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STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the matter of:

2022 Integrated Energy Policy ) Docket No. 22-IEPR-04  
Report Update (2022 IEPR Update)  
)  
) RE: Centering Equity  
) And Environmental  
) Justice Throughout CEC  
) Efforts

IEPR COMMISSIONER WORKSHOP  
CENTERING EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
THROUGHOUT CEC EFFORTS

IN-PERSON AND REMOTE VIA ZOOM  
KERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD ROOM  
ROOM 101  
2100 CHESTER AVENUE  
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2022

10:00 A.M.

Reported by:

Martha Nelson

APPEARANCES

AGENCY LEADERSHIP

David Hochschild, Chair  
Siva Gunda, Vice Chair, Lead Commissioner  
Patricia Monahan  
Kourtney Vaccaro  
Moises Moreno-Rivera, Assistant Secretary for Equity and  
Environmental Justice, California Natural Resources  
Agency

CEC STAFF

Heather Raitt, Assistant Executive Director, Policy  
Development  
Dorothy Murimi  
Katrina Leni-Konig, Energy Research and Development  
Division

APPEARING

Dr. Sonya Christian, KCCD Chancellor  
Tim Rainey, California Workforce Development Board  
Betony Jones, U.S. Department of Energy  
Shrayas Jatkar, California Workforce Development Board  
Norma Rojas-Mora, Executive Director of Gov. Relations &  
Development  
Lori Pesante, Dolores Huerta Foundation.  
Ashley Matthews, Fresno Workforce Investment Board  
Anthony Ausbie, Training Director and Lead, Kern County  
Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee  
Dave Teasdale, Executive Director, Economic and Workforce  
Development Programs and the 21st Century Energy  
Center, Kern Community College District  
Linda Urata, Regional Planner for Kern Council of  
Governments and Project Manager for EV Ready  
Communities Grant

PUBLIC ADVISOR'S OFFICE

Noemi Gallardo

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT

Emma De La Rosa, Regional Policy Manager, Leadership  
Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Paul Saldana, Director of Economic & Community  
Development, City of Bakersfield

Angela Bai

Vivian Cao

INDEX

	PAGE
Introduction	7
Heather Raitt, California Energy Commission, Director, Integrated Energy Project Report (IEPR)	
Morning Session Opening Remarks	11
Dr. Sonya Christian, KCCD Chancellor Siva Gunda, CEC Vice Chair & Lead Commissioner for 2022 IEPR Update Tim Rainey, Executive Director of the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB)	
1. Panel: Federal, State, and Local Perspectives On Economic Equity	28
Moderator: Tim Rainey, CWDB Executive Director	
A. Betony Jones, Senior Advisor, U.S. Department of Energy (remote)	
B. Shrayas Jatkar, CWDB Interagency Policy Specialist--Equity, Climate, and Jobs	
C. Norma Rojas-Mora, Executive Director of Gov. Relations & Development	
D. Lori Pesante, Civic Engagement Director, Dolores Huerta Foundation (remote)	
Discussion: Agency Leadership and Panelists	
A. David Hochschild, CEC Chair (remote)	
B. Patty Monahan, CEC Commissioner	
C. Siva Gunda, CEC Vice Chair	

Discussion (Cont'd.)

- D. Kourtney Vaccaro, CEC Commissioner  
(remote)
  - E. Moises Moreno-Rivera, California Natural  
Resources Agency Assistant Secretary for  
Equity & Environmental Justice
  - F. Tim Rainey, CWDB Executive Director
2. Introduction to the IEPR and CEC's Focus on Energy Equity and Environmental Justice 105
- Noemi Gallardo, CEC
- Public Comment 120
- Closing Remarks 127
- Break 127
- Welcome Back 127
- Afternoon Session Opening Remarks 129
- Patty Monahan, CEC, Commissioner
3. Panel: Local Partnership Model of an Equitable Approach to Clean Energy Workforce Development 133
- Moderator: Shrayas Jatkar, CWDB Interagency  
Policy Specialist--Equity, Climate, and Jobs
- A. Ashley Matthews, Fresno Workforce  
Investment Board and Lead Coordinator  
For Local High Road Construction  
Careers Program
  - B. Anthony Ausbie, Training Director and  
Lead for Kern County Electrical Joint  
Apprenticeship Training Committee  
(JATC)

Panel (Cont'd.)

- C. Dave Teasdale, Executive Director,  
Economic and Workforce Development  
Programs and the 21st Century Energy  
Center, Kern Community College  
District
  
- D. Linda Urata, Regional Planner for Kern  
Council of Governments and Project  
Manager for EV Ready Communities Grant

Discussion between Commissioners and Panelists	167
Questions from Attendees to Speakers	176
4. Building Community Connections	194
5. Public Comments	200
Closing Remarks and Adjourn	204



1 THE INTERPRETER: (Speaking Spanish.)  
2 Thank you, Heather.  
3 MS. RAITT: Thank you.  
4 I'd just like to remind everyone to speak  
5 clearly and slowly for the benefit of our  
6 translators.  
7 Next slide. Thank you.  
8 The workshop is being held by the  
9 California Energy Commission, and we are so very  
10 grateful to the Kern Community College District  
11 for generously hosting this event. The workshop  
12 is also publicly accessible to attendees via  
13 Zoom.  
14 Since we are unfortunately experiencing  
15 an uptake in COVID cases, masks are available for  
16 those attending in person, and I encourage folks  
17 to wear them as you would like.  
18 Today's workshop is part of the Energy  
19 Commission's proceeding to develop the 2022  
20 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update, which we  
21 refer to as the "IEPR," and more information  
22 about the report will be presented this morning.  
23 For those in the room, videos of  
24 presenters and Commissioners are being broadcast  
25 over Zoom, and everything displayed over Zoom is

1 also being shown on a screen in the room, and  
2 then we're using the in-room microphones for  
3 sound.

4           To follow along, the meeting schedules  
5 and presentations have been docketed and posted  
6 on the CEC's IEPR web page. So, for those in the  
7 room, there are QR signs that give you that, or  
8 you can use your phone to get the link to that,  
9 to get those presentations, and we also have hard  
10 copies available for you to look at them, if  
11 you'd like to, at the entrance, and then we have  
12 hard copies of the meeting schedule available for  
13 everyone in the room.

14           Please be aware that this workshop, like  
15 all IEPR workshops, is recorded, and we'll have a  
16 recording link to the Energy Commission's website  
17 shortly after the workshop, and a written  
18 transcript will be available in about a month or  
19 so.

20           And we do invite and welcome attendee  
21 participation today in the discussion, and so  
22 there's a few different ways to do that. First,  
23 we reserve time after the presentations to take  
24 questions from attendees, and for those in the  
25 room, if you have questions, if you could write

1 them on a card, and you could put it -- give it  
2 to one of the team members, or put it in the  
3 basket back there, and we'll read those questions  
4 at the time.

5           And for those on Zoom, you can use the  
6 Q-and-A feature to type in a question, and then  
7 so we'll reserve some time to go through those,  
8 but we may not have time to go through all  
9 questions.

10           Another way to participate is to make a  
11 public comment during the public comment period,  
12 and so we reserve time at the end of the morning  
13 and the end of the afternoon to make comments,  
14 and so that's really a time for you to make  
15 comments, and we won't necessarily -- it's really  
16 to direct comments to the Commissioners and the  
17 Agency leaders, and we won't be responding to  
18 questions at that time, but we will call in folks  
19 one at a time to come to this microphone to make  
20 comments.

21           And for folks on Zoom, you can make  
22 comments by pressing the star, nine function, and  
23 that will let us know that would like -- or, if  
24 you're on the phone, press star, nine, and that  
25 will let us know you'd like to make a comment,

1 and if you're on Zoom, press the "Raise Hand"  
2 icon, and that will let us know you want to make  
3 a comment.

4           And, finally, we will welcome written  
5 comments, and those are due on July 20th, and so  
6 those are my logistics, and now it's my pleasure  
7 to introduce Doctor Sonya Christian. She's the  
8 Kern County -- excuse me -- Kern Community  
9 College District Chancellor, and Doctor Christian  
10 has a distinguished career, striving to provide  
11 an outstanding education that meets the needs of  
12 the district's diverse students and community.

13           So thank you so much, Doctor Christian,  
14 for being here, and for helping us kick off this  
15 workshop.

16           MS. CHRISTIAN: Well, thank you, and I'm  
17 super thrilled and hugely grateful that the  
18 California Energy Commission is here in  
19 Bakersfield, California, and to welcome the two  
20 Commissioners to our home grounds, and a warm  
21 welcome to Tim Rainey from the California  
22 Workforce Development Board.

23           Historically, the Workforce Development  
24 Board and community colleges have a unique  
25 partnership in doing very innovative and

1 transformational work.

2           And to my colleagues in the audience,  
3 friends, colleague -- I see friends from the  
4 county, from the city. I see our community  
5 partners. I see our industry partners, all  
6 coming together here at the Kern Community  
7 College District for this very important day.

8           You know, today is July 20th, and 20 days  
9 ago, June 30th, the Governor of California signed  
10 the budget for '22-'23, and in AB 183, there was  
11 a line item of particular interest to our  
12 communities here, and of particular interest to  
13 our district. It was a line item with a number,  
14 15,000,000, and it was to establish the  
15 California Renewable Energy Laboratory here in  
16 Kern County, and it's truly a recognition for the  
17 work that we are doing here in Kern County,  
18 collaborative work, important work, difficult  
19 work, and work of the future, setting the grounds  
20 for the future here for our communities.

21           The California energy/renewable energy  
22 umbrella has three centers of excellence. The  
23 first one is related to carbon dioxide reduction,  
24 carbon management, and we here in Kern County,  
25 under the leadership of the county, working with

1 the Kern Community College District and a large  
2 host of partners, submitted for a technical  
3 assistance grant from the Department of Energy,  
4 LEAP, and we are the only region, both the county  
5 and Bakersfield, that received two of the 24  
6 technical assistance opportunities. One is for  
7 CCS.

8           The second opportunity is related to  
9 microgrids and community resilience, and the  
10 microgrids was led by the city of Bakersfield,  
11 working in close partnership with the Kern  
12 Community College District.

