



2018 AEP State Conference

Earth, Wind, Fire & Rain



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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Association of Environmental Professionals

Thank You to Our Sponsors



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2018 Conference-At-A-Glance

Sunday, March 25, 2018

1:00 pm- 6:00 pm Conference Registration/Exhibitor Set-up
(Ambassador Foyer)

Session Time	Rancho Mirage	WIND Ambassador 5	FIRE Ambassador 6	RAIN Ambassador 7	HARMONY Hospitality Suite 1019
1:30 pm- 3:00 pm	How to Win Work: Tips for Successful Proposal Preparation	Second Units and Density Bonuses: CEQA Law and Practice 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE	Legalization of Cannabis: Conducting Statewide CEQA Analysis in a Shifting Landscape 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE	Culture and the Environment: A Case Study of Washington Irrigated Colony Rural Historic Landscape 1.5 AICP	1:30-4:45 pm Air Quality & Climate Change Workshop 3.0 AICP
3:15 pm- 4:45 pm		When it Rains it Pours: Advice for Dealing with Controversial Projects 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE	CEQA and the Wide World of Cannabis: From Growing and Manufacturing to Distribution and Sales 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE	Cultural Resources and Transportation Route 66 and US Hwy 80 in Southern California 1.5 AICP	

6:45 pm- 9:00 pm **Opening Reception featuring the AEP Jam Band! Location: Outdoor Plaza (Fireside Lounge)**

Monday, March 26, 2018

7:00 am- 6:00 pm Registration/Exhibits Open (Ambassador Foyer)

7:00 am- 8:30 am Continental Breakfast (Ambassador 1-4)

8:00 am- 8:45 pm **Opening Keynote:** Rancho Mirage Mayor Charles Townsend & City Manager Randy Bynder (Ambassador 1-4)

Session Time	EARTH Rancho Mirage	WIND Ambassador 5	FIRE Ambassador 6	RAIN Ambassador 7	HARMONY Hospitality Suite 1019
9:00 am- 10:30 am	Biology and Planning: Collaboration Across Disciplines 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE	Climate Action Planning Circa 2018: A Powerful Tool for an Increasingly Complex Landscape 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE	Managing Vegetation to Reduce Wildfire Hazard at the Wildland Urban Interface: A Case Study in the Oakland Hills 1.5 AICP	Do You have a Commitment Problem: When is CEQA Compliance Required During the Public Works Process? 1.5 AICP	The Winds of Change: Mainstreaming Climate Action Planning 1.5 AICP
10:45am- 12:15pm	Finding Common Ground Between Regulations, Developers, and Public Agencies on Mitigation Strategies 1.5 AICP	Integrating VMT Performance into the General Plan Process 1.5 AICP	Hot Topic – Avoiding the Unequal Burdens of the Past: The Future Role of Environmental Justice in CEQA 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE	A Levee Love Story: Balancing Engineering with Environmental Regulations for Groundwater 1.5 AICP	The Challenges of CEQA Compliance Related to OCTA’s NCCP/ HCP 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE
12:15 pm- 1:45 pm	AEP Membership Update: Devon Muto Keynote Lunch: CA Energy Commissioner Karen Douglas (Ambassador 1-4)				
1:45 pm- 3:15 pm EARTH Rancho Mirage WIND Ambassador 5 FIRE Ambassador 6 RAIN Ambassador 7 HARMONY Hospitality Suite 1019	Get Back to Real Planning: What Say You? 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE	Don’t Let Your Project be Gone with the Wind: Preparing for Projects with Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Impacts 1.5 AICP	No Mitigation, No Cry: How Fuel Modification is Only One Piece of the Puzzle 1.5 AICP	After the Big Sur Fire and Flood...Strategies to get Repair Project Permitted, Community Reconnected, and County Reimbursed 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE	What About the Fish: Designing a Win-Win for Water Reuse and the Environment 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE
Afternoon Break	Take a Sponsor Break				
3:30 pm- 5:00 pm EARTH Rancho Mirage WIND Ambassador 5 FIRE Ambassador 6 RAIN Ambassador 7 HARMONY Hospitality Suite 1019	Hot Topic – From the Trowel to the Conference Room: Defensible Tribal Cultural Resources Evaluation 1.5 AICP	Legitimizing Sustainability Planning through Public Participation 1.5 AICP	You Need a Network Before You Need to Network: Proven Strategies for Developing and Accessing Your Career Network 1.5 AICP	Sea Level Rise and Coastal Planning: How will SB 379 Affect the Environmental Review Process? 1.5 AICP	Best Practices in Climate Change Planning - this is hosted by the CAP Committee
5:00 pm- 6:00 pm	Awards Reception (Ambassador 1-4)				
6:00 pm- 7:00 pm	Awards Program (Ambassador 1-4)				

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

7:00 am- 6:00 pm Registration/Exhibits Open **(Ambassador Foyer)**

7:00 am- 8:30 am Continental Breakfast **(Ambassador 1-4)**

8:00 am- 8:45 am **Keynote Speaker:**
Tom Kirk- Coachella Valley Association of Governments **(Ambassador 1-4)**

2:00 pm- 5:00 pm **Mobile Workshop 1:**
Water Reclamation Plant Tour @ Coachella Valley Water District (half day)

Session Time	EARTH Rancho Mirage	WIND Ambassador 5	FIRE Ambassador 6	RAIN Ambassador 7	HARMONY Hospitality Suite 1019
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9:00 am- 10:30 am	Long-Term Conservation: 10 Years under the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Conservation Program 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE	Renewable Energy Storage Trends and Technology 1.5 AICP	Safety First: New Developments in Emergency Evacuation Planning 1.5 AICP	Venice Dual Force Main Environmental Compliance Program for Construction Activities 1.5 AICP	Net Zero Carbon Communities
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10:45am- 12:15pm	Out of Thin Air: How M-Commerce and E-Commerce are Changing the Landscape 1.5 AICP	Regulating and Controlling the Noise of Wind Power 1.5 AICP	Digital Technology Improves Forest Fire Damage Assessment, Analysis and Monitoring... 1.5 AICP	Weathering the Storm: Emergency Repairs and CEQA 1.5 AICP	The Future is Now: Analyzing and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions After 2020 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE
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12:15 am- 1:45 pm **NAEP Membership Update:** Marie Campbell **(Ambassador 1-4)**
Keynote Lunch: Bruce Wilcox; State Secretary Natural Resources, Salton Sea Management

1:45 pm- 3:15 pm EARTH Rancho Mirage WIND Ambassador 5 FIRE Ambassador 6 RAIN Ambassador 7	Great! We've Been Served! Now What? How Do You As An Agency/ Consultant Survive A CEQA Lawsuit 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE	Music Festivals: Evaluating Impacts of Short-Term, Large Capacity/ Attendance Projects 1.5 AICP	Hot Topic – OPR, the CEQA Guidelines and You: Updates to the Guidelines and How CEQA Practitioners Should Implement Them 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE	Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery, and Storage Project 1.5 AICP	
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Afternoon Break Take a Sponsor Break

Session Time	EARTH Rancho Mirage	WIND Ambassador 5	FIRE Ambassador 6	RAIN Ambassador 7	
3:30 pm- 5:00 pm	The New General Plan Guidelines and Why You Should Care 1.5 AICP 1.0 MCLE	Tell Me, Show Me, Let Me Do It: Developing an Effective Environmental Training Program 1.5 AICP	Tribal Historic Preservation: Preserving the Past and Protecting the Present 1.5 AICP	The Drought is Over... Now What? 1.5 AICP	
5:00 pm- 6:30 pm	Wine and Cheese Reception – Hosted by the AEP Inland Empire Chapter (Ambassador 1-4)				
Wednesday March 28, 2018					
8:00 am- 11:30 am	Registration/Exhibits Open (Ambassador Foyer)				
8:30 am- 10:00 am	Brunch (Ambassador 1-4)				
9:00 am- 12:00 pm	2017 CEQA and Legislative Update 3.0 AICP 3.0 MCLE (Ambassador 1-4)				
9:00 am- 10:30 am	Resume Writing: Tricks and Tips on How to Get Hired (Student Session) Rancho Mirage				
9:00 am- 12:00 pm	Introduction to CEQA and Careers in Environmental Planning (Student Session) (Hospitality Suite 1019)				
11:30 am	Exhibitor Tear-down				



Welcome Message from the AEP President



Devon Muto and family.

Fellow AEP Members and Conference Attendees:

Greetings! Welcome to the 2018 Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) Annual Conference.

Please join me in thanking our Conference Chair, Lynn Calvert-Hayes and the Conference Committee, for their hard work, organization, and leadership in making this Conference a success. Lynn and her team put forth tremendous effort to make this conference the best to date. They have planned an

outstanding schedule of sessions and events to challenge and inspire our thinking, support our professional development, and to allow us to have some fun and expand our networks.

We also cannot forget the tireless efforts of Lynne Bynder – our Executive Director and Conference Planner who makes our conferences a success year after year.

Finally, we all extend a great note of gratitude to our many sponsors – without their help the Conference couldn't happen and they are also a critical component to our annual AEP budget. Thank you all!

I hope that you all have a great conference and get to enjoy the beauty of Coachella Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Devon Muto', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Devon Muto
AEP President

Welcome Message from the Conference Chair



On behalf of the AEP 2018 Conference organizing committee, I am honored and delighted to welcome you to the Association of Environmental Professionals' Annual State Conference in Rancho Mirage, California. The conference committee selected a theme that reflects Coachella Valley's destination as a music hub, hosting a number of high profile concerts each year. We have chosen a venue that guarantees a successful technical conference amid the culture, gorgeous scenery, and weather of the Coachella Valley. Our

technical program is rich and varied with three keynote speeches, approximately 50 technical sessions, the annual awards ceremony, and fun and relaxing social activities sprinkled here and there. We also expect you will have numerous opportunities for informal networking.

As a conference chair, I know that the success of the conference depends ultimately on the many people who have worked with us in planning and organizing both the technical program and supporting social arrangements. In particular, we thank the Programs Charis and the Conference Committee members for their wise advice and brilliant suggestions on organizing the technical program; the Program Committee for their thorough and timely reviewing of the abstracts; and our Sponsors who have supported AEP all throughout the years. Recognition should also go to the Inland Empire Chapter of AEP who has worked extremely hard in details of important aspects of the conference programs and social activities.

Don't forget to join us on Sunday night at the Opening Reception at 6:45 pm featuring AEP's own Jam Band. The Award's reception and program will be held Monday night starting at 5:00 pm after the afternoon sessions. The AEP Inland Empire Chapter is also sponsoring a Wine and Cheese Reception on Tuesday evening at 5:00 pm.

