California Coastal Trail and continue to provide an important framework to maximize appropriate shoreline public access and recreation. As the 40-year anniversary of the Coastal Act approaches, this panel will discuss the current status of the California Coastal Trail statewide, as well as the opportunities and challenges associated with implementing the California Coastal Trail and connecting trails statewide. This panel will discuss transferable strategies for a balanced and resource-sensitive approach to coordinated planning for

coastal access, drawing from the panel's experience as planners, agency officials, and non-profit organizers.

This panel will explore lessons-learned from recent experience with planning, acquiring, designing, funding, permitting and assessing the environmental impacts of portions of the California Coastal Trail and connecting trails. The panel will also describe methods for minimizing environmental impacts and political hurdles, with special attention to real and perceived land use conflicts with adjacent property owners. As case studies, the panel will look at a bluff top alignment of the Coastal Trail on Ellwood Mesa in the City of Goleta, the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail in Santa Cruz County, and the Chorro Valley Trail in San Luis Obispo County. The session will be interactive and panelists will shape the discussion based on questions from the audience.

Moderator:

- » Ben Botkin, AMEC

Panelists:

- » Dan Gira, AMEC
- » Rachel Couch, California Coastal Conservancy
- » Jonathan Berlin, Rincon Consultants
- » Megan Jones, Rincon Consultants

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM — Session Block 3 — (Anacapa)

CEQA Tool Box

Sustainable and Resilient Landscapes by Geodesign

CM | 1.5

We are facing unprecedented levels of change and uncertainty: extreme weather, drought, floods, fire, invasive species, pollution, sea level rise, and shifts in demographics - these inherently spatial processes don't obey our manmade boundaries or the silos into which we divide our disciplines. We need an integrative, cross-disciplinary, systems approach to environmental planning based on values and science that help us make informed decisions. At the same time, we need a creative, iterative approach to planning that helps us test the impact of these decisions before we make a decision. That is what geodesign is all about.

This session will provide an understanding of the concept and practice of geodesign and supporting technologies and allow the participants to learn about strategic green infrastructure planning and climate adaptation as geodesign application areas.

Geodesign provides a framework and supporting technology for environmental planners and design professionals to leverage the power of GIS and the inspiration of the natural environment to create plans and designs that respect natural systems and social needs.

This session is comprised of an expert panel who will share a diversity of perspectives that will help illuminate how you can use the geodesign framework and data you already have to enhance your ability to identify issues, assess conditions, compare alternative scenarios, and make better, more informed decisions to improve the lives of people while protecting the environment.

The session will draw from research and case studies to provide you with an update into the latest trends in GIS, discuss how to take advantage of best practices, and show how you can use geodesign to gain significant improvements in your planning and environmental review processes.

Moderator:

- » Terri McCracken, Senior Associate, PlaceWorks

Panelists:

- » Rob Matthews, AICP, Geodesign Practice Manager, Esri
- » Rob Mazur, GIS Assistant Manager, PlaceWorks

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM – Session Block 3 – (Santa Cruz)

Water Resources

Creating Sustainable Communities Through Stormwater LID Management

CM | 1.5 MCLE | 1.0

Why should a CEQA/NEPA practitioner or planner be interested in stormwater management? This year continues implementation of new state and federal stormwater laws pertaining to development. SB 1168 also requires recharge in areas of groundwater withdrawals; stormwater management is an excellent starting point. Does CEQA require on-site stormwater management? What direction have the General Construction, Industrial and Municipal Permits been taking, what are 'post construction' regulations and what is a jurisdictions' responsibility to correctly implement these new requirements? How do we review development and applying CEQA to projects with or without on-site stormwater designs? And what does 'LID' really mean?

Stormwater management strategies can effectively capture runoff in urban and rural environments and create positive community benefits. Site specific, neighborhood and community scaled approaches to urban and rural stormwater management will

be discussed. There have been excellent examples of low impact development (LID) stormwater features that have been built into city parks, streetscapes and in private development landscapes. What works and doesn't work? What have we learned in the last couple of years? Are their practices and types of projects that have/don't have a good track record? How can jurisdictions encourage replacement of water and fertilizer intensive landscaping with one that is beautiful, eco-friendly, water-wise and low maintenance? How do we provide protection of streams and wetlands from urban overflow and culvert discharges? How can we return our urban landscapes into a functioning watershed? These and more questions will be answered during this session.

Moderator:

- » Bob Brown, AICP

Panelists:

- » Douglas Kent, Douglas Kent & Associates
- » Sarah Sutton, ASLA, LEED AP, BFQLP, PlaceWorks

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM — Session Block 3 — (Santa Rosa)

Sustainability

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle: Issues and Impacts of Urban Infill Development in Established California Communities

CM | 1.5

In California, developable land is scarce. Building booms in Southern California and Silicon Valley accommodated increasing demands for urban development to an extent that many communities have “built out” under the land use policy and regulations established 10, 20, or even 30 years ago. Looking ahead 30 years and beyond, many communities now grapple with how best to accommodate the demands of future generations for housing, employment, and business opportunities within fully-developed areas. With directives from state and local policymakers to focus development within existing communities to limit sprawl and reduce associated vehicle miles traveled, reuse of underutilized downtown sites and aging suburban industrial parks is becoming a common answer to revitalize mixed use areas and attract new high-tech employers. However, what surprising issues and environmental impacts may arise when a compact development land use model necessitates a mix of uses within a smaller area, a reuse of sites that have been previously used for urban uses, and a recycling of older buildings and infrastructure to accommodate new uses while retaining the historic or aesthetic value of an older building?

This panel will cover a range of unique issues and impacts that arise for urban environmental projects in built out communities. Based on recent hands-on experience with urban infill development and industrial reuse projects in Downtown Santa Monica, San Luis Obispo, Hermosa Beach, and West Sacramento, topics will include site access, adaptive reuse of historic structures, solar access, assessment of aging utilities, regional transit connections, and community engagement in the planning and impact assessment process. The panel will address the tradeoffs in various approaches, the use of existing environmental documents to streamline CEQA reviews, stakeholder outreach strategies, and the challenges facing urban infill projects while drawing from the panel's experience as environmental consultants, agency staff, and land use planners.

Moderator:

- » Erika Leachman, Amec Foster Wheeler
- » Matt Maddox, Rincon Consultants

Panelists:

- » Derek Johnson, City of San Luis Obispo
- » Ken Robertson, City of Hermosa Beach
- » Rachel Kwok, City of Santa Monica
- » Aaron Laurel, City of West Sacramento

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM — Session Block 3 — (Vineyard)

Student and Emerging Professionals

Resume Building and Networking for Students, Recent Graduates, and Emerging Environmental and Planning Professionals

This session is intended to provide an interactive forum for students, recent graduates, and emerging environmental and planning professionals, on how to draft a clean, concise, and informative resume in order to highlight the strengths and experience as an applicant. Drawing upon expertise, advice, and tips from a diverse panel of speakers that hold upper management level positions, you'll find out what works and what doesn't when it comes to the art of resume building and what it takes to get your resume noticed. The panel will share what they look for when reviewing resumes and highlight common mistakes often seen in resumes. In addition to resume building, this session will also include a discussion on the importance of networking. Recognizing that networking can be a valuable and useful skill when entering the profession, the panel will share tips on how to begin networking and ways to get involved. Overall, this discussion will benefit the audience's understanding on ways to improve their resume and how to begin developing professional relationships through networking.