13           So that's our second center of  
14 excellence, and the third one is related to  
15 transportation, clean transportation. I was  
16 having a conversation with Commissioner Monahan,  
17 and that's been her life's work, and, having you  
18 here to see the possibilities for our  
19 communities, I'm truly grateful for that.

20           Yesterday you visited Arvin, and on the  
21 way back, one of my colleagues, Norma, was on the  
22 phone telling me how inspiring the conversation  
23 was, the Arvin community coming together to make  
24 a significant difference, economic difference,  
25 environmental difference, and health difference

1 for our community, and the engagement of  
2 Commissioner Gunda with the community was truly  
3 heartfelt and authentic. So I thank you for  
4 that.

5 Our work here at the Kern Community  
6 College District is focused in three arenas. One  
7 is workforce development. It's in the mission of  
8 community colleges, and we are tackling workforce  
9 development in a redesign and an innovative way,  
10 and we're kind of defining it by bringing the  
11 worker to the center of this work, and I was so  
12 excited to see the title of your workshop today  
13 was "Centering Equity."

14 And so the model that we're using is  
15 really bringing into the same universe the  
16 worker, and how does a worker get connected to  
17 education and to the employer in a very  
18 deliberate, tangible way, and not in just a  
19 theoretical fashion? And in all of the sectors,  
20 particularly in the energy sector, we are  
21 starting to implement it in a very, very  
22 operational way.

23 The second area of work that we are  
24 outlining and tackling is community education.  
25 We believe that the 116 California community

1 colleges are everywhere in California, in every  
2 community in California, and if we need to have  
3 real community engagement with the community,  
4 defining what it needs to look like, you've got  
5 to harness the relationship that the community  
6 college has with these communities.

7           And so I see our partners here that are  
8 going to be forging and defining in the year  
9 '22-'23 what that community education is going to  
10 look like in a very deeper way, and I see Lori on  
11 the first panel that you have.

12           The last area of our engagement, area  
13 number three for the Kern Community College  
14 District, is technology transfer. In the past,  
15 workforce development for community colleges was  
16 defined as follows: Let industry decide what  
17 technologies need to be brought to market, and  
18 then the community colleges say, "Okay. We're  
19 got it. We're now ready to think workforce  
20 development." That is the framework of the past.

21           The new framework is, community colleges  
22 have to partner with research as it is happening  
23 in the laboratories. So the Kern Community  
24 College District has partnered with the National  
25 Renewable Energy Laboratory, the Lawrence

1 Livermore Laboratory, and is now engaging in a  
2 new partnership with the Pacific Northwest  
3 Laboratory and Lawrence Berkeley as well, and  
4 this is to signal that, as research is being born  
5 in our labs in the nation, that the community  
6 college partnership needs to be there to  
7 visualize what kind of agile workforce needs to  
8 be created.

9           We are also engaging with industry,  
10 because industry brings technology to market, and  
11 when technology is coming to market, we have a  
12 history in this country of examples where, when  
13 technology was implemented and deployed, that  
14 there were some consequences that we did not  
15 realize on the environment and on the health of  
16 our communities. So we are ready, and we are  
17 developing the protocol by which we can have the  
18 community voice, along with industry and  
19 research, in the deployment of technology.

20           So I'll conclude by saying that I was  
21 introduced to Commissioner Gunda on March 29th,  
22 when he presented to our Valley Strong Energy  
23 Institute, and he was talking about microgrids,  
24 and I must say as a former math teacher that he  
25 is in the top echelon of teachers that I know,

1 because his clarity of describing the 2045  
2 carbon-neutral journey was so clear to me, and  
3 then he also talked about the history of  
4 microgrids, how there was the era of development,  
5 and then the era of integration, and then the era  
6 of deployment, the commercialization.

7           And not only did you give me clarity,  
8 Commissioner Gunda, but you also inspired me, and  
9 when I went back to our internal team, too, I was  
10 reinvigorated in engaging with our team to create  
11 the road map of the community colleges playing a  
12 leadership role in this space of energy, climate,  
13 and community resilience. I welcome you, and I  
14 thank you for being here.

15           VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Chancellor.  
16 I mean, that was beautiful, and you set the  
17 context for the visit beautifully, and thank you  
18 for remembering the March 29th visit. I was  
19 going to mention that, and that was the day you  
20 heard about the DOE grants. So you made that  
21 surprise announcement that we just got the DOE  
22 grant.

23           So it's just a wonderful opportunity to  
24 be here with you today, and thanks for welcoming  
25 us, and the way you said the context and the

1 vision and the leadership is just heartwarming,  
2 beautiful, and inspiring. So thank you for your  
3 work.

4           So I would want to just begin by saying a  
5 few thank-yous to my team here, the IEPR team,  
6 Heather, Denise, and Raquel, who worked really,  
7 really hard to make this happen. So, the IEPR  
8 team, thank you. It's going to go beautifully,  
9 though Murphy (phonetic) is not going to show up  
10 today.

11           I also want to thank our Public Advisor's  
12 Office, Noemi and Katrina, who have been  
13 instrumental in really thinking through the  
14 regional workshops and how to integrate the  
15 regional community engagement into our IEPR  
16 process. So, you know, thank you, Noemi and  
17 Katrina, not just for doing this, but inspiring  
18 so many us at CEC to do this better.

19           I also want to just thank and welcome my  
20 fellow Commissioners. Commissioner Monahan is  
21 here in person. We have Chair Hochschild and  
22 Commissioner Vaccaro joining us via Zoom today.  
23 So we have four of the five Commissioners  
24 attending. It's very important to all of us.

25           And, finally, I just want to, on behalf

1 of CEC, the entire Committee, just thank you, you  
2 know, just for welcoming us here into this  
3 beautiful space. Thank you.

4           So, you know, on the context of, you  
5 know, the IEPR as a whole, and this visit, I just  
6 want say (sic) by saying how grateful we are to  
7 the residents of San Joaquin Valley for welcoming  
8 us into your home. It's a special place. It  
9 combines the traditions of agriculture and  
10 innovation of clean energy.

11           As Doctor Christian kind of mentioned,  
12 yesterday I was fortunate enough to meet with  
13 councilmembers of North Fork Rancheria, and also  
14 had a visit with local government leaders and  
15 city leaders at city of Arvin.

16           As Norma mentioned, and I felt the same,  
17 it was just a very inspiring conversation. Along  
18 with different beautiful engagements, we keep  
19 meeting people who have dedicated their entire  
20 lives to make things happen, and it's just  
21 inspiring for us to learn from you, and inspiring  
22 for us to, you know, try to follow your lead. So  
23 thank you, Norma, and thank you for everybody who  
24 just keeps inspiring us.

25           I want to share a little bit the

1 background of myself. You know, I grew up in  
2 India. I moved to the United States 20 years  
3 ago, over 20 years ago, for my grad school, and  
4 for the last 20 years, I've been in California,  
5 and, you know, it's been an absolute privilege  
6 for me to call California, this beautiful,  
7 vibrant community and state, my home, and  
8 recognizing the differences in celebrating the  
9 strength of our diversity and our collective  
10 heart is extremely important to me, and many of  
11 us here in this room, and I'm so grateful that we  
12 are doing these workshops, regional. So it's a  
13 beautiful moment for many of us who are coming  
14 from Sacramento.

15           One of the key goals of the IEPR  
16 workshops, as Heather mentioned, is to really  
17 kind of double up the engagement here, to really  
18 hear the stories from the people on the ground,  
19 and be able to report back to the legislature and  
20 the governor through the IEPR report. It's very  
21 important that we tell our collective story, and  
22 just not the story set in Sacramento.

23           In keeping with the theme, one of the  
24 critical issues that the CEC has to consider as  
25 we move forward on the clean energy goals is the

1 issue of economic development, specifically  
2 communities like Bakersfield, who are on the  
3 front lines of emerging clean energy options and  
4 workforce development.

5           So I very much look forward to learning  
6 today from all of you, hearing our collective  
7 California story, and then making sure that we  
8 reflect our collective story in the IEPR report,  
9 and make sure the solutions work for all of us.

10           Now I would like to invite Tim Rainey to  
11 share a few words. We are fortunate that Tim  
12 could join us today. He is the executive  
13 director of the California Workforce Development  
14 Board. Thank you.

15           MR. RAINEY: Thank you, Commissioner  
16 Gunda.

17           I just realized, when Commissioner Gunda  
18 took his mask off, that he looks younger with his  
19 mask off, even younger than he does with it on,  
20 and then I took mine off, and I looked at myself  
21 on the Zoom, and it's the opposite reaction, at  
22 least for me.

23           I just want to say a couple of quick  
24 things. Well, first of all, I didn't mind  
25 driving down from Sacramento, took four hours. I

1 didn't mind getting here, and it was 94 degrees  
2 at 10:30 at night. I didn't mind that at all. I  
3 forgot my comb, too. I didn't mind that -- I  
4 obviously forgot my razor -- because I also love  
5 the San Joaquin Valley, and I don't get down here  
6 enough.

7           On the way, you could see that the 99  
8 Corridor is going through massive improvements.  
9 More importantly to me, and I think for this  
10 discussion, the high-speed rail. You can see it  
11 from 99. You can see it under construction. You  
12 see the sign on it, about 5,000 workers at work  
13 doing that, and there's going to be more as it  
14 builds out.

15           And particularly in Kern County -- we  
16 talk about Kern a lot in Sacramento, as you might  
17 imagine -- really excited about the work going on  
18 down here, and the leadership down here and  
19 Bakersfield, and I wish I had time to get a  
20 chance to enjoy the incredible music in  
21 Bakersfield. I always think that I'm going to  
22 come down here and go to clubs and listen to the  
23 music. One day, I'll get to do that, hopefully.

24           I also wanted to thank Doctor Christian  
25 for your remarks, thought they were fantastic and

1 spot on. We actually do have a partnership with  
2 the Kern Community College District. The State  
3 Workforce Board does a hiring/training  
4 partnership, also with Bakersfield College, and  
5 we're excited about that.

