



SPEAKER BIOS

Bryan May-Master of Ceremonies

Bryan May is an experienced Crisis Communicator and Multimedia Manager for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Since joining Cal OES as a Public Information Officer in 2017, Bryan has responded to a many of the largest and most destructive wildfires and disasters in California history.

Prior to joining Cal OES, May spent the previous 30-years as an Emmy Award winning television sportscaster. A frequent guest speaker, moderator and emcee, Bryan now leads the Cal OES video production team and is often called upon to teach PIO and on-camera training across California.



Session 1: Welcome

Ryan Buras, Cal OES

Ryan Buras is the Deputy Director of Recovery, which includes directing disaster recovery operations and managing hazard mitigation and debris operations. Prior to this, Buras worked at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, where he served in several positions since 2005, including senior advisor in the Office of Recovery Public Assistance and acting executive officer of the Office of Response and Recovery.



Session 2: California's Resiliency Vision and Commitment

Mark S. Ghilarducci, Cal OES

Mark Ghilarducci serves as the Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) within the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom. Ghilarducci was appointed January 8, 2019 by Governor Newsom to continue his service as Director, following his appointment on July 1, 2013 by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. Ghilarducci also previously served as Secretary of the California Emergency Management Agency, appointed in February 2012 by Governor Brown.

As a member of the Cabinet, Director Ghilarducci serves as the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor and oversees statewide public safety, emergency management, emergency communications, counter-terrorism efforts and the State Threat Assessment System.





SPEAKER BIOS

In 2000, Ghilarducci was appointed Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services where he oversaw statewide emergency operations, planning and training. Ghilarducci also previously served as a Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) with the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under President William J. Clinton.

Prior to his appointments at Cal OES and FEMA, Director Ghilarducci served as Deputy State Fire Chief at Cal OES, where he oversaw Special Operations, including the State Urban Search & Rescue Response System. He has more than 30 years of experience and diversified service in public safety and government management at the local, state and federal levels and spent over twelve years in the private sector, working in security & crisis management around the world.

In addition to his duties serving as Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Director Ghilarducci is designated by the Governor as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the California Earthquake Authority (CEA) and as Chairman of the California Catastrophic Response Council. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the National Governor's Association (NGA)-Governor's Homeland Security Advisory Council; the Environmental Information Services Working Group of the Advisory Council to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); the State Board of Fire Services; and the Board of the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC).

Director Ghilarducci holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of California at Davis and is a graduate of the Fellowship Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at the John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Session 3: California 2022: How Disasters have Changed our State- Mitigation Paradigm Shift

Ryan Buras, Cal OES

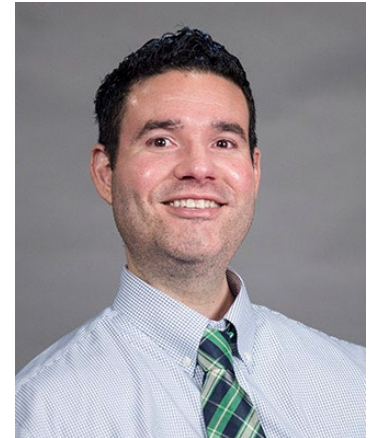
Ryan Buras is the Deputy Director of Recovery, which includes directing disaster recovery operations and managing hazard mitigation and debris operations. Prior to this, Buras worked at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, where he served in several positions since 2005, including senior advisor in the Office of Recovery Public Assistance and acting executive officer of the Office of Response and Recovery.



Session 4: Advancing Equity through Mitigation**L. Vance Taylor, Cal OES**

Luis "Vance" Taylor is the Chief of the Office of Access and Functional Needs at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Vance is responsible for ensuring the needs of individuals with disabilities and persons with access or functional needs are identified before, during and after disasters and integrated into the State's emergency management systems.

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Vance was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy as a child and uses a power wheelchair. He has worked in Washington, D.C. as an advisor for two different members of Congress, directed security policy at a national water association and been a principal at a ranked homeland security and emergency management consulting firm. Vance is a nationally recognized public speaker and advocate for individuals with disabilities.



Vance has a Master's degree in homeland security from the University of Connecticut and an undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University in communications. He is married to his sweetheart, Casey, and they have two wonderful daughters.

Vance and his family live in Rancho Cordova, CA.

Monisha Avery, Cal OES

Monisha Avery serves as the inaugural Chief of the Cal OES Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion following her appointment on October 15, 2022. Prior to coming to Cal OES, she served as Deputy Director at the Center for Data Insights and Innovation at the California Health and Human Services Agency and held multiple positions at the Office of the Patient Advocate at the California Health and Human Services Agency from 2015 to 2020, including Deputy Director and Acting Director. She has a strong commitment to the work of equity and a lifetime in public service, starting with a career in social work. She has more than 30 years of combined experience at the state, county and community level. She holds a Masters Degree in Social Work from California State University, Sacramento.



Session 5: Tribal Mitigation- Successes and Challenges**Chief Greg Moon, Hoopa Valley**

With a background of 35 years of wildland fire service, including multi-hazard incident response, Interagency Incident Management Team Command and General Staff positions, Greg Moon has effectively served in the United States Forest Service as a District Ranger and Forest Staff Officer. Additionally, he has served in Southern California as a Fire Chief for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Most recently, Chief Moon has returned to the Hoopa Valley Tribe where he currently serves as the Hoopa Fire Chief and Director Of Emergency Services. He is an enrolled Hoopa Valley Tribal Member who has devoted his life to emergency services and continues to provide a high level of excellence and vision for the Hoopa Valley Tribe.

Serene White, Hoopa Valley

Serene White is the Hazard Mitigation Officer (HMO) for the Hoopa Office of Emergency Services and is a member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe.

Before becoming the Tribes HMO, Serene served as the Director for the Yurok Tribe OES and Karuk Tribe OES and prior as the Assistant Chief to Hoopa Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services. She also has 15 years' experience in emergency response and 12 years' experience as an Emergency Manager. She maintained positions on many different policy boards & committees, such as FEMA external stakeholders working group, Tribal Health policy review board, Cultural Fire Management Council, Firesafe Council and various others.



Prior to joining OES, Serene began her emergency response journey at the age of 15 and joined the junior cadet program for Volunteer Fire, where she maintained all levels of growth, serving as a captain, training officer, EMT, and Assistant Chief. She also graduated from College of the Redwoods and maintained her P.O.S.T. From there she became the Hoopa Tribe's Fire Investigator and State Fire Marshall Training Officer as well as a graduate from the Emergency Management Advanced Academy.