Please enjoy your time with us and thank you for attending!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn Calvert-Hayes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'L'.

Lynn Calvert-Hayes, AICP
AEP 2018 Conference Chair

Welcome from the Mayor and City Manager for the City of Rancho Mirage



Mayor Charlie Townsend



City Manager Randy Bynder

It is our distinct privilege to welcome the Association of Environmental Professionals to the fine City of Rancho Mirage! To borrow from Jimmy Fallon: “You finally made it! You’re here!”

We hope you packed appropriately. Expect sunny days in the 80s and chilly nights in the 60s. And with any luck our legendary AEP JAM Band will play hits from the 70s! The Westin Mission Hills Resort and Spa is the perfect venue.

Your 2018 AEP Conference-At-A-Glance offers topics for every environmental interest. AEP members are unique in that your common goal is to make the world a better place. In this relaxed environment you can get reacquainted with colleagues and make new friends. You are here to learn and share knowledge in your fields of expertise, so that future generations may inherit an environmentally superior world in which to live.

Too ideal? Perhaps. The drone of naysayers is loud; it is more important than ever for AEP to rise up and be heard! Here in Rancho Mirage, you will become rejuvenated and refocused. You will realize that together AEP members CAN AND DO make a difference!

Have a wonderful conference!

Mayor Charlie Townsend

City Manager Randy Bynder

2018 AEP Conference Committee

Conference Chair

Lynn Calvert-Hayes, AICP – *LSA Associates, Inc.*

Conference Coordination

Lynne Bynder, CMP – *AEP Executive Director*

Programs Co-Chairs

Nancy M. Ferguson

Michele Witherspoon – *MSA Consulting, Inc.*

Sponsor Chair

Darren Edgington, CEP-IT, LEED AP – *Michael Baker International*

Student Outreach Chair

Eunice Bagwan – *Chambers Group, Inc.*

Conference Support

Cheryl Degano – *Albert A. Webb Associates*

Elizabeth Meyerhoff – *Coachella Valley Water District*

Grant Reddy – *PlaceWorks*

Kent Norton, AICP

Kevin Cunningham – *Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District*

Michael Hendrix – *LSA Associates, Inc.*



Conference Keynote Speakers Bios



Karen Douglas – California Energy Commissioner

Monday, March 26, 12:15 – 1:45 pm (lunch)

■ Biography

Karen Douglas was originally appointed to the California Energy Commission by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in February 2008 and re-appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in December 2012. She served as Chair of the Commission from February 2009 to February 2011. She fills the Attorney position on the five-member Commission where four of the

five members by law are required to have professional training in specific areas including engineering or physical science, environmental protection, economics, and law. Commissioner Douglas is the lead commissioner on power plant siting, compliance and enforcement, the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan which is currently under consideration for modification by the Trump Administration. From 2005 to 2008, Ms. Douglas served as Director of the California Climate Initiative at the Environmental Defense Fund. Prior to going to the Environmental Defense Fund, Ms. Douglas spent four years at the Planning and Conservation League. Commissioner Douglas is a 2001 graduate of the Stanford Law School and holds a Master's Degree in public policy from the University of Colorado, Boulder.



Tom Kirk – Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)

Tuesday, March 27, 8:00 – 8:45 am (breakfast)

■ Biography

Tom Kirk is the Executive Director of CVAG which is a joint powers authority made up of ten cities, Riverside County, and two Native American tribes. Mr. Kirk has been the driving force behind a number of major regional transportation, ecological conservation, energy conservation, and air quality improvement programs

in recent years. Started in 1996, the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan was approved in 2008 and will conserve over 200,000 acres of undisturbed desert land. Mr. Kirk also helped bring the valley cities together to address homelessness, including strategic plans and the establishment of Roy's Desert Resource Center and the Coachella Valley Housing First program. In

Conference Keynote Speakers Bios (Continued)

addition, he has championed the “CV Link” a 40-plus mile pathway across the Coachella Valley for pedestrians, cyclists, and those who use neighborhood electric vehicles. Before joining CVAG in 2009, Mr. Kirk served in both the private and public sectors, as Executive Director of the Salton Sea Authority and a city councilman in La Quinta. Mr. Kirk earned a Bachelor's Degree in Geography from UCLA and a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of California at Berkeley. Mr. Kirk was also a fellow of the University of California Transportation Center, a graduate of the Coro Foundation Public Affairs program, and the Harvard Kennedy School.



Bruce Wilcox – Assistant Secretary Salton Sea Policy, California Department of Natural Resources

Tuesday, March 27, 12:15 – 1:45 pm (lunch)

■ Biography

Bruce Wilcox is the Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy and manages the development and implementation of the State's Salton Sea Management program. In that role he works closely with the Salton Sea Authority, the water districts, counties and other Salton Sea stakeholders to develop a management strategy for the Salton Sea. Bruce

has a Bachelor's of Science degree in reclamation ecology and has worked on numerous large scale mitigation or restoration programs over the last 25 years. He managed the development of IID and Imperial County's Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative framework program and is a member of the Salton Sea Authority's Ad Hoc Project development Committee. Prior to his appointment as Assistant Secretary by Governor Brown he was the Manager of Environmental and Salton Sea programs for the Imperial Irrigation District. There he managed the development and implementation of the QSA water transfer mitigation program and the development of Salton Sea programs. Mr. Wilcox also has experience in the private sector, he was a regional manager at Michael Brandman Associates, a section manager at HDR Inc., regional resource manager at Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc., and an environmental scientist at BIO-West Inc.

Mobile Workshop

Water Reclamation Plant Tour @ Coachella Valley Water District

Tuesday, March 27, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm (half day)

■ Description

Tour CVWD's wastewater treatment and reclamation facility; the largest facility of its type in the Coachella Valley. On this tour you will be introduced to the activated sludge treatment process wherein microorganisms consume the biological waste in raw sewage. You will learn how sewage is transformed into recycled water that is used for golf course irrigation in lieu of pumping groundwater from the valley's only source of drinking water. Follow the process from beginning to end where tertiary treated water is sent directly to golf courses.

You will also see a portion of a major conservation project, the Mid-Valley Pipeline. Water is transported more than 6 miles from the Coachella Canal to the treatment facility and is used to blend with recycled water for golf course irrigation or is sent to onsite replenishment ponds to be directly percolated into the ground.

Session Descriptions: Sunday, March 25, 2018

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm – Rancho Mirage

How to Win the Work: Tips for Successful Proposal Preparation

This panel will provide an overview of best practices for successful proposal preparation. Panelists from both the public and private sectors will identify from their experiences reviewing and preparing proposals the features common to winning proposals, and offer suggestions for the leg-work needed prior to submitting a proposal, and striking a balance for communications following up a proposal submittal. This includes: how to gain and successfully portray a thorough understanding of the assignment and the needs of the client; developing a methodology that responds to the RFP; and ways to distinguish yourself from the competition. The panel will additionally discuss commonly-encountered situations such as: when you may need to diverge from the scope outlined in the RFP; how you may overcome a comparative lack of relevant experience; the importance of establishing a proper cost estimate; and proposal-recipient pet peeves that may kill even the most well-thought-out proposal. The importance of adhering to the submittal and content requirements, selecting a readable and attractive proposal format, ensuring a deliverable that is grammatically sound and free from typographical errors, and striking the proper balance for communications with the recipient, will also be discussed.

Moderator:

» **Megan Jones**, MPP, Rincon Consultants

Panelists:

- » **Rob Mullane**, AICP, Rincon Consultants
- » **Rachel Kwok**, MEM, City of Santa Monica
- » **John Hamilton**, AICP, City of Vista

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm – Ambassador 5

WIND

Second Units and Density Bonuses: CEQA Law and Practice

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

California suffers from an insufficient supply of affordable housing, a critical challenge for the state. Typical workers in many regions cannot afford adequate housing. Among many possible solutions are two tools currently in use and expressly provided for by state law: development of second units and of on-site affordable housing in exchange for a “density bonus” of additional market-rate units. State statutes restrict how local agencies may review and process applications for second units, while the state Density Bonus Law requires cities and counties to grant a specified increase over the otherwise maximum allowable density for eligible projects that include a certain amount of affordable housing.

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This panel will discuss second units and density bonus projects, how their development affects CEQA review, and likely environmental impacts, as follows:

An environmental attorney from Perkins Coie will explain the state laws that govern how cities and counties must consider second units and density bonus applications, and by addressing how development of these types of units should be analyzed under CEQA.

Experienced environmental consultants with ICF will discuss practical tips for how CEQA documents can account for second and density bonus units. The consultants on the panel also will address what types of environmental effects these units may have and how these impacts compare with those of standard residential developments.

The Deputy Environmental Review Officer from the City of San Francisco will address the topics raised by other panelists, will relate how the City has conducted environmental review for second units and density bonus projects, and will share her thoughts regarding environmental review challenges for these types of projects.

The panel will leave ample time for questions and discussion with the audience.

Moderator:

» **Alan Murphy**, J.D., Perkins Coie LLP

Panelists:

- » **Alan Murphy**, J.D., Perkins Coie LLP
- » **Greta Brownlow**, PhD, ICF
- » **Erin Efner**, ICF
- » **Devyani Jain**, City and County of San Francisco

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm – Ambassador 6

FIRE

Legalization of Cannabis - conducting statewide CEQA analysis in a shifting landscape

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

This session will explore the challenges associated with conducting CEQA analysis for the State's upcoming commercial cannabis licensing programs, considering issues such as:

- » Changing laws and regulations, and evolving policies, related to commercial cannabis regulation
- » A patchwork of regulatory oversight and enforcement, including a wide range of state and local agencies with jurisdiction over the activities
- » A shortage of baseline information regarding existing activities
- » Scant information predicting how the industry may shift in response to the new laws

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- » Evolving technologies and techniques for cannabis cultivation, manufacturing, and end products
 - » A wide range of site-specific conditions, and the nexus between such conditions and impacts
 - » A desire for streamlined CEQA compliance during implementation of the licensing program
 - » The threat of legal challenge to the CEQA documentation
- While focused on cannabis regulation, the session will have broad applicability and present insights and practice tips that can be generalized for practitioners engaging in CEQA compliance for other similarly broad regulatory programs, as well as approaches to programmatic CEQA analysis in general.