6           There's another grant that we're  
7 partnering on, the Regional Equity Recovery  
8 Partnership Grant, with Workforce Boards. It's  
9 very exciting work, and I know CERF is coming  
10 down. A lot of folks are focused on what to  
11 propose to Sacramento for the CERF funds, and I  
12 won't talk about that, because I think I'm not  
13 supposed to.

14           I also want to just quickly recognize  
15 Teresa Hitchcock, who's sitting near the front  
16 row, who runs the Workforce Development Board for  
17 Kern, Inyo, Mono. She's a visionary. She's  
18 fantastic. She's a good friend -- I've known her  
19 a long time -- and a colleague, and I'm really  
20 glad that she's in the room. We do a lot of  
21 partnership work, and rely on her tremendously  
22 for her knowledge on the ground and her vision  
23 for workforce for this region.

24           John Spaulding, I don't know if he's on,  
25 head of the Building Trades Council here in Kern,

1 Inyo, Mono. Imelda Ceja-Butkiewicz, whose name I  
2 pronounced, Butkiewicz, because her father sat on  
3 our State Workforce Development Board for years,  
4 and I got to meet her several times, she runs the  
5 Central Labor Council for Kern, Inyo, Mono. I  
6 hope she's either on the Zoom or in the room.  
7 I'm looking around. People have masks on, so I  
8 can't recognize folks.

9 I'm honored to have this partnership. We  
10 were talking about this with the Energy  
11 Commission. We've been doing this work for some  
12 time together. We're very excited that equity  
13 workforce development are integrated with climate  
14 policy. It's a mission that we've been driving  
15 at for some time in Sac, and making a lot of, I  
16 think, really important headway, and our  
17 partnership with the Energy Commission is crucial  
18 to that, is core to that, and we're kind of  
19 building out from that relationship to other  
20 agencies and departments in Sacramento as we  
21 invest climate dollars.

22 Our joint work with the Energy Commission  
23 started with Prop 39. It was some time ago,  
24 2014, 2015. I say "started" because I think  
25 that's when I started the State Workforce Board,

1 so everything for me starts then.

2           We got \$13,000,000 of the Prop 39 funds  
3 at the State Workforce Board to invest in  
4 multi-craft workforce development partnerships  
5 with the building trades councils around the  
6 state. The purpose of Prop 39 was to improve or  
7 build energy-efficient infrastructure with the  
8 colleges or do retrofits on colleges, very smart  
9 stuff, so the \$13 (sic) was creating pathways and  
10 access to the trades for people who have been  
11 traditionally, historically locked out from the  
12 building trades.

13           That work has expanded tremendously  
14 around California. It's a multi-craft model.  
15 It's regional partnerships with the building  
16 trades, with workforce boards, community  
17 colleges, community-based organizations, schools,  
18 and other partners, again, regional, creating  
19 access to the best jobs that are blue-collar that  
20 don't require a four-year college degree, but it  
21 does require a long apprenticeship, but you earn  
22 while you learn.

23           The scaling-up has been done over those  
24 years with SB 1 funds, with Greenhouse Gas  
25 Reduction funds, with other state and federal

1 dollars. Again, we have a High Road Construction  
2 Careers partnership in every corner of  
3 California.

4           So, as we build, and as we build with an  
5 eye toward energy efficiency and renewables,  
6 we're creating access points for people to get  
7 really good-quality jobs, because building stuff  
8 should impact employment.

9           It's not a new concept. I didn't make it  
10 up. I think maybe we all remember the New Deal.  
11 I mean, if you don't remember the New Deal, maybe  
12 you read about it. I look like I was there.

13           So it's not a new concept, but it's what  
14 we're driving at, and it makes sense, and it  
15 actually works. We're actualizing this policy  
16 vision on the ground with our partnership with  
17 the Energy Commission, with community colleges,  
18 with local workforce development boards like the  
19 one Teresa runs, with building trades councils  
20 and other unions, and with industry employers at  
21 the table making commitments around equity,  
22 quality jobs, and climate resilience.

23           The legislature agrees with this  
24 provision. Over the last six, seven years, the  
25 State Workforce Board has been allocated

1 \$100,000,000 for High Road Construction Careers  
2 for these partnerships that continue to scale us  
3 up-train. More people get more people into the  
4 trades, and we've gotten thousands in, with great  
5 diversity.

6           Four hundred million also allocated, in  
7 addition to the hundred million, so half a  
8 billion, total, allocated to the State Workforce  
9 Development Board for High Road training  
10 partnerships. So there's industry sectors other  
11 than construction, including offshore wind,  
12 energy storage, utility tree trimming to reduce  
13 the risk of forest fires, water and wastewater  
14 treatment facilities across the state.

15           We have statewide initiative, excellent  
16 jobs, public sector, manufacturing zero-emission  
17 buses, mass transit, especially as agencies adopt  
18 zero-emission buses in their fleets or replace  
19 their fleets with zero-emission buses,  
20 warehousing logistics, and then as well, of  
21 course, as other population-driven sectors like  
22 healthcare and even hospitality.

23           So, scaling up this work, the proof of  
24 concept, I think, is done. We just need to be  
25 sure we're focused on not just giving people the

1 skills we think they're going to need to be  
2 competitive, but actually creating the conditions  
3 in the industry sectors to pull people into  
4 good-quality jobs.

5           We don't want to push people in labor  
6 markets to just compete with each other over too  
7 few good jobs. We want to create the conditions  
8 for more good-quality jobs, and pull more people  
9 into those, and I think this is this discussion  
10 around economic equity.

11           And I'll leave it there, I think.

12           MS. RAITT: Okay. Thank you.

13           This is Heather, Heather Raitt. So thank  
14 you so much, Jim and everybody. We'll go ahead  
15 and get started. I don't see any questions, so  
16 we'll go ahead and move on to our first panel,  
17 and so we have a series of speakers, and we have  
18 a change in the agenda. So we have Norma  
19 Rojas-Mora speaking instead of Nicole Parra. So  
20 thank you for being here.

21           And so we'll just go ahead and get  
22 started, and the first speaker is Betony Jones,  
23 Senior Advisor at the U.S. Department of Energy.

24           Go ahead, Betony.

25           MS. JONES: Okay. Hi, everyone. I hope

1 you can hear me.

2 MS. RAITT: Yes, we can.

3 MS. JONES: Okay. I'm just going to talk  
4 a little bit about how the U.S. Department of  
5 Energy is thinking about equity, and, in  
6 particular, economic equity.

7 So we think about this along three  
8 parameters: quality jobs, diversity, equity,  
9 inclusion, and accessibility, and ensuring a just  
10 transition for workers and communities, and I'll  
11 drill down a bit on what those three things mean  
12 in a second, but I want to start with something  
13 even more high-level, which is that economic  
14 equity is not just a "nice to have."

15 We do hope that, with intention and  
16 well-designed policies and programs for energy  
17 and climate goals, that we will achieve economic  
18 equity, but we aren't just thinking about it in  
19 terms of an output. We're actually really  
20 thinking about economic equity in terms of an  
21 input that will ensure the successful  
22 implementation of our climate and energy  
23 programs. How is it an input? It's foundational  
24 to the success of these programs in a couple  
25 ways.

1           One, we have really lofty climate and  
2 energy goals. We're trying to achieve a  
3 zero-carbon grid by 2035 nationwide, and a  
4 net-zero-carbon economy by 2050. These are  
5 hundred-percent goals, and unless we're serving a  
6 hundred percent of the population, we're not  
7 going to get there.

8           If we were trying to decarbonize 10  
9 percent of the economy, maybe business as usual,  
10 where 10 percent of people benefit from these  
11 things, will work, but it will not work to get to  
12 a hundred percent.

13           A hundred percent is an "all hands on  
14 deck" effort, and that means that we need to tap  
15 into the full talent of the American workforce,  
16 including those individuals who have not had  
17 access to career-track training and employment,  
18 who are historically left behind, who are  
19 underrepresented in energy careers. That's how  
20 we will get there. So it's really important, as  
21 an input, to focus on diversity, equity,  
22 inclusion, and accessibility in these jobs that  
23 are being created from our investments.

24           The second way that we're thinking about  
25 economic equity as an input is around worker

1 training, and developing workers that are trained  
2 with broad occupational training, who have the  
3 skills developed and acquired through registered  
4 apprenticeship programs, to address not just the  
5 technology that we're seeing today, but the  
6 technology that we don't even know about yet,  
7 because it isn't designed yet, but the skills  
8 that workers will have and develop through broad  
9 occupational training will prepare them to be  
10 nimble, to be adaptable, efficient, innovative,  
11 and to really build or rebuild U.S. competitive  
12 advantage based on the strength and productivity  
13 and quality of work workforce, and in turn  
14 ensuring that the quality of the jobs that we're  
15 creating are sufficient to retain a qualified  
16 workforce, meaning they pay enough, and with good  
17 enough benefits, and decent scheduling, and  
18 worker protections, that workers will stay in the  
19 industry in which they've trained, and continue  
20 to learn and up-skill.

21           So these are -- this is how economic  
22 equity and workforce development is really  
23 essential, and core, really, to the success of  
24 our energy and climate goals. We are also  
25 thinking about it as an input in terms of our

1 Justice40 goals and other things that we need to  
2 achieve through the implementation of the  
3 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, but we're really  
4 baking it into the foundation of how these  
5 programs and policies and funding opportunities  
6 are designed.

7           To that point, the funding opportunities  
8 associated with the Bipartisan Infrastructure  
9 Law, DOE has \$62,000,000,000 distributed across  
10 72 programs, many of which are new, and so  
11 there's a lot of funding for large, large-scale  
12 demonstration and deployment projects.

13           For those projects, we've set aside 20  
14 percent of the scoring, so, traditionally, DOE is  
15 very focused on the technology, and the merits of  
16 the technology in the plan itself. In this,  
17 they've set aside 20 percent of the scoring to  
18 address "How are applicants developing quality  
19 jobs and equity plans? How are they baking these  
20 things into their project design from the  
21 beginning?"