Serene Aspires to continue her personal education and career growth in pursuit of obtaining her CEM with a master's degree in Emergency Management.



Randy White, Karuk Tribe Housing Authority

Randy White is a Security and Emergency Services officer for the Karuk Tribe Housing Authority and a member of the KTHA Mitigation Team. After a career as a Correctional Officer for the Nevada Department of Corrections he returned to his Tribal home and has worked for KTHA for 10 years. Randy began his work in Emergency Services working on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill as a Hazardous Waste Operator / Emergency Responder (HAZWOPER) Tech in 1989 and has worked in Emergency and Response fields throughout his career. Presently, he is managing PDM and HMGP grants, preparing to implement a scoping project, and anticipating BRIC projects.

Charles Sarmento, Karuk Tribe Housing Authority

Charles has been Security & Emergency Services Officer for the past twelve years in Yreka California and is on the K.T.H.A. Grants team. Charles previously served on the Karuk Community Development Corporation as a board member and was also an Oregon State Park Ranger for five years.

Douglass Goodwin, Karuk Tribe Housing Authority

Douglas Goodwin is a member of the Karuk Tribe of Ca. and is the current Construction Manager for the Karuk Tribe Housing Authority in Happy Camp, CA. Where he serves a team member on their grant writing team responsible for the Budgeting and Scopes of Work portions of Grant submissions. Doug started in the construction industry while attending community college working his way up becoming a Ca. State Licensed Contractor for 16 years, he also served as a member of the Happy Camp Volunteer Ambulance and work as a line EMT on local wild fires giving him firsthand knowledge of the devastating damage occurring in the Wildland Urban Interface. Currently Doug is working on homes loss to the 2020 Slate fire and is the project Manager on a CalOES funded mitigation project in Yreka CA. retro fitting Tribble Dwellings with fire resistance materials along with other fuel mitigation efforts to help protect their communities.

Having lived and worked in rural California Doug has a strong passion to protect the environment by restoring past culturally significant practices utilized by local tribes to manages the resources allowing for the lives and properties of those living within the environment to thrive.

Session 6: Concurrent Session A- Scalability of Mitigation Solutions**Janiele Maffei, CA EQ Authority**

Janiele Maffei, joined the California Earthquake Authority as Chief Mitigation Officer in May 2011. She is responsible for the mitigation plan that includes the California Residential Mitigation Program and the development of comprehensive guidelines for the retrofit of single- family dwellings.

A graduate of UC Berkeley, where she obtained her AB degree in Architecture and an MS in Civil Engineering. Mrs. Maffei is a registered structural engineer who has worked in the earthquake engineering industry for over 38 years. Her experience includes the design of new building structures and seismic strengthening of existing structures.

Mrs. Maffei is past-president of the Northern California Chapter of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, EERI. She also served on the Board of Directors of EERI National as Secretary-Treasurer. She currently serves as President of the Structural Engineers Association of Northern California. She has extensive post-earthquake reconnaissance experience from the Loma Prieta and Northridge Earthquakes.



Lori Nezhura, Cal OES

Lori has worked for the State of California since 2006. She is currently the Deputy Director of Planning, Preparedness, and Prevention at Cal OES, a role which includes oversight of the agency's seismic hazards branch, dam safety, radiological preparedness, climate adaptation, and statewide all-hazards emergency and continuity planning efforts. Additionally, she oversees the California Specialized Training Institute, a statewide enterprise with responsibility for supporting training, exercises, and education in wide variety of areas including, but not limited to, emergency management, public safety, homeland security, hazardous materials, disaster recovery, urban search and rescue, and crisis communications.

Prior to her current role, Lori spent almost six years as the Legislative Coordinator and manager of the Office of Tribal Coordination at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and nine years at the California Student Aid Commission as Legislative Director, Program Manager, and in various Analyst roles.

Lori received her baccalaureate degree from Arizona Christian University in Phoenix and her post-baccalaureate teacher certification at Arizona State University in Tempe. After receiving her teaching credential, she moved to Saitama Prefecture in Japan for two years to teach English as a Second Language. Upon her return to the United States, she taught elementary classes at Carden Christian Academy for ten years before going into state service.



Suja Lowenthal, City of Hermosa Beach

Dr. Suja Lowenthal currently serves as the City Manager for the City of Hermosa Beach. She is the first woman and first Asian American to serve in this role. Suja has 30 years of government, municipal and community engagement experience, having served in leadership positions in Long Beach and Santa Monica City governments and in local water districts.

Suja served as a member of the Long Beach City Council from 2006–2016 and as the City's Vice Mayor from 2010–2012 and 2014–2016. She was the first Asian American to serve on the City Council. During her time with the City of Santa Monica, she served as Senior Advisor to the City Manager, Transit Planning and Community Engagement Manager and co-chair of the City's mobility strategic goal. In addition, she has served as an alternate member of the California Coastal Commission from 2007–2009 and has served as a Board Member on the Climate Resolve Board since 2019.

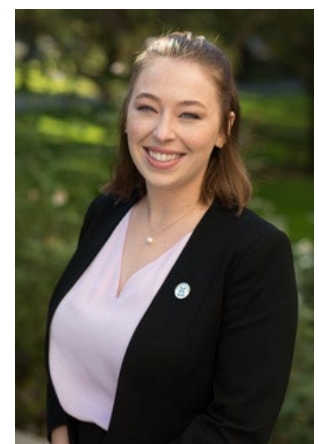


Suja's professional background also includes her work for the City of Los Angeles Department of Aging and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office as the Coordinator of its Domestic Violence Unit. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from UCLA, a Master's in Business Administration from California State University, Los Angeles, and a Doctorate in Policy, Planning and Development from USC.

