Welcome!

CCAs are playing a critical role as part of California’s energy market transformation. Currently 19 CCAs are operational throughout the state; a remarkable shift since we all came together last year. Our collaborative approach with each other, our communities, policy makers and industry partners will continue to be important in helping our organizations evolve while we innovate to advance our clean energy and carbon reduction goals. We welcome this opportunity to come together and share best practices, and I invite you to make the most of this important gathering by contributing to our collective thought leadership.

Dawn Weisz, President, CalCCA; Chief Executive Officer, MCE

Thank you for joining CalCCA in Monterey Bay for our annual meeting! It’s been a watershed year for community choice aggregation in California with many new programs operating and an estimated 2.5 million accounts served by CCAs in 2018. This extraordinary level of growth would not have been possible without the collaborative spirit that is a hallmark of the CCA movement. As we continue to advance and mature, aggregators are also becoming known for their innovative programs and synergistic partnerships; hence the theme of this year’s meeting, “The Power of Partnerships.” CalCCA looks forward to working together with a broad range of stakeholders and interests to reach shared goals. Together we can achieve so much more.

Beth Vaughan, Executive Director, California Community Choice Association

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the CCA community to the Monterey Bay Region for the 2018 CalCCA Annual Meeting. As the home of our very own CCA, Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP), our tri–county community is honored to help further the mission of all CCAs and to support another important aspect of our state’s commitment to promoting sustainability and increasing the delivery of carbon–free electricity.

I hope that each one of you enjoys your time here, and I have no doubt that all of you will leave the Asilomar Conference Grounds with newfound inspiration and ideas. Thank you to CalCCA for bringing the Annual Meeting to the Monterey Bay region, and thanks to all of you for making the trip.

Bruce McPherson, Santa Cruz County Supervisor and MBCP Policy Board Chair
### DAY 1  
**Wednesday, September 5—Merrill Hall**

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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Registration Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30</td>
<td><strong>Welcome</strong> — Beth Vaughan, Executive Director, California Community Choice Association</td>
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<td>1:35</td>
<td><strong>Workshop 1: Breaking Down the PCIA – What Does it Mean for Your CCA?</strong></td>
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<td>Facilitator: Hilary Staver, Manager of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, Silicon Valley Clean Energy</td>
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<td>Evelyn Kahl, Partner, Buchalter</td>
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<td>Neal Reardon, Director, Regulatory Affairs, Sonoma Clean Power</td>
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<td>3:00</td>
<td>Meet and Greet Break</td>
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<td>3:30</td>
<td><strong>Workshop 2: Designing Rates: Art or Science?</strong></td>
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<td>Facilitator: Tom Habashi, CEO, Monterey Bay Community Power</td>
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<td>Michael Champ, Manager of Finance &amp; Analytics, Community Energy Services, SMUD</td>
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<td>Nancy Ryan, Partner, E3</td>
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<td>Jian Zhang, CEO, GridX</td>
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<td>5:00</td>
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<td>6:00–9:00</td>
<td>Welcome Reception &amp; BBQ (The Grove) Sponsored by Calpine Energy Solutions</td>
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### DAY 2  
**Thursday, September 6—Merrill Hall**

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<tr>
<td>7:30–8:15</td>
<td>Breakfast (Crocker Hall) Sponsored by Terra-Gen</td>
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<td>8:30–8:40</td>
<td>Welcome to Monterey Bay</td>
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<td>Mayor Bill Kampe, City of Pacific Grove</td>
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<td>Bruce McPherson, Chair, Monterey Bay Community Power and Santa Cruz County Supervisor</td>
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<td>8:40–9:00</td>
<td><strong>CalCCA: Where are We Now, and What Lies Ahead?</strong></td>
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<td>Beth Vaughan, Executive Director, CalCCA</td>
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DAY 2  Thursday, September 6—Merrill Hall

9:00–10:10  Session 1: Partnerships Driving Innovation
What are some of the innovative programs and partnerships delivering quantifiable benefits to communities and the state? This session will examine projects that include microgrids, transportation electrification, fuel switching, and new clean energy supplies, and the variety of partnerships needed to make them possible.