22           That 20 percent is distributed into four  
23 parts. The first part has to do with labor and  
24 community engagement. So how are project  
25 proponents engaging up front? With labor unions,

1 registered apprenticeship programs, community  
2 colleges, community-based organizations, to  
3 identify, what are their sensitivities with the  
4 proposed project?

5           What is the plan for attracting and  
6 retaining the workforce required to successfully  
7 implement the project? How is the project  
8 proponent thinking about sensitivities in the  
9 community, and how to identify benefits that  
10 could accrue to the community? How much is that  
11 work happening up front?

12           The second part of the plan deals with  
13 quality jobs. This is wages, benefits. What are  
14 the project advocates or applicants planning to  
15 deliver in terms of wages, benefits? What are  
16 the skill standards or credentials required for  
17 the workforce in order to accomplish what they  
18 set out to accomplish?

19           Do workers have a free and fair chance to  
20 join a union? That's a very high-priority issue  
21 for the president and the Secretary of Energy,  
22 and we know that an engaged workforce with a  
23 voice on the job is a productive workforce and  
24 leads to good outcomes, so that's a really  
25 important thing that we're measuring.

1           Workplace health and safety, and how  
2 workers are involved in the implementation of  
3 such programs, and then worker retention, and  
4 I'll talk a little bit about that in a second.

5           The third area that we're scoring  
6 proposals on is diversity, equity, inclusion, and  
7 access. This includes not only access for the  
8 jobs created, and things like partnerships with  
9 community-based organizations, community  
10 colleges, registered apprenticeship,  
11 pre-apprenticeship programs, like those that Tim  
12 was just discussing through California's High  
13 Road Training Partnerships, these place-based  
14 partnerships with different partners to build out  
15 that pipeline and provide supportive services for  
16 workers to be able to access and succeed in broad  
17 occupational training programs and registered  
18 apprenticeship, and then, also, minority and  
19 women business participation. So diversity,  
20 equity, inclusion, and access covers both  
21 workforce goals and the business diversity goals.

22           Then the fourth area is Justice40,  
23 ensuring that benefits accrue to disadvantaged  
24 communities.

25           Beyond that, DOE is also focused on a

1 just transition through -- which is inherently  
2 place-based work, recognizing that to ensure just  
3 transition for workers and communities, there's  
4 no one size fits all, at all. There's no silver  
5 bullet. This is very community-specific work.

6           Kate Gordon, who some of you probably  
7 know well from her time in California, is  
8 spearheading DOE's place-based work, and we're  
9 looking at things like matching skills between  
10 the traditional or fossil energy jobs and what is  
11 coming with some of these new clean energy  
12 technologies, fossil asset repurposing, how to  
13 retain workers, given that the transition to  
14 clean energy is shifting investments between  
15 industries and between geographies, and it's  
16 disruptive.

17           So how do we retain and engage workers  
18 who have been involved in ICE vehicle  
19 manufacturing for new battery vehicle  
20 manufacturing, or from the natural gas power  
21 plants to a green hydrogen distribution system?

22           So those are some of the ways in which  
23 we're addressing just transition as part of that  
24 over-arching economic equity framework, and I  
25 will leave it there. Thanks.

1 MS. RAITT: Thank you, Betony. This is  
2 Heather Raitt.

3 So our next speaker is Shrayas Jatkar.  
4 I'm sorry. I'm mispronouncing your name. Go  
5 ahead, Shrayas.

6 MR. JATKAR: No problem. Can you hear me  
7 okay?

8 MS. RAITT: Thanks.

9 MR. JATKAR: Okay. I think so. Great.  
10 Yes.

11 Hi, everybody. Shrayas Jatkar with the  
12 California Workforce Development Board. It's a  
13 pleasure to be here remotely with all of you, and  
14 just to start off with just a quick note about we  
15 are.

16 The State Workforce Development Board,  
17 we're the workforce policy arm of the  
18 Administration, and our workforce policy is  
19 guided by -- our North Star is called the High  
20 Road, and the High Road is -- you know, we could  
21 have a whole session on what the High Road is,  
22 and what it means and everything, but we tend to  
23 break it down into three core principles, and we  
24 lead with equity. Second is climate, and last is  
25 jobs. Equity, climate and jobs.

1           All are equally important. It's like a  
2 three-legged stool. You know, you can't  
3 shortchange any one of those. And, perhaps more  
4 importantly, we see these three principles as  
5 mutually reinforcing. We think that quality  
6 jobs, as has been mentioned, is key to economic  
7 equity, and we know that we can't get to our  
8 climate protection and climate stabilization  
9 goals and targets without equity, as has been  
10 mentioned already, and so just wanted to describe  
11 that very briefly, to demonstrate sort of how we  
12 think about centering equity. Again, it's not  
13 sort of an add-on to what we do. It is  
14 integrated in everything that we do.

15           So I'll say a little bit about what  
16 equity means to us, what it looks like, and  
17 trying to sort of flesh that out, and I'll talk  
18 about it in two ways. If we think about labor  
19 markets as having a demand and a supply side, on  
20 the demand side, we think about workers and jobs,  
21 and the employers that employ workers, of course,  
22 and on the supply side of the labor market, we  
23 think about workers, and the institutions that  
24 educate and train the workforce, and we've got to  
25 intervene. We've got to address both sides of

1 the equation to move the needle on equity.

2           So the first thing I want to mention is  
3 on that demand side. I think this is the place  
4 where there's a lot of attention needed, and  
5 where we go beyond the sort of norms of a  
6 traditional state workforce board or workforce  
7 development, which is to intervene in labor  
8 markets, and in our policies to make sure that,  
9 as we're spending public dollars, we're using  
10 those dollars to create quality jobs, and you  
11 heard from Betony a sort of enumeration of what  
12 we mean by "quality jobs." It's well beyond  
13 wages and benefits. Of course, those are  
14 critical, but not the only thing that makes a job  
15 a quality job. There are scheduling, routes to  
16 career advancement, worker voice. These are  
17 other key essential components or indicators of  
18 job quality.

19           The work that we do -- one of our  
20 initiatives here at the State Workforce Board, we  
21 call it the High Road Climate Agency Partnerships  
22 Initiative, the High Road CAP, which is meant to  
23 be a -- have a double meaning, that we've got to  
24 obviously cap greenhouse gas emissions, but we  
25 need to take the high road in doing so, and in

1 this initiative, we partner with agencies like  
2 the Energy Commission, the Utilities Commission,  
3 and many, many other state agencies that are  
4 spending big dollars to address our climate  
5 disaster and the emergency in front of us.

6           As we spend those dollars, we're  
7 affecting jobs, and, therefore, the agencies  
8 controlling that spending are in a very unique  
9 position to shape the quality and the  
10 accessibility of those jobs, and so we work with  
11 agencies hand in hand, and partner with them, to  
12 help sort of operationalize these things that  
13 we're talking about.

14           We provide recommendations around  
15 appropriate wage and benefit standards, worker  
16 skill certification requirements, contractor  
17 standards, employer standards, targeted hiring,  
18 any number of these different tools that we try  
19 to match up with the particular climate program  
20 and the industries of the occupations that are  
21 impacted, because what we know is that there are  
22 too few good jobs in this economy, and if we  
23 don't intervene, we're simply going to reproduce  
24 the existing inequalities that we see in our  
25 labor market, where, in the context of energy and

1 transportation, when we think about construction,  
2 not the only industry sector, but a significant  
3 one, we know that, again, without any  
4 intervention, our climate programs that focus on  
5 the residential arena, which is essentially  
6 tapping into residential construction work, this  
7 is a segment of the industry that is not on the  
8 High Road, generally, and so we've got to make  
9 sure that we're, again, using our public  
10 authority, our state authority, to drive this  
11 good jobs agenda and really unify our ambitious  
12 climate and good jobs agendas.

13           Real quickly, I'll say that this work is  
14 expanding. We just got budget approval to hire  
15 more folks to join the High Road Climate Agency  
16 Partnerships Initiative, and so folks are  
17 interested in really using -- you know, in coming  
18 to the State Workforce Board. We've got a lot of  
19 positions coming up, and a lot of big funding  
20 that we've got to move out the door that we want  
21 to do equitably and strategically.

22           Let me just say a couple of words, real  
23 quick, on the supply side around equity, and I  
24 try to break it down. I tend to break it down  
25 this way, which is, equity is about who we serve

1 and how we serve them. When we think about the  
2 "who," it's of course, you know, the particular  
3 people and populations. We tend to use slightly  
4 different terms than "disadvantaged communities,"  
5 but there's a lot of overlap. We think of  
6 individuals with employment barriers, which is  
7 actually a term that's codified in state law.

8           We also think about workers that are  
9 underrepresented in an industry, and, kind of  
10 sticking with the construction theme, you know,  
11 these are populations like women, black,  
12 indigenous, people of color, justice-involved,  
13 people with disabilities. Our High Road  
14 Construction Careers is intimately involved in  
15 the community-based organizations that have those  
16 relationships with those populations and can  
17 create access to good jobs in construction.

18           We also think about serving industries  
19 that are often overlooked or ignored or  
20 underinvested in. These may be low-wage  
21 industries like hospitality, janitorial services,  
22 but these are key job creators, and also  
23 important for climate change.

24           We also think about regions like inland  
25 California and the smaller coastal regions, if

1 you will.

2           Let me move on real quick to say, you  
3 know, the "how" is really important, of course,  
4 as well. First and foremost, we really focus on  
5 building industry-based training partnerships.  
6 So we're not just funding programs, per se.  
7 We're funding these partnerships that bring, you  
8 know, workers, employers, community groups  
9 together, and many others, community colleges,  
10 many, many other groups, but those at the core,  
11 because we think that equity is delivered insofar  
12 as we're connecting workers to skills in demand  
13 by industry, and so having industry-based  
14 training solutions is absolutely essential.

15           The other thing is supportive services.  
16 For workers who have faced barriers to  
17 employment, who may not have graduated high  
18 school or who don't have a college degree,  
19 getting through training can be a big barrier.  
20 So we need these supportive services, and there's  
21 a whole range of them that I can more about  
22 later, that are critical to really ensuring that  
23 people can move through training and are  
24 supported throughout their employment.