Session 7: Concurrent Session B- Removing Barriers to Mitigation Funding and Activities

Jacy Hyde, Cal OES

Jacy Hyde has served as the Branch Chief for Hazard Mitigation Assistance at the Governor's Office of Emergency Services since 2020. In this role, she oversees nine state and federal grant programs aimed at all-hazards risk reduction and climate adaptation. Jacy has championed the development and implementation of three first-in-the-nation state grant programs to build resiliency in equity priority communities: Prepare California Match, JumpStart, and the CA Wildfire Mitigation Program. Prior to joining Cal OES, she served as a Science Policy Fellow through the CA Council on Science and Technology in the CA State Assembly Natural Resources Committee, where she applied her expertise in sustainable development and ecology to advance science-informed climate and natural resources policy. Before entering state service, Jacy had a scientific career as a field ecologist, ultimately earning her doctorate from University of Florida in Forest Resources and Conservation. Her research efforts applied a transdisciplinary lens to assess and mitigate the impacts of energy infrastructure development on forested ecosystems. Jacy holds a BSc in Biological Sciences from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.





SPEAKER BIOS

J. Lopez, Cal OES/ California Wildfire Mitigation Program

For over 33 years, served as a Forester and retired as Assistant Chief for the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Forestry Division. His work involved forest management, urban forestry, forest nursery operations and reforestation, vegetation management, habitat management and restoration, defensible space, pre-fire engineering, and implementation of the forest and chaparral best management practices. Mr. Lopez received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural-Forestry Engineering. He is a Qualified Logistics Section Chief Type 2 and 3, and an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team past member. He responded to hundreds of significant emergency incidents throughout his career. He also responded as a member of the Federal Burned Area Response (BAER) Team, California Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT), and as Remote Sensing and Infrared Interpreter. Additionally, Mr. Lopez acted as Incident Command System (ICS) liaison and instructor for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) for Latin America and the Caribbean.



He is a member of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, Co-Chair of the California Fire Safe Council Board of Directors, member of the State Fire Marshal's Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee and the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Fire Advisory Committee, F&A Federal Credit Union Supervisory Committee Chair. He has served on the Society of American Foresters (SAF) National Board of Directors, chaired the Southern California Regional Area Safety Taskforce (SCRAST), past member of the California Fire Science Consortium (CFSC) Advisory Board, Co-Chaired the Los Angeles County Weed Management Area (LAWMA) and was a Board Member of the Theodore Payne Foundation. He has also collaborated with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) FIREWISE USA, U.S. Green Building Council Los Angeles (USGBC-LA), Tree People, and numerous community-based organizations. He is an active member of the Society of American Foresters, California Licensed Foresters Association, California Urban Forests Council, and U.S. Green Building Council. He received the Society of American Foresters Fellow Award in 2002. In 2011, he was awarded the National Society of American Foresters, Presidential Outstanding Field Forester Award for his district. And he received the 2020 the USGBC-LA Resiliency Award.

His current work focuses on systematic analysis of existing, alternative, and emerging methodologies and techniques to protect communities, natural and cultural resources from the risk of wildfire damage. Projects include a combination of fire behavior and prevention analysis, science-based fire hazard reduction and ignition management methodologies, and the implementation and development of established and emerging fire-safe engineering activities.

California Wildfire Mitigation Program

As part of the State of California's effort to strengthen community-wide resilience against wildfires, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has partnered with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to develop a state home hardening initiative to retrofit, harden, and create defensible space for homes at high risk to wildfires, focusing on high socially-vulnerability communities and providing financial assistance for low- and moderate-income

households. Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 38 in 2019 authorizing Cal OES and CAL FIRE to enter into a joint powers agreement to oversee the development and implementation of the Program.

Known as the Home Hardening Program, this effort encourages cost-effective wildfire resilience measures to create fire-resistant homes, businesses, public buildings, and public spaces. Mitigation measures such as home hardening, vegetation management, defensible space, and other fuel modification activities provide neighborhood or community-wide benefits against wildfire.

Dennis O'Neil, CAL FIRE

Chief O'Neil began his fire service career in 1989 as a seasonal firefighter with CAL FIRE assigned to the San Luis Obispo Unit and a volunteer firefighter with the City of Arroyo Grande Fire Department. In 1997, Chief O'Neil was hired as a Forestry Technician with the Los Angeles County Fire Department Forestry Division and was assigned to the San Dimas Forest Nursery and Vegetation Management Unit. In 2000 Chief O'Neil returned to CAL Fire as a Forestry Assistant II and worked at the Jackson Demonstration State Forest. In 2004, Chief O'Neil transferred to the San Luis Obispo Unit as a Fire Captain in Pre-fire Engineering and in 2009, transferred to a Fire Captain position at Station 64 in Pismo Beach. Chief O'Neil promoted to Field Battalion Chief and was assigned to the Plains Battalion in 2018. In 2019 Chief O'Neil transferred to the SLU Training Bureau and in 2021 transferred to the units new Fuels Battalion position. Chief O'Neil has an Associates of Science Degree in Fire Technology from Allan Hancock Community College and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry and Natural Resources Management from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo. Chief O'Neil served on the San Luis Obispo County Hazardous Materials Team, San Luis Obispo County XSL Type III Incident Command Team, and on CAL FIRE Incident Command Team 6 as a Fire Behavior Analyst and CAL FIRE Incident Command Team 4 as a Situation Unit Leader.



Cal Hendrie, San Diego County Fire

Cal Hendrie's esteemed career in the fire service began with a local fire protection district. He later promoted through the ranks to Battalion Chief working for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) before retiring in 2021 with more than 40 years of service. Today he works for the San Diego County Fire Protection Districts Community Risk Reduction Bureau, as a Home Assessor / Program Construction Manager under the California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP). His role is to ensure applicants homes have sufficient defensible space as well as identify and retrofit homes and auxiliary buildings to better withstand wildland fires.



He served as the Fire Marshal for several years under a Cal Fire contract where he fostered an aggressive weed abatement ordinance (defensible space) and clearance standards using private contractors to complete the work. He spearheaded the Fire Districts elected board to adopt more stringent building codes and ordinances, which included Residential Sprinkler requirements, Private large capacity water storage systems, Ignition resistant construction standards, Community level road clearance standards.

Cal has a strong construction background as a residential contractor / builder and remodeler which enhances his fire background for the current position.

Akilah Cunningham- Harris, San Diego County Fire

Akilah Cunningham-Harris has 18 years of service with CAL FIRE. Today she works for the San Diego County Fire Protection Districts Community Risk Reduction Bureau as the Program Manager for the California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Home Hardening Grant. Prior to transferring to the Community Risk Reduction Bureau, Akilah was an integral part of the County of San Diego COVID-19 testing and vaccination team where she provided admin and logistical support. In addition, Akilah has been deployed on several wildland fire incidents assisting the CAL FIRE Incident Management team as logistical support.