Moderator:

- » Ricky Caperton, Project Planner, PlaceWorks

Panelists:

- » Ryan Hostetter, Senior Planner, County of San Luis Obispo
- » Henry Pontarelli, Vice President, Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc.
- » David Parker, Director of Career Development and Alumni Relations, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM – Session Block 4 – (Anacapa)

CEQA Hot Topic**Tribal Cultural Resources in CEQA – AB 52 Explained****CM | 1.5 MCLE | 1.0**

This dynamic panel will detail features and requirements of the new CEQA law on avoidance, preservation or mitigation of Tribal Cultural Resources, AB 52, and discuss strategies for preparing, entering into, and concluding consultation with Tribal Governments. If you are an environmental consultant, public agency representative, developer, or legal counsel who may have tribal cultural resources in your CEQA documents, then this presentation is for you. This panel will answer the following questions: What is AB 52, and how does it work? When does the law go into effect? What is the impact on my current environmental document? How do I consult with Tribal Governments? What is the role of the Lead Agency, the Project Proponent, and the California Native American Tribe in the consultation process? Come hear from a diverse panel of CEQA practitioners, the Chair of the Native American Heritage Commission, and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and bring your questions!

Moderator:

- » Holly Roberson, JD, OPR

Panelists:

- » Sarah Owsowitz, JD, Best Best & Krieger LLP
- » Nisha Been, AICP, Circlepoint
- » Andee Leisy, JD, Remy, Moose Manley LLP
- » Laura Miranda, Esq., UCLA Law School

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM – Session Block 4 – (Santa Cruz)

Water Resources
Short and Long Term Strategies to Address Groundwater Supply Shortages in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, San Luis Obispo County
CM | 1.5

San Luis Obispo County, like most of California, is in the midst of an “exceptional drought” that has lowered water levels in its lakes, reservoirs and groundwater basins. In particular, the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (Paso Basin) has experienced dropping groundwater levels over several decades, due in part to population growth and a shift in agricultural use. In response, the County is taking a number of strategic actions to stabilize water levels.

The short-term strategy is to slow the current rate of decline of the Paso Basin, while a long-term approach to sustainable management of the basin is identified. Learn about the challenges and opportunities of this multi-pronged approach to the issue of water supply in an area where dropping groundwater levels are endangering private and public wells and the land uses dependent on them. Paul Sorensen, Principal Hydrogeologist with Fugro Consultants, Inc., will describe existing and historical groundwater conditions in the basin and the studies conducted that form the framework for understanding the basin yield. James Caruso, Senior Planner with San Luis Obispo County, will describe the County Wide Water Program, which will address short-term groundwater supply issues, while also balancing local land owners concerns regarding individual water and property rights. Courtney Howard, Senior Water Resources Engineer with San Luis Obispo County, will describe the ongoing Paso Basin Supplemental Water Supply Options Study, which will identify sustainable, long term sources of supply, and the efforts of local proponents to establish a Water District to manage groundwater supplies in the Paso Basin. Jennifer Haddow, Senior Scientist with Rincon Consultants, Inc., will describe the CEQA compliance approach being used for the County Wide Water Program and the lessons learned from that process. She will also describe the environmental constraints approach being used for the water supply options study.

Moderator:

- » Jennifer Haddow, Rincon Consultants

Panelists:

- » Paul Sorensen, Fugro Consultants
- » Xzandrea Fowler, San Luis Obispo County
- » Courtney Howard, San Luis Obispo County

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM — Session Block 4 — (Santa Rosa)

Sustainability

AEP Climate Change Committee: Post 2020 Reduction Targets in Climate Action Plans

CM | 1.5

Local governments across the United States are being urged by community members to prioritize sustainable growth through local jobs, improved quality of life, and clean energy. At the same time, cities and counties must address real risks to their communities, particularly climate hazards and resource scarcities. Climate and clean energy planning has the potential to address these needs simultaneously. Administrators must be deliberate about how these plans are developed and applied to ensure community buy-in and prioritization of implementable strategies for change. The future proofing approach to climate and clean energy planning for local governments is one founded in technically-

sound baseline analysis. Atkins typically initiates the process with an inventory of energy use, water consumption, emissions, community health, economic activities, and forecast based on specific growth scenarios. Complementary to that baseline analysis is comprehensive stakeholder engagement and policy review to document community priorities, constraints/obstacles, incentives, and best management practices. It can also include an economic analysis of existing clean energy companies and/or projects or a renewable energy resource assessment. For communities particularly focused on climate hazards, a deep analysis and ranking of current climate related risks is included. Once the baseline analysis is completed, we work in partnership with local governments to establish a range of goals focused on GHG/air pollutant emissions reduction, community health index improvements, water conservation, energy efficiency/conservation, sustainability, and climate risk reduction. Atkins will demonstrate our approach to future proofing and provide important lessons learned through our planning work with two regional government associations – the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) and the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG). For SBCCOG, Atkins is developing climate and clean energy plans for the 15 cities and sub-region. Atkins is working with SANBAG on the development of climate action plan implementation tools for 21 participating cities.

Moderator:

- » Michael Hendrix, Atkins

Panelists:

- » Josh Lee, SANBAG
- » Tabitha Kevari, City of Redlands
- » Jacki Bacharach, South Bay Cities COG
- » Cheryl Laskowski, Atkins

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM – Session Block 4 – (Reagan Room)

Land to Sea

The Road Less Traveled - Achieving Coastal Permitting Approval Through Development of A Public Works Plan

CM | 1.5 MCLE | 1.0

The North Coast Corridor (NCC) is a 27-mile-long transportation corridor in northern San Diego County. This transportation corridor includes both Interstate 5 and the LOSSAN rail corridor, which is the second busiest intercity passenger rail corridor in the United States. It is the economic lifeline for the region and carries over 700,000 people a day. The existing infrastructure is focused on single occupant vehicles and the interstate is heavily congested throughout the day including weekends. Additionally, approximately 50 percent of the LOSSAN corridor is single track, which creates inefficiency and limits the region's ability to add new train service.

To balance the corridor's transportation needs while preserving one of California's most scenic coastal areas, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) prepared the NCC Public Works Plan and Transportation and Resource Enhancement Program (PWP/TREP). This plan was the result of a unique collaboration between the project sponsors, USEPA, state and federal resource agencies, the California Coastal Commission, local jurisdictions, and the public. The NCC PWP/TREP provides a single integrated document that establishes a framework for the comprehensive planning, reviewing, and permitting of the NCC's transportation, community, and resource enhancement projects, and is an alternative coastal permitting vehicle to the more than 80 individual coastal development permits spanning multiple jurisdictions that otherwise would be required. The decade-long effort culminated in August 2014 with the California Coastal Commission unanimously adopting the plan for the 30-year, approximately \$6 billion package of integrated highway, rail, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, and environmental enhancements.

The panel will present on the benefits and lessons learned during the intensive, collaborative approach, and offer insight into the technical strategies and solutions assessed and implemented to achieve consistency under the Coastal Act.

Moderator:

- » Alison Evans, AICP, Dudek

Panelists:

- » April Winecki, Dudek
- » Steven Kaufmann, Richards, Watson & Gershon
- » Keith Greer
- » Allan Kosup, Caltrans District 11

Surfing the Waves with the California Coastal Commission

Surfing the Waves with the California Coastal Commission will start with a summary of the California Coastal Act, its recent expansion of policies (e.g. wetlands, water quality, and sea level rise), and the Coastal Commission application process. The panelists will present public and private project examples to illustrate issues and solutions related to local coastal plan (LCP) updates and coastal development permits, while also covering the Coastal Commission's CEQA equivalency process as a certified regulatory process agency. Issues to be discussed include problems related to early consultation with Coastal Commission staff, the application review process, the appeal process, LCP updates, policy interpretations, and precedent setting concerns. However, the focus of the presentation will be on offering solutions – how to avoid delays, how best to work with staff, and how to provide alternative methods for making your project consistent with Coastal Act policies. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own questions, issues, and solutions.