Moderator: Matthew Marshall, Executive Director, Redwood Coast Energy Authority
Kevin Banister, Vice President of Development, Principle Power Inc.
David Erne, Energy Systems Research Office Supervisor, California Energy Commission
Jeff Lifur, Project Manager, Cenergy Power
Cordel Stillman, Director of Programs, Sonoma Clean Power
Macy Neshati, Executive Director, Antelope Valley Transit Authority

10:10–10:30  Keynote: Assembly Member Mark Stone, District 29

10:30–10:50  Meet and Greet Break Sponsored by Skylar Energy Resources

10:50–12:00  Session 2: Affordable Reliability: Getting the Policy Right
How do we set policies to guide California toward a low-carbon future? As California’s grid moves increasingly toward solar and wind resources, the costs of reliability are increasing. This panel will discuss the affordability of our choices for sustaining a reliable grid.

Moderator: Geof Syphers, CEO, Sonoma Clean Power
Melissa Brandt, Senior Director of Public Affairs and Deputy General Counsel, East Bay Community Energy
Kendall Helm, Director of Origination and Portfolio Optimization, San Diego Gas & Electric
Phil Pettingill, Manager of Regulatory Policy, CAISO
Edward Randolph, Director, Energy Division, California Public Utilities Commission

12:00–1:00  Lunch (Crocker Hall) Sponsored by Sacramento Municipal Utility District

1:00–1:30  CCAs and California’s Clean Energy Transition
Ralph Cavanagh, Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council

This presentation will cover NRDC’s recent work with the California CCA community on enhanced western grid integration, retail electricity competition, the CPUC’s report on California Customer Choice and advance recommendations for coordinated efforts in the year ahead, in aid of common interests in California’s clean energy transition.
DAY 2  Thursday, September 6—Merrill Hall

1:30–2:30  Session 3: From Competition to Partnerships
How do the IOUs and POUs cross the divide and embrace the notion of becoming service providers to CCAs? This session will examine the transition of the business relationship between start-up CCAs and the more established investor-owned and public utilities and future plans to increase business offerings and partnerships to support the expansion of CCAs in California.

Moderator: Tom Habashi, CEO, Monterey Bay Community Power
Cathy DeFalco, Executive Director, Lancaster Choice Energy and California Choice Energy Authority
David Gutierrez, Senior Manager, 3rd Party Relations, PG&E
Gary Lawson, Manager Wholesale Energy Services, Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Tony Zimmer, Assistant General Manager, Northern California Power Agency

2:30–3:00  Meet and Greet Break Sponsored by California Choice Energy Authority

3:00–4:00  Session 4: Embracing our Communities: Developing Leading Community Investment Strategies
How can CCAs develop high impact local investments that meet their community’s needs? This session will identify opportunities for strategic alignment between the mission of CCAs, local needs, and energy investments, particularly for disadvantaged communities.

Moderator: Deidre Sanders, Director Government and Community Affairs, East Bay Community Energy
Emily Lam, Director, Policy and Government Affairs, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Dennis Osmer, Executive Director, Central Coast Energy Solutions; Member, Community Advisory Council, Monterey Bay Community Power
Violet Saena, Resilient Communities Program Manager, Acterra
Renee Sharp, Bay Area Regional Director, GRID Alternatives
Kathy Wells, Energy Projects Coordinator, Lancaster Choice Energy

4:00–4:10  Closing Remarks — Dawn Weisz, President, CalCCA

4:10–4:45  CalCCA Member Meeting (Operational and Affiliate Members Only)

4:15–6:15  Closing Reception (Seascape Hall) Sponsored by Intersect Power
Featured Speakers

Beth Vaughan, Executive Director, California Community Choice Association

Beth Vaughan is executive director of the California Community Choice Association. CalCCA supports the state’s community choice aggregators through regulatory and legislative advocacy and by providing technical guidance. Prior to assuming this role in October 2017, she was executive director of the California Cogeneration Council advocating for companies operating combined heat and power projects in California. Ms. Vaughan brings expertise in both the public and private energy sectors. She has consulted with government agencies, non-profits, and private sector interests on energy and environmental public policy issues. Ms. Vaughan served five years as senior advisor to environment and conservation cabinet ministers in the New Zealand parliament. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Queen’s University in Canada, and Master of Science from Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand.