Currently Akilah is the California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Home Hardening Grant Program Lead. This position entails processing applications, verifying backup documentation, providing Community Outreach, assists the Home Assessor/Construction Manager with assessments, GIS mapping, and contract negotiations with the contractors.

Akilah Cunningham-Harris graduated from California State University San Marcos in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Sociology.



Session 8: Concurrent Session C- Confronting Climate Change Through Mitigation

Kristen Pawling, LA Co. Sustainability

Kristen Torres Pawling is the Sustainability Program Director at Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office where she serves as senior staff leading the effort to implement the nation's most ambitious regional sustainability plan. Prior to the County, she has also worked in advocacy, regional government, and state government, including serving as the first California Air Resources Board Chair's Office Executive Fellow. Kristen is an appointee to the California Climate Insurance Working Group, focusing on extreme heat public sector solutions. She earned a Bachelor of Art degree in geography/environmental studies and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from UCLA.



John Elkins, EPA

John Elkins has a distinguished career spanning over two decades in the fields of hazardous materials, hazardous wastes, underground storage tanks (USTs), aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) and Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) programs. Mr. Elkins specializes in creating law, implementing regulation and ensuring compliance through enforcement. He is an experienced leader in the incident command system for emergency situations, with more than 15 years of service in emergency response. Mr. Elkins holds a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Studies with a concentration of study in Criminal Justice from the California State University, Sacramento. He is a Certified Underground and Above Ground Storage Tank Inspector and a Hazardous Materials Technician.



Mr. Elkins has served as a Supervising Environmental Specialist for Sacramento County's Environmental Management Department administering inspection and compliance at facilities in all aspects of the Unified Programs and Emergency Response. He also served as Senior Environmental Scientist for the State Water Resources Control Board's Office of Enforcement overseeing inspections and enforcement actions of regulated facilities throughout the state. Mr. Elkins' efforts in ensuring proper monitoring and certification of USTs containing waste oil was integral in preventing environmental contamination in California. Mr. Elkins also created the enforcement policy to ensure compliance for government-owned UST facilities and oversaw many of the largest enforcement cases in the program issuing penalties of up to \$25 million.

Mr. Elkins served as owner and CEO of the Environmental Compliance Training Institute (ECTI) for a decade and has extensive experience teaching classes and seminars to the public, regulated community, inspectors, and governmental agencies. His technical expertise in environmental law and ability to analyze and clarify environmental regulation has aided thousands of students in California. In addition, Mr. Elkins has provided expert witness testimony in the successful completion of multiple state and local enforcement cases.



SPEAKER BIOS

Currently, Mr. Elkins serves as the Environmental Program Manager for the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) overseeing Emergency Response and Refinery Safety where he is responsible for coordinating CalEPA's response to statewide emergencies. He effectively leads CalEPA's Emergency Response Management Committee (ERMaC) through wildfire, earthquake, debris flow, drought, flood, hazardous material releases, and all other disaster incidents. Mr. Elkins also oversees the state's implementation of the HMBP and CalARP programs in concert with 81 certified local agencies.

Session 9: Partnership Building for Mitigation

Bruce Martin, California Fire Safe Council

Bruce Martin works as Interim Executive Director for the California Fire Safe Council. Bruce retired in 2012 as Fire Chief for the City of Fremont (CA). Bruce worked in the fire service for over 40 years, starting as a volunteer firefighter with the Fairfax (CA) Fire Department. Post-retirement he worked as the Interim Fire Chief for the City of South Lake Tahoe and as CBRNE Project Manager for the Bay Area UASI. Within the fire service Chief Martin has served in operations, training, prevention and emergency management divisions. Bruce currently teaches as an adjunct for Truckee Meadows (NV) College in the Emergency Management/Homeland Security Bachelors program. Bruce is a United States Coast Guard (USCG) Auxiliarist and acts on request as an Assistant Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer for USCG District 11 to FEMA Region IX.



Bruce holds a Master's Degree in Security Studies from the United States Naval Postgraduate School, a Bachelor's Degree in Business from College of Notre Dame and an Associate's in Fire Science from Indian Valley.

Matt Rothstein, Lake County

Matthew Rothstein has served as Deputy County Administrative Officer for the County of Lake since March 2017. He has carried Public Information responsibilities surrounding numerous wildfires and other disasters, including 2018's historic Mendocino Complex event. Rothstein has served roles in disaster recovery, resiliency and mitigation, as well. Recently, he partnered with Lake County Community Risk Reduction Authority, Lake County Resource Conservation District and others to conduct Government-to-Government and public-facing workshops surrounding an ongoing countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) update. Further, Rothstein has played a role in evaluating energy and disaster resiliency project opportunities, including potential development of firefighting assets that could also provide microgrid capacity for nearby communities and critical infrastructure facilities.





SPEAKER BIOS

Sarah Samdin, OPR

Sarah Samdin is an Associate Planner of Climate Resilience at the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). In this role, Sarah serves as a project manager, overseeing OPR's Cooperative Technical Partners (CTP) grants with FEMA Region 9. Through these partnership grants, OPR works with CalOES and FEMA to support the alignment of state climate resilience funding programs with FEMA hazard mitigation assistance eligibility. OPR's Adaptation Planning Grant Program is serving as proof-of-concept of how to align a state funding program with FEMA eligibility. Prior to joining OPR, Sarah served as an Executive Fellow at the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) through the Capital Fellows Program. Sarah is a first-generation college graduate and received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning from the University of California, Davis.



Session 10: The Role of Economic Development in Resiliency and Recovery

Natalie Palugyai, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development

Natalie Palugyai was appointed Secretary of the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency by Governor Newsom on July 14, 2021. Secretary Palugyai is the first Latina to serve as California Labor Secretary.

In her role, Secretary Palugyai serves as the Governor's cabinet advisor on labor issues and employment programs for workers and businesses throughout California. Secretary Palugyai oversees the state departments and boards that enforce labor laws, including minimum wage and occupational safety standards, provide state disability and unemployment insurance benefits, fund workforce training and apprenticeship programs, combat wage theft, protect injured workers, and arbitrate public sector contract disputes.