Moderators:

- » Tanya Sundberg, PlaceWorks
- » Alex Lopez, PlaceWorks

Panelists:

- » Patrick Alford
- » Anne Blemker
- » Bob Brown, AICP

Navigating the Coastal Act/CEQA Equivalency Process: A Tale of Two State Agencies

The presentation will focus on a case study involving a Consent and Desist Order and Restoration Order issued to the 22nd District Agricultural Association (aka: Del Mar Fairgrounds) by the California Coastal Commission. The topics to be discussed include:

1. Jurisdictional background of the 22nd DAA and the Coastal Commission – The presentation will start with a brief overview of the permit history of the 22nd DAA going back to the start of the Coastal Act, original jurisdiction, the position of 22nd DAA, violations, and issues with Coastal Commission.
2. Consent Cease and Desist and Restoration Orders Agreement- The panel will address how the Consent Orders came about, basic requirements, and expectations following agreement.
3. Restoration Plans and Coastal Development Permits (CDPs)-The panel will briefly discuss the South Overflow Lot restoration plan, regulations for EOL, temporary uses study.
4. Lessons learned – The presentation will close with thoughts on how other agencies can apply the experience gained by the 22nd DAA to their applications for CDPs.

Panelists:

- » Dustin Fuller
- » Greg Konar
- » Anne Blemker

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM — Session Block 5 — (Reagan Room)

CEQA Toolbox

Health Impacts, CEQA, and Planning

CM | 1.5 MCLE | 1.0

Court decisions, state agency guidance, Healthy Communities movement, and public insistence are increasing the importance of health-related impacts in CEQA reviews and healthy community considerations in planning. Often related to hazardous materials or air quality (including toxic air contaminants), increased health risk exposure is showing up as an impact in more CEQA documents each year. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment has released updated Health Risk Assessment protocols and the geo-referenced database, CalEnviroScreen, which contribute to information available for analytical method decisions and substantial evidence. . The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) is preparing an update of 2003 Guidelines with new guidance on Healthy Community Planning, Community Engagement, and Social Equity in planning. This panel will explore recent CEQA court decisions, the status of pending Supreme Court decisions, state guidance, and best planning and environmental practices to help practitioners keep up with this evolving issue.

Moderator:

- » Curtis Alling, Ascent Environmental

Panelists:

- » Elizabeth Baca, MD, MPA, OPR
- » Larry Greene, Sacramento MAQMD
- » Jim Moose, Esq., Remy Moose Manley LLP

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM — Session Block 5 — (Anacapa)

Water Resources

The Role of Seawater Desalination in California's Water Supply Portfolio

CM | 1.5

In light of current drought conditions, and increasing pressures on water supplies in California, identifying and developing additional or alternative supplies, such as seawater desalination, wastewater reclamation, and ground water is a necessity, as these sources are becoming more important factors in our overall water supply portfolio. Of these emerging water supply sources, only seawater desalination has a virtually unlimited source: the Pacific Ocean. An integrated approach to water supply management in California will inevitably include seawater desalination as a component – the size and

amount of which depends on the location, supply status and other factors affecting localized supply and demand. While technology for seawater desalination is advancing, making it more feasible, efficient and cost effective, the regulatory processing and environmental issues surrounding it have grown more complex; representing the greatest challenges in developing seawater desalination in California. This presentation will give a summary of the issues driving the complex regulatory framework that results in extensive processing and permitting time frames, and significant costs associated with regulatory compliance. The primary environmental considerations include: Salinity Effects, Marine Biological Effects, Project Alternatives, and Energy Use/Greenhouse Gas Emissions. There are several projects that have been in various stages of development in California for many years, including a facility that was constructed and operated in the City of Santa Barbara – host City for the conference. One other regional-scale desalination facility – a 50 mgd desalination plant- is currently under construction in Carlsbad. These projects will serve as case studies to illustrate different aspects of these issues.

Moderator:

- » Joe Monaco, Dudek

Panelists:

- » Sara Iza, City of Santa Barbara
- » Jill Weinberger PhD, Dudek
- » Melissa Hetrick, Dudek

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Session Block 5 – (Santa Cruz)

Sustainability

The Sun Also Rises: Successful Permitting and Compliance at a Large-Scale Solar Facility

CM | 1.5

In recent years there has been an increase in the development of large-scale alternative energy projects in California. With the approval and construction of these projects come a wide variety of challenges pertaining to permitting and compliance. The Topaz Solar Farm is a 550 megawatt solar energy project located in eastern San Luis Obispo County, California. The project site on the Carrizo Plains presents a unique set of challenges and opportunities because it contains a high diversity of natural resources, including federally and state threatened and endangered species, California species of special concern, drainages, and vernal pools. In order to ensure compliance with FESA, CESA, NEPA/CEQA, and other federal, state, and county regulations, project biologists had to develop and implement a variety of management plans, monitoring protocols, and employee awareness and training programs. Through the planning and permitting process, the project design was developed to facilitate use of areas within and through the project for local wildlife

species, but also to invite specific species use. Operational strategies were developed to maintain excellent environmental stewardship and increase use of the general area by a variety of wildlife species. An overview will be given of the development of a large-scale solar facility that is an example of superior environmental stewardship. To illustrate the challenges of permitting and compliance on such a large and complicated project, we will discuss our successful efforts to monitor and protect wildlife and other natural resources including San Joaquin Kit Fox, Burrowing Owl, and nesting birds. Construction of the solar facility began in 2011 and was completed in 2014.

Moderator:

- » Jessica Griffiths, Biologist, Althouse and Meade, Inc.

Panelists:

- » Wendy Greene, Environmental Compliance Manager, Topaz Solar Farms.
- » Dan Meade, Principal Scientist, Althouse and Meade, Inc.

Reconciling Local, State, and Federal Mandates for Renewable Energy Production with Public Policies to Preserve Agricultural Resources

Federal, state, and local laws promulgate greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reduction targets including the reduction of reliance on non-renewable energy production, including California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirement for publicly and privately held utilities to increase procurement from eligible renewable energy resources to 33% of total procurement by 2020.

Similar public programs and policies address agricultural preservation. The California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Management Program (FMMP) designates important farmlands when planning present and future uses for California's agricultural land resources. The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, commonly referred to as the Williamson Act, enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of conserving agricultural lands in return for reduced property tax assessments. The Agricultural Element of Santa Barbara County includes a goal that the County, "...shall assure and enhance the continuation of agriculture as a major viable production industry in Santa Barbara County."

This panel will discuss Santa Barbara County's newly adopted renewable energy program to permit utility-scale solar energy facilities upon certain agricultural lands within the County and the Cuyama Solar Facility Project, the County's first approved 40 Megawatt utility-scale solar energy project located upon Williamson Act contracted agricultural lands. The panel will highlight the program's design to balance these two important policy objectives. The panelists will discuss the process of a Williamson Act contract cancellation related to renewable energy production and important agency and stakeholder collaboration throughout this planning process.

CEQA Project Manager Rita Bright, AMEC Foster Wheeler, would lead this panel alongside Kevin Drude, Santa Barbara County Planning and Development, and Laurel Perez, Planning Principal, SEPPS.

Moderator:

- » Rita Bright, AMEC

Panelists:

- » Kevin Drude, Deputy Director of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division, County of Santa Barbara
- » Laurel Perez, Principal Planner and Partner, Suzanne Elledge Planning & Permitting Services, Inc.

Mitigating impacts to avian and terrestrial species from renewable energy development

Renewable energy development can result in impacts to biological resources during both construction and operations. Direct impacts associated with removal of habitat and potential loss of individual plants and animals with construction is relatively straightforward to quantify. Many solar developers choose sites based on biological resource constraints and develop highly disturbed or agricultural habitats, thereby minimizing impacts to native habitats and species. Federal guidelines are available to assist with locating wind farms such that development would minimize impacts. Most projects that do impact native habitats are required by regulators to preserve similar habitats as a condition of permit issuance. In cases where permits are not required, requirements for habitat compensation are often left to the lead CEQA agency. Operational impacts of wind energy projects, particularly on avian and bat species, have been well studied and analyzed, and these data inform more sensitive development. It has been more difficult to predict the operational impacts associated with large-scale solar development as little information has been available until recently. Potential avian mortality associated with solar facilities has been identified in environmental documents for most projects. Mitigation measures to reduce impacts typically include implementation of an Avian Monitoring and Management Plan in addition to physical deterrents from attractive structures and potentially toxic water bodies. Actual risk of avian mortality associated with large solar facilities was unknown at the time many project impacts were analyzed. As construction is completed, reports from avian monitoring are becoming available and numerous fatalities have occurred at some desert facilities, including waterbirds that would not be expected given a lack of aquatic habitat in the area. The cause of these fatalities and methods to prevent them is still being studied, and remains a primary challenge to understanding and minimizing impacts of proposed solar development to sensitive biological resources.