Moderator:

- » **Michael Stevenson**, M.S., Horizon Water and Environment

Panelists:

- » **Chris Carr**, J.D., Baker Botts
- » **Tom Trexler**, M.S., Enercon
- » **Mike Blankinship**, M.S., PE, PCA, Blankinship & Associates

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm – Ambassador 7

RAIN

Culture and Environment: A Case Study of the Washington Irrigated Colony Rural Historic Landscape

1.5 AICP Credits

This session will delve into the relationship between culture and environment through a case study of the Washington Irrigated Colony Rural Historic Landscape, a rural agrarian landscape dating from 1878. This California High Speed Rail project explores the correlation between the 13 historic cultural landscape components and CEQA's 18 environmental resource factors. A cultural landscape is a natural landscape that has been altered and shaped by human activity. The Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports states that "cultural landscapes are not separate systems or characteristics, but integrated, living, dynamic constructs." Cultural landscape reports provide historic preservation specialists the opportunity to evaluate historic integrity beyond the built environment and look at how culture has affected the landscape. Attendees will have the opportunity to see the methodology of historic preservation specialists in evaluating a cultural landscape and how this evaluation works alongside the requirements of CEQA.

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Attendees will learn:

1. What is a cultural landscape? How are they identified? How are they documented? How are they evaluated?
2. Case Study – Washington Irrigated Colony Rural Historic Landscape (California High Speed Rail)
 - a. Methodology, Evaluation, Public Involvement
 - b. Aerial photographic documentation
3. Relationship between Cultural Landscapes and CEQA

Moderator:

» **Katie DeBiase**, IS Architecture

Panelists:

» **Katie DeBiase**, IS Architecture

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm – Hospitality Suite 1019

HARMONY

Air Quality & Climate Change Workshop

3.0 AICP Credits

This Workshop addresses the rapidly evolving policies and responses to air quality and climate change issues, focusing on the latest methodology and practical ways of addressing air quality, the health risks of air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. AEP intends to seek AICP and MCLE credit for this workshop.

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm – Ambassador 5

WIND

When It Rains, It Pours: Advice for dealing with controversial projects

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

Whether your project is a high-profile, highly controversial one right from the start, or if controversy rains down on what was supposed to be a “simple project” when a flurry of angry scoping period comments are received, dealing with a controversial project can feel like you’re trying to dodge raindrops in a thunderstorm. In addition to public comments, navigating these projects within a public agency provides additional complexity. What kind of “rain protection” is needed? What can developers do to ensure less controversy? How can controversies be kept under control, particularly considering current CEQA litigation environment. Let’s examine this from different perspectives.

Join our panelists as they share their experiences and advice for navigating the stormy weather that controversial projects can bring. Panelists include a developer, public planner, environmental consultant, and CEQA lawyer with many years of experience, to

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provide a variety of perspectives, examples, and lessons learned. Audience participation is highly encouraged.

Moderator:

- » **Emma Rawnsley**, AECOM

Panelists:

- » **Sabrina Teller**, J.D., Remy Moose Manley, LLP
- » **J. Todd Majcher**, Lowe
- » **Meenaxi Panakkal**, AICP, City of San Jose
- » **Yara Lea Fisher**, AICP, AECOM

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm – Ambassador 6

FIRE

CEQA and the Wide Wide World of Cannabis – From Growing and Manufacture to Distribution and Sales

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

Can you have cannabis without CEQA? The world of cannabis shifted significantly with the passage of SB 94, which exempts from CEQA review, until June 2019, the adoption of any ordinance, rule, or regulation by a local jurisdiction for commercial cannabis activity, i.e. the cultivation, possession, manufacture, distribution, processing, storing, laboratory testing, packaging, labeling, transportation, delivery, or sale of cannabis and cannabis products. So, now that the question of CEQA review of ordinances is tabled for the time being, all eyes have turned to the question of how to conduct CEQA review of the myriad of discretionary permits that can now be sought by commercial cannabis projects throughout California – everything from dispensaries to hydroponic indoor farms. This presentation will provide an overview, from both public and private legal perspectives, as well as from the environmental consultant perspective, of the various CEQA issues that are coming to the fore. Attendees will learn about the unique potential impacts of these projects to be analyzed in CEQA documents, and receive practical tips for preparing thorough CEQA analyses. Audience participation will be strongly encouraged, as the experiences of everyone encountering this cutting edge topic are extremely valuable.

Panelists:

- » **Sarah Owsowitz**, J.D., Best Best & Krieger
- » **Ron Goldman**, RG Planning Consultants
- » **Robert A. Bernheimer**, J.D., Robert A. Bernheimer, A Professional Law Corporation

Cultural Resources and Transportation, Route 66 and U.S. Highway 80 in Southern California

1.5 AICP Credits

This session will include a discussion of cultural resources associated with the history and development of transportation corridors in southern California. Speakers will explore the importance of historic highways based on recent corridor planning and compliance studies. Route 66 to the north of Rancho Mirage stretches from the Arizona border across the Mojave Desert, into urban Los Angeles to Santa Monica. U.S. Highway 80 to the south of Rancho Mirage, reaches from San Diego hugging the southern border of the state to the Arizona border. These two highways will serve as examples of how a highway can be considered a historic property and is treated under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, NEPA, and CEQA.

The session will address the role of efforts by agencies such as Caltrans, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, California State Historic Preservation Office, and the cities and counties to develop a Corridor Management Plan, which among other factors, addresses historic preservation and economic development, while enhancing the resources and interpretation of the corridor.

The session will explore GIS mapping and the application of the application of the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources criteria in defining significance, boundaries, contributing resources, and integrity.

Other key points of discussion will include planning tools such as the development of a Programmatic Agreement to serve as a management tool along the desert portion of Route 66 and creative mitigation. The session will encourage audience participation. Learning Objectives:

1. Understand resources available to identify and evaluate highways as cultural resources.
2. Understand how GIS mapping can be used to document and analyze long linear resources.
3. Understand how planning tools such as Corridor Management Plan and Programmatic Agreements can be used to manage historic highways.

Moderator:

» **Chad Moffett**, Mead & Hunt, Inc.

Panelist:

» **Shannon Davis**, ASM Affiliates

Session Descriptions: Monday, March 26, 2018

9:00 am – 10:30 am – Rancho Mirage

EARTH

Biology and Planning: Collaboration across Disciplines

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

Leverage your team's cognitive diversity and expertise to prepare legally defensible, biological resource analyses while saving time and effort through the CEQA process!

Biological resources often serve as a lynchpin in CEQA documents: analysis of a wide range of species and habitats, navigation of a maze of regulatory requirements, and complex mitigation considerations create challenges for even the most seasoned CEQA practitioner. In addition, biological impacts can influence the analysis for a range of other CEQA issue areas, from aesthetics to hydrology to public services. At the same time, conservation groups, regulatory agencies, and savvy project opponents are highly critical of biological resource analyses, such that these sections are often the target of expensive litigation. To combat these challenges and generate an analysis that can withstand even the most robust challenge, biologists and planners must learn to speak the same language – this panel aims to help us do just that.

During this session, biologists and planners will discuss key areas of misunderstanding between their disciplines, with a focus on finding the common ground needed to save time and money and to create successful CEQA documents. This discussion will include the timing of biological surveys, the types of reports needed for biological resources and their required scheduling, and CEQA requirements as compared to regulatory permitting requirements. The panel will also discuss the types of mitigation strategies available for biological resources and provide recommendations for crafting defensible and implementable mitigation measures that avoid common CEQA complications. Discussion topics will include strategies for collaborating with multiple agencies and stakeholders, especially during agency consultation and response to comments periods. The growing importance of collaboration across disciplines and correlation of regulatory requirements makes this session a must for planners and biologists concerned with aligning permitting projects with CEQA reporting.

Moderator:

- » **Aubrey Mescher**, MESM, Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Panelists:

- » **David Daitch**, PhD, Rincon Consultants, Inc.
- » **Brett Daniels**, MS, Coachella Valley Water District
- » **Holly Harris**, Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Climate Action Planning Circa 2018: A Powerful Tool for an Increasingly Complex Landscape

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

Recent changes in the climate policy and legal landscape portend substantial shifts in approaches to climate action planning. Following the recession, CAPs are more useful than ever and are receiving more attention from public agencies, developers, and advocacy groups alike as CEQA streamlining tools. Recent Court decisions have established some parameters for CAPs, but the rulings are relatively fact-specific, leaving many questions unanswered for developing robust and defensible CAPs. Despite renewed interest, will the uptick in legal scrutiny for CAPs cause local decisionmakers and regional collaboratives to lose interest in climate action planning and leave it to the project-by-project basis? CAPs are increasingly accompanied by cost/benefit estimates, putting CAP implementation at the mercy of the budgeting process, alongside other planning priorities. Increased focus on managing legal risk and detailed CAP implementation are two important elements of the current generation of local and regional CAPs.

Recent developments have raised nuanced questions about how much of a CAP is a long-range planning document and which parts are a Rube Goldberg-style mitigation measure. SB 32, California Supreme Court decisions, and technical changes to mobile emissions modeling have created the need for more ambitious reduction targets and fewer statewide measures available to achieve those targets. For CAPs developed in 2017 and beyond, this new landscape requires strategic approaches that can show deeper emissions cuts, driving the need for new creativity and measures beyond the status quo. CAPs are looking past low-hanging fruit in an era with shifting statewide reduction measures, the need for powerful incentives for cuts from existing development (no entitlement “hook”), and the need for substantial reductions from new development without impeding it – particularly compact, mixed-use, and infill development. Panelists will describe important legal, technical, and policy changes, and how the CAP process can balance competing interests in this arena.

Moderator:

» **Matthew Gerken**, AICP, AECOM

Panelists:

» **Daniel S. Cucchi**, Esq., J.D., Abbott & Kindermann, Inc.

» **Kathy Pease**, AICP, City of Roseville

Managing Vegetation to Reduce Wildfire Hazard at the Wildland Urban Interface – a Case Study in the Oakland Hills

1.5 AICP Credits

The 1991 Tunnel Fire in the Oakland Hills destroyed over 2,800 structures and took 25 lives. The wildfire risk remains high. The terrain, vegetation, weather, wildland urban intermix development pattern, and extreme seasonal wind events in the Oakland Hills create a fire environment prone to large-scale conflagrations. To reduce wildfire hazard on City-owned properties and key roadways in the Oakland Hills, the Oakland Fire Department developed a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) to establish techniques and standards to reduce extreme fire behavior and promote public and firefighter safety. The VMP's management recommendations draw on site-specific field conditions, GIS-based fire behavior modeling, and the application of successful approaches that were customized for the Oakland Hills setting. The VMP prioritized high-risk treatment areas using this research and modeling while considering the size, physical characteristics, and spatial distribution of City-owned parcels throughout the VMP area. A robust public outreach effort was conducted to gather citizen and stakeholder input to help guide the plan. Oakland's fire history, coupled with other recently implemented and proposed regional vegetation management projects has resulted in diverse community perspectives on the role of vegetation management in addressing and mitigating fire hazard. This presentation will summarize the VMP recommendations and share lessons learned from this Oakland case history that can be applied to other vegetation and fire management planning efforts.