Bill Kampe, Mayor, City of Pacific Grove President, Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority

Bill Kampe started his career after three years of Navy experience, and after earning graduate degrees in engineering and business. He brings 35 years of private industry experience with Hewlett-Packard Company and Agilent Technologies in Senior Marketing and Quality Management roles. Mr. Kampe retired from private industry and has lived in Pacific Grove with his wife for the past 10 years. He became a member of the City Council in 2008 and Mayor in 2012. As part of his regional responsibilities, Mr. Kampe is currently serving as president of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority. He also serves on the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, where he just completed a year as president. Previously he chaired the board of the Ventana Wildlife Society – restoring the California condor on the Central Coast.

Bruce McPherson, Santa Cruz County Fifth District Supervisor

Bruce McPherson was elected to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors in November 2012 and immediately became the main driving force behind investigating community choice energy, resulting in the formation of Monterey Bay Community Power. Mr. McPherson has a long and distinguished record of serving the Monterey Bay Region and the State of California as a fourth-generation Santa Cruz County native, as Editor for the Sentinel and later serving two terms in the California State Assembly (1993–96) and two terms in the California State Senate (1996–2004). In early 2005, Bruce was confirmed unanimously in both the Assembly and Senate to be Secretary of State. He has been recognized as Legislator of the Year by numerous organizations and honored for his dedication and commitment to improving education, supporting public safety, fighting for environmental protection, and assisting small businesses.
Featured Speakers

The Honorable Mark Stone (D–Monterey Bay)
Mark Stone represents the people of California’s 29th Assembly District, which includes portions of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and Monterey Counties. Now in his third term as a state legislator, he has earned his reputation as a leader helping California’s most vulnerable residents and fighting to protect the unique coastal environment. Before his service in the Assembly, Mr. Stone represented the Central Coast on the California Coastal Commission, as a Santa Cruz County Supervisor, and as a trustee of the Scotts Valley Unified School District.

Ralph Cavanagh, Co-Director, Energy Program, Natural Resources Defense Council
Since joining NRDC in 1979, Ralph Cavanagh has focused on removing barriers to cost-effective energy efficiency and on the role that electric and natural gas utilities can play in leading a clean energy transition. From 1993 to 2003, he served on the U.S. secretary of energy’s advisory board. He has taught energy law and policy at Harvard Law School, Stanford Law School, the UC Berkeley Law School, and the University of Idaho. Mr. Cavanagh has received many awards, including the Heinz Award for Public Policy, the Bonneville Power Administration’s Award for Exceptional Public Service, the University of Missouri’s Crystal Award, and the Lifetime Achievement in Energy Efficiency Award from California’s Flex Your Power campaign. He is a graduate of Yale University and Yale Law School.

Dawn Weisz, President, CalCCA; Chief Executive Officer, MCE
Dawn Weisz is the CEO for MCE and she coordinated efforts to explore, develop and launch MCE as the first Community Choice Aggregation program in California. Ms. Weisz has more than 25 years of experience developing and managing renewable energy and energy efficiency programs while working for leading public agencies in the field. Before joining MCE Ms. Weisz managed energy and sustainability initiatives for the County of Marin, served as the Executive Director for Sustainable North Bay, and was a labor and environmental justice organizer in Los Angeles. Ms. Weisz has been a guest lecturer at UC Berkeley, UC Davis, and for the National American Planning Association. She has also received awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Energy and the Power Association of Northern California. She currently serves as President of the California Community Choice Association.
Kevin Banister, Vice President of Development, Principle Power, Inc.