Panelist:

- » Angie Harbin-Ireland, Senior Biologist, AMEC

Land to Sea

Review of Subtidal and Intertidal Habitat Compensatory Mitigation Approaches

CM | 1.5

AMEC Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. (AMEC) supported the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) in the preparation of an Analysis of Public Trust Resources (APTR) to evaluate the potential impacts of a 600,000 cubic yard (cy) beach nourishment project at Broad Beach in the City of Malibu. The APTR identifies potentially substantial and unavoidable direct and indirect impacts to rocky intertidal and subtidal habitats as a consequence of burial and increased turbidity resulting from implementation of the proposed beach nourishment. Impacts include loss of surfgrass (*Phyllospadix* sp.) in Lechuza Cove and potential increased turbidity and/or post-construction sand redistribution to affected subtidal reefs areas and offshore eelgrass beds (*Zostera* sp.).

In order to provide options to CSLC for appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, AMEC prepared a review of subtidal and intertidal habitat mitigation measures to facilitate comparison between potential approaches for minimizing or offsetting impacts to offshore and intertidal marine habitats. This review describes the issues surrounding each of the approaches to compensatory mitigation and provides examples of past mitigation projects for impacts to intertidal and subtidal marine habitats. Given the ecological value of marine aquatic habitats such as surfgrass and rocky reefs, public resource management agencies generally emphasize avoidance of impacts where possible. Where avoidance is not possible, resource management agencies typically employ four approaches as compensatory mitigation for impacts to marine biological resources: (1) restoration; (2) enhancement; (3) establishment; and (4) preservation. Additionally, there are three mechanisms for providing compensatory mitigation: (1) permittee-responsible compensatory mitigation; (2) mitigation banks; and (3) in-lieu fee mitigation. The review presents each of these approaches and generally finds that certain approaches or combinations of approaches suit some habitat types more appropriately than others. Further, each of these approaches includes complex issues associated with biological science, public perception, and the existing regulatory environment.

Moderator:

- » Nick Meisinger, AMEC

Panelists:

- » Dan Gira, AMEC
- » Bryant Chesney, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

Lessons Learned from Shoreline Management in Santa Barbara and Malibu

Public parks, private homes and all types of development along California's 1,100 mile long coast are facing major challenges regarding coastal erosion, sea level rise, shoreline protection or managed retreat and the role and utility of beach nourishment in addressing such issues. Shoreline erosion is increasingly threatening many public and private coastal improvements with this trend projected to increase with sea level rise. Coastal protection structures have historically offered one route to protect coastal development, but can involve tradeoffs with impacts to natural processes, sand supply and public access. The banner of managed retreat has been raised by many agencies and environmental organizations, but is the public willing to surrender treasured coastal parks or private property owners billions of dollars in beloved shoreline homes? Beach nourishment offers a potentially compromise soft solution too coastal protection, but may damage rocky marine habitats and sand for such projects is increasing scarce and coveted.

This panel will discuss lessons-learned from recent experience with shoreline management, including protection versus managed retreat and the pitfalls, benefits, and limitations of beach nourishment. The panel will address the tradeoffs in various approaches and the challenges facing each based on hands on recent experience with major shoreline management projects. This panel will discuss rethinking coastal protection techniques in the age of sea level rise, how to manage beach nourishment in a more sustainable manner given California's unidirectional longshore drift and the role of and tradeoffs associated with managed retreat drawing from the panel's experience as environmental consultants, agency officials, and coastal engineers. CEQA Program Manager Dan Gira, AMEC Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. would moderate this panel alongside Chris Webb, Supervisory Coastal Scientist from Moffatt & Nichol engineers and Melissa Ahrens from MRS.

Moderator:

- » Dan Gira, AMEC

Panelists:

- » Chris Webb, Moffatt & Nichol
- » Melissa Ahrens, Marine Research Specialists

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM – Session Block 6 – (Reagan Room)

CEQA Tool Box

Master Planning CEQA: Addressing a 20-Year Master Plan Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and State Revolving Fund (SRF) Funding

CM | 1.5 MCLE | 1.0

California's drought has launched a new urgency to create sustainable water supplies. To support this goal, the State Water Resources Control Board provides low interest loans from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) to assist agencies in funding infrastructure improvements. Because funding is derived from federal sources, SRF applications require detailed environmental review, often called "CEQA Plus". Master plans that include a capital improvements program (CIP) with numerous individual projects present a challenge for CEQA compliance and SRF funding. Early consideration of CEQA strategy can facilitate implementation of both immediate, high-priority CIP projects and long-term projects, streamlining the SRF application and CEQA environmental reviews. This presentation describes the successful approach used for environmental screening, CEQA review, and SRF applications for a Bay Area wastewater utility master plan. The West County Wastewater District's District-Wide Master Plan, prepared by Carollo Engineers, presents a 20-year CIP that addresses repair and replacement of existing infrastructure, new facilities to meet anticipated regulations, collection system improvements, and new administrative buildings. The Master Plan CIP includes over 30 projects at the water pollution control plant and hundreds of collection system projects throughout its 17 square mile service area. CEQA planning included screening CIP projects for environmental constraints and independent utility to shorten the timeline for initial SRF application review and initiate high-priority projects. The Master Plan EIR provides both programmatic review of the Master Plan and project-level evaluation of near-term projects. Thus the Master Plan EIR examines the cumulative impact of the Master Plan as a whole and provides the detailed CEQA analysis required for subsequent SRF applications. The Master Plan EIR also provides the framework to streamline the CEQA review of anticipated future projects when project design is complete.

Moderator:

- » Julie Moore, ESA

Panelists:

- » Jill Hamilton, ESA
- » Leslie Lowe, AICP
- » Terrence Grindall, Assistant City Manager, City of Newark

Get with the Program: Effectively Preparing and Using Programmatic CEQA Documents

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) allows the preparation of programmatic environmental impact reports (EIRs) and mitigated negative declarations (MNDs) when a project consists of a series of related actions. The benefits of such documents are that they allow a comprehensive examination of a project and promote “tiering” when later actions contemplated by the project are undertaken. Tiering can expedite environmental review by eliminating repetitive analysis of issues adequately addressed in the program EIR or MND. This panel will discuss the preparation of programmatic environmental documents and explain when tiering may be appropriate using examples from a variety of project types, including specific plans, housing developments, and utility infrastructure planning. It will present a case-study of CEQA documents selected for the West County Wastewater District’s District-Wide Master Plan that address a 20-year capital improvement program (CIP) consisting of hundreds of projects, while also satisfying the detailed environmental review, often called “CEQA Plus,” required to obtain low interest loans through the State Water Resources Control Board State Revolving Fund (SRF). The panel will then address how courts review an agency’s choice to prepare program-level CEQA review and later choice to prepare tiered environmental review. Two recent cases, *Town of Atherton v. California High-Speed Rail Authority* (2014) 228 Cal.App.4th 314 and *Citizens for a Sustainable Treasure Island v. City and County of San Francisco* (2014) 227 Cal.App.4th 1036, clarify when preparation of a program EIR is appropriate. Other cases, including *Concerned Dublin Citizens v. City of Dublin* (2013) 214 Cal.App.4th 1301 and *Citizens Against Airport Pollution v. City of San Jose* (2014) 227 Cal.App.4th 788, clarify the standard of review for the choice to prepare tiered CEQA documents. Finally, the City of Newark will discuss the quagmire that results when a Court becomes confused about the law concerning program EIRs.