Moderator:

» **Scott Eckardt**, RPF, Dudek

Panelist:

» **Ken Schwarz**, PhD, Horizon Water and Environment

“Do You Have a Commitment Problem: When Is CEQA Compliance Required During the Public Works Process?”

1.5 AICP Credits

Public agencies must complete the environmental review process for their Public Works Projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) before taking the “first step” that “commits” them to a specific course of action. But, what does it actually mean to take that “first step,” and how far down a Public Works pathway can an agency progress before it has “committed” itself to a project?

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This presentation will address the many questions that arise regarding the timing for CEQA compliance during the Public Works process. For example, may property be acquired prior to CEQA compliance, and in what contexts? How do relocation benefits potentially play into the decision of an agency's "commitment"? May goods, materials, or equipment be purchased or otherwise secured prior to CEQA compliance? In the alternative, when is it too early in the process to complete CEQA compliance? Where in the process should a Notice of Exemption or Notice of Determination be filed in order to effectively trigger CEQA's short statutes of limitations protecting the project from future CEQA litigation? How do recent Design-Build laws for Public Works Projects complicate the timing of CEQA compliance? What are the potential legal consequences if an agency has not completed its CEQA process before committing itself to a Public Works Project?

The presentation will provide a brief overview of the applicable CEQA concepts then explore the general steps in the Public Works process from the planning and feasibility phases through "project approval" as that key phrase has evolved through CEQA caselaw. The presentation will answer frequently asked questions and recommend best practices for navigating this often murky area of CEQA compliance.

Moderator:

» **Ricia R. Hager**, J.D., Woodruff, Spradlin & Smart

Panelists:

- » **Charity Schiller**, J.D., Best, Best & Krieger
- » **Victoria Cook**, Overland Pacific & Cutler, Inc.
- » **Elizabeth Meyerhoff**, Coachella Valley Water District

9:00 am – 10:30 am – Hospitality Suite 1019

HARMONY

The Winds of Change: Mainstreaming Climate Action Planning

1.5 AICP Credits

Local government climate action plans have shifted significantly over time from vision documents to detailed implementation plans that provide CEQA streamlining benefits. Recent guidance from the OPR general plan guidelines, new resources from ARB, and white papers from AEP are leading to a standardization of industry practice in addressing greenhouse gas emissions in local general plans and climate action plans. Come hear from OPR, AEP, and ARB on who is doing what and where, the emerging trends in the industry, and questions that remain to be answered.

Moderator:

» **Michael McCormick**, AICP, Governors Office of Planning and Research

Panelists:

- » **Taylor Helgestad**, California Air Resources Board
- » **Rich Walter**, ICF

10:45 am – 12:15 pm – Rancho Mirage

EARTH

Finding Common Ground Between Regulators, Developers, and Public Agencies on Mitigation Strategies

1.5 AICP Credits

Public Agencies responsible for infrastructure projects and private development companies often find themselves at odds with Natural Resource Agencies when discussing mitigation requirements for their projects. Whether working in a streambed or on lands supporting sensitive plants or wildlife these groups often view mitigation from opposite ends of the spectrum. On one hand, mitigation can be costly, difficult to implement, and in some instances economically infeasible or prevent the construction of a project. Developers and public agencies agree that mitigation is required but sometimes feel they are subject to excessive mitigation requirements that are not proportional to their effect on a resource. On the other hand, mitigation is necessary to reduce impacts to sensitive resources and is often required either through the CEQA/NEPA process or imposed as part of regulatory permits. Natural Resource Agencies sometimes feel developers or public agencies are attempting to downplay project effects to avoid mitigation requirements. Whether intentional or not both groups are working for the benefit of their organizations. The question is what is the “right-sized” mitigation package for a given project and how do you reach consensus between public agencies or developers with the Natural Resource Agencies?

Moderator:

- » **Chris Huntley**, Aspen Environmental Group

Panelists:

- » **CDFW Staff Member**, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- » **USFW Staff Member**, US Department of Fish and Wildlife
- » **USFS Staff Member**, US Forest Service
- » **USACE Staff Member**, US Army Corps of Engineers
- » **Palmdale Water District Staff Member**, Palmdale Water District

Integrating VMT Performance into the General Plan Process

1.5 AICP Credits

The State is preparing changes to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that shift the analysis for transportation impacts from the existing standards of vehicle delay (measured as level of service) to a metric that considers effects on the natural environment and more closely aligns with other recent changes in CEQA, such as impacts to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions. Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) has been identified as the preferred metric for this analysis.

The City of Elk Grove has embraced the challenge of integrating VMT into its General Plan and is proposing to establish a series of transportation performance measures. As drafted, the proposed General Plan policies would establish VMT performance metrics and VMT limits for the community as a whole, for various types of land uses, and for each of several identified growth areas beyond the existing City limits with the intent of reducing community-wide VMT. The proposed performance measures have been drafted to align with State legislation and guidelines and to implement the community's overall mobility vision.

However, the City still desires to retain standards in the General Plan that address roadway efficiency and design as a complement to VMT standards. Therefore, the General Plan is proposed to include two separate, but related, transportation policies – a VMT policy that establishes limits to be used as significance thresholds for CEQA analyses of future projects; and a roadway operations policy that promotes an efficient vehicular transportation system that reflects local context.

This session will summarize the proposed policies and how they meet State, regional, and local objectives for greenhouse gas emissions and the transportation system. It will also explore recommended procedures for implementing these policies.

Moderator:

- » **Dana Hoffman**, AICP, Michael Baker International

Panelists:

- » **Jeff Henderson**, AICP, Michael Baker International
- » **Sara Allinder**, AICP, Michael Baker International
- » **Christopher Jordan**, AICP, City of Elk Grove
- » **David B. Robinson**, PE, Fehr and Peers

Avoiding the Unequal Burdens of the Past: The Future Role of Environmental Justice in CEQA

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

“Environmental justice” is defined as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Historically, environmental justice has been a non-CEQA issue. However, Senate Bill 1000 was recently signed into law in 2016, requiring that environmental justice be addressed in all General Plans. While this affects only General Plans, it is not farfetched to think that environmental justice can make its way into the CEQA world in the near future. CEQA does not use the terms “fair treatment” or “environmental justice,” but economic or social effects of a project may be used to determine the significance of physical changes caused by a project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(e) and 15131(b)). At the heart of CEQA is full, objective disclosure of a project’s environmental impacts should they be caused by tangible physical changes (i.e., construction) or physical changes down the line caused by economic or social effects of a project. The case for a broader focus on the issue was articulated in a directive released by the California Attorney General in 2012 interpreting CEQA to require consideration of environmental justice impacts.

With some exceptions, health risk impacts related to the siting of new sensitive development near major toxic emission sources (e.g., freeways and industrial uses) are no longer evaluated as part of CEQA air quality analysis. CEQA land use sections also require a consistency analysis between a proposed project and applicable General Plan policies, which will now include policies related to environmental justice. How will these areas of our practice evolve? How will a greater focus on this issue result in a more fair distribution of environmental nuisances and impacts?

This panel will discuss how environmental justice has come to the forefront of planning, identify relevant CEQA case studies and court cases, and start a dialogue on the future of environmental justice in CEQA analysis.

Moderator:

» **Frances Yau**, AICP, PlaceWorks

Panelists:

» **Tim Paone**, J.D., Cox, Castle & Nicholson

» **Steve Bush**, P.E., PlaceWorks

» **Ryan Potter**, AICP, PlaceWorks

A levee love story: Balancing Engineering with Environmental Regulations

1.5 AICP Credits

Constructing anything these days is challenging, but to propose a new levee on the upper reaches of the San Jacinto River in southern California proved to be challenging to not only the public agencies proposing the project, but also to the project engineers, biologists, and regulatory agencies. It took years of negotiations to work out the details of the construction impacts and long term maintenance needs against the various biological and ecological resources in the river. Our panel will tell the story of one project's plight of trying to balance flood protection and future community development interests with the biological resources dependent on a river and its hydrologic regimes. The panelists include one of the project proponent lead agencies, regulatory agency staffers, project engineer, and project biologist/CEQA consultant. The panel will provide their insights and perspectives as to how this project represented an example of balancing economic, engineering, and environmental considerations.

Moderator:

- » **Stephanie Standerfer**, Albert A. Webb Associates

Panelists:

- » **Karin Cleary-Rose**, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- » **Stuart McKibben**, PE, Riverside County Flood Control District
- » **Joseph Caldwell**, PE, Albert A. Webb Associates
- » **Sonya Hooker**, Ruth Villalobos Associates
- » **Laurie Dobson Correa**, Regional Conservation Authority

The challenges of CEQA compliance related to OCTA's NCCP/HCP

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

This segment presents how the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) has demonstrated its commitment to reducing environmental impacts resulting from the 13 Measure M2 (M2) freeway projects by complying with CEQA. The development of a Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP or Plan) enables streamlining of the biological resources permitting process.

After years in the making, the NCCP/HCP was finalized in spring 2017. The final Plan ensures more than 1,300 acres of OCTA wilderness preserves will remain protected from

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development. It also fulfills the requirements for issuance of permits from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Wildlife Agencies) for the “take” of threatened and endangered species.

In collaboration with multiple stakeholders, OCTA secured an innovative programmatic Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) by developing a NCCP/HCP. The NCCP/HCP ensures the protection of natural habitat and wildlife in Orange County by offsetting impacts to state/federally-listed threatened and endangered species resulting from OCTA’s M2 freeway projects. The Plan facilitates with comprehensive conservation efforts, compared to project-by-project mitigation, in exchange for a streamlined review and permitting process. Including OCTA’s NCCP, there are only two approved Plans within Orange County.

Prior to the finalization of the NCCP/HCP, OCTA collaborated with the Wildlife Agencies to prepare an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) to evaluate and determine the environmentally superior alternative in accordance to CEQA. The Final EIR/EIS for the NCCP/HCP provides CEQA compliance for activities related to freeway projects, conservation properties (Preserves) and management activities, and habitat restoration activities.

To date, OCTA has acquired seven Preserves and 12 habitat restoration projects. The Plan establishes targets and biological goals to ensure that conservation methods are implemented that correspond with freeway project activities as well as regional conservation objectives.

Moderator:

» **Dan Phu**, Environmental Programs Manager, Orange County Transportation Authority

Panelist:

» **David DeBerry**, Assistant General Counsel, Woodruff, Spradlin & Smart

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm – Rancho Mirage

EARTH

Get Back to Real Planning – What Say You?