25           Then I want to touch on something that

1 Betony said, which is also in how we think about  
2 serving workers with equity in mind. We really  
3 are learning the lessons from over a decade ago,  
4 with the federal stimulus dollars and a lot of  
5 funding that went into, quote/unquote, "green  
6 jobs training."

7           It was somewhat narrow, and limited in  
8 impact, because what we were doing is  
9 training -- we were training people for taking on  
10 important projects and tasks, but we didn't  
11 provide them with the foundational fundamentals,  
12 really, of an occupation to put them on a career  
13 pathway, so that they have a career for life.

14           So, when we think about, again, in the  
15 construction industry, this is why, you know,  
16 even though we had Prop 39 dollars, which was  
17 about retrofitting schools to, you know, become  
18 energy-efficient and install renewables, we  
19 didn't just train workers to do that. We trained  
20 them in broad-based fundamentals in the  
21 construction industry, and tried to connect them  
22 with apprenticeship, which is really the gold  
23 standard of employment and training in this  
24 industry.

25           So that's how we think about and how we

1 practice equity, and, as I think a couple of  
2 people have mentioned, we have significant new  
3 funding for some of our flagship programs that  
4 really sort of embody these principles and  
5 practices, High Road Training Partnerships and  
6 High Road Construction Careers, really historic  
7 levels of funding.

8           You know, Tim didn't say it this way,  
9 but, you know, when he started at the Workforce  
10 Board as the director several years ago, you  
11 know, we were almost just a passthrough of  
12 federal dollars to the local workforce boards,  
13 and we've really taken on more work ourselves,  
14 and built and developed these model programs, and  
15 we've gone from sort of barely any state funds to  
16 now nearly a half-billion dollars.

17           So, again, we're going to be staffing up  
18 to get this money out. Look out for those job  
19 announcements. Please reach out if you're  
20 interested, and I'm going to leave it there with  
21 my recruitment pitch. Thank you.

22           MS. RAITT: Thank you so much. Okay.  
23 Great.

24           So next we will move on to Norma  
25 Rojas-Mora, and she's Executive Director of

1 Government Relations.

2 Go ahead. Thank you.

3 MS. ROJAS-MORA: Thank you, Heather.

4 Thank you all for being in Kern County  
5 today. We're really honored to host you.

6 So, just to give you a little bit of  
7 background, the Kern Community College District  
8 serves over 30,000 students and communities  
9 across 24,800 square miles, in parts of Kern,  
10 Tulare, Inyo, Mono, and San Bernardino counties,  
11 and our three flagship colleges are our flagship  
12 colleges Bakersfield College, we have Cerro Coso  
13 College, and Porterville College.

14 So the Kern Community College District  
15 has a longstanding history of bringing together  
16 key stakeholders and addressing generational  
17 poverty, diversity, equity, and inclusion. You,  
18 the vision from our new chancellor has been to  
19 really address economic equity, environmental  
20 equity, and health equity in different ways.

21 I first started at Bakersfield College  
22 when our current chancellor was president of  
23 Bakersfield College, and one of the first issues  
24 that we took on was health equity. We started  
25 the HEAL Collaborative, which is the Health,

1 Equity, and Learning Collaborative, in 2018,  
2 which is a regional collaborative that is  
3 addressing health disparities with a focus on  
4 workforce, community engagement, and access to  
5 affordable healthcare and training in these rural  
6 communities that are most affected with health  
7 disparities.

8           Through that collaborative, we were able  
9 to pull together a conference, a summit, back in  
10 November of 2019, and that summit was held in  
11 Delano. We had representatives from state, local  
12 agencies present, and the biggest feedback we got  
13 was "Thank you so much for providing such a  
14 space, hosting a summit in one of the rural  
15 communities, rather than what is traditionally  
16 done," which is we find the biggest, shiniest  
17 place to host sometimes, when it really doesn't  
18 allow for access of communities that are impacted  
19 by the issues we're trying to address.

20           So, really, our vision has been, let's  
21 not just address the problem, but address it with  
22 all the stakeholders that can make an impact. So  
23 the summit really launched additional  
24 conversations, and a need to address other equity  
25 challenges that face our communities.

1           So, from there, I'm going to move on to  
2 our ways of addressing economic equity. Again,  
3 it started with our current chancellor, when she  
4 was president of Bakersfield College, but what  
5 we've rolled out and what we were looking to  
6 address is the lack of bachelor's attainment  
7 rates in a lot of our rural communities.

8           What we were finding is students weren't  
9 accessing high education. So, rather than  
10 thinking that the solution was to create more  
11 programs at our hub colleges, how do we start  
12 taking education out to those communities? And  
13 so the way we were able to accomplish it is not  
14 only establishing centers at each of our rural  
15 communities, but working with the high school  
16 districts, and introducing college courses at the  
17 high school level.

18           Well, in doing so, what we were able to  
19 do is create pathways for students to get their  
20 education early on, because, of course,  
21 statistics show that if you take classes early  
22 on, you're most likely to continue with your  
23 education.

24           So, currently, what we're able to do is,  
25 students are graduating with their AA degrees

1 almost a week before graduating with their high  
2 school diplomas. What that allows, then, is for  
3 students to transfer at the junior level to  
4 higher education, impacting costs, impacting  
5 their completion rates.

6           So, again, being able to provide it in  
7 the high schools allows for those students to  
8 access the education, and it really does impact  
9 the economy, not just of the student, but of  
10 entire families and generations to come, because  
11 we are now creating individuals who have higher  
12 education degrees, and really what we're finding  
13 is that they're going on to receive not just  
14 their bachelor's, but their master's.

15           I share the story of a young woman who  
16 came out to Kern County to do her work after  
17 receiving her master's degree at Fresno State at  
18 the age of 22. So she's here, engaged in the  
19 work and back in the community, really trying to  
20 help uplift others.

21           So now, as we're looking at economic  
22 equity, we've shifted, and I know our chancellor  
23 briefly touched on the model, but it's the model  
24 of the worker, employer, and educator, again,  
25 going into the communities that need the most

1 support, and putting our resources there, to  
2 really identify, from an industry perspective and  
3 a worker perspective, what are the job sectors  
4 that are emerging?

5           What are the technologies, and how do we  
6 get ahead of being able to provide the proper  
7 workforce to retrain incumbent workers, and not  
8 just retrain incumbent workers? How do we  
9 provide the skillset so that they can advance  
10 within their careers? So really looking at that  
11 model, and starting to integrate it as the part  
12 of everything that we do.

13           We hosted a summit in May called the Good  
14 Jobs of Equity Summit. You're starting to see a  
15 trend here, a community summit, again, because  
16 it's important to educate everyone about what  
17 these ideas are. Oftentimes, as institutions, we  
18 think we have all the solutions, and then we roll  
19 out programs that people don't understand. So,  
20 by providing these summits, it's allowing a  
21 platform for everyone to bring their ideas to the  
22 table, but also to provide the education on what  
23 these issues are.

24           So, through the Good Jobs of Equity  
25 Summit, we, of course, partnered with a lot of

1 state agencies, brought them into Kern County,  
2 but also made sure that we had community at the  
3 table, because, again, finding solutions is a  
4 task that we all need to be a part of, and we do  
5 see our role at the Kern Community College  
6 District to be a convenor of all the  
7 stakeholders, so that we're listening to what  
8 those needs are, and being able to address the  
9 issues.

10           Well, now we're taking on another equity  
11 challenge, which is environmental equity. Yes,  
12 Kern County is the hub of energy, renewable  
13 energy, fossil fuel energy. It is here. We are  
14 the area that provides all of those, the leader  
15 in all of those resources. So, as we're starting  
16 to address what diversification of our workforce  
17 looks like, we really need to have an  
18 understanding of what is happening.

19           We need to engage in what we consider  
20 difficult conversations sometimes. We need to  
21 ensure that all voices are heard with that. So  
22 what we're looking to do is not only understand  
23 the research behind the emerging technologies,  
24 but, also, how do we provide education to  
25 communities and workers about what that

1 technology really is?

2 I mean, we keep hearing about carbon  
3 management, carbon capture, but how do we really  
4 understand it as educators, but then, also, how  
5 do we help communities that may be affected by  
6 these technologies understand it? So, partnering  
7 with organizations to really be able to ensure  
8 that the education that we're providing is  
9 something that is understandable, and that allows  
10 people to engage and have questions in a safe  
11 space.

12 So, in addition to that, it's looking at  
13 not just understanding the technologies, but also  
14 understanding the environmental concerns, but  
15 also the workforce concerns. We have people who  
16 have been engaged in work, who have made their  
17 livelihood with a lot of the industries that are  
18 just the biggest industries here in Kern, and so,  
19 as we're looking at rescaling and retraining  
20 workers, how do we give them the sense of comfort  
21 of knowing that there may just be a shift in the  
22 workforce skills that you need, and the  
23 retraining and upscaling? They don't know,  
24 because they don't understand what technologies  
25 are coming.

1           So, being able to be at the table at the  
2 beginning, as we're beginning to understand these  
3 technologies, is critical in order to be able to  
4 find practical solutions, because the reality is  
5 that this is a big, complex work that is going to  
6 take engagement of everyone.

7           So I'm excited to be part of that, and to  
8 be part of putting pieces of the puzzle together,  
9 that sometimes you're just missing that one link  
10 that could offer the biggest solution, and not  
11 just doing it here in the big hubs, but, for me,  
12 on a personal level as well, having grown up in  
13 Mettler, which is a rural community, making sure  
14 that our rural communities aren't left behind in  
15 these conversations, and that, as we're creating  
16 jobs, good-quality jobs, jobs that provide  
17 benefits to address some of the health  
18 disparities that we have, that we're doing so in  
19 ways that don't leave people behind.

20           So I just want to wrap up with saying  
21 that we've heard the direction loud and clear,  
22 and I think, in Kern County, we're doing an  
23 effective job of convening different groups.  
24 It's not always easy, but being able to partner  
25 with labor, with community groups, and also

1 having that understanding that well, we may not  
2 agree on every single point, there are spaces  
3 where we can come together and really make deep  
4 impacts in the work that is being done. So,  
5 thank you.