Moderator:

- » Linda Klein, JD, Cox Castle Nicholson

Water Resources

Shifting Perception of Water Reuse in Southern California

CM | 1.5 MCLE | 1.0

The current drought has brought into sharp relief the importance of diversifying Southern California's available water sources. One of the most reliable and drought-resistant water sources is water reuse. Unfortunately, strong negative perceptions of water reuse (also known as indirect potable reuse or recycled wastewater) have prevented water agencies from implementing water reuse projects. The presentation will focus on advanced treated wastewater that is used to augment drinking water supplies in reservoirs, aquifers and rivers. The purpose of the presentation is to understand the factors that influence public perception towards accepting or rejecting water reuse projects in Southern California in order to promote the successful public acceptance of future water reuse projects. An examination of perception literature, focusing on water reuse, behavior, risk determination and heuristics, reveals common factors that influence perception: that there is a perceived inverse relationship between risk and benefit, disgust greatly influences concerns about water reuse, social norms, trust and choice all affect the acceptance of water reuse, and presentation of information is as important as the information provided. Additional analysis of case studies of both successful and failed water reuse project in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties finds that consistency of messaging and terminology along with research on the community also impact acceptance of water reuse projects. These findings are supported by the analysis of the survey data from the Orange County Water District's tour of its Advanced Purified Water Facility. The conclusions in this presentation can be used for developing community outreach strategies for future water reuse projects in an effort to create positive public perception towards water reuse.

Panelists:

» Ashley Brodtkin, Kimley-Horn

Whiskey is for drinking; Water is for Fighting Over: The Saga of the Cadiz Litigation 2.0

In August 2014, an Orange County Superior Court judge issued rulings in six related lawsuits concerning the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery and Storage Project. The Cadiz project has been contentious, with several lawsuits filed by labor unions, environmental groups and a private salt mining company. As described by proponents, the Cadiz project is a public-private partnership between the Santa Margarita Water District and Cadiz, Inc. designed to manage a groundwater basin in San Bernardino County, capturing groundwater that would ultimately flow to hyper-saline lakes and evaporate. As described by opponents, they argue the Project is a water mining and privatization scheme that will harm a fragile desert ecosystem and fuel unsustainable growth. Given the years of controversy, a wide variety of CEQA, water and other issues were considered

by Judge Gail Andler, who ultimately upheld the agencies' decisions in all of the lawsuits. The proposed panel constitutes attorneys on both sides of the lawsuits and the CEQA consultant. They will discuss the Project history, litigation and the important issues litigated, including CEQA lead agency selection for public-private partnerships, CEQA review of early project approvals, and the scope of lead agency discretion to define EIR terms such as "water conservation" versus "waste." In a timely discussion in light of recent groundwater legislation, the panel will also discuss important groundwater management issues, including implementation and enforcement of local groundwater regulations, methodologies for determining groundwater overdraft and policy issues surrounding groundwater extraction, water privatization and out-of-district water transfers. Panel: Michelle Ouellette, Best Best & Krieger LLP; Diane DeFelice, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck; Leslie Moulton, Environmental Science Associates

Moderator:

- » Michelle Ouellette, Best Best & Krieger LLP

Panelists:

- » Diane De Felice, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP
- » Leslie Moulton, ESA

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM — Session Block 6 — (Santa Cruz)

Cultural Resources

Unlocking the Black Box: Strategies to Effectively Identify, Preserve, and Mitigate Cultural Resources under CEQA and Section 106

CM | 1.5

Effective management of California's cultural resources requires proactive strategies to ensure their early identification, close collaboration with design professionals and engineers, consultation with Native Californians, and compliance with legal mandates including CEQA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This session will share several success stories as related by cultural resource managers, planners, agency staff, and a Native California elder. Discussion will cover strategies that efficiently identify the spatial extent and condition of unknown cultural resources, development of alternative construction methods to minimize disturbances, and will conclude with the preparation and execution of complex cultural resource mitigation plans.

Identifying the spatial characteristics and quality of buried archaeological sites is critical to developing avoidance strategies that minimize impacts, reduce project costs, and expedite processing timeframes. Instead of traditional hand-excavation, 2-inch diameter mechanically driven geoprobes were used to successfully characterize the extent and

integrity of archaeological resources along proposed within the Carpinteria Sanitary District (CSD) and South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) jurisdictions wastewater mains extensions. Project engineers used the geoprobe data to identify alternatives to traditional pipeline trenching, including directional drilling and above-ground encasement. The alternative construction methods ensured project consistency with Local Coastal Plan and Coastal Act policies relative to archaeological and Native Californian heritage resource preservation.

Dealing with unavoidable impacts to significant cultural resources requires a carefully considered mitigation plan, flawless execution of the plan, and timely stakeholder engagement. The Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) San Gabriel Trench includes major construction in front of the San Gabriel Mission, one of California's most important historical and archaeological sites. The approach used in this case—including proactive issue identification, close collaboration among stakeholders, and thorough contingency planning—paid off when construction began, ensuring the protection of irreplaceable historic resources while keeping the project on track, despite a number of unexpected discoveries.

Moderators:

- » David Stone, Dudek
- » John Dietler, SWCA

Panelists:

- » Shawn Shamlou, Dudek
- » Gilbert Unzueta, Chumash Elder
- » Alex Kirkish, Caltrans
- » Benjamin Vargias, SWCA

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM — Session Block 6 — (Santa Rosa)

Watershed Management

Mill Creek Wetlands Project - Natural Wetlands as Regional Water Quality Solutions

CM | 1.5

The Cucamonga Creek Watershed Regional Water Quality Project, also known as the Mill Creek Wetlands, is a 52-acre natural wetlands system spearheaded by the City of Ontario and supported by the City of Chino, County of San Bernardino, Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA), Orange County Water District (OCWD), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), with support from the State Water Resources Control Board through grant funding. This unique, multi-jurisdictional project creates, protects, and restores the

regions native ecosystems while enhancing recreational and educational uses as part of a regional watershed management plan. The Mill Creek Wetlands project reinvents a previously underutilized site as an integrated regional facility complete with 52 acres of wetlands, 160 acre feet of water quality treatment, over 23 acres of riparian and wetland habitat, and 3 miles of recreational trails. Active and former agricultural uses and urban runoff represent the primary contributors to the pollutants in the watershed. The project uses a system of natural water quality treatment ponds that include areas of open water and wetland vegetation to first remove trash and debris as water flows through the desliting basin and then remove pollutants through natural settlement, ultraviolet light treatment, and biological activity as it travels through the native wetland vegetation. This system promotes progressive water quality alternatives that require no manmade energy and run entirely off of gravity. Through the project's Native Habitat Plan, several planting zones are created that provide habitat for nesting, breeding, and foraging for endangered species. Approximately 23 acres of native upland and riparian habitat are restored through the use of native planting and replacement of non-native vegetation, agricultural lands, and disturbed areas. The project's Recreational Plan adds 2.25 miles of hiking and equestrian trails, offering benches for wildlife viewing, interpretive signage, interactive elements, a picnic area, and educational elements.

