

## 2018 NEPA Essentials Workshop

### Speakers

#### **Sacramento (9/17)**

**Al Herson, JD, *Sohagi Law Group***

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Al is an environmental attorney and planner with over 35 years of experience. He is a recognized authority on CEQA, NEPA, and natural resources law. He serves as Sohagi Law Group's Sacramento presence, and advises public agencies on complex environmental and land use law matters. He is a co-author of *California Environmental Law and Policy: A Practical Guide*, the *CEQA Deskbook* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), and *The NEPA Book*, as well as CEQA chapters in Matthew Bender's *California Environmental Law* treatise. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP).

**Elizabeth Meyer-Shields, JD, *Planning & Environmental Coordinator, US Bureau of Land Management, CA State Office***

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Elizabeth is the Planning and Environmental Coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management, California State Office in Sacramento. She oversees the land use planning and NEPA programs, providing guidance to 15 field offices, which manage approximately 15.2 million acres of public lands in California and 1.6 million acres in northwestern Nevada. She is responsible for the preparation of planning and NEPA documents for the BLM's varied multiple use and sustained yield mission, including conservation planning, and renewable energy development, mineral development, outdoor recreation, and livestock grazing. Elizabeth began her Federal career as a Planning and Environmental Analyst in the BLM's Division of Decision Support, Planning, and NEPA in Washington, DC. She holds a juris doctorate from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, where she served as Managing Editor of the *Water Law Review*. She received a B.S. in Environmental Science with an emphasis in Natural Resource and Environmental Economics and Law from Oregon State University.

**Antero (Terry) Rivasplata, AICP, *Technical Director, ICF International***

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Terry is a Technical Director with ICF. He specializes in CEQA and NEPA compliance for public and private projects. Before joining ICF, Mr. Rivasplata was with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) from 1985-1998, including a stint as the Chief of the State Clearinghouse. Mr. Rivasplata is a co-author of the 2012 update of the *CEQA Deskbook*

published by Solano Press and editor of AEP's *Environmental Assessor* quarterly. While at OPR, he was involved in drafting the 1998, 1997, and 1994 revisions to the CEQA Guidelines.

## **San Francisco (9/18)**

**Connell Dunning**, *Transportation Team Supervisor – Environmental Review Section, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

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Connell Dunning is the Transportation Team Supervisor in the Environmental Review Section of the Region 9 Environmental Protection Agency Office in San Francisco. For the past 15 years at U.S. EPA, Connell has been working with state and federal agencies to help facilitate better environmental outcomes associated with major transportation projects in California, Arizona, and Nevada through the NEPA process. Her experiences have included working with the California High Speed Rail project and highways in California, as well as with highway, aviation, port and transit projects throughout the region. Prior to joining the EPA, Connell worked at the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service as a Community Planner. Connell has a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Master of Science degree in Entomology from the University of California, Riverside.

**Cynthia Jo Fowler**, *Regional NEPA Technical Specialist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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Cynthia Jo Fowler is the Regional NEPA Technical Specialist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), South Pacific Division. The USACE's South Pacific Division manages waters of the United States in California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and parts of Oregon, Utah, and Colorado. Cynthia has 15 years of experience preparing and managing NEPA and other environmental compliance documents (e.g., Endangered Species Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Clean Water Act), primarily focusing on civil works projects in the San Francisco District. Cynthia has participated in the Shipley Group and Utah State University NEPA certificate program and is completing her Masters of Science at University of California, Davis in Fish Physiology and Behavior.

**Michael D. Smith, PhD**, *Principal, ENERCON*

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Michael is a Principal with ENERCON in Oakland, an architectural engineering, environmental, technical and management services firm providing a broad range of professional services to private, public and government sector clients throughout the U.S. and internationally. His current work focuses on providing project and program management, technical analysis and review, policy development and review, and training and education focused on NEPA and CEQA

compliance for some of the nation's and California's most complex and controversial projects relating to energy development, transportation infrastructure projects, approvals of genetically engineered plants, commercial space transportation operations, and rulemakings for national motor vehicle fuel economy standards. He frequently provides training and strategic advice for NEPA and related environmental compliance requirements as an adjunct faculty member at numerous educational institutions, including the UC Davis Extension Land Use and Natural Resources Program, the UCLA Extension Sustainability Program, and the NEPA Certificate Program at the Quinney College of Natural Resources at Utah State University. He has served as a Science & Technology Policy Fellow with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) at the EPA headquarters Office of Water and Office of Federal Activities in Washington, DC. He has also held positions with the U.S. Dept. of the Interior – National Park Service in Biscayne, Glacier and Yosemite National Parks. He holds a PhD in Environmental and Natural Resources Sociology from Utah State University, a MA in Geography and Resources from the University of Wyoming, and a BA in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz.