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

Staying abreast of the ever-changing environmental issues facing California is challenging in our rapidly evolving regulatory landscape. Moreover, shifting development patterns and policy priorities have generated many questions over how CEQA can and should be applied to meet new environmental challenges. This panel of CEQA practitioners, attorneys, and technical experts will provide tools and techniques to help jurisdictions answer some of many current planning-related questions:

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- » What are the new practices, tools, technologies, and funding sources that environmental planners are using or should be using?
- » How do we communicate this complex scientific information with multi-layered legal and political issues in an understandable manner to decision-makers and the public while at the same time being defensible under CEQA?

The session will begin with examples of how CEQA metrics and impacts directly conflict with current planning practices related to infill development, adding density in transit priority areas, and increasing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in exchange for single operator vehicle infrastructure. Speakers will then provide examples of best practices, trends, risks, and opportunities to address these conflicts such as CEQA 15183, self-mitigating projects/plans/ordinances, and Vehicle Miles Traveled analysis, among other tools.

Finally, the session will close with a discussion about the future of environmental planning and policy under the current administration. Speakers will provide tips on resolving environmental issues and facilitating public discussion based on fact rather than emotion and innuendo. This session will help attendees present complex scientific information in a manner that is clear and understandable to decision-makers and the public, being at the same time complete and accurate when reviewed by trained professionals. Attendees will be invited to give their say and share lessons learned.

Moderator:

- » **Laurel Glass Lees**, AEP San Diego Chapter

Panelists:

- » **Alyssa Muto**, City of San Diego
- » **Margaret Sohagi**, The Sohagi Law Group, PLC
- » **Lloyd Zola**, Metis Environmental Group

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm – Ambassador 5

WIND

Don't Let your Project be "Gone with the Wind": Preparing for Projects with Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Impacts

1.5 AICP Credits

Air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are critical CEQA impact areas in California, particularly as California takes the national spotlight for setting new GHG regulations. This session will explore case studies where industrial air permitting projects have triggered the CEQA review process with local air districts as the lead or responsible agency. Topics of discussion will include strategies for navigating the regulatory boundaries surrounding air quality and GHG emissions, approaches for streamlining the permitting and CEQA review process, and what the new GHG regulations may mean for

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the changing industrial landscape in California. Already California has seen an influx of innovative energy production projects through the use of renewables and combined heat and power systems, which are aimed at reducing air pollutant and GHG emissions. Such projects have the opportunity to promote their environmental benefits during the CEQA review process. Session leaders will also discuss how innovative energy projects, among many others, can frame their environmental benefits in the face of local air districts leading the CEQA review process.

Moderator:

» **Valerie Rosenkrantz**, Trinity Consultants

Panelists:

» **Elizabeth Geller**, Trinity Consultants

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm – Ambassador 6

FIRE

No Mitigation, No Cry: How Fuel Modification is only one piece of the puzzle

1.5 AICP Credits

How many times have you seen a story about homes threatened by wildfire or the need for evacuation due to a fast-moving event? As a resident of California, this situation is all too common and the results can be devastating. Entire neighborhoods can be lost in the matter of hours or days. In California over 100 million trees have died as a result of invasive species, drought, and climate change. Over the past 40 years our understanding of forestry management has drastically changed. As a result, our communities that coexist with the forest have thrived and suffered along the way. Today, many communities face insurmountable challenges associated with fuels management, which increases their risk to wildfire. Many fire agencies are figuring out that proper planning and design can reduce wildfire risk for newer developments, but older developments may still be vulnerable. This panel will provide perspectives from a local emergency manager from a community devastated by fire over 20 years ago and how they deal with it, a career fire professional that works throughout the state helping communities understand their fire hazards, and an urban designer that is working with planning and fire officials on a community in the wildland urban interface.

Moderator:

» **Aaron Pfannenstiel**, AICP, PlaceWorks

Panelists:

» **Jason Neuman**, Cal FIRE

» **Jordan Villwock**, City of Laguna Beach

» **David Sargent**, AIA, Sargent Town Planning

After the Big Sur Fire and Flood...Strategies to Get Repair Project Permitted, Community Reconnected, and County Reimbursed

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

In the wake of devastating wildfires and relentless rains, cities and counties throughout the state are left to deal with infrastructure failures, road closures, and major community disruption.

This session will explore the risk factors (wildfires and storm events) and the regulatory process involved after these events occur to assist communities in getting their damaged infrastructure funded, designed, and repaired to function properly again. The panel will also discuss the process for receiving funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and strategies for streamlining the permitting process.

The Palo Colorado Road Repair Project in Big Sur, Monterey County, will be the case study. After the Soberanes Fire decimated the coastal mountains, heavy rains eroded the hillsides, and sediment laden waters tore through roadways. Culverts on Brandon Creek and Rocky Creek under Palo Colorado Road were inadequately-sized to handle the sediment load and blew out, causing major roadway damage and cutting off the Palo Colorado Canyon community. The panel will discuss the design and regulatory permitting challenges and the lessons learned while working on this project from a permitting and design standpoint to reconnect the community.

Moderator:

» **Kate Giberson**, Harris & Associates, Director, Environmental Services, Salinas office

Panelists:

» **Kate Giberson**, Harris & Associates

» **Alex Hunt**, ICF

» **Frank Lopez**, Harris & Associates

What About the Fish: Designing a Win-Win for Water Reuse and the Environment

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

To improve water supply reliability and move towards sustainable resource management, local communities are increasingly turning to recycled water and other local supplies. Water reuse reduces demands for traditional water supplies (imported, surface, or groundwater), and allows communities to turn waste into a water resource. The

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economic and social benefits of water reuse are undeniable. Recycled water is an obvious solution to improve supply reliability, but can have environmental trade-offs. Water reuse can offset surface water diversion, but can also reduce discharges of treated wastewater to local waterways. This reduction in wastewater discharges can result in critical impacts to stream habitats and wildlife. This panel explores how to successfully navigate the challenges associated with balancing the needs of water reuse and the environment.

Key challenges include: 1) cumulative impacts of multiple water reuse projects, 2) recycled water and storm water project impacts on water availability in stream channels, 3) conflicting community needs and priorities, and 4) conflicts between regulatory agency mandates. This panel will explore how to evaluate potential downstream impacts of reuse projects, including project- and cumulative-level considerations, identify what types of assessments are required, and discuss federal and state agency concerns. Attendees will explore how CEQA documents can adapt their analyses to consider these challenges in today's era of multiple benefits.

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) has spent the past five years planning their Sterling Natural Resource Center (SNRC) to recharge the local groundwater basin and enhance local stream habitat. The SNRC will creatively meet groundwater recharge objectives and contribute to the recovery of a federally-threatened fishery, the Santa Ana Sucker. The SNRC will advance SBVMWD's goal of creating a long-term, reliable, and sustainable water supply. Combined with the habitat enhancement benefits, the SNRC demonstrates that reuse can be a win-win for water and environmental resources.

Moderator:

» **Sally Johnson**, Woodard & Curran

Panelists:

» **Rosalyn Prickett**, AICP, Woodard & Curran

» **Heather Dyer**, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

» **Andy Collison**, PhD, ESA

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm – Rancho Mirage

EARTH

From the Trowel to the Conference Room: Defensible Tribal Cultural Resource Evaluation

1.5 AICP Credits

Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) amended Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines to include the evaluation of tribal cultural resources and, under certain circumstances, requires cities, counties, and other CEQA lead agencies to engage in tribal consultation during the CEQA process. Working from the ground up, this panel will present a lively discussion on consultation requirements, tips on compliance, and how to integrate AB 52 with existing

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laws such as Senate Bill 18 (SB 18). Expert panelists will share their experiences with tribal consultation, since the bills enactment on July 1, 2015, using case studies as a tool to highlight successes, unforeseen setbacks, best management practices, and points of improvement. Panel speakers will include lead agency representatives, archaeologists, Native American representatives, and State government representatives, all of whom have a wealth of experience in tribal consultation and bring a unique perspective to the environmental planning field. Attendees will gain the tools necessary to successfully navigate the consultation process including best practices on what to do if affiliated tribal groups have yet to initiate consultation, and how to incorporate adequate mitigation measures to ensure the required tribal cultural resources analyses is adequate.

Moderator:

- » **Claudia Garcia**, PlaceWorks

Panelists:

- » **Samantha Cypret**, J.D., Native American Heritage Commission
- » **Donna Beddow**, County of San Diego
- » **Patricia Garcia-Plotkin**, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- » **Lee Clauss**, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- » **Shasta Gaughen**, Pala Band of Mission Indians

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm – Ambassador 5

WIND

Legitimizing Sustainability Planning through Public Participation

1.5 AICP Credits

Sustainability—incorporating economic, environmental, and social long-term benefits into city planning and design—has become a priority for cities. Citywide sustainability plans are often far reaching in scope, impacting all aspects of a city and its residents. From recycling to water conservation, implementing a sustainability plan requires public participation to succeed. Achieving proper public engagement in the development of a city sustainability plan is critical. A top-down approach to developing a city sustainability plan neglects to incorporate public priorities and fails to facilitate community buy-in.

Cities must seek public participation early in the development process to facilitate public ownership and legitimize the plan. Most cities opt to develop a draft sustainability plan and then send it out for public comment, which provides value feedback but does not necessarily generate the level of public engagement needed to legitimize the plan. In 2013, the City of Milwaukee published its first sustainability plan, “ReFresh Milwaukee,” which outlined a path for community sustainability for the next 10 years. The City of Milwaukee’s Environmental Collaboration Office (formerly Office of Environmental

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Sustainability) worked with sustainability consultants to develop a community outreach and engagement plan to obtain public input on sustainability priorities prior to developing a draft plan, which helped the sustainability director and his team to align city sustainability goals with public priorities. This presentation will discuss the various aspects of the City of Milwaukee's community outreach and engagement, and discuss how it legitimized its sustainability plan.

Moderator:

» **Tony Locacciatto**, AICP, Meridian Consultants

Panelist:

» **Akima Cornell**, PhD, Meridian Consultants

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm – Ambassador 6

FIRE

You Need a Network Before You Need to Network - Proven Strategies for Developing and Accessing Your Career Network

1.5 AICP Credits

This panel presentation will address the importance of networking during the job search process and throughout a person's career and will provide participants with key networking strategies. It will also offer tips on how to successfully navigate conferences and other events. Participants will get inside information on the most effective networking strategies regardless of their personality style (extrovert or introvert). If anyone is looking for a job (or planning to look for a job) or looking to advance in their career, they don't want to miss this panel presentation.