6 MS. RAITT: Okay. Thank you so much, Ms.  
7 Rojas.

8 So next is Lori Pesante from the Dolores  
9 Huerta Foundation. So go ahead, Lori. Thank you  
10 for being here.

11 MS. PESANTE: Thank you, and good morning  
12 to everybody here in person and online. My name  
13 is Lori Pesante, and my pronouns are  
14 she/her/hers, and I'm with the Dolores Huerta  
15 Foundation.

16 We are a grassroots advocacy  
17 community-based organization here in Kern County,  
18 and we also have chapters in Tulare County,  
19 Fresno County, and the High Desert. Indeed, we  
20 will be celebrating 20 years of organizing in the  
21 Central Valley next year.

22 I appreciate very much this conversation  
23 that we're having today, especially when we  
24 consider some of the broader context, historical  
25 and global, and, indeed, I like to think about

1 sustainable development goals on a global level.  
2 Where does Kern and Central Valley fit into  
3 those?

4           Recently I had the opportunity to speak  
5 to some of those professionals, and they reminded  
6 me that "Until the lions have their historians,  
7 tales of the hunt shall always glorify the  
8 hunter." So I would like to share some of the  
9 local history here.

10           We started out here in the Central  
11 Valley, a group of -- a multitude of Native  
12 Americans. Before there were dams, there was  
13 water everywhere, and we had a huge lake here  
14 that is no longer here, but we still have that  
15 wonderful tule fog that we get every year,  
16 although it's smaller and smaller over time.

17           We are essentially a plantation-based  
18 economy, and the first folks who came to settle  
19 in this area after the Native Americans were  
20 essentially, some of them, folks who came from  
21 the south after the Civil War, and the  
22 plantation-based economy that they created  
23 started by bringing African-Americans to this  
24 area to work the fields, and, indeed, the Peace  
25 and Justice Cultural Center that our foundation

1 is currently supporting the design and  
2 construction of here in -- right down the street,  
3 in downtown Bakersfield -- is going to have a  
4 standing exhibit to all of the groups that have  
5 come here and worked in this land and made us  
6 what we are today, the impacts, good, bad, or  
7 ugly, that we still live with.

8           Of course, our African-American groups,  
9 our Latino community, of course, currently now,  
10 of course, Central American indigenous groups are  
11 working in our fields, and in my family, we had  
12 folks come from Oklahoma and work in the fields,  
13 and to this day, I go to funeral services for  
14 folks in my family where they still have comments  
15 made about the discrimination that they faced  
16 there, of course.

17           Indeed, as a current impact that we still  
18 feel, the UCLA Bunche Center for African-American  
19 Studies Million-Dollar Hoods Project analyzed  
20 arrest and incarceration data for BPD and the  
21 Kern County Sheriff's Department, and they had  
22 never seen over-policing of white people before  
23 until they looked at 93308.

24           So, when we talk about economic equity,  
25 when we talk about not wanting to repeat the

1 mistakes of the past, we absolutely have to hear  
2 from everybody who has come here today, and  
3 especially the folks who aren't here today,  
4 because they have the historical knowledge within  
5 their families, intergenerationally.

6           I was up in California City celebrating  
7 Juneteenth last year, 113 degrees outside, and  
8 there wasn't a single person in our group that  
9 wasn't impacted by multigenerational trauma.  
10 They had been pushed out of the Los Angeles and  
11 San Bernardino areas, and, indeed, just this  
12 week, the Guardian published an article about our  
13 unhoused populations up there that one of our  
14 organizers has been working with for many, many  
15 years.

16           The problems that we face together are  
17 very real. Kern County occupies a unique role  
18 within the work we have to do together,  
19 especially with regards to energy, but with  
20 regard to some of the economic assumptions that  
21 we and others may make, especially in  
22 decision-making spaces, I want to remind us that  
23 those good jobs -- we've been creating good jobs,  
24 but they don't go to people here in Kern. Let's  
25 be very real about that. Working families in

1 Kern County deserve those good jobs, and I'm  
2 really grateful to all the workforce development  
3 folks that are making it happen so that they can  
4 qualify and succeed in those jobs.

5           Second economic assumption that we make  
6 sometimes is that this history of a  
7 plantation-based economy makes it abundantly  
8 clear that we have ultimately been extractive in  
9 nature. This is a mindset that we need to  
10 change. We cannot just extract, extract, extract  
11 from our people, from our land, from our  
12 resources, and a world created from any economic  
13 work that we do together has to stay here.

14           We've been seeing the resource curse our  
15 entire lives, over multiple generations. It is  
16 very real. We don't want our resources to be a  
17 curse. We want them to be a blessing for  
18 everybody.

19           Indeed, I want to note that some of the  
20 things that I'm hoping we'll be able to have  
21 these difficult conversations about are about the  
22 ways in which we've got some water issues, you  
23 know.

24           We've got some environmental justice  
25 issues, like our 40 methane leaks that we're

1 dealing with, which, by the way, right near my  
2 kids' school. We have 1,2,3-TCP in our water,  
3 that is, if you do have the ability to access  
4 water, and it isn't twice the average monthly  
5 water bill of other folks.

6           So we absolutely have to leave no stone  
7 unturned. I am very grateful to the Department  
8 of Energy on the federal level for making use of  
9 that Justice40 layer. We also use GIS  
10 technologies to give really impactful  
11 visualizations of all authoritative data.

12           It is an evolving science to create  
13 equity indicators, so I want to encourage us to  
14 really scrutinize and be very clear about what  
15 are these equity indicators helping us to  
16 understand, and is there truth on the ground to  
17 back it up? Have we validated with the community  
18 members who are impacted?

19           The Justice40 is a great start in the  
20 direction, but we also created our own equity  
21 indicators, and we used CalEnviroScreen as well.  
22 Decision-making spaces need to be occupied by  
23 people in those geographical areas, period.

24           I love this asset-based mindset. I love  
25 this idea of equity as input, especially if we're

1 ensuring that we're being very self-critical and  
2 self-reflective about whether or not we're being  
3 honest with ourselves, and fully equitable on all  
4 multiple levels, and really listening to people  
5 of color, really listening to people in impacted  
6 communities, and then, for anything else that I'm  
7 neglecting to include in my comments, I know we  
8 have really wonderful folks here today who are  
9 going to be able to fill in the gaps that I might  
10 be leaving behind.

11           So we leave no stone unturned, no  
12 research strand unanalyzed, and no impacted  
13 person's voice unheard, period, and we stand to  
14 be of service in all of these difficult decisions  
15 and work that we're going to do together, and I  
16 appreciate the opportunity to be heard today, and  
17 I look forward to hearing everybody else.

18           One last thing, Tim. If you want a part  
19 of Bakersfield music history, apparently Buck  
20 Owens' house is for sale, my friend. You can  
21 come to Bakersfield. Thank you.

22           MS. RAITT: Thank you so much, Lori, and  
23 thank you to everybody who presented.

24           We have a little -- we have an  
25 opportunity now for a conversation with the

1 panelists and our Agency leadership and  
2 Commissioners, and then we'll have some time for  
3 questions from attendees.

4           So I see a couple questions on Zoom, and  
5 if you're in the room and you want to have a  
6 question, if you could just take a moment to  
7 write it down and bring it up here, and we can  
8 ask that as well, but first we'll have discussion  
9 with our leadership. Thank you.

10           COMMISSIONER MORENO-RIVERA: Good  
11 morning, everyone. That was quite the panel and  
12 quite the perspectives. I'm very fortunate to be  
13 in community with you all today.

14           My name is Moises Moreno-Rivera, and I  
15 humbly get to serve as the Natural Resources  
16 Agency's Assistant Secretary for Equity and  
17 Environmental Justice.

18           As we were really having this  
19 conversation, I was just in Stockton on Friday,  
20 and I was invited by a community-based  
21 organization there where they brought in UC  
22 Merced. They brought in a number of state  
23 agencies, and they were like, "We used to ask  
24 that agencies were reflective of the communities  
25 that we serve, and we thought that was going to

1 get us change, and then we started seeing as  
2 reflected, but really now what we're really  
3 looking at is at the research, and at the jobs,  
4 and that all that we do is integrated."

5           So we're bringing you here today to have  
6 this conversation, and what I'm hearing today is  
7 very indicative of where the Energy Commission is  
8 prioritizing, and how this convening is really  
9 looking at -- while we're here in Bakersfield,  
10 and I'm really happy to be in the Central Valley,  
11 there's a lot of connection of where I grew up,  
12 in the East Coachella Valley.

13           There's a lot of migrant workers that  
14 come, and I grew up hearing stories about this  
15 place and how wonderful it was, and it is, and  
16 I'm just excited that we're having this  
17 conversation, and it's not a unique conversation  
18 to this part of the state.

19           I know, at the Resources Agency, this is  
20 one of the things that we're looking at as we're  
21 looking into thinking about "What does equity  
22 actually mean to communities across the state?"  
23 And workforce equity is one of those that has  
24 been brought up in the Salton Sea region, and  
25 across the state.

1           So I just want to ask the panelists  
2 themselves, is when you're thinking about the  
3 partnerships, you know, and the conversation  
4 today, you know, what is an outcome that you  
5 would like to see established within the work of  
6 the Energy Commission and within the types of  
7 partnerships you would like to see? What is a  
8 meaningful outcome for our gathering here today?  
9 Thank you.

10           MS. RAITT: Okay. Go ahead, Commissioner  
11 Gunda. Did you want to talk?

12           VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yes. I was just going  
13 to see if any of the panelists have any thoughts  
14 on it.

15           MR. JATKAR: Sure. I'll jump in on this  
16 one. I think community participation in the  
17 decision-making around economic development,  
18 industrial development, is absolutely essential,  
19 both -- you know, the region you were talking  
20 about, in the Salton Sea, around lithium  
21 development. There's a lot of excitement and  
22 enthusiasm, and I think making sure that -- has  
23 been mentioned by others, you know -- that  
24 community organizations are involved, community  
25 members are involved, in the decision-making of

1 how that development occurs, I think is quite  
2 important, and, you know, that's sort of on the  
3 process side.