Moderator:

- » Peter Carlson, VCS Environmental

Panelists:

- » Omar Dandashi, Lewis Planned Communities
- » Celeste Cantú, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
- » Scott Murphy, City of Ontario

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM – Session Block 7 – (Reagan Room)

CEQA Hot Topic

SB 743 Session #2 – Examining Potential Consequences and Solutions – Diverse Perspectives on SB 743

CM | 1.5 MCLE | 1.0

Whether you love it or hate it, your agency will have to comply with SB743. The legislation, its controversial guidelines, and the inevitable litigation generated could drastically affect California land use and transportation planning and infrastructure funding. This panel offers insight into SB743 from the planning, political, legal, and traffic engineering perspectives. We will explore, not only SB743's implications to traffic impacts, but the challenges it creates for local decision makers and the precedent it sets for using CEQA as a planning tool. We will consider solutions to SB743's practical dilemmas and solicit active audience participation. Some questions we may address are: Is the legislature using CEQA

to get us out of our cars? Is CEQA in danger of being hijacked to meet the legislature's planning goals? Did OPR make a mistake when it made the new guidelines applicable in all jurisdictions? Will public agencies use their general plans to create a "double standard" for traffic analysis? If so, what will the legislature do when it figures out that agencies are circumventing the legislation through their general plans? What will traffic mitigation look like? Why VMT? Why not? How will this legislation affect infrastructure funding, which relies heavily on traffic impact fees (and CEQA mitigation)? How do we tell the public that CEQA no longer cares about traffic congestion? Can EIRs for capacity-increasing roadway projects be avoided (given growth inducement significance)? What happens when adjacent cities/counties use different VMT models? Is lack of consistency going to be a problem? How will the conflict between CMP performance requirements and CEQA's use of VMT thresholds be addressed? What types of legal challenges are likely? This session will be updated as needed to reflect the current status of the guidelines at the time of the conference.

Moderator:

- » JoAnn Hadfield, PlaceWorks

Panelists:

- » Tony Petros, LSA
- » Tim Paone, Cox & Castle
- » Amanda Eaken, PlaceWorks
- » Jim Damkowitch, Kittelson & Associates

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM – Session Block 7 – (Anacapa)

Water Resources

When It Rains, It Pours: Learning to Comply With California's New Industrial Storm Water Permit

CM | 1.5 MCLE | 1.0

On April 1, 2014, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a new Industrial Storm Water General Permit (2014 Permit) for California, which replaces the prior general storm water permit in effect since 1997. The 2014 Permit completely rewrites the 1997 Permit, and adds significant new obligations with which regulated facilities must comply. Importantly, it is also expected to greatly expand the number of entities that are required to comply. This panel will outline the key changes in the 2014 Permit, and report on issues pertinent to California's regulated facilities as they prepare to comply with the 2014 Permit, which takes effect on July 1, 2015.

Moderator:

- » Ryan Waterman, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP

Panelists:

- » Joe King, Sespe Consulting
- » David Innis, Central Coast RWQCB

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM – Session Block 7 – (Santa Cruz)

Mitigation Banking

Advanced Mitigation (Part 2) Living the Dream: Insights on Implementation

CM | 1.5

Advance Mitigation has been promoted as a cost efficient way of providing compensation for unavoidable impacts. Both at the federal and state levels, advance mitigation has been embraced as a way to provide more ecological benefits than the traditional project-by-project approach. In this second workshop advance mitigation, practitioners will provide insight on the challenges and opportunities of trying to implement advance mitigation programs. The workshop will cover a variety of different approaches being used around California.

Moderator:

- » Julie Vandermost Beeman, VCS Environmental

Panelists:

- » Aaron Allen, US Army Corps of Engineers
- » Tracey Brownfield, Land Veritas
- » Hal Holland, Westervelt Ecological Services

Land to Sea

A Regional Approach to Planning for Climate Impacts in Coastal Southern California

CM | 1.5

Coastal communities in Southern California have embarked on climate change adaptation planning using state-of-the-art science and tools to assess their vulnerability to coastal impacts (sea level rise, flooding, erosion, and storms). As the science is ever-evolving, adaptive management approaches are being developed to facilitate planning today for these impacts, while maintaining flexibility to incorporate new scientific information as it becomes available. The panel will include presentations on several efforts, regional and local, to illustrate how cutting edge science and collaboration will inform and assist climate adaptation planning in Southern California coastal communities. USC Sea Grant will present a brief overview of the AdaptLA regional effort and a broader Southern California outreach project aimed at introducing coastal communities to the Coastal Storms Modeling System (CoSMoS) and building adaptation-planning capacity. USC Sea Grant provides planning assistance and technical support to ensure that the best science is utilized in coastal-focused climate adaptation plans, general plans and Local Coastal Program (LCP) updates. Representatives from Santa Barbara County and the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Carpinteria will each highlight their planning efforts aimed at updating LCPs, assess vulnerabilities, and informing climate action and adaptation plans, and CA Sea Grant will discuss its project to assess vulnerabilities specific to coastal ecosystems (beaches, wetlands and watersheds). All panelists will describe how they are structuring their planning process, utilizing evolving science, and working collaboratively with others in the region to creatively address anticipated climate change impacts along this largely developed stretch of the California coast.

Panelists:

- » Rosie Dyste, Project Planner, City of Santa Barbara
- » Anne Wells, Advance Planning Manager, City of Goleta
- » Alyssa Newton Mann, USC Sea Grant Program
- » Heather Allen, Associate Planner, County of Santa Barbara
- » Jackie Campbell, Community Development Director, City of Carpinteria
- » Carey Batha, CA SeaGrant Fellow
- » Monique Meyers, Marine Advisor, University of California Sea Grant Extension

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM – Session Block 7 – (Vineyard)

Student and Emerging Professionals**Environmental Planning Professional...the right choice for me?
A Discussion for Success in the Environmental Profession**

This session is intended to provide an open forum to students, emerging and mid-career professionals to meet with and pick the brains of practicing environmental professionals. This session brings together a panel of practicing professionals with a diversity of experience and educational backgrounds that represent the public, private, and legal professions. The moderator will engage audience participants in a lively discussion with the panelists on how to approach their future as an environmental professional and the pros and cons of environmental planning through the eyes of practicing professionals and what students and emerging professionals can expect from a career in the environmental field. The discussion will benefit target audience's understanding of what they need to know about entering into a career as an environmental professional and, where the profession is headed.

As many new graduates, emerging and mid-career professionals continually seek gainful employment in the environmental services profession, they can often be overwhelmed with questions such as:

- » So you went to environmental planning school – now what?
- » Is a career as an environmental professional right for me?
- » Public or private sector...what's the difference?
- » As environmental law and planning policy are constantly evolving, how do I choose the best career path?
- » B.A., B.S., M.A., J.D., PhD....which degree is right for me?
- » What is the role of specialization for environmental professionals? Are those with multiple specialties "the new generalists?"
- » 300 applications, 1 position. How to get your resume noticed?

Moderator:

- » Ricky Caperton, Project Planner, PlaceWorks

Panelists:

- » Alan Murphy, J.D., Perkins Coie LLP in San Francisco
- » Terri McCracken, PlaceWorks
- » Geoff Smick, WRA Environmental Consultants in San Rafael, California
- » Ryan Hostetter, Senior Planner, County of San Luis Obispo

4:15 PM – 5:45 PM — Session Block 8 — (Reagan Room)

CEQA Hot Topic

SB 743 Session #3 – Practicum: Policy, Practical Tools, Tips, and Techniques for Implementing SB 743 CEQA Guidance

CM | 1.5 MCLE | 1.0

SB 743 requires changes to the CEQA Guidelines that will affect the CEQA process, and ultimately may affect land use and transportation planning, for lead agencies throughout the state. SB 743 mandates a change in the methodology for determining transportation impacts from use of the traditional congestion metric of level of service (LOS), which is proposed to be replaced by the use of the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) metric. The Draft CEQA Guidelines Updates provide for flexibility in lead agency identification of specific significance thresholds, tools to evaluate VMT impacts, mitigation to be applied to reduce impacts, and consideration of alternatives. This session will consist of a discussion of the Preliminary Discussion Draft of Updates to the CEQA Guidelines Implementing SB 743, followed by a review of innovative tools and techniques local and regional agencies may use to implement this new CEQA guidance. The practicum will describe: techniques for selecting appropriate thresholds of significance that address VMT; modeling tools to evaluate VMT impacts; mitigation techniques to reduce VMT impacts; and policy techniques to plan for and facilitate local infill and mixed-use development projects. Learn how you can take advantage of these emerging tools and techniques to comply with this new CEQA guidance and create more sustainable communities.