Here is what the participants will learn:

- » **Earth** - How to get grounded and gain the traction you need to reach your networking goals
- » **Wind** - How to get the wind at your back to make the networking process smooth and easy
- » **Fire** - How to light fire under people to get them excited about you and what you do
- » **Rain** - How to get through the rain (rejection, fear, mistakes) to get what you need
- » The panel presentation is open to all conference participants; however, it will be especially relevant to students and young professionals who are looking to make the most of the AEP conference and who want to successfully navigate the job market.

Moderator:

» **David Parker**, MS, MBA, Director of Career Development, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management

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Panelists:

- » **Erika Leachman**, Amec Foster Wheeler
- » **David Wolff**, CPUC WBE, Sage Institute, Inc.
- » **John Karamitsos**, MA, Santa Barbara County

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm – Ambassador 7

RAIN

Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Planning – How will SB 379 affect the Environmental Review Process?

1.5 AICP Credits

The impacts of climate change along California's coast will undoubtedly shape local and regional planning efforts for the foreseeable future. As sea-level rise begins to threaten California's beach cities, planners, environmental practitioners, and lawmakers are considering all available options for protecting existing and future development and natural resources along the coast.

Given the recent passage of Senate Bill (SB) 379, which requires local jurisdictions to include climate adaptation and resiliency strategies in the safety elements of their general plans, the topic of sea-level rise, including how it will influence future local planning efforts, is particularly relevant.

While California has developed a robust planning infrastructure for assessing potential seismic and wildfire hazards, what is the current state of affairs with respect to planning for the increasing frequency and severity of coastal flooding? SB 379 requires that coastal jurisdictions include a set of goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures that will help mitigate the effects of anticipated sea-level rise in their coastal areas. Will this be enough to protect California's coastal cities?

This panel proposes to examine how the recent passage of SB 379 will affect coastal development in California. We will take a closer look at how sea-level rise is impacting local planning efforts and environmental review with a panel that includes a long-range planner from the City of Long Beach, an environmental consultant with experience on coastal projects, an engineer that specializes in projects in the Coastal Zone, and a climate scientist that has played a leading role in a series of California climate vulnerability and adaptation assessments.

Moderator:

- » **Ryan Bensley**, AICP, LSA

Panelists:

- » **David G. Cannon**, M.C.E., P.E., Everest International Consultants, Inc.
- » **Alyssa Helper**, LSA
- » **Fern Nueno**, AICP, City of Long Beach
- » **Daniel R. Cayan**, PhD, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Best Practices in Climate Change Planning

The Association of Environmental Association (AEP) Climate Change Committee reviewed a database of over 600 climate action plans adopted by cities and counties in the State of California to determine the successes and challenges local governments encountered in the implementation of the plans. The Committee then selected fifty climate action plans for focused reviews that included a detailed review of each specific greenhouse gas reduction strategy within these plans, to determine which ones were the most successful in reducing emissions. The result is the AEP White Paper on Best Practices in Climate Action Planning.

This panel discussion will summarize the review of climate action plans including the statistical analysis of the 600 climate action plans within the sample population, how many of these plans were implemented, level of success in implementing measures and meeting reduction targets, how many of these plans include monitoring, range of effort in implementation and monitoring of the plans including average annual staff hours, and what measures within these plans are the most successful. The panel will then characterize the fifty climate action plans that were reviewed in greater detail and summarize the differences between climate action plans adopted by large urban cities, verses rural communities and the variations of climate action plans within the various regions and economic sectors within California. Specifically, the review included a close look at the various types and differences of greenhouse gas reduction strategies that were successful in agricultural communities within the Central Valley of California, mountain communities in the Sierra Nevada, desert communities within the Mojave Desert region, as well as large coastal cities including San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The review also looked at large inland cities including Sacramento, San Bernardino, and Fresno. Each of these regions had a different focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions that coincides with the economic sectors that dominate the city or county.

The panel discussion concludes with recommended best practices for each type of city and county including target setting, reduction strategies, implementation strategies, funding, and monitoring systems used within successful climate action plans for the various regions listed above.

Moderator/Panelists:

» **CAP Committee**

Session Descriptions: Tuesday, March 27, 2018

9:00 am – 10:30 am – Rancho Mirage

EARTH

Long-Term Conservation - 10 Years Under the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Conservation Program

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

The Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan is a very ambitious Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan that was approved by the Wildlife Agencies in 2008. Covering 1.2 million acres, the Plan provides “take” coverage for 27 species and protects 27 natural habitats in the Coachella Valley. The Plan has been instrumental in consolidating effective species conservation in the Coachella Valley while also allowing important infrastructure and development projects to proceed.

With almost 10 years of implementation experience, this presentation will provide an overview of the HCP’s requirements, a history of the Plan negotiations and the Plan’s highlights and successes, as well as some of the bumps in the road. Attendees will learn about the unique characteristics of these plans and receive practical tips for preparing plans today, thorough CEQA analyses, including climate change and GHG.

Panelists include the agency representative who is responsible for assuring the Plan’s implementation, a biologist from one of the Plan’s member agencies subject to its requirements, as well as legal counsel and an environmental consultant who assisted with the Plan’s processing.

Audience participation will be strongly encouraged, as the experiences of everyone encountering this cutting edge topic are extremely valuable.

Moderator:

- » **Michelle Ouellette**, J.D., Best Best & Krieger

Panelists:

- » **Katie Barrows**, Coachella Valley Association of Governments
- » **Brett Daniels**, Coachella Valley Water District
- » **Joe Monaco**, AICP, Dudek
- » **Roger Overstreet**, Southern California Edison

Renewable Energy Storage Trends and Technology

1.5 AICP Credits

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) currently leads California investor-owned utilities (IOUs) with its 43% renewable energy portfolio, and has also advanced its energy storage technology to accommodate this growing renewable energy load. By 2030, SDG&E expects to have more than 330 mega-watts (MW) of energy storage on the local grid. This session will discuss SDG&E's existing and planned energy storage and emerging energy technology projects, including the Gen Cell Fuel Cell project, the Vanadium Redox Flow (VRF) battery project, and a lithium ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project.

- The Gen Cell Fuel Cell will be the first application of this technology on a utility-scale.
- The VRF battery is a four-year pilot/demonstration project to test how flow battery technology can economically enhance the delivery of renewable energy to our customers.
- The lithium ion BESS project was recently awarded the Energy Storage North America Innovation Award. It has a 30 MW / 120 MWh capacity (enough to power 20,000 homes for 4 hours) and is the largest of its kind in the world.

This panel will address the environmental permitting and compliance measures required as part of the implementation of these projects. Not only are these projects on the cutting-edge of renewable energy and its associated storage, but also, they present new challenges with regards to how these projects will be implemented from an environmental perspective. As part of this discussion, the panelists will compare a typical transmission line project's environmental permitting and compliance requirements pursuant to California Public Utility Commission General Order (GO) 131-D with the types of environmental permitting and compliance requirements required for emerging renewable energy technology. In addition, the panel will also provide context for GO 131-D and how it affects local and regional jurisdictions with respect to how IOUs permit and implement their projects.

Moderator:

- » Hilary Haskell, SDG&E

Panelist:

- » Rich Quasarano, AICP, SDG&E

Safety First! New Developments in Emergency Evacuation Planning

1.5 AICP Credits

New developments in the wildland urban interface have been required to provide a fire protection plan that evaluates the project's overall risk and that it does not trigger a significant impact by, among other things, exposing people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. Recently, many projects are being asked to provide an evacuation plan to substantiate that a community is below the CEQA significance threshold, and is not unduly impacting existing resident evacuation during a wildfire. In this session, planners will learn tips and strategies for preparing wildland fire evacuation plans for agencies and communities throughout California.

This session will describe the recently prepared City of Santa Barbara Wildland Fire Evacuation Procedures Analysis (WEPA) that evaluated three wildfire scenarios that were expected to result in major impacts to residents. The study included an overall evaluation of the City's evacuation procedures and provided recommendations that would guide the City toward greater preparedness and improved firefighter safety and evacuation efficiency. To that end, the WEPA evaluated the current protocols and provided informed opinions regarding the overall validity of the protocols as well as recommendations aimed at improving the evacuation process.

This session will describe the tools and strategies including linking fire behavior modeling, which when combined with social behavior and traffic modeling outputs, can result in a multi-discipline approach to establishing evacuation decision triggers and a tool kit of pre, during, and post fire measures that will improve wildfire evacuations in Santa Barbara and can be used in communities throughout the State.

Moderator:

- » **Michael Huff**, Certified Wildland Fire Ecologist; Registered Consulting Arborist (pending), Dudek

Panelists:

- » **Scott Eckardt**, Registered Professional Forester, Dudek
- » **Mike Scott**, Retired Fire Prevention/Fire Fighter; Certified Arborist, Dudek

Venice Dual Force Main Environmental Compliance Program for Construction Activities

1.5 AICP Credits

The City of Los Angeles, Public Works Department, Bureau of Engineering has developed a novel and complex environmental compliance program for the construction of the Venice Dual Force Main Project. This environmental management program tracks compliance measures to ensure the information and requirements flow from the project inception, design, and through to construction completion, while allowing flexibility. This presentation highlights the coastal development permitting process, public outreach strategy, proactive environmental compliance approach, and collaboration with the construction contractor's team to help ensure environmental and coastal permit requirements are met.

The Venice Dual Force Main project involves the construction of a new 2-mile long sewer force main near residences, sensitive wetland areas and protected water bodies, including the Marina Del Rey Channel, Ballona Creek Channels, and Venice Grand Canal. The force main will cross both City and Los Angeles County jurisdictional lines in areas of high public interest, with differing requirements depending on the construction location.

Tasked with ensuring compliance with over 120 project mitigation measures, environmental permits, and stakeholder requirements, the Bureau of Engineering assigned Environmental Science Associates (ESA) for the job of Environmental Resources Manager. This position created opportunity to help further develop the compliance program, provide training and problem solving support for the prime construction contractors, and instill open communication chains among project team members.

As the corner stone of the program, an Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMP) was developed to consolidate all mitigation requirements and serve as a "living document", to be revised with lessons learned and necessary changes discussed during the regularly scheduled construction management meetings. In addition, an ArcGIS Online map and a Survey 123 platform were developed to provide geospatial referencing and real-time data collection capabilities.

The Bureau of Engineering would like to share the positive experiences and compliance success by working through this program.