Kevin Banister is Vice President of Development for Principle Power, Inc., the owner/designer of the proprietary WindFloat technology, a floating foundation for offshore wind turbines. He leads Principle Power’s business development activities around the world, which include interactions with utilities, developers, government officials, stakeholders and policymakers in Europe, Asia and the United States. Mr. Banister is a long-time renewable energy professional with experience in energy policy, energy project development and contract negotiation and planning. He was appointed by the Governor in Oregon to the state’s renewable energy task force and is the Board Chair for the Pacific Ocean Energy Trust (POET), a new effort to broaden clean, renewable energy development in the Pacific. Mr. Banister is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara and holds an MSc in Economic Development from the London School of Economics.

Melissa Brandt, Senior Director of Public Affairs and Deputy General Counsel, East Bay Community Energy

Melissa Brandt oversees EBCE's regulatory, legislative, local government, and community affairs teams. Prior to joining the EBCE team, Ms. Brandt led a team of regulatory case managers at PG&E. She previously led greenhouse gas commercial strategy and cap-and-trade procurement efforts and negotiated long-term electric power purchase agreements. She began her career in the federal government as a Presidential Management Fellow at the Bureau of Land Management and the State Department, and as a civil servant at the Office of Management and Budget. Ms. Brandt holds a B.A. in Environmental Sciences from U.C. Berkeley, a Juris Doctor from Columbia University, and a Master of Public Administration from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. She is a member of the State Bar of California.

Michael Champ, Manager of Finance and Analytics, Community Energy Services Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Michael Champ is Manager of Finance and Analytics for the Community Energy Services team at SMUD. He leads several of SMUD’s service offerings for CCE clients, including rate analysis and design, financial modeling, and analytics. He also designed the SMUD CCA billing system, which accommodates a wide variety of rates, programs, and NEM policies.

Cathy DeFalco, EJD, C.P.M. Executive Director, Lancaster Choice Energy

As the Executive Director for Lancaster Choice Energy, Cathy DeFalco is responsible for overall LCE operations, strategy, and leadership of the LCE team. Ms. DeFalco brings over 30 years of procurement, commodity, and contract management experience in both the public and private sectors. She received an undergraduate degree from the University of LaVerne, a Master Certificate in Contract Management from Villanova University, and in 2013 she received a doctoral degree in law from the Concord School of Law. Ms. DeFalco has been with the City of Lancaster since 2006, initially overseeing the Procurement and Contracts Division. She joined LCE as Energy Manager overseeing regulatory and procurement in 2015 and assumed her role as Executive Director in 2017.
Speaker Profiles

David Erne, Supervisor, Energy Systems Research Office, California Energy Commission

David Erne leads smart grid–related research for the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) program. The current smart grid research portfolio includes over 40 projects totaling $115M, addressing challenges to the implementation of microgrids, energy storage, and vehicle-to-grid technologies. Prior to working at the Energy Commission, Mr. Erne supported multiple federal R&D programs addressing national and regional energy and environmental challenges.

David Gutierrez, Senior Manager, 3rd Party Relations, Pacific Gas and Electric Company

David Gutierrez is the 3rd Party Relations Senior Manager in the Customer Service organization at PG&E. He oversees the CCA Relations team, which maintains the relationships between PG&E and all existing and prospective Community Choice Aggregation Programs. Mr. Gutierrez has been with PG&E for 12 years within the Customer Service Organization working in various capacities from Customer Outreach Specialist to Major Account Rep to his current role leading the 3rd Party Relations Team. He has been focused on CCA programs since 2014 and has overseen and supported the growth of CCA programs from two to the current 12 that operate today. Prior to working at PG&E Mr. Gutierrez worked for the City and County of San Francisco in the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services. He holds a BA from Cal Poly State University in Political Science.