Natalie is a nationally recognized thought leader in public sector business transformation, strategy, and implementation with over 20 years of experience in federal government and higher education. She has spent almost half of her public service career within the U.S. Department of Labor where she served first as a compliance officer with the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs and most recently as a Senior Management Advisor for the Secretary of Labor under President Barack Obama's Administration. In addition to her work on worker protection and enforcement strategy, Natalie launched and formalized the department's first integrated performance management accountability system, resulting in concrete improvements to both operational performance and organizational engagement.

Prior to leading the Labor & Workforce Development Agency, Natalie served as Senior Advisor for Strategic Initiatives at Johns Hopkins University, where she led the university's Global Operations

Initiative, establishing both governance frameworks and corporate structuring strategies in support of academic and research expansion globally.

Natalie is a native of Miami, Florida and the proud daughter of Uruguayan immigrants. She likes to remind everyone that while small, Uruguay was the first ever World Cup winner in 1930. In addition to winning a second World Cup in 1950 Uruguay is one of the most successful teams in the world, having won 2 Olympic Games, and 15 Copa América championships. She eagerly awaits the 2022 World Cup.

Natalie received her Bachelor's degree in International Studies and Sociology from the University of Miami in 1998. She earned her Master in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School in 2005.

Samuel Assefa, OPR Director

Prior to being appointed OPR Director, Assefa was Director of the City of Seattle Office of Planning and Community Development since 2016. He was Senior Urban Designer for the Department of Community Planning and Sustainability for City of Boulder from 2010 to 2016, Director of Land Use and Planning Policy for the Department of Planning and Development and Deputy Chief of Staff for Economic and Physical Development for the City of Chicago Mayor's Office from 2004 to 2010 and Senior Urban Designer for the SmithGroup JJR from 2002 to 2004. Assefa was Director of Special Projects for the City and County of San Francisco Department of Planning and Development from 1999 to 2002 and Senior Urban Designer for SMWM Architecture and Planning from 1993 to 1999. Assefa earned a Master of City Planning degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.





SPEAKER BIOS

Session 11: Keynote Address

Robert Fenton, FEMA

FEMA Region 9 Administrator Robert J. Fenton, Jr. was appointed in July 2015.

Since joining FEMA in 1996, Mr. Fenton has played a significant role in numerous large-scale response and recovery operations in the U.S. He has responded to more than 100 federal disasters, including the 9/11 World Trade Center terrorist attacks; Hurricane Katrina; four Florida hurricanes in 2004; super typhoons Pongsona, Mangkhut and Yutu in the Pacific; the Kilauea volcano eruption; multiple wildfire major disaster declarations, including the largest in the nation's history; and as the federal coordinating officer for COVID-19 response in four states, three territories and over 150 federally-recognized tribes.



From 2006 to 2009, Mr. Fenton served in the dual roles of director of disaster assistance and acting director of disaster operations in Region 9, where he was responsible for the delivery and coordination of all-hazards disaster planning, response and recovery in the region.

Mr. Fenton worked in various executive leadership roles at FEMA headquarters in Washington D.C. from 2009-2015, including as the deputy associate administrator in the Office of Response and Recovery, where he was instrumental in crafting the reorganization of the Response Directorate and the Office of Response and Recovery, as well as leading the Response Directorate's effort on whole community catastrophic planning, doctrine development, staff training and credentialing, and exercises. Mr. Fenton also led the agency's development and implementation of the National Response Framework, Presidential Policy Directive/PPD-8, disaster workforce and a grants modernization initiative.

In 2017, Mr. Fenton served as the acting FEMA administrator during the transition between presidential administrations. He filled that same role from Jan. to May 2021

Session 12: Mitigation at the Local Level**Miki Esposito, LA County Public Works**

Miki Esposito is Assistant Director of Los Angeles County Public Works. She oversees the areas of Construction Management, Municipal Services (which includes Emergency Management), Strategic Communications, and Community and Government Relations. She also leads the Resilience and Sustainability initiatives for Public Works.

With an annual budget of more than \$3.6 billion and a workforce of 4,000 employees, Los Angeles County Public Works is the largest municipal public works agency in the United States, providing vital public infrastructure and services to more than 10 million people across a 4,000-square-mile service area.

Miki's career is highlighted by extensive government experience in executive leadership and senior management roles at the local and state level. She previously served as the Director of Transportation and Utilities for the City of Lincoln, Nebraska and most recently, as Senior Policy Advisor to the Lincoln Mayor.

A native of Oceanside, California, Miki brings expertise in natural resources and environmental law and policy, with a Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Baker University.



Ken Pimlott, El Dorado County

Chief Pimlott began his fire service career in 1984 as a reserve fire fighter in Contra Costa County, California. He joined CAL FIRE in 1987 as a seasonal fire fighter, and ultimately worked his way through the ranks to Director and California's State Forester, a position he held from 2010 until his retirement in December 2018. Chief Pimlott has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Resource Management from Humboldt State University and is a Registered Professional Forester in California. Under his leadership, CAL FIRE and the State of California battled historic wildfires and an unprecedented bark beetle epidemic while at the same time increased the pace and scale of forest management and fire prevention. Chief Pimlott participated in numerous committees at the State and national level and testified before Congress on numerous occasions. Chief Pimlott continues to work on fire and forest management initiatives and is currently assisting El Dorado County with wildfire preparedness and resilience programs.



Dore Bietz, Tuolumne County

Dore Bietz (Northern and Southern Me-Wuk) resides on the Tuolumne Rancheria in Central California. Ms. Bietz has worked for Tribes specializing in realty, land use, environmental and natural resources protection and emergency management for 25 years. Dore understands the complexities of Tribal governments and the need to foster better communication between Tribes and outside agencies. Ms. Bietz currently is involved in every aspect of community development, environmental and natural resources protection, emergency management and preparedness.