4           In terms of sort of the results of that  
5 work, I think what we really want to see, and we  
6 want to help be part of at the State Workforce  
7 Board, is making sure that we're developing the  
8 local workforce to have access to what are  
9 hopefully going to be very good jobs in that  
10 industry, and we want to make sure that we do  
11 that in a way that encourages more of that  
12 development, because that's really, you know,  
13 key, making sure that there's more demand, and  
14 demand for good jobs and skilled workers, from,  
15 you know, other parts of the value chain.

16           So I'll just offer that as a specific  
17 example around, say, lithium, which I think kind  
18 of translates or is somewhat applicable  
19 regardless of industry or project or major  
20 initiative underway.

21           VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Shrayas. I  
22 don't know if anybody else wants to add anything.

23           MS. ROJAS-MORA: I'll take a stab at it.

24           VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Very well.

25           MS. ROJAS-MORA: I would say that one of

1 the outcomes we'd like to see as we're developing  
2 these partnerships and having these conversations  
3 is really ensuring that resources get to  
4 communities. Oftentimes we ask community groups  
5 to come to the table and to have conversations  
6 with us, but we're not helping build their  
7 capacity and their infrastructure to do work that  
8 needs to be done on the ground level.

9           So I think, you know, leveraging what we  
10 can, as institutions, to ensure that we're not  
11 just asking people to come along, but helping  
12 build their capacity as well, is important to  
13 help the work that's needed to be done continue  
14 to be done.

15           MS. PESANTE: I think the only thing that  
16 I would want to add to that is, I'd like to see  
17 us walk away today with a commitment to  
18 continuing to understand just how hard what Norma  
19 just said is, right, and that consistent  
20 commitment in the form of resources and  
21 communication, and building those relationships,  
22 really is going to take a long time, if we're  
23 truly to saturate down to every level of our  
24 communities.

25           I mean, certainly the civic engagement

1 work that I do, and what I'm sure we all hear in  
2 the headlines, is that demoralization and apathy  
3 is at just really, really -- I mean, it has  
4 seeped into our souls in many places that have  
5 been disenfranchised for so many years, and it  
6 takes time to understand the full scope of that,  
7 and commitment from everybody involved to take  
8 the time that it's going to take to get it right,  
9 and so it can be truly inclusive.

10 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you so much.

11 Betony, do you want to add anything? No.

12 So, Commissioner Vaccaro, did you have a  
13 question?

14 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: Thank you, Vice  
15 Chair, and I'm a bit under the weather. My voice  
16 isn't very good. So I'll keep my comments very  
17 brief.

18 I just wanted to share that I feel this  
19 is a very powerful panel, very fruitful, a lot of  
20 important messaging, a lot of important topics to  
21 all the speakers, and, in particular, Lori, with  
22 you rounding it out, I typically don't have a lot  
23 of visceral, like, emotion when I listen, just  
24 trying to be very intellectual and analytical  
25 about a lot of it, but there's so much that came

1 out of this panel that actually really did bring  
2 some emotion, and kind of has me a little  
3 bit -- you know, in my feelings and in my  
4 thoughts, because this is so important, that the  
5 state agencies are here to listen to these  
6 important messages, and to remember this is  
7 really about individuals, right, and individual  
8 voices and experience. So I won't speak any  
9 more, and I apologize for the difficulty you  
10 might have hearing me. I really just wanted to  
11 thank you all so much for this panel, and I'm  
12 grateful to have been able to listen to it.  
13 Thank you.

14 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you,  
15 Commissioner Vaccaro. That's well put.

16 Ms. Monahan.

17 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, thanks to  
18 all the panelists. This has really been  
19 fascinating and illuminating, and gives us a lot  
20 of great food for thought.

21 So I am the transportation lead at the  
22 Energy Commission, and very focused on how do we  
23 support workforce development for the  
24 zero-emission transportation that is coming down  
25 the pike, and also very conscientious that here,

1 you know, where there are so many jobs in the oil  
2 sector, there are so many jobs in the ag sector,  
3 and just curious about what your thoughts are in  
4 terms of connecting up the jobs to this clean  
5 energy ecosystem that we're very focused on from  
6 the state perspective with the just transition  
7 and, you know, recognizing that workforce  
8 development has to be key to this.

9           As Lori said, you know, there's a  
10 sensitivity, right, to this sort of long arc of  
11 history and disenfranchisement, and a commitment  
12 to kind of a different technological path, I  
13 would say, than what we're advancing for the  
14 state.

15           So any thoughts on this issue of just  
16 transition, and sort of connecting the clean  
17 energy side of the equation to the jobs that are  
18 currently, I think, more at the forefront here?

19           MS. PESANTE: I think I have the same  
20 questions, and, really, the way in which we each  
21 are required to answer those questions requires a  
22 depth and a humility.

23           So I will start by saying that I don't  
24 have the answers to those questions, but one of  
25 the things I'm definitely looking for is the ways

1 in which -- some of the obvious ways in which  
2 just transition can make use of existing labor  
3 force, skillsets, technologies may be very  
4 tempting, but they may not be the right  
5 technologies for us.

6           For example, if we're going to be  
7 sequestering carbon using some of the same  
8 techniques that were used to extract it in the  
9 first place, I think that we really need to be  
10 very clear about what that means, and it's not  
11 just us who needs to understand it. It's the  
12 folks who can't drink their water who need to  
13 understand that, and be a part of deciding  
14 whether or not it's the right thing for us to do.

15           I don't have a technical background, so I  
16 am interested very much in learning more from  
17 everybody about what those technologies are, and  
18 especially since I don't think we have all the  
19 technologies we need yet, right?

20           So, as we're starting to explore those,  
21 and dedicate resources in those directions, I'm  
22 always going to be thinking, "It looks great, but  
23 is it the right technology for us?," because  
24 hardwood grows slowly. I'm not going to shoot  
25 for the low-hanging fruit just because it looks

1 like it's the right thing for the short term.

2 I'm looking for the long term.

3 MS. JONES: Well, I can jump in, Patty.  
4 It's a great question. It's a hard question, I  
5 think. As you know, those of us who are looking  
6 at solutions or things that have worked in the  
7 just transition space -- there's a few things  
8 that we know. So one of them is that there's  
9 really no one-for-one replacement. There's no  
10 single industry that will replace the jobs for  
11 workers with the same skills as are engaged in  
12 the oil and gas industry.

13 So this is why things like regional  
14 economic development strategies, so that there  
15 can be industrial and economic diversification in  
16 communities that have significant oil and gas and  
17 other fossil fuel economic activity currently,  
18 can move toward something, but we know that what  
19 they're moving toward is going to need to be more  
20 diverse and broad-reaching than just a single  
21 industry.

22 Location matters a lot for workers. So  
23 the state of California might be too big if you  
24 have battery manufacturing facilities or EV  
25 charging infrastructure facilities going in, but

1 they're not going in in the places where oil and  
2 gas work were so strong, and that's going to be a  
3 difficult transition.

4           The other thing is the job quality gap,  
5 so, looking specifically at refineries, workers  
6 in refineries tend to be paid better than  
7 average, even for the same occupations, more  
8 hours per week, higher rates of benefits, and so  
9 the transition when the job growth is in  
10 lower-paying industries, or hourly work, or work  
11 that is filled by temp workers or temp agencies,  
12 that's not an easy or seamless transition for  
13 workers from oil and gas jobs, where they're  
14 shifting and making a lot less money or have less  
15 predictable schedules or more precarious  
16 employment.

17           That job quality is important not just,  
18 obviously, in the clean energy industries that  
19 are growing, but sort of across the economy, so  
20 that both working members of a household are able  
21 to support a family, that it's not just in the  
22 energy industry or related supply chain  
23 occupations that are good-paying, but that we're  
24 addressing sort of pay and job quality across the  
25 economy.

1           Then the last thing I'll mention is --  
2 but there's really important work, I think, to  
3 put into skills mapping between those skills,  
4 that workers who mostly, potentially, learned on  
5 the job for oil and gas -- how those skills might  
6 transfer to new industries, and even,  
7 potentially, looking at the skills that workers  
8 have required, and thinking, is there a  
9 credential that could be recognized in growing  
10 clean energy industries to sort of indicate that  
11 transferability of skills?

12           If a lot of workers in oil and gas have  
13 mainly learned on the job, then their experience  
14 isn't necessarily documented in any way that they  
15 can take to a new job. So that's something that  
16 could -- you know, ETP funding or some other  
17 source of funding to upscale workers, but also  
18 just document the competencies that they've  
19 already acquired, something that could be  
20 supportive for worker transition in this space.

21           VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Shrayas, are you going  
22 to comment?

23           MR. JATKAR: Yes. I'll just add to the  
24 really great comments that have already been made  
25 on this, and two thoughts. One is that, you

1 know, there's a lot of important work to clean up  
2 the oil fields, to cap the idle wells, remediate  
3 those lands, and, you know, hopefully, the budget  
4 this year is going to put in some real money to  
5 doing that.

6           So that's also just a -- you know, before  
7 moving on, if you will, or not that it's an  
8 either/or, but, you know, in addition, if you  
9 will, to also think about what occupations and  
10 what needs might still exist in the oil and gas  
11 sector that workers in those industries may be  
12 able to do, if they're interested and willing.  
13 So I just wanted to highlight that, and, again,  
14 there's, I think, some new funding in the budget  
15 this year for that kind of work, and for  
16 developing the workforce in that arena.

17           Then, just to sort of echo and try to  
18 build a little bit on what's been said, I think,  
19 but maybe to tweak it a little bit, is really  
20 focusing in on these -- on partnerships, whether  
21 they're industry-based or regional partnerships  
22 or both of those.

23           Folks on the ground really coming  
24 together to identify what kinds of new industries  
25 they want to see in those regions where jobs are

1 going away, or good jobs are going away, is kind  
2 of the first step, and it's really building for  
3 the long term, because we want to train workers  
4 for jobs that actually exist, and really, you  
5 know, only in those kinds of partnerships do we  
6 know who's hiring for what, and when, and once we  
7 actually have a better handle on what that actual  
8 labor market demand is, then we can start working  
9 on "What are the training pathways up and into  
10 those jobs?"