Moderators:

- » *Policy*: Sydney Coatsworth, Ascent Environmental
- » *Practical Tools*: Ted Holzem, Mintier Harnish

Panelists:

- » Christopher Calfee, OPR
- » Chris Ganson, OPR
- » Richard Daulton, Rincon Consultants
- » Peter Imhof, SBCAG
- » Jim Damkowitch, Kittelson & Associates

4:15 PM – 5:45 PM – Session Block 8 – (Anacapa)

Water Resources**CEQA and the Big Drought****CM | 1.5 MCLE | 1.0**

California's ongoing drought poses numerous challenges, with consequences for both the state's physical and regulatory environments. This panel will address how CEQA is being applied, or in some cases waived, for projects intended to provide drought relief, and it will also discuss challenges related to completing legally defensible CEQA documents for projects that will be built under drought conditions. Deirdre West, Environmental Planning Team Manager at The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, will discuss Metropolitan's response to the drought and how CEQA is being applied to Metropolitan projects such as reversing the flow on water supply pipelines and bringing Colorado River water to facilities previously served only by the State Water Project. Attorney Paeter Garcia with Best Best & Krieger will discuss the complexities of water supply planning and preparing Water Supply Assessments when almost any water source may be subject to unknown levels of future curtailment as the drought drags on. Attorney Charity Schiller, also from Best Best & Krieger, will provide an overview of the exemptions to CEQA contained in Governor Brown's two emergency drought declarations and how these apply, or don't, to many of the water supply projects that are being developed by local governments and water districts. She will also discuss legal defensibility as it relates to water supply conclusions contained in CEQA documents.

Moderator:

- » Michael Schwerin, CEO, HELIX Environmental Planning

Panelists:

- » Deirdre West, Environmental Planning Team Manager, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- » Paeter Garcia, Partner and Attorney, Best Best & Krieger LLP
- » Charity Schiller, Partner and Attorney, Best Best & Krieger LLP

Adaptive Management of Agricultural Water Resources during California Drought Conditions

As California suffered through its third year of drought, farmers in the Central Valley that rely on surface water from California's Central Valley Project (CVP) received zero percent of their annual water allocation. Some farmers let their land lay fallow, some removed established orchards, while others increasingly relied on pumping additional groundwater. Historically, overuse of groundwater in the Central Valley has resulted in groundwater overdraft, land subsidence, and reduced water quality. Increased reliance on this water source has the potential to exacerbate these issues as surface water becomes

scarce. Innovative groundwater management solutions, monitoring of critical aquifers, and coordinated efforts between water users are needed for sustainable groundwater management.

AMEC is preparing a joint EIS/EIR for a farming collaborative in the San Joaquin Valley, epicenter of agricultural affected by the drought and changes in water distribution. This collaborative participates in a program to pump groundwater in the wetter eastern valley in exchange for surface water delivered by the CVP to the dry western valley; exchanged water supports roughly 45,000 acres of farmland. Extension of this and other similar programs raises concerns regarding groundwater overdraft, reduced groundwater quality, subsidence, impacts to rare wildlife habitats affected by water management decisions. For the EIS/EIR, AMEC is reviewing measures such as groundwater pumping limitations based on annual monitoring, incorporation of adaptive management to ensure sustainable groundwater resources, and implementation of groundwater recharge through construction of facilities to capture flood flows from the Kings and San Joaquin Rivers. AMEC will present a paper that describes the successes of the existing program and plans for the future program, focusing on adaptive management, including capture and recharge of increasingly rare peak runoff flows to help reduce potential impacts and ensure sustainable continued use of the area's important groundwater and surface water resources.

Moderator:

- » Bronwyn Green, Project Manager, AMEC

Panelists:

- » Bronwyn Green, Project Manager, AMEC
- » Dan Gira, Program Manager AMEC
- » Rain Emerson, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation
- » Paula Landis, Chief of the Division of Integrated Regional Water Management, California Department of Water Resources

4:15 PM – 5:45 PM — Session Block 8 — (Santa Cruz)

Sustainability

Keeping the Lights On In An Emission-Free Energy Future

CM | 1.5 MCLE | 1.0

Don't be left in the "dark." Enjoy complimentary beer, wine, and appetizers while participating in a lively and interactive panelist discussion. Our increasing reliance over the past decade on electronic gadgets and systems to work, eat, sleep, and play has been exponentially driving up energy demands just as California is vigorously pursuing substantial greenhouse gas emission reductions. Energy alone comprises one-fifth of the state's

greenhouse gas emissions, and California’s goal is to reduce energy-related greenhouse gas emissions to near zero. “Greening” the grid by generating energy with renewable resources is essential to meeting the State’s increased energy demands with zero to de minimis emissions impact. However, generating renewable energy and operating a “green” energy grid presents unique challenges. Can the energy utilities push the envelope further to meet the requirements of an increased Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) necessary to achieve a zero emissions future? How will energy utilities deal with over-generation and energy imbalance from renewable energy sources? Are California’s first-of-its-kind energy storage requirements achievable? What state-of-the-art energy storage technologies or other market innovations can solve over-generation problems and intermittent lulls in renewable energy cycles? Can flexible resource capabilities be created to ensure the grid’s operational reliability? Will the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, which dedicates nearly one-quarter of the state’s land to large-scale solar, wind and geothermal development, provide the generation necessary to achieve these goals? Who will pay for mitigating the impacts of these large-scale projects? After brief presentations, the panel will be answering these and other important questions. Bring your own questions and find out how the lights will be kept on in California’s future.

Panelists:

- » Rob Oglesby, Executive Director, California Energy Commission
- » John Zahurancik, President of Business Operations, AES Energy Storage
- » Phil Pettingill, P.E., Director of State Regulatory Affairs, California Independent System Operator Corporation
- » Alene Taber, Shareholder, Energy and Environment, Jackson DeMarco Tidus Peckenpaugh

4:15 PM – 5:45 PM — Session Block 8 — (Santa Rosa)

Wildlife Management

It’s Not Just Water Under the Bridge: Construction Permitting and Underwater Sound Monitoring and Mitigation for Aquatic Animals

CM | 1.5

Most people are at one time or another impacted by construction noise near their home or work, and often the effect of this noise can have negative impacts on daily life. But many people are not as familiar with how sound waves and vibrations from construction projects in and near bodies of water can negatively affect the home and quality of life for aquatic animals living in close proximity to those projects. As the impacts of construction activities on underwater animals are better understood, environmental permits require mitigation and monitoring for these hydroacoustic effects. For instance, the potential

effects of peak underwater sound pressures on fish mortality and spawning behavior have resulted in limits being placed on construction activities, including limiting the seasons of the year during which pile driving can be conducted, and implementation of sound mitigation measures. Similar mitigations have been defined for mammals and other aquatic species. In this presentation, we will offer an overview of the current policies to protect aquatic animals from underwater sound generated by construction methods and present information on planning for such requirements. We will discuss environmental requirements established by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife through their Incidental Take Permit process, and requirements for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Moderator:

- » Deborah Jue, WIAI

Panelists:

- » Robin Cort, RMC Water

Evaluating the Effects of Noise on ESA Listed Species

Whether it be in the office, at home, or in our communities we are constantly exposed to a cacophony of unrelenting sound stimuli. In populated areas, attempts are made to control the overall impact of these stimuli in our communities; through planning, regulation, mitigation and avoidance. Regardless of how we cope in our personal environments, most people recognize the effect noise can have on our physical and psychological well-being. As our built-environment continues to expand and evolve, wildlife are potentially exposed to an increasing amount of anthropogenic noise. What affect do these increased noise levels have on wildlife in the area? Or more poignantly, on the endangered and listed species competing for habitat. In an effort to move towards protection of the special status species, which are considered endangered or threatened, the Endangered Species Act was established. The Endangered Species Act provides that these protected species shall not be “harassed” or “harmed” as a result of a proposed project or action. But what is harassment or harm to an endangered or listed species? In this session we will take a brief look at the fundamentals of the Endangered Species Act statements, and expand on some differing approaches for the evaluation of potential effects of noise on wildlife. We will discuss various policy types, analysis methodologies, and elements that commonly contribute to the effect of a potential noise impact. As a means of discussion, case studies involving the California Clapper Rail and the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse will be presented.