Moderator:

- » **Jan Green Rebstock**, PhD, City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, Environmental Management Group

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

Panelists:

- » **Talmage Jordan**, City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, Environmental Management Group
- » **Gevorg Mkrtchyan**, P.E., City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, Wastewater Construction Conveyance Division
- » **Michael Tauchen**, Environmental Science Associates
- » **Tonya Durrell**, City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation, Community Services Group

9:00 am – 10:30 am – Hospitality Suite 1019

HARMONY

Net Zero Carbon Communities

The University of California has set a goal of net zero carbon by 2030 for all of the ten campuses. In addition, the State of California is strongly recommending that large development projects creating new communities design the development to achieve net zero carbon emissions. This panel discussion will provide an overview of three different projects that are designed to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

The first is the University of California, San Diego that is a large medical focused campus of 35,000 students, includes a large hospital complex, co-generation facilities, its own wastewater treatment plant, and sprawling campus that is on an electric microgrid. Learn about the challenges and unique opportunities this campus is experiencing in developing the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy that has a goal of net-zero carbon emissions.

The second project for review is the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan with 20,885 residential dwelling units, schools, parks, a golf course, commercial shopping district, and community center on 12,000 acres north of the City of Santa Clarita in northern Los Angeles County. Find out how this development is being designed to be net-zero carbon emissions including the incentives for electric vehicles, building design, community-level renewable energy and storage, and how the development agreement includes the purchase of carbon offsets from the Cap and Trade system.

The third project for review is a large, compact community providing 20,000 residential dwelling units, five million square feet of office and industrial, a commercial shopping district, hotel, schools, parks, community center, and wastewater treatment facility in the Mojave Desert in Eastern Riverside County. Learn how the net-zero carbon emissions is being achieved within this community.

The panel discussion will then conclude by summarizing the opportunities and strategies that make net-zero carbon emissions a realistic goal.

Out of Thin Air -- How M-Commerce and E-Commerce are Changing the Landscape

1.5 AICP Credits

The increasing use of M-Commerce (electronic commerce conducted on mobile phones) and E-Commerce (commercial transactions conducted online) is rapidly changing land use development patterns across southern California and the nation. With many products being purchased online, communities need fewer traditional big-box and brick and mortar stores. In fact, American retailers closed stores at a record pace in 2017. M-Commerce and E-Commerce are the genesis of a new goods movement paradigm in which warehouse and package distribution facilities are being planned and constructed at increasing rates to meet the needs of consumers, who, with a click of a button can make online purchases 24/7. Packages seemingly appear at customer doorsteps “out of thin air,” whereas in reality, the infrastructure needed to accommodate the shift in consumer behavior is massive. This session is a rare opportunity to hear from two city planning officials, a prominent logistics warehouse developer, and a CEQA practitioner about the increasing demand for package deliveries and how the various components of the goods movement system are being planned for and analyzed under CEQA. The panelists will share their knowledge about how to analyze and mitigate the environmental effects of the evolving goods movement system and discuss how internet-connected devices will continue to change development patterns. Southern California has already gained an unprecedented number of large (1-2 million square foot) distribution facilities and package delivery centers to meet the demand for online goods delivery, and will continue to feel expansion pressure. Don't miss this chance to experience a dynamic discussion from all sides of the table.

Moderator:

- » **Tracy Zinn**, AICP, T&B Planning, Inc.

Panelists:

- » **Neal Holdridge**, Trammell Crow Company
- » **Rick Sandzimier**, City of Moreno Valley
- » **Nicholas Liguori**, AICP, City of Chino

Regulating and Controlling the Noise of Wind Power

1.5 AICP Credits

A discussion on the development of wind farm noise regulations and impact to adjacent communities. The panel will include general mitigation approaches as well as methods to allow the adjacent communities to participate in the process of limiting the impact to the acoustical environment.

Moderator:

» **Aaron Bétit**, Acentech

Panelist:

» **William Yoder**, Acentech

Digital Technology Improves Forest Fire Damage Assessment, Analysis, and Monitoring ...

1.5 AICP Credits

Climate change, destruction of habitat, and disappearing plant species are a call to action – let's use the best of our technology to make environmental work more efficient, produce higher quality outcomes, and keep the planet healthier for everyone. Destructive forest fires are one more consideration for utilizing the best of our technology to aid in "after the burn" assessment, analysis, and monitoring.

Utilizing pen and paper or a mish-mash of digital solutions to collect, manage, analyze, and report data after a forest fire is tedious and challenging work, resulting in errors and inaccurate data. Managing the collected data is cumbersome and inefficient. Not having systematized and searchable data to collaboratively analyze data is another huge problem.

Replacing archaic methodologies with a comprehensive and easy-to-use digital solution that incorporates the work into a single, streamlined process improves overall forest management in the lengthy process of reforestation. For example, monitoring pathogens, pests, and invasive species within the burn area is simplified and more accurate.

Efficient digital data collection also brings more data into the collective body of data. Organized data management puts more eyes on a problem, and easy data retrieval creates more collaborative study, which expedites exploration of common issues, such as the effects of fire on native species or the relationship between pollinators and plants, two elements needed for reforestation.

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The availability of searchable, systematized data also fosters direct and express dissemination of information, inviting more debate, discussion, and communal contribution to important topics, such as the discovery of non-indigenous species within a burn zone and potential threats to the native plants as they re-establish.

A panel discussion on this topic will educate those in the position of assessing, analyzing, and monitoring after a forest fire.

Moderator:

» **Kristen Hazard**, J.D., Wildnote

Panelists:

» **Brandon Jones**, MA, Wildnote

10:45 am – 12:15 pm – Ambassador 7

RAIN

Weathering the Storm: Emergency Repairs and CEQA

1.5 AICP Credits

The 2016/17 El Nino storms generated heavy and persistent rainfall in California and resulted in FEMA declaring five major disasters that winter. Municipalities and property owners faced substantial property and infrastructure damage from flooding, landslides, and erosion. The bill to repair California's damaged roadways alone is \$600 million. Above normal rainfall is predicted again for the 2017/18 winter. Normally road repair, coastal erosion, and landslide projects have to go through the time consuming and expensive process of securing environmental permits while complying with CEQA. However, if the project qualifies as an emergency repair, it may be exempt from CEQA. We will show examples of recent storm damage repair projects and how the Categorical Exemption was handled in each case, review case law of proper and improper use of exemptions, and discuss how emergency work can modify the environmental baseline for a permanent rehabilitation project.

Moderator:

» **Gretchen Taylor**, MS, NCE

Panelists:

» **Marcy Kamerath**, CPSWQ, QSP, QSP, NCE

» **Michael Baron**, AICP, NCE

The Future Is Now: Analyzing And Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions After 2020

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

Since the passage of Assembly Bill 32 in 2006, which codified a state greenhouse gas emission reduction target for 2020, California has focused its greenhouse gas reduction efforts and analysis on 2020. With 2020 fast approaching, however, it is critical to look beyond 2020 and address the need for continued greenhouse gas emission reductions. Indeed, the California Supreme Court has advised lead agencies to ensure its greenhouse gas analysis “stay[s] in step with evolving scientific knowledge and state regulatory schemes.” The panel will provide an overview of requirements for greenhouse gas analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act, focusing on *Cleveland National Forest Foundation v. SANDAG*, the California Supreme Court’s most recent opinion on that topic, and address the difficulties of analyzing the significance of greenhouse gas emissions beyond 2020 in the absence of guidance from expert regulatory agencies. The panel will then discuss how agencies are working to provide guidance to address the 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction target enacted by the Legislature in 2016, as well as the state’s even more ambitious 2050 goals. These efforts include the California Air Resources Board’s update to the Scoping Plan and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District’s efforts to update its California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, which is the primary source of greenhouse gas emission significance thresholds for local agencies within its jurisdiction. Finally, a scientist working for the Port of Oakland will discuss that agency’s efforts to stay in step with evolving greenhouse gas science and regulations, providing advice on how to plan today to meet greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in 2030 and beyond.

Moderator:

- » **Linda C. Klein**, J.D., Cox, Castle & Nicholson, LLP

Panelists:

- » **Alexander “Sandy” Crockett**, J.D., Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- » **Catherine Mukai**, Port of Oakland

Great! We've Been Served! Now What?

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

This lively session will include environmental attorneys who defend environmental documents talking with us about what happens after an agency has been served with a lawsuit, and what we can do beforehand to help them with their defense of our work. Topics will include tips on conclusions, references, analysis and the wording of mitigation. Discussion will touch on the all-important administrative record, correspondence and what constitutes 'substantial evidence'. Look for lively discussion, a bit of gallows humor, a few informative stories and a lot of tips on strengthening the document. And of course, we'll discuss what happens after planners are pens-down and the legal system judges the adequacy of our work. What are the remedies? What happens when courts get it wrong? Do we always have to start again at the beginning?

Moderator:

» **Mark Teague**, AICP, PlaceWorks

Panelists:

» **Thomas D. Jex**, J.D., Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP

» **Alisha Winterswyk**, J.D., Best Best & Krieger

Music Festivals – Evaluating and Regulating Major Special Events

1.5 AICP Credits

Every April the population of the City of Indio grows from 88,500 by 100,000 for three weekends when the City hosts the world-renowned Coachella Music and Arts and Stagecoach Country Music Festivals. The polo season ends, and 600 acres of polo fields are transformed into an instant pop-up city for these festivals, which generate \$805 million in annual economic impact for the Coachella Valley and over \$200 million in the City of Indio.

Since 1999, when a Temporary Use Permit was issued for the inaugural Coachella Festival, the City of Indio has completed comprehensive environmental review of the temporary impacts associated with these festivals and developed a comprehensive regulatory and annual planning and event monitoring regime to address the unique challenges of managing these events to minimize the effects on the surrounding community and the rest of the Coachella Valley. Consultation and cooperation with neighboring cities and public agencies throughout the Coachella Valley are central components of what has progressed into a year-round program to plan for these festivals.

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Management of transportation and traffic, monitoring noise levels, and community outreach are key aspects of the monitoring program. Come to learn from City staff and the producers of these events on the challenges and evolution of a flexible and all-inclusive approach to managing these very special events.

Panelists:

- » **Tony Locacciatto**, AICP, Meridian Consultants, LLC
- » **Les Johnson**, City of Indio Director of Development Services,
- » **Bill Fold**, Vice President of Goldenvoice, LLC., Director of the Coachella Music & Arts Festival

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm – Ambassador 6

FIRE

OPR, the CEQA Guidelines, and You

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

After several rounds of public review drafts and public comments, and approximately 200 stakeholder meetings, OPR is poised to release the final CEQA guidelines in the near future. The updates to the CEQA Guidelines is the most significant and comprehensive effort since 1998. Significant changes to how transportation analysis is completed plus a number of other changes and cleanup items will change how CEQA practitioners go through the CEQA process. Come to this session to learn more about the changes, how they should be implemented, how they will affect the overlapping landscape of the new 2017 general plan guidelines, and how changes to the CEQA Clearinghouse make processing CEQA documents easier and more efficient to process.