Kendall Helm, Vice President of Energy Supply, San Diego Gas & Electric

Kendall Helm is a PhD economist and has been with the Sempra Energy companies since 2012. Ms. Helm initially managed Sempra’s Corporate Economics department, where she provided research on the company’s valuation, capital structure, and corporate strategy. In 2014, she became Sempra’s Director of Investor Relations. She joined SDG&E in 2016 as Director of Origination and Portfolio Design and now serves as the Vice President of Energy Supply, overseeing electric procurement, electric generation, and resource planning. Prior to joining Sempra, Ms. Helm was Senior Economist for International Affairs and Trade at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. She has consulted for clients including the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, Georgetown University, and the World Bank. Ms. Helm received a bachelor’s degree in economics and international studies from the University of Denver and earned a doctorate degree in economics from American University.

Evelyn Kahl, Shareholder, Buchalter

Evelyn Kahl is a Shareholder in Buchalter’s San Francisco office and member of the Firm’s Energy & Natural Resources Practice Group. With over three decades of experience in the energy industry, Ms. Kahl advises natural gas and electricity infrastructure owners, transporters, and end-users on the integration of California energy laws and regulations with business objectives. Ms. Kahl’s experience in the energy and natural resources field includes California electricity, natural gas, and climate change matters in regulatory, legislative and commercial platforms. Among other clients, she represents the Energy Producers and Users Coalition and the Indicated Producers, which collectively represent the electricity and natural gas production and consumption interests of eight global energy companies.
Speaker Profiles

Emily Lam, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Emily Lam is the Director of Policy and Government Affairs for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), a $1.3 billion/year San Francisco department that provides water, power and sewer services to 2.7 million Bay Area residents. In this role, she oversees the agency’s public policy and political strategy at the local, state and federal level around water, wastewater, energy, climate change, infrastructure financing and workforce development. Ms. Lam received a B.A. with Honors in Community Health from Brown University and a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard.

Matthew Langer, Chief Operating Officer, Clean Power Alliance

Matthew Langer is Chief Operating Officer for Clean Power Alliance, California’s new, locally-operated, electricity provider for 31 communities and approximately one million eligible customers across Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Mr. Langer has broad renewable energy and utility experience, including deep expertise in renewable energy project development, contracting, and operations. His experience includes nine years at Southern California Edison where he held roles in energy procurement, corporate strategy, transmission and distribution, and customer service. Mr. Langer earned an MBA from the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business and bachelor of science in management from Tulane University.

Jeff Lifur, VP of Project Development, Cenergy Power

Jeff Lifur acted as Project Manager on behalf of Cenergy Power for the MCE SolarOne project in Richmond. He has worked developing solar projects for Cenergy for over four years. Prior to Cenergy, Mr. Lifur worked for eleven years in the foreign service as a regional legal advisor for the U.S. Agency for International Development where he facilitated U.S. development projects in the areas of health, education, economic growth and basic infrastructure in coordination with host governments and local and international non-governmental organizations. Before that, he was a project finance attorney for the international law firm of Chadbourne & Parke in New York. Mr. Lifur received his law degree from the UCLA School of Law.

Gary Lawson, Manager of Wholesale Energy Services, Community Energy Services Sacramento Municipal Utility District

With over 36 years in the utility/energy industry, Gary Lawson was tapped to launch SMUD’s delivery of Wholesale Energy Services to CCA clients and serves as Manager of Wholesale Energy Services for SMUD’s Community Energy Services team. He leads the group responsible for providing all facets of the energy services to SMUD’s CCE clients, including planning, portfolio management and procurement. Mr. Lawson brings unique utility expertise and a holistic approach to the services due to his extensive experience in all three of the key areas related to wholesale energy services: Grid Operations, Power Generation and Energy Trading & Contracts.
Speaker Profiles

Matthew Marshall, Executive Director, Redwood Coast Energy Authority

Since 2010 Matthew Marshall has served as the Executive Director of the Redwood Coast Energy Authority, a joint powers agency of Humboldt County local governments. In this role he leads RCEA’s community choice aggregation program (launched in May 2017) as well as efforts related to energy efficiency, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, renewable energy project development, and regional energy planning.