Dore (Northern and Southern Me-Wuk) resides on the Tuolumne Rancheria in Central California. After receiving a degree in Landscape Architecture, Ms. Bietz has worked for tribes specializing in realty, land use and environmental and natural resources protection for 25 years. As an enrolled member of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians and a former tribal council secretary, Dore understands the complexities of tribal governments and the need to foster better communication between tribes and outside agencies. Ms. Bietz currently works as the Planner and Emergency Manager for the Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council where she is involved in every aspect of community development, environmental and natural resources protection. Ms. Bietz also serves on the Cal Trans Native American Advisory Council, on the Governor's Tribal Task Force for FirstNet, Cal Fire's Native American Advisory Council, Tribal Team Chair for the CA Landscape Conservation Partnership and tribal rep to California Forest Management Task Force. She is also a recent graduate of the Water Solutions Network Cohort 2 Leadership Program. She participates with local government entities as a member of the Tuolumne County Transportation Advisory Committee, the Tuolumne County Drought Task Force, the Tuolumne County Tree Mortality Task Force, the Tuolumne County Public Health Emergency Coalition and the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Water Management Authority Watershed Advisory Committee.

Kevin Phillips, Town of Paradise

Kevin Phillips comes to Paradise after serving as District Manager of Paradise Irrigation District. As District Manager, Kevin led PID through the difficult period of water restoration after the Camp Fire. Prior to serving as District Manager, Mr. Phillips served as the Chief Financial Officer for PID for 10 years. Kevin's strong background in finance will be vital as the Town of Paradise navigates the rebuilding process. "Kevin brings a depth of knowledge about the Town, our recovery and our goals that is unmatched. We know he is the right choice to lead our Town into the future." Says councilman Greg Bolin.

Mr. Phillips has been part of the Camp Fire response and recovery since November 8th and has deep ties to the community. His knowledge of public finance, significant project management, FEMA, Cal OES and disaster recovery make Kevin an asset to the Town of Paradise. Kevin began his position as Town Manager for Paradise on August 31, 2020. He replaced Lauren Gill, who retired in September of 2020 after 35 years with the Town of Paradise, seven of those as the Town Manager.



SPEAKER BIOS

Session 13: Meet the Mitigation Experts

Jenn Hogan, Cal OES

Jenn is the Assistant Director over Hazard Mitigation within Cal OES Recovery. She oversees administration of State and Federal Hazard Mitigation financial assistance programs and the Hazard Mitigation Planning Division. Since 2016, Jenn has served as the State Hazard Mitigation Officer for 14 federally declared disasters. She has more than 20 years of experience in public safety, emergency management, and program administration.



Katie Lipiecki, FEMA

Kathryn (Katie) Lipiecki is director of the Mitigation Division for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 9 office in Oakland, California. In this role, she oversees the regional implementation of mitigation programs, including the flood mapping program, Hazard Mitigation Planning program, multi-million dollar disaster and non-disaster mitigation grants such as the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, floodplain management and flood insurance programs, and Environmental and Historic Preservation compliance.



Prior to joining Region 9 in 2020, Katie was the hazard mitigation division director in Puerto Rico, supporting recovery efforts for hurricanes Irma and Maria, and the 2020 earthquakes. In this role, she oversaw the implementation of various mitigation program areas, including the \$3.6 billion Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and supported the obligation of over \$115 million for 406 mitigation.

Katie started with FEMA Region 3 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, working in the Floodplain Management & Insurance branch and serving as the Risk Analysis branch chief. Before FEMA, Katie worked for URS Corporation, where she supported FEMA's flood map modernization program. She also volunteered on a local historic preservation commission in Haddonfield, New Jersey, providing guidance on compliance with historic district regulations. She holds a Master of Science in Urban Planning from Columbia University in New York City, where she concentrated in housing policy, and has a Bachelor of Arts in Historic Preservation and American Studies from Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland. She is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Command and General Staff Officers' Common Core course.



SPEAKER BIOS

Session 14: Concurrent Session A- Scalability of Mitigation Solutions

Amelia Muccio, Cal OES

Amelia Muccio is the Director of Mitigation at Hagerty Consulting and a subject matter expert in disaster recovery. With over 15 years of experience in public health, disaster preparedness, mitigation, and financial recovery, Amelia has helped clients obtain \$5 billion in federal funds after major disasters, including Hurricane Sandy, the California Wildfires, and Hurricane Harvey.



Misha Baily, Sonoma County

Misha is the Grants Program Manager for Sonoma County's Permit and Natural Resources Management Department (Permit Sonoma), where she is responsible for the implementation and administration of over \$15 million in FEMA-funded wildfire resiliency grant projects. Since 2013 Misha has been working in the field of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning and Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Programs (HMGP, PDM, and now BRIC). She served the State of Vermont as the director of operations for the hazard mitigation planning and grant programs, directing mitigation operations across 9 federal disasters, completing the 2013 State Hazard Mitigation Plan, and overseeing a 50-fold increase in HMGP grant funding operations across the state. In 2016 Misha moved back home to Northern California and has been serving the County of Sonoma since then. At the County of Sonoma, she worked at Sonoma Water for over 5 years, including a temporary post with the County Administrator's Office to build the County's first disaster recovery and resiliency Grants Manager position after the historic 2017 wildfires in Sonoma County. She recently joined the Permit Sonoma team to manage and administer the FEMA-funded wildfire resiliency grant programs.



John Mack, Sonoma County

John is presently Natural Resources Manager for Sonoma County's Natural Resource Section of the Permit and Natural Resources Management Department (Permit Sonoma) where he is responsible for environmental review of public and private projects as well as the County's Aggregate and Resource Management, Stormwater Management, and Sustainable Groundwater Management Programs. Since 2018, he has been extensively involved with post-fire resiliency efforts including obtaining large FEMA hazard mitigation grants. John has previously worked as Chief of Conservation and Education for the Catalina Island Conservancy and before that Chief of Natural Resources for Cleveland Metroparks. He is an ecologist with extensive experience in developing and implementing large-scale monitoring and assessment programs. He was a lead wetland ecologist for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and prior to that was an environmental attorney. John has a Bachelor in Philosophy from Miami University, Masters degrees in Environmental Science (Indiana University) and Ecology (Ohio State University), and a law degree (Cleveland State University).



Session 15: Concurrent Session B- Removing Barriers to Mitigation Funding and Activities**Deborah Glaser, The Nature Conservancy**

Deborah Glaser is the Project Director for Climate Resilient Communities at the Nature Conservancy in California. In this role, Deborah manages a portfolio of work that builds community-level resilience to the impacts of climate change, working closely with communities in the Wildland-Urban Interface that are experiencing high wildfire risk.