Moderator:

- » **Michael McCormick**, AICP, Governors Office of Planning and Research

Panelists:

- » **Jeannie Lee**, J.D., Governors Office of Planning and Research
- » **Chris Ganson**, Governors Office of Planning and Research
- » **Scott Morgan**, Governors Office of Planning and Research

Trapped Underground – The Harrowing History of the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery and Storage Project

1.5 AICP Credits

In a state where “whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting”, the Cadiz project has been one of the most contentious and controversial water projects in recent California history. The concept of the project is relatively simple – recover millions of gallons of groundwater beneath the Cadiz Valley in the Mojave Desert that is currently lost through evaporation or infiltration. However, that appears to be the only simple thing about the Cadiz project. The project and its CEQA environmental documents have been mired in legal controversy for many years, and continue to be subject to government scrutiny and political machinations. The panel will explain the pertinent components of the project and outline in general its expected environmental impacts. While most of the panelists are related to the SMWD as the lead agency, one panelist represents a number of conservation groups that have fought against approval and implementation of the project for many years. We hope you will find the discussion on this historic water project both lively and enlightening.

Moderator:

» **Kent Norton– Past AEP State President**

Panelists:

- » **Daniel Ferons - Santa Margarita Water District**
- » **Courtney Degener – Cadiz, Inc.***
- » **Tom Barnes – ESA**
- » **Michelle Ouellette – Best, Best & Krieger, LLP**
- » **David Lamfrom – National Parks Conservation Association**

The New 2017 General Plan Guidelines and Why You Should Care

1.5 AICP | 1.0 MCLE Credits

The 2017 General Plan Guidelines were adopted following over five years of work to fully update the guidance. The last GPG was adopted in 2003. Significant new requirements have been added to general plan statute since 2003, including in areas of environmental justice, flood, fire, climate change, and coordination with other documents. Other changes in state law and CEQA also impact how general plans should be developed

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including a greater focus on regional coordination (SB375), alignment with other plans (such as Local Coastal Plans), and emerging issues like healthy communities, autonomous vehicles, smart cities, and automation. Come hear the meat and potatoes of the new GPG and come for a candid talk with the authors about both opportunities and constraints of this new resource.

Moderator:

» **Michael McCormick**, AICP, Governors Office of Planning and Research

Panelists:

» **Elizabeth Baca**, MD, Governors Office of Planning and Research

» **Sahar Shirazi**, Governors Office of Planning and Research

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm – Ambassador 5

WIND

Tell Me, Show Me, Let Me Do It: Developing an Effective Environmental Training Program

1.5 AICP Credits

Effective environmental training programs can be used to impart strategic messages to project stakeholders during kick-off meetings, tailboard trainings, or worker environmental awareness trainings. Such programs are a crucial part of a successful project; however, developing effective environmental training programs requires skill sets that are sometimes outside of the traditional purview of today's environmental professional.

Drawing on our expertise in environmental compliance planning and implementation for linear utility projects regulated by federal and state resource agencies, we will teach the audience skills that they can immediately begin to use to create or improve their environmental training programs. Throughout the presentation, we will illustrate how effective training programs can be developed by sharing examples from actual projects and analyzing which training tools work best in different scenarios.

Specifically, the session will provide attendees with the following:

1. an awareness of the types of training modalities that might be incorporated into an environmental training program;
2. an understanding of strategies that can be used to engage target audiences during environmental training; and
3. training tools that encourage knowledge retention long after the environmental training program has ended.

The session will offer participatory learning opportunities for attendees to hone skills through impromptu public speaking and follow-along PowerPoint presentation exercises.

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The public speaking exercises will be drawn from methods used by organizations such as Toastmasters International. The PowerPoint training will address how to create memorable presentations that effectively deliver environmental messages.

Moderator:

- » **Stephaney Cox**, MA, Insignia Environmental

Panelists:

- » **Danielle Althaus**, MCRP, Insignia Environmental
- » **Jeffrey Coward**, BS, Insignia Environmental
- » **Stephaney Cox**, MA, Insignia Environmental

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm – Ambassador 6

FIRE

Tribal Historic Preservation: Preserving the Past and Protecting the Present

1.5 AICP | Credits

Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) are tasked with the responsibility of preserving, protecting, documenting, and managing the cultural heritage of their respective Tribal communities. Formal THPO responsibilities assumed through the National Parks Service designation include assessing potential impacts to historic properties through Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), however, THPOs also assess impacts to resources under other state and federal regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act. Concurrently, THPOs have the obligation of balancing traditional cultural values, working within a framework that is outside of these tribal values, and assessing impacts to ancestral sites within the law. Panelists include THPOs from across the state with a varied breadth of experiences to bring to the discussion. This panel presents a unique opportunity to learn about current THPO programs, issues, concerns, collaborations, and successes in the state of California.

Moderator:

- » **Patricia Garcia-Plotkin**, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Panelist:

- » **Shasta Gaughen**, PhD, Pala Band of Mission Indians
- » **Patricia Garcia-Plotkin**, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- » **Marcos Guerrero**, Cultural Resources Manager, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria.
- » **Buffy McQuillen**, Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria

The Drought is Over. Now what?

1.5 AICP Credits

During the drought, water agencies took unprecedented action to encourage customers to reduce their use. Now that the emergency has been lifted, water agencies are getting creative in their ways to encourage long term sustainability.

Moderator:

» **Elizabeth Meyerhoff**, Coachella Valley Water District

Panelist:

» **Katie Evans**, Coachella Valley Water District

Session Descriptions: Wednesday, March 28, 2018

9:00 am – 12:00 pm – Ambassador 1-4

2017 CEQA Update 3.0 AICP | 3.0 MCLE Credits

Keeping up with the California Environmental Quality Act means keeping up with the Legislature, the Courts, and the CEQA Guidelines. Our panel of experienced CEQA practitioners will review that most important of the three sources of CEQA changes- the precedent setting decisions of the California Supreme Court and the Courts of Appeal. We will also briefly scan the new CEQA statutes for 2017.

Moderator:

» **Rich Walter**, ICF

Panelists:

» **Sally Zeff**, AICP, ICF

» **Margaret Sohagi**, J.D., Sohagi Law Group

9:00 am – 10:30 am – Rancho Mirage

STUDENT

Resume Writing: Tricks and Tips on How to Get Hired

Arguably the most important tool for gaining employment, resumes provide a way to sell yourself before you walk through a hiring panel's door. This session is designed to present both students and emerging professionals with industry standards for creating a resume that will stand out from the crowd. Attendees will learn how to best sell their skills on paper and highlight knowledge and experience valued by those currently in the environmental industry. Pros and cons of formatting and content will be discussed. In addition to discussing resumes, cover letters will be discussed as to way to further highlight skills and experience. Participants will have the opportunity to have their resumes reviewed by professionals and hiring managers, so don't be shy and bring your questions!

Moderator:

» **Emilie Wolfson**, Urban Planning Partners

Panelists:

» **Lynette Dias**, Urban Planning Partners

» **Claudia Garcia**, PlaceWorks

» **Carrie Tai**, City of Long Beach

9:00 am – 12:00 pm – Hospitality Suite 1019

STUDENT

Introduction to CEQA and Careers in Environmental Planning



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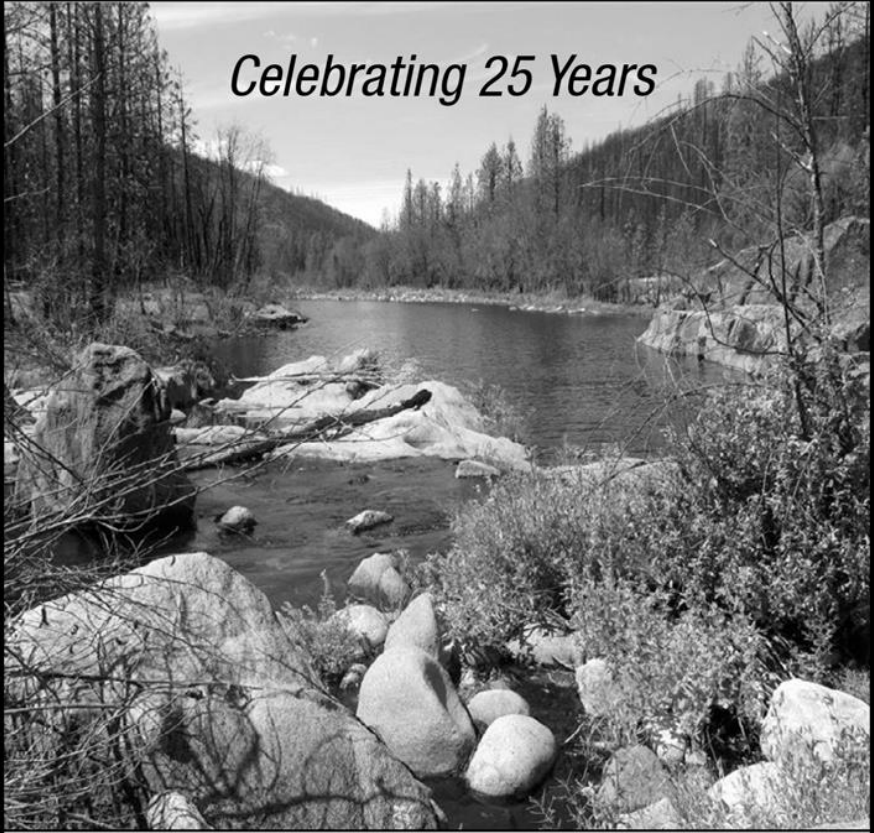
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A person wearing a patterned headscarf, a black vest over a light blue long-sleeved shirt, and light-colored pants stands in a grassy field. They are holding a yellow folder or map. Sunbeams stream through the trees in the background, creating a hazy, atmospheric effect.

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A landscape view of rolling hills under a cloudy sky. Several wind turbines are visible on the ridges. A vibrant rainbow arches across the sky in the background, adding a touch of color to the scene.

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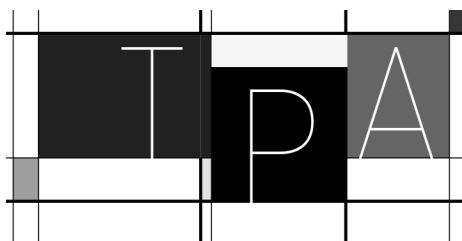
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