Macy Neshati, Executive Director/CEO, Antelope Valley Transit Authority

Macy Neshati has been involved in the heavy equipment and transit industry for 35 years. After working within the Detroit Diesel and Allison distributor network for nearly fifteen years in various roles, he joined Complete Coach Works as Vice President of Sales and Marketing. There he led the company to significant sales growth during his 18-year tenure. Mr. Neshati joined BYD Coach and Bus in 2014 as Senior Vice President of BYD Heavy Industries, helping build a dynamic sales team that quickly led the company to record levels of battery electric bus sales. He also led the negotiating team that successfully executed a Collective Bargaining Agreement with SMART Local 105 and a groundbreaking Community Benefits Agreement between BYD and a coalition led by Jobs to Move America (JMA). Mr. Neshati holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Management from St. Mary’s College.

Dennis Osmer, Executive Director, Central Coast Energy Services

Dennis Osmer serves as Executive Director of Central Coast Energy Services, an organization helping those in need meet home health and safety and energy efficiency needs through the federal Low Income Home Energy Program (LIHEAP). As part of his statewide work, Mr. Osmer developed software currently used by 32 energy agencies that helps manage and streamline service delivery. Mr. Osmer is committed to realizing equity in access to energy efficiency opportunities and measures for low-income people in California. He was elected to two terms on the City Council and was Mayor of Watsonville in 1998. He served on the Board of Directors of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency and the Santa Cruz County Planning Commission. He is currently on the Board of Directors of Bay Federal Credit Union as well as the Monterey Bay Community Power Community Advisory Committee.

Phil Pettingill, P.E. Director, Regional Integration

Phil Pettingill serves as Director of Regional Integration at the California Independent System Operator Corporation (ISO), coordinating the ISO implementation of its own Reliability Coordinator and offering those services to other balancing authorities and transmission operators in the western United States. He also manages the integration of utilities seeking to join the ISO and serves as an external spokesperson. He has served in various significant capacities at the ISO, representing the main grid operator for California before state regulatory agencies and working with a diverse set of policymakers. Mr. Pettingill joined the ISO in 1997 after working at Pacific Gas and Electric for 15 years. He is a licensed electrical engineer and has a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from California State University, Sacramento and Masters of Business Administration from St. Mary’s College.
Speaker Profiles

Edward Randolph, Energy Division Director, California Public Utilities Commission

Edward Randolph is the Energy Division Director of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Previously, Mr. Randolph was the CPUC’s Director of Governmental Affairs and Senior Policy Advisor and Chief Consultant to the California State Assembly’s Committee on Utilities and Commerce, a position he held since 2003 where he worked extensively on expanding California’s use of renewable power, the creation of the California Solar Initiative, and energy efficiency legislation. Mr. Randolph also served as Senior Consultant to Assemblymember Lloyd Levine, as both Chief of Staff and Senior Consultant to former Assemblymember Joe Canviamilla, and as Chief of Staff to Former Assemblymember Lou Papan. Mr. Randolph earned a B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego, and a Juris Doctorate degree from the McGeorge School of Law where he graduated with great distinction.

Neal Reardon, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Sonoma Clean Power (SCP)

Neal Reardon is responsible for representing SCP’s customers and advocating for their interests, as well as overseeing compliance obligations. Mr. Reardon has over ten years of experience in the energy industry and has worked for a variety of financial institutions and consulting groups. Prior to his current role, he was a Senior Analyst with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC, where he developed and implemented various distributed generation programs, oversaw long-term procurement planning, and advised management on the proposed regionalization of the California electric grid. Prior to joining the CPUC, Mr. Reardon evaluated the financial and greenhouse gas impacts of various renewable energy assets for Roll Global. He holds a B.S. in Resource Management from the University of California at Berkeley, an MBA, and a Master's Degree in Environmental Policy from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies.

Dr. Nancy E. Ryan, Partner, Energy & Environmental Economics (E3)

Dr. Nancy Ryan is an economist with over two decades of experience in energy economics and policy. She has spent her career working for effective, data-driven solutions as a consultant, a regulator, an academic, and an environmental advocate. Dr. Ryan works across several of E3’s practice areas, with recent focus on leveraging E3’s deep expertise in utility economics and policy to serve the CCA community. Dr. Ryan also leads the electric transportation practice area. She advises utilities, regulators, automakers, fleet owners and technology companies on economics, strategy, and policy around transport electrification. Dr. Ryan previously held several high-level appointed positions at the California Public Utilities Commission, including serving as a commissioner from 2010–2011. She was a Senior Economist at the Environmental Defense Fund from 2001–2005 and taught applied economics at UC Berkeley’s Goldman School of Public Policy from 1996–2007.

Deidre Sanders, PhD, Director, Government and Community Affairs, East Bay Community Energy

Deidre Sanders leads EBCE’s efforts in building strong relationships with its government and community partners by ensuring their engagement in the development and implementation of EBCE’s policy goals. She has 17 years of energy industry experience with 10 years at PG&E as their Environmental Justice Manager, and before that seven years with Southern California Edison in Market Research, Community Engagement, and Environmental Affairs. In addition to her work at EBCE she also served as an industry representative on the US EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council and continues on the California League of Conservation Voters Green Advisory Council, as well as the state Air Resources Board AB617 Stakeholder Consultation Group. Ms. Sanders earned a Ph.D in Politics and Policy from Claremont Graduate University and a BA in History and International Relations from the University of Southern California.
Speaker Profiles

Renee Sharp, Bay Area Regional Director, GRID Alternatives Bay Area
Renée Sharp is the Executive Director for GRID Alternatives Bay Area, a non-profit organization dedicated to making renewable energy technology and job training accessible to underserved communities. GRID brings together community partners, volunteers and job trainees to implement solar power and energy efficiency for low-income families providing energy cost savings, hands-on experience, and a source of clean, local energy that benefits all. Prior to joining GRID, Ms. Sharp served as Research Director for Environmental Working Group, the nation’s leading environmental health research and advocacy organization, where she worked to get harmful chemicals out of our air, food, water and consumer products. Ms. Sharp holds a Bachelors degree in Biology from Rice University, and a Masters degree in Biology from Pennsylvania State University where she studied the lifecycle environmental impacts of electricity generation.

Hilary Staver, Manager of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, Silicon Valley Clean Energy
Hilary Staver is the Manager of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs at Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE), a CCA that provides carbon-free power to twelve communities plus the unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County. She is also chair of the CalCCA Regulatory Committee, a committee of representatives from CalCCA operational members that is responsible for developing and implementing CalCCA’s presence before the California Public Utilities Commission and other regulatory agencies. Prior to joining SVCE in February 2017, Ms. Staver spent several years consulting on a variety of energy and climate topics with the San Francisco–based firm Energy and Environmental Economics, Inc. (E3). She holds a Master of Environmental Science degree from Yale University, where she researched peer effects and incentive design in the residential rooftop solar market, and a B.S. in Environmental Science and Policy from the University of Maryland College Park.

Cordel Stillman, Director of Programs, Sonoma Clean Power
In his role as Director of Programs at Sonoma Clean Power, Cordel Stillman works directly with the CEO to set the strategy for distributed resources and customer programs. Mr. Stillman also works closely with Programs staff and the Director of Power Services to develop and evolve SCP’s Integrated Resource Plan. Formerly the Deputy Chief Engineer at the Sonoma County Water Agency, Cordel has over 28 years of experience in the public sector in planning, design and construction management. Mr. Stillman was one of the early pioneers of forming Sonoma Clean Power, including forming and administering the Steering Committee, commissioning and overseeing the feasibility study, securing early financing for the Agency, and working with County Counsel on the development of the Joint Powers Agreement which made SCP possible.

Geof Syphers, CEO, Sonoma Clean Power
Mr. Geof Syphers is CEO of Sonoma Clean Power, a community choice electric provider serving Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. Under his leadership, SCP delivers community programs like bulk discounts on electric cars, incentives to rebuild burned homes without gas, D–I–Y home efficiency kits, and hands–on science curriculum for schools. To date, SCP has cut electric greenhouse gas emissions by 60% while improving on the match between real-time production and customer load. SCP is now setting up a network of 2,000 electric vehicle charging stations that will provide grid reliability services. Prior to SCP, Mr. Syphers worked for 20 years as a utility energy engineer serving investor–owned utilities and public agencies.
Speaker Profiles

Fagamalama Violet Saena, Resilient Communities Program Manager, Acterra

Violet Saena, Resilient Communities Program Manager, has more than ten years’ experience working in Less Developed Countries (LDCs) on community resiliency in the face of climate change impacts. She was Principal Climate Change Officer for the government of Samoa and liaison between Pacific Islands and Caribbean nations to ensure regional coordination and support for small island states in international climate policies and was formerly Project Manager for the East Palo Alto Net Positive Project. Ms. Saena earned a Bachelor’s of Environment Studies from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji; Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management from Dresden University Germany, Postgraduate Diploma in Climate Change Urban Management Tools from Erasmus University Netherlands, Proficiency Certificate in Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments on Climate Change from Waikato University New Zealand and has a Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University.

Kathy Wells, Energy Projects Coordinator, Lancaster Choice Energy

As an inaugural member of the Lancaster Choice Energy team, Kathy Wells helped develop the City’s Community Choice Aggregation program which launched May 2015. She currently serves as LCE’s energy efficiency projects manager, developing energy programs for both residential and business customers, and oversees customer care efforts, including customer outreach and retention, marketing, and rate analysis. Ms. Wells has over 20 years of customer service experience. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from University of Phoenix, and is a Graduate candidate with Franklin Pierce University for her MBA degree in Energy and Sustainability Studies. Ms. Wells serves on the regulatory and legislative committees for California Community Choice Association (CalCCA).

Tony Zimmer, Assistant General Manager, Power Management

Tony Zimmer has worked for NCPA for 18 years. Mr. Zimmer’s experience includes contract development and negotiation, policy and procedure development, resource development and integration, settlements, CAISO market design and advocacy, and data analysis and system design. Mr. Zimmer’s primary responsibilities include direction, development and authorization of regulatory filings made on behalf of NCPA members, direction of contract development, maintenance and revision activities required to support NCPA member interconnection and portfolio management needs, and management of staff assigned to functional areas such as Western advocacy, internal system design and integration, and policy and regulatory requirements. NCPA provides a variety of wholesale market services to Pioneer Community Energy, East Bay Community Energy and San Jose Clean Energy. Mr. Zimmer received a Master’s degree in Business Administration, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from California State University, Sacramento.

Jian Zhang, CEO, GridX

Jian Zhang is the founder and CEO of GridX, a leading provider of Business Operational Support System (BOSS) to Community Choice Aggregators and utilities. GridX’s solution, leveraging the big data technology, enables these participants to the new energy economy to transform their traditional and operationalize new business models. Previously, Mr. Zhang spent more than 15 years developing and delivering large scale billing and settlement technologies to telecom carriers. He headed the product management at Portal Software responsible for a line of billing software products for cable operators, online media companies and telecom carriers. Mr. Zhang holds a Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MBA degree from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.
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2018: A Record Year for CCA Launches

2010

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2014

Sonoma
Clean Power

2015

2016

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Same Service - Cleaner Energy

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Terra-Gen is a renewable energy company focused on developing and operating utility-scale wind, geothermal, and solar generation. Since 2008, the company has developed over 2,000MW of new renewable energy for California. Terra-Gen operates more than 25 renewable power facilities throughout California. Through its marketing and scheduling subsidiaries, Terra-Gen serves the renewable energy needs of the CCA community across California.
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