**Tyler Welti**, *Counsel, Venable LLP*

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Tyler Welti is an attorney in Venable LLP'S San Francisco office, where he represents clients in a wide range of federal and state environmental, natural resources, land use, and other litigation matters, including government enforcement actions, citizen suits, CEQA petitions, and Administrative Procedure Act challenges and appeals. He has particular expertise in counseling on and defending project developments involving a federal or state nexus, including transportation, renewable and conventional energy, timber, mining, water, and other infrastructure projects. Tyler has litigated many NEPA cases on behalf of both public- and private-sector clients, for both plaintiffs and defendants. He formerly served as a trial attorney for the U.S. Dept. of Justice Environment & Natural Resources Division's Natural Resource Section, which is responsible for defending NEPA challenges against the federal government. He also served as a judicial law clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

## **Los Angeles (9/20)**

**Marie Campbell**, *President, Sapphos Environmental, Inc.*

[mcampbell@sapphosenvironmental.com](mailto:mcampbell@sapphosenvironmental.com)

Marie is principal and owner of Sapphos Environmental, Inc. She is an environmental compliance specialist with more than 35 years of experience in managing public- and private-sector projects that require strategic planning, environmental compliance documentation, and resource management. She is recognized by the Los Angeles Bar Association as an expert on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

She has extensive experience with environmental compliance documentation for capital improvement projects for transportation, energy, recreation, healthcare, and water. She has served as a strategic environmental advisor on complex joint environmental impact statements and environmental impact reports for projects such as multiple conventional and renewable energy projects, the Los Angeles International Airport Master Plan and subsequent improvements, China Shipping Yard, and the Los Angeles County Drainage Area. She served as the project manager for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Campus and Long Beach Memorial Master Plan. She has overseen the entitlement and environmental analysis and permitting for over 3,000 megawatts of renewable and conventional energy projects and transmission facilities in the western U.S. Marie is a 30-year member of NAEP and the California AEP. She currently serves as President of NAEP and Director-at-Large for California AEP.

### **San Diego (9/21)**

**Kelly Finn**, *Community Plans & Liaison Officer, U.S. Navy*

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Kelly supports the Navy Region's Encroachment Program Office in San Diego and is the Community Planning Liaison Officer (CPLO) assigned to the Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. She is currently responsible for outreach and engagement with federal, state and local governments, private land owners, community representatives and other stakeholders to collaboratively resolve potential land use conflicts and ensure compatible land uses that protect both military operations, as well as enhance the goals of local jurisdictions, surrounding communities, and other stakeholders. Kelly has over 16 years of experience preparing and managing environmental documents in the transportation and military sectors, and has worked on many complex and high-profile projects. She began her federal career in 2010 as a Senior NEPA Planner with Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest, responsible for the preparation of NEPA documents for both the Navy and Marine Corps, before moving into her current position as CPLO in 2015. Prior to working for the Navy, she was a Senior Environmental Planner with Caltrans District 11 where she worked for close to 10 years. Kelly holds a M.S. in Natural Resources Conservation from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a B.A. in both Biology and Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

**Corinne Lytle Bonine**, *Senior Project Manager & Managing Environmental Planner, Chambers Group*

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Corinne is the Managing Environmental Planner and a Senior Project Manager at Chambers Group with over 10 years of experience. She has extensive experience managing large- and small-scale NEPA and CEQA projects and has served as an expert witness on dozens of projects. As part of her environmental and regulatory compliance experience, Ms. Lytle Bonine has managed projects through a range of complex federal state and local permitting processes

including, but not limited to, Federal and California Endangered Species Act consultations and incidental take permits, USACE Individual Permits, Section 106 consultations, Coastal Development Permits, and other jurisdictional waters permitting.

**Brad Oliphant, JD**, *Senior Counsel, Perkins Coie LLP*

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Attorney and litigator Bradley Oliphant practices at the intersection of natural resource development and government regulation and enforcement. Brad previously served as a U.S. Department of Justice Senior Trial Attorney in Denver and Washington, D.C. for nearly 10 years. While at DOJ, Brad counseled regulatory agencies and government officials on agency decision-making, project development, land management issues, and compliance with federal wildlife and natural resource statutes. He also has extensive experience related to the siting, permitting, and development of renewable energy projects, as well first-chairing some of the highest-profile and most complex Endangered Species Act cases in California.

Prior to his public service, Brad served in private practice, where he focused on environmental and natural resource law. Brad is a cum laude graduate of Harvard University and earned his law degree from Cornell Law School.

**Michael D. Smith, PhD**, *Principal, ENERCON*

Michael is a Principal with ENERCON in Oakland, an architectural engineering, environmental, technical and management services firm providing a broad range of professional services to private, public and government sector clients throughout the U.S. and internationally. His current work focuses on providing project and program management, technical analysis and review, policy development and review, and training and education focused on NEPA and CEQA compliance for some of the nation's and California's most complex and controversial projects relating to energy development, transportation infrastructure projects, approvals of genetically engineered plants, commercial space transportation operations, and rulemakings for national motor vehicle fuel economy standards. He frequently provides training and strategic advice for NEPA and related environmental compliance requirements as an adjunct faculty member at numerous educational institutions, including the UC Davis Extension Land Use and Natural Resources Program, the UCLA Extension Sustainability Program, and the NEPA Certificate Program at the Quinney College of Natural Resources at Utah State University. He has served as a Science & Technology Policy Fellow with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) at the EPA headquarters Office of Water and Office of Federal Activities in Washington, DC. He has also held positions with the U.S. Dept. of the Interior – National Park Service in Biscayne, Glacier and Yosemite National Parks. He holds a PhD in Environmental and Natural Resources Sociology from Utah State University, a MA in Geography and Resources from the University of Wyoming, and a BA in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz.