



California Public Utilities Commission  
California Workforce Development Board

# Environmental and Social Justice High Road Workforce En Banc

October 17, 2023  
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## In-Person

The California Endowment Regional Office at the  
Center for Healthy Communities  
1414 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Adelante Meeting Room

## Remote

**Join link:** <https://cpuc.webex.com/cpuc/j.php?MTID=m7e882ce8f6c033c357e61da3cd78ab9b>

**Webinar number:** 2485 661 2953

**Webinar password:** 2023

**Access code:** 248 566 12953

## Public Comments:

**Call-in number:** 1- 800-857-1917 (toll free)

**Public Passcode:** 9899501#



California Public  
Utilities Commission



**Purpose:** In 2019, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted the [Environmental and Social Justice \(ESJ\) Action Plan](#) to serve as a commitment to furthering principles of environmental and social justice, as well as an operating framework with which to integrate ESJ considerations throughout the agency's work. One of the critical topics addressed in the ESJ Action Plan is Workforce Development and High Road Transition. This goal aims to deliver on principles of economic equity and focus workforce-related provisions on job quality and access.

In 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued [Executive Order N-79-20](#) to accelerate climate change mitigation efforts and build a more sustainable and inclusive economy. Following the Executive Order, the CPUC and the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) signed the first-ever [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to collaboratively ensure that investments in clean energy and transportation sustainability result in high-quality jobs and greater access to career opportunities for disadvantaged Californians.

As California transitions to a clean energy future, the High Road Workforce En Banc will facilitate discussions between the CPUC, CWDB, California Labor & Workforce Development Agency, California Energy Commission, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, local community-based organizations, labor unions, academia, Tribal representatives and the regulated investor-owned utilities to gain a better understanding of the status of current workforce initiatives, challenges, and opportunities in key policy areas for energy efficiency, renewable energy, building decarbonization, vegetation management, and transportation electrification as well as water.

## Agenda

**9:00 am – 9:25 am**

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma, California Public Utilities Commission

### OPENING REMARKS

- California Public Utilities Commission
  - President Alice Reynolds
  - Commissioner Darcie L. Houck
  - Commissioner John Reynolds
  - Commissioner Karen Douglas
- California Workforce Development Board
  - Curtis Notsinneh, Chief Deputy Director
- Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
  - Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Director

**9:25 am – 9:55 am**

### KEYNOTES: CALIFORNIA'S ESJ HIGH ROAD TRANSITION FUTURE

- Derek Kirk, Assistant Deputy Secretary of Climate, California Labor & Workforce Development Agency
- Christina Snider-Ashtari, Tribal Affairs Secretary to Governor Newsom

**9:55 am – 10:05 am**

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION: CLEAN TRANSPORTATION WORKFORCE AND EQUITY**

**Speaker:**

- Larry Rillera, Air Pollution Specialist, Fuels and Transportation Division, California Energy Commission

**10:05 am – 10:40 am**

**PANEL 1: CPUC AND CWDB: PARTNERSHIP IN FURTHERANCE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Speakers will discuss the workforce development efforts of their respective agencies and describe the nature and purpose of the memorandum of understanding between the two agencies, what has been accomplished by the partnership, and goals for continued success.

**Moderator:**

- President Alice Reynolds, California Public Utilities Commission

**Speakers:**

- Curtis Notsinneh, Chief Deputy Director, California Workforce Development Board
- Rachel Peterson, Executive Director, California Public Utilities Commission

Commissioner Q&A

**10:40 am – 10:50 am**

**BREAK**

**10:50 am – 11:45 am**

**PANEL 2: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: A CLOSE-UP OF LIVED EXPERIENCES**

As programs are developed to support efforts to educate, train, and prepare a workforce to transition into high road jobs, it is important to hear from workers themselves on what worked for them. This panel will share their experiences in making the journey.

**Moderator:**

- Curtis Notsinneh, Chief Deputy Director, California Workforce Development Board

**Speakers:**

- (Either) Jeremy Smith, Deputy Legislative Director, or Chris Hannon, President, State Building and Construction Trades Council (SBCTC)
- Travis Hinkle, Supervisor, Distribution System, San Jose Water
- Ana Luz Gonzalez-Vasquez, Project Manager, UCLA Power in Workforce Development, University of California, Los Angeles

- Dan Kallai, Training Coordinator, Utility Line Clearance Tree Trimming Program, California/Nevada Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee
- Richard Ramirez, Lead Instructor, Utility Line Clearance Tree Trimming Program, California/Nevada Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee
- Kenny Williams, Senior Campaign Lead, Communications Workers of America District 9

Commissioner Q&A

**11:45 am – 12:45 am**

**LUNCH**

**12:45 pm – 1:40 pm**

### **PANEL 3: PARTNERSHIPS: THE KEY TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Partnerships are important in the success of workforce development. Local governments, K-12 school programs, community colleges, universities, community-based organizations, and apprenticeship programs all play a key role in workforce development. Panelists will discuss examples of multi-pronged partnerships and their experiences and observations of challenges and opportunities.

**Moderator:**

- Rafael Aguilera, Field Specialist, High Road Training Partnerships, California Workforce Development Board

**Speakers:**

- Bernie Kotlier, Executive Director, Labor Management Cooperation Committee (LMCC), National Co-Chair of the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP)
- Leonard Gonzalez, Executive Director, Laborers' Training & Retraining Trust Fund of Northern California
- Jose Bodipo-Memba, Chief Diversity Officer, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
- Dr. Carol Zabin, Senior Advisor for the Green Economy, UC Berkeley Labor Center
- Julia Hatton, President and CEO, Rising Sun Center for Opportunity
- Dr. Nosakhere Thomas, Executive Director, Inland Empire Black Worker Center

Commissioner Q&A

**1:40 pm – 2:25 pm**

### **PANEL 4: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES**

This panel will discuss innovative and longstanding workforce development initiatives within Indian Country and identify continuing challenges, emerging trends, and opportunities to further develop and support workforce development efforts in Tribal communities.

**Moderator:**

- Anecita Agustinez, Tribal Policy Advisor, Executive Division, California Department of Water Resources

**Speakers:**

- Stacy Dixon, Chair, Susanville Indian Rancheria, Board Member or California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc. (CIMC) (invited)
- Cynthia “Cindy” Corrales, Workforce and Volunteer Manager, GRID Alternatives Inland Empire
- Angelica Wright, Tribal Education and Workforce Manager, GRID Alternatives Tribal Program
- Dr. Jonathan Kusel, Executive Director, Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

Commissioner Q&A

**2:25 pm – 3:30 pm**

**PANEL 5: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: HOW IS INDUSTRY MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

This industry panel features select energy and safety policy areas promoting quality jobs. As part of ongoing state, community, and utility collaboration efforts, the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety has workforce development requirements built into the utilities’ annual Wildfire Mitigation Plans. In this panel, moderated by Director Thomas Jacobs, industry representatives will share the efforts that private sector partners are making to create pathways for workforce development. Discussions will shed light on how resources are spent to prepare prospective candidates for green careers, what kind of training is provided, and what plans are in place for training, recruitment, and job placement.

**Moderator:**

- Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Director, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety

**Speakers:**

- **Wildfire Mitigation:** Jamie Martin, Vice President of Undergrounding, Pacific Gas and Electric Company
- **Wildfire Vegetation Management:** Brian D’Agostino, Vice President of Wildfire and Climate Science, San Diego Gas & Electric Company
- **Water:** Stephanie Orosco, Vice President of Human Resources, San Jose Water
- **Energy Efficiency Low Income – Energy Savings Assistance Program:** Neil Singh, Senior Manager, Income Qualified Programs Delivery, Pacific Gas and Electric Company
- **Energy Efficiency – Statewide Workforce Education & Training Program:** Carter J. Prescott, Director, Customer Programs & Services, Southern California Edison Company

Commissioner Q&A

**3:30 pm – 3:40 pm**

**BREAK**

**3:40 pm – 4:10 pm**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**4:10 pm – 4:30 pm**

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Discussion on takeaways from today's speakers and presentations and how the CPUC and CWDB can enhance coordination to support workforce development.

#### **En Banc Planning Team**

- Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma
- Curtis Notsinneh, Chief Deputy Director, California Workforce Development Board

#### **Commissioners**

- President Alice Reynolds
- Commissioner Darcie L. Houck
- Commissioner John Reynolds
- Commissioner Karen Douglas

#### **Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety**

- Director Caroline Thomas Jacobs