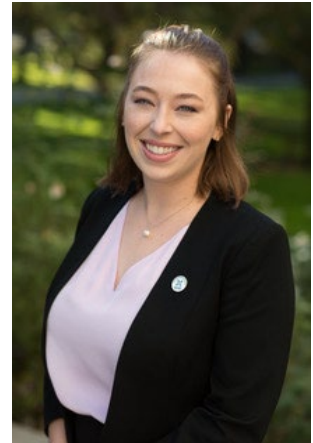




SPEAKER BIOS

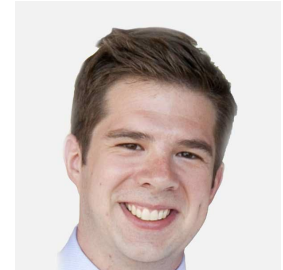
Jacy Hyde, Cal OES

Jacy Hyde has served as the Branch Chief for Hazard Mitigation Assistance at the Governor's Office of Emergency Services since 2020. In this role, she oversees nine state and federal grant programs aimed at all-hazards risk reduction and climate adaptation. Jacy has championed the development and implementation of three first-in-the-nation state grant programs to build resiliency in equity priority communities: Prepare California Match, JumpStart, and the CA Wildfire Mitigation Program. Prior to joining Cal OES, she served as a Science Policy Fellow through the CA Council on Science and Technology in the CA State Assembly Natural Resources Committee, where she applied her expertise in sustainable development and ecology to advance science-informed climate and natural resources policy. Before entering state service, Jacy had a scientific career as a field ecologist, ultimately earning her doctorate from University of Florida in Forest Resources and Conservation. Her research efforts applied a transdisciplinary lens to assess and mitigate the impacts of energy infrastructure development on forested ecosystems. Jacy holds a BSc in Biological Sciences from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.



Scott Baldwin, Cal OES

Mr. Scott Baldwin is a hazard mitigation professional with 13 years of experience and expertise in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) pre-and post-disaster grant programs. Mr. Baldwin formerly worked with the State of Colorado as the Deputy State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) for the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS), Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) where he oversaw the administration of over \$100 million of project and planning funding. Since joining Hagerty Consulting, Inc. (Hagerty) as a Senior Mitigation Manager, Mr. Baldwin has provided his expertise to support recovery and mitigation projects for clients such as the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) across all FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs.





SPEAKER BIOS

Mary Small, Coastal Conservancy

Mary Small is the Coastal Conservancy's Deputy Executive Officer, a position she has held for the past 12 years. Her responsibilities include overseeing the agency's budget and providing leadership for several initiatives, including work on climate adaptation and grants for programs that increase access to the coast. She has spent the last 20 years working on land conservation and environmental planning projects around the state. Mary has worked at the Coastal Conservancy since 2001, managing dozens of wetland restoration, land conservation, and public recreation projects around San Francisco Bay and throughout Southern California. She was hired by the Coastal Conservancy as a project manager and later promoted to be the Conservancy's southern California regional manager. She has a BA from Cornell University and a Master's in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning from UC Berkeley.



Session 16: Concurrent Session C- Confronting Climate Change Through Mitigation

Jessica London, Cal OES

Jessica London is the Program Manager of the State Mitigation Planning Unit at Cal OES. In this role, she oversees the development, implementation, and maintenance of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP). Prior to joining the State, Jessica had the privilege of working at the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (DC HSEMA), the National Capital Region Threat Intelligence Consortium (NTIC) fusion center, and Hagerty Consulting. Before entering emergency management, she worked with individuals with disabilities in the public health sphere. Jessica earned her Bachelor's in Anthropology and Sociology from Lafayette College and her Master's in Emergency and Disaster Management from Georgetown University where she wrote her thesis exploring opportunities and constraints to enhance resilience in the disability population through the intersection of disability-relevant data and GIS in emergency management.



Jeff Toney, San Diego County

Jeff D. Toney serves as the Director of the County of San Diego Office of Emergency Services (OES) overseeing all phases of emergency management within the County. He joined County OES in December 2019. Toney started his career in emergency management with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services where he served as Southern Region Deputy Regional Administrator in Los Alamitos, California. He was also an instructor for the California Specialized Training Institute where he taught Emergency Planning, Mitigation, Recovery, and Emergency Operations Center Management. In 2018, Toney was appointed as the Southern Regional Administrator for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. In that role, he oversaw response and recovery operations for 11 Southern California counties and served in leadership roles in several Major Presidential Disaster Declarations. Prior to his work in emergency management, Toney worked in various public affairs, legislative, and managerial roles in the private sector and in State government for the California Department of Corporations and the Department of Consumer Affairs. Toney graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from the University of California Los Angeles.



Phil Gilbertson, FEMA

Philip Gilbertson is a Community Planner with the Mitigation Division for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 9 office in Oakland, California. In this role, Philip works with state, local, tribal, and territory communities to develop robust hazard mitigation plans and implement risk reduction strategies. To assist in these efforts, the planning team connects research and planning communities-of-practice to deliver training and technical assistance to hazard mitigation practitioners.



Philip began his career as an active-duty officer in the U.S. Air Force and remains active in the Air Force Reserve. He has experience leading and working with diverse teams focused on meteorology, special operations, intelligence, geospatial information and services, public health, and urban and emergency planning. Philip holds a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology, a Master of Public Health with a focus on Biosecurity and Disaster Preparedness, a Master of Science in Sustainability, a graduate certificate in advanced geographic information systems and remote sensing, and is a doctoral candidate in Geography at Arizona State University. He has graduated from several leadership courses, including the Air Force's Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and is a student in Air War College.

In his academic research, Philip has worked with some of the nation's leading experts in extreme heat, urban resilience, and climate adaption at Arizona State University. His doctoral research focuses on the intersection of hazard mitigation and climate change adaptation planning in the

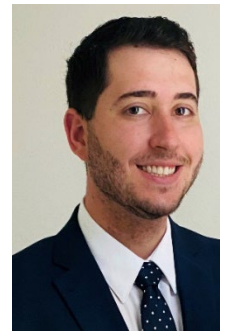


SPEAKER BIOS

United States, with particular attention to land-use planning mandates and requirements at the state level. Philip has a passion for bridging professional disciplines and practices to advance novel operational frameworks and programs. While he acknowledges the complexity of these challenges and attempts to approach them with a sense of humility, he is eager to explore new ways of planning with diverse stakeholders that lead to resilient and sustainable communities.