Moderator:

- » Michael Carr, Principal, Extant Acoustical Consulting

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – CEQA and Legislative Update – (Grand Ballroom)

Annual CEQA and Legislative Update

CM | 2.0 MCLE | 1.0


What's new with CEQA since last year? Oh, just 20-25 court decisions, including cases from the California Supreme Court, a major change in how traffic impacts are addressed in the CEQA Guidelines, and a new law expanding the role of Native American tribes. You know, the usual stuff. Join our panel of CEQA experts to hear about all that's new in the world of CEQA for 2014-2015. We'll walk through the new statutory requirements for Native American consultation and other legislation taking effect in 2015, highlight the key interpretations of CEQA by the courts over the past year, and discuss what the CEQA Guidelines "VMT" amendments mean for CEQA practice. It's not just another acronym, it's a new way of thinking.

Moderator:

- » Antero Rivasplata, ICF International

Panelists:


- » Ron Bass, ICF International
- » Margaret Sohagi, Sohagi Law Group



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A photograph of a person seen from behind, standing in a grassy field. The person is wearing a purple headscarf, a black vest over a light blue long-sleeved shirt, and light-colored pants. They are holding a yellow folder or clipboard. Sunbeams are streaming through the trees in the background, creating a hazy, atmospheric effect.

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A photograph of a landscape featuring several wind turbines on a hill. A vibrant rainbow is visible in the sky, arching over the turbines. The foreground shows rolling hills with some vegetation.

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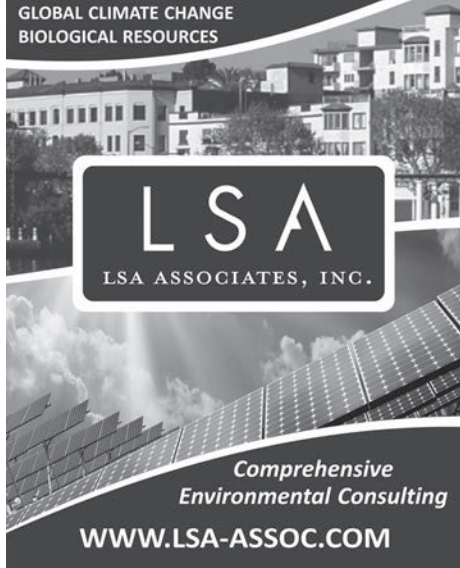
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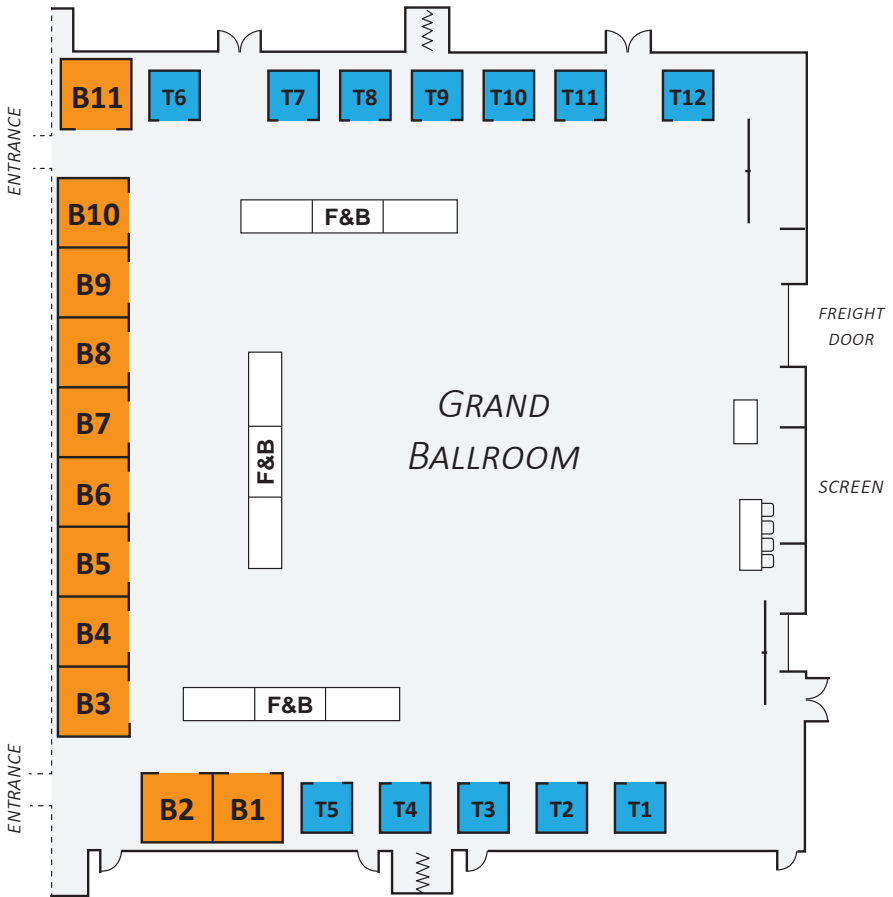
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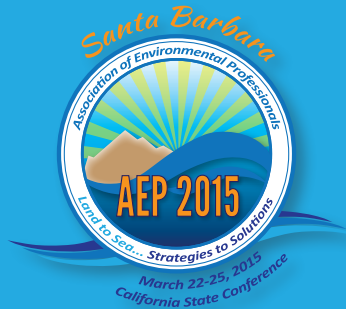
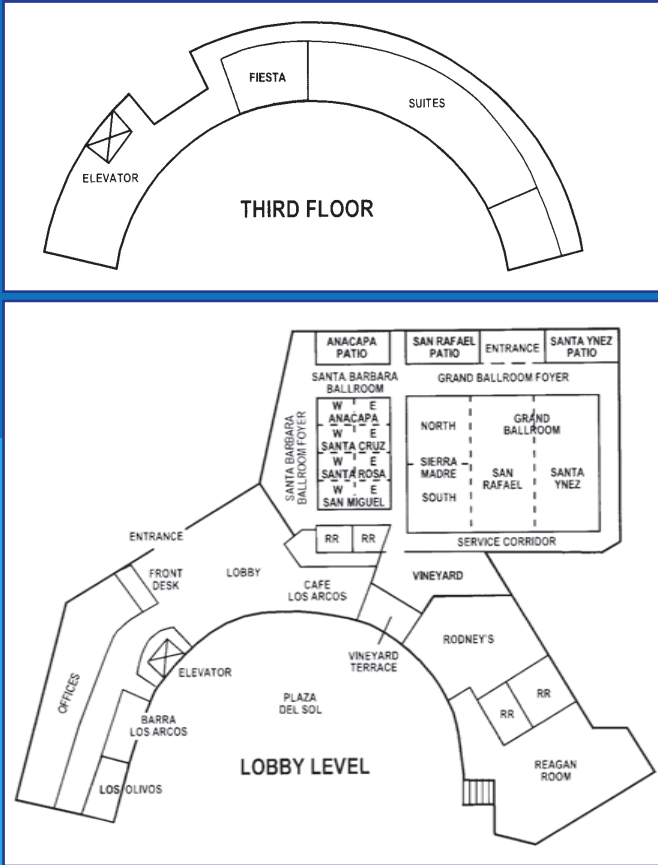
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