Jared Peri, Cal OES

Jared currently works for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services as a Senior Emergency Services Coordinator. In his position he works directly with local jurisdictions in the development of their local hazard mitigation plans. This development includes technical assistance, providing resources, and review of the plan before submission to FEMA. Jared's career in the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services began as an analyst for the hazard mitigation grant programs where he also served as a regional manager. Prior to joining state service Jared was a branch manager in the banking industry.



Nikki Caravelli, Office of Planning and Research

As Associate Planner specializing in Climate Resilience at OPR, Nikki manages the State Adaptation Clearinghouse and supports climate services and technical assistance under OPR's Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP). Nikki brings a commitment to accessible climate communications, equitable community engagement, and holistic, equitable planning and implementation of climate solutions to her work. Prior to OPR, Nikki spent two years with Sierra Business Council as a policy analyst and Project Manager for the Sierra Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Partnership, advocating for and coordinating local and regional solutions to the Sierra Nevada region's climate vulnerabilities. Nikki also served as a 2016–17 CivicSpark Climate Fellow at Sierra Business Council, providing climate planning and implementation technical assistance to local governments. Nikki has a B.A. in Anthropology and a Concentration in Environmental Studies from Williams College, where she graduated in 2016 as a Class of 1960 Environmental Scholar.



Session 17: Energy Resiliency- Hear from Energy Providers Regarding Resiliency Efforts making California Safer**Caroline Thomas Jacobs, *Office of Energy Infrastructure***

Caroline Thomas Jacobs was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom in July 2021 as the first Director of the new Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety under the California Natural Resources Agency. The Office was created by the Legislature to address the growing threat of utility-cause wildfires in California. Prior to standing up the new Office, Director Thomas Jacobs held leadership roles at the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Office of Emergency Services where she worked on disaster response and utility-related wildfire issues, including the initial implementation of Public Safety Power Shutoffs by California utilities. Prior to public service, Director Thomas Jacobs worked in the technology sector in Silicon Valley.

Shinjini Menon, *Southern CA Edison*

Shinjini Menon is vice president, Asset Management & Wildfire Safety, at Southern California Edison. She is responsible for the development and execution of SCE's Wildfire Mitigation Plan, PSPS Readiness and oversees the asset management work across the company to optimize investments and ensure safe and reliable operation of the system.

With 25 years of engineering, regulatory and business planning knowledge, she brings extensive experience representing the company during complex public proceedings.

Menon joined SCE in 2004. She was previously managing director of State Regulatory Operations in Regulatory Affairs where she was responsible for all cost recovery-related regulatory matters and the utility's regulatory policies concerning grid resilience and modernization. In previous roles, she also led Transmission & Distribution operational planning.

Before joining SCE, Menon worked for Corning Incorporated leading aspects of product development for photonics and environmental technologies.

Menon holds a bachelor's degree in electronics engineering from Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) and master's degrees in electrical engineering and statistics from Purdue University.





SPEAKER BIOS

Andy Abranches, PG&E

Andy currently works as the Sr Director for PG&E's Wildfire Risk Management Team. In his current role, he leads the teams responsible for PG&E's Wildfire Mitigation Plan, Risk Modeling and Analytics work, Vegetation Strategy and Analytics, and Meteorology & Fire Science. The work performed by his team guide both operational decision-making during fire season and long-term resiliency planning for PG&E. In prior roles at PG&E he has led the long-term investment planning teams for both Electric Operations and Gas Operations, and served as a Witness in various rate proceedings at the California Public Utility Commission. He has been with PG&E since 2008 and has worked in Electric Operations, Gas Operations, Finance, HR, and Risk Management. He holds a BS Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Prior to PG&E he worked at Northrop Grumman and GE Healthcare in a variety of technical and management roles.

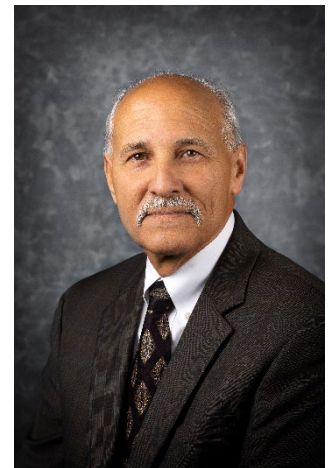


Session 18: CA Fire Foundation

Rick Martinez, CA Fire Foundation

Rick Martinez has over forty years in public safety service. Rising through the ranks he served in nearly every fire operational and administrative position to include twelve years as fire chief. During his tenure as fire chief he guided the consolidation of multiple fire departments forming the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, the seventh largest local fire department in the State of California and established the first local government wildland helicopter program in northern California.

Prior to joining the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, Chief Martinez served twenty-one years with the Sacramento City Fire Department. He was instrumental in the establishment and management of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue Task Force and served as the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Leader in response to the Murrah Federal Building bombing in Oklahoma City in April 1995.



In 2000, he was selected as one of three national search and rescue Incident Support Team Leaders for FEMA in which he was responsible for the management and direction of all FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Teams in several national disasters to include; Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi, Hurricane Rita, the World Trade Center Incident in New York on September 11, 2001 and the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics.

In July 2003, Chief Martinez was named as the first Chief Deputy Director, an appointee of Governor Gray Davis, to the California Office of Homeland Security (OHS). In November 2003, he was appointed to the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission by Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger to provide a thorough review of the Southern California wildfires of 2003. He also served as the interim



SPEAKER BIOS

Director of OHS for Governor Schwarzenegger. In 2003, he was selected as the Fire Chief of the Year by the California Fire Chief's Association.

Following his initial retirement in 2005 from the fire service he served as the Chief of Emergency Services for the Sacramento City and County Office of Emergency Services, served as the interim Fire Chief of the City of West Sacramento, performed efficiency reviews for: California Fire & Rescue Training Authority, University of California at Davis, Placer County (CA), Washoe County (NV) and the Hellenic Fire Corp in Greece. He founded and serves as the chairman of the Carolyn Martinez Private Foundation assisting cancer survivors and supporting local animal cruelty prevention organizations. He also serves as a Board Member of the California Joint Apprenticeship Committee and previously served as a Board Member of the California Fire Foundation. In 2020, he joined the California Fire Foundation as Executive Director.

Chief Martinez received his Associate of Arts Degree in Fire Technology and completed his Bachelor's Degree in Vocational and Adult Education. He is also a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.