11           Too often in the past, we've led with  
12 training and workforce development, and hoped  
13 that people found jobs, and so really what we're  
14 trying to do is sort of reverse that, and start  
15 with the jobs, and then, again, figure out the  
16 training pathways up and into those.

17           Again, has as been mentioned, the  
18 Community Economic Resilience Fund, CERF, is a  
19 major state investment to help regions of this  
20 state do that kind of thinking, planning,  
21 organizing.

22           So, again, we're really setting up "What  
23 is the demand?" first, if you will, and then  
24 coming in with the workforce development to  
25 complement that.

1           To tie this back to equity, you know,  
2 even outside of the just transition sort of  
3 context, really, you know, everything that we do  
4 kind of boils down to partnership, because that's  
5 where we get the most actionable information  
6 about, you know, who's hiring, and for what, and  
7 when.

8           You see a lot of, you know, policies and  
9 research studies that use modeling to then say,  
10 "If we do this, we're going to create, you know,  
11 30,000,000 jobs," and everybody wants to have a  
12 cut of those 30,000,000 jobs, but that doesn't  
13 tell you how many workers are needed, and how  
14 many new workers are needed, and with, again,  
15 equity in mind, we really want to make sure we're  
16 not repeating mistakes of the past, where we led  
17 with promises around jobs to sell our  
18 environmental policies that didn't materialize,  
19 because the actual demand wasn't there, or wasn't  
20 there yet.

21           So data and modeling has a place, and at  
22 the same time, these training partnerships, these  
23 regional partnerships, is really where you get,  
24 you know, the folks closest to the issues on the  
25 ground, who really can figure out what needs to

1 be done, and when, and how.

2           So, hopefully, that provides a little bit  
3 of useful understanding of sort of how to think  
4 about the planning at this stage for, you know,  
5 what's going to be many years, decades of  
6 conversations and policy actions and programs  
7 that are going to be needed.

8           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: So I'm wondering,  
9 Norma, could you maybe, as a follow-up to all  
10 this, talk more about the integration with the  
11 job side and industries that are trying to get a  
12 skilled workforce?

13           MS. ROJAS-MORA: I think, again, that is  
14 a conversation that really reaches across a lot  
15 of sectors, not just the energy sector, because  
16 one of the things that we also need to address  
17 is, you know, there may be other opportunities  
18 for people to enter a workforce, in the  
19 healthcare arena, and there are just other  
20 sectors, really, that we're looking at that  
21 transferability of skills, as was mentioned  
22 earlier. I think it's absolutely right that we  
23 need to understand this technology transfer  
24 aspect.

25           Now, specifically to your question about

1 transportation, I know that one of the things  
2 that we're looking at with electrification is  
3 really also understanding that, as we're moving  
4 to these shifts, what kind of an impact does it  
5 make on communities that may not have the  
6 infrastructure or an understanding of the  
7 infrastructure?

8           So I know we mentioned the tour of Arvin  
9 earlier, but, really, how do we ensure that the  
10 skills we're providing to people are the actual  
11 skills that they're going to be needing? One of  
12 the ways we're hoping to accomplish that is  
13 through really establishing living learning labs,  
14 so getting actual systems here that are  
15 prototypes that are the things that people will  
16 be working on, so that students can start getting  
17 the hands-on experience, and really understanding  
18 what that technology transfer is so that, when  
19 they are deployed, the technologies are deployed,  
20 they already have that skillset.

21           So it's understanding, number one, what's  
22 going to be used, having that learning lab, and  
23 then being able to get the jobs that are needed  
24 for them. So, again, what we see sometimes, or  
25 what we've seen the pattern in the past be, is we

1 create a job, and we say, "Okay. We're going to  
2 build" -- gosh. I don't want to use specific  
3 examples, but "We're going to build a  
4 job" -- I'll give an example -- "such as the  
5 highspeed rail."

6           So we were asking, "What are the skills  
7 needed for those jobs?" so that, when it comes to  
8 Kern County, we're able to have a workforce here  
9 that we can draw from, instead of having to  
10 transfer and bring the workforce that has that  
11 skillset up and down the state. No, we need to  
12 create our own. We need to have our own skilled  
13 workforce so that, when that opportunity comes  
14 here, they're able to jump in and do those jobs.  
15 And so that's what we're hoping to create through  
16 these workforce development programs.

17           MR. RAINEY: A quick question. I'm not  
18 sure exactly how to frame it, but we've heard, in  
19 order to make this all work, first of all, on the  
20 investment around infrastructure, we've got to  
21 build in what Betony talked about, right, worker  
22 standards that create the conditions for when  
23 things are built. We're intentional about the  
24 people who are most in need of good jobs have  
25 access to them.

1 All right. So that's on the investment  
2 side, and maybe we could talk more about that,  
3 but the other challenge, a big, big challenge, is  
4 the ability of people to take advantage of those  
5 opportunities when they're there, and Lori  
6 pointed out something that was really important.  
7 A lot of the people that we really want to  
8 impact, and the communities we want to impact,  
9 are suffering from generations of trauma.

10 So my question is kind of twofold. One  
11 is, how do we provide the kinds of services, and  
12 what do they look like, to address those and  
13 remove those kinds of barriers, especially -- I'm  
14 thinking trauma -- informed workforce development  
15 and employment services that's sort of built into  
16 the way we think about preparing workers for  
17 good-quality jobs, and the role of  
18 community-based organizations? Because I don't  
19 think -- and maybe Norma can back me up on this,  
20 or maybe not. Maybe you'll tell me I'm full of  
21 it -- that workforce boards in colleges -- that's  
22 not really where your strength is.

23 Your strength is in building coalitions,  
24 supporting good-quality training, creating access  
25 to training, but I lean on community-based

1 organizations for understanding best what  
2 communities need, and then having the resources  
3 to deploy those kinds of interventions to make  
4 that work.

5           So that's my first question, thinking  
6 about how we make those kinds of services  
7 available, but also available in a way that the  
8 people who we're trying to impact are going to  
9 benefit. That's the first.

10           The second one, though, and maybe this is  
11 just as important or more important, is worker  
12 and community power, and I think this is a  
13 question for the investment side, also, in how we  
14 build in -- Betony said this way more eloquently  
15 than I ever can. Collective bargaining, to me,  
16 has always been the best way to turn a crappy job  
17 into a good job. I don't know of a better way.  
18 If anybody has one, I'm all ears.

19           So that's the first, and then community  
20 power. If we don't somehow manage to facilitate  
21 that, we're never going to get there. So we can  
22 do that on the investment side. We have to do it  
23 on the community side, but everybody has got to  
24 be aligned around the need for workers to have  
25 bargaining power in labor markets, long game, not

1 short term, when we happen to have -- thanks that  
2 we had it, but we didn't lock in the benefits of  
3 the tight labor market that came out of the  
4 pandemic, some really specific ways.

5           How do we lock that in for workers and  
6 communities, long game, so that they're going to  
7 benefit and achieve the shared prosperity that we  
8 all talk about? Because it's not going to be up  
9 to us in Sacramento. It's going to be up to the  
10 people on the ground who can organize it and make  
11 those things happen.

12           Sorry. That was not very eloquent. It  
13 was long-winded. But I wanted to get some  
14 feedback from folks.

15           MS. JONES: I think those are great  
16 questions and comments. On the first one, the  
17 supportive services, and the partnerships with  
18 community-based organizations and the workforce,  
19 in all the ecosystem, is so incredibly important,  
20 and it's really hard to fund.

21           There's no source of federal funding for  
22 that type of wraparound and supportive services,  
23 and it's an expensive part of the workforce  
24 development puzzle, and it needs to be funded.  
25 It needs the federal source of funding. It needs

1 state sources of funding.

2 I don't think philanthropic funding that  
3 CBOs normally get is sufficient for the scale and  
4 scope that is required to really support workers  
5 in overcoming their systemic and institutional  
6 barriers to access to high-quality employment.  
7 It's not an individual failure. It's really a  
8 systems failure, and to fix that requires  
9 systems-level investment.

10 On your second point, you know, we've  
11 thought about this a lot, the community and  
12 worker engagement, and when you're spending  
13 public money, you actually have quite a lot of  
14 influence in telling the people that are  
15 recipients of public money what we need to see  
16 from them.

17 One of those things that we're leaning  
18 into is negotiated and legally enforceable  
19 agreements with workers through collective  
20 bargaining agreements, or project labor  
21 agreements, or community workforce agreements,  
22 and community, through community benefits  
23 agreements.

24 The enforcement mechanisms for those  
25 things are different, but, in both cases, they

1 are enforceable in court, and/or by the NLRB, the  
2 National Labor Relations Board, and they can hold  
3 accountable project developers, so they can  
4 ensure that these infrastructure investments are  
5 delivering in a real way to workers and  
6 community.

7           In a way, for the federal government or  
8 an agency like DOE that cares about these things,  
9 and recognizes them as instrument to a project's  
10 success, we can't babysit or ask for -- we can  
11 never ask for or manage enough reporting to make  
12 sure that what people say they're going to do,  
13 they're going to do.

14           So using or directing recipients of  
15 public money to negotiate with communities,  
16 negotiate with workers, and develop that  
17 agreement, that's how we get the accountability.  
18 The accountability is actually in the community  
19 and with the people most directly affected, and  
20 the support of the legal system, if necessary,  
21 but usually, where these have been effective,  
22 they reduce litigation risks. They reduce having  
23 to engage the legal system, because all of these  
24 accountability metrics are built into that  
25 negotiated agreement from the beginning.

1           So, when we're making public investments,  
2 we can ask for these things, or it can be a  
3 condition of a grant agreement or a contract or a  
4 tax break or a tax incentive. We just have to  
5 recognize that we have, as public agencies, quite  
6 a lot of -- or as public investors -- quite a lot  
7 of authority, as procurers of these services, to  
8 make sure that we're supporting the best possible  
9 projects.

10           VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Again seeing  
11 if -- anybody else want to add to that?

12           MR. RAINEY: I'll jump in, but let me see  
13 if Norma or Lori want to go first.

14           MS. PESANTE: I think the key word that  
15 Betony used is "systems." When I think about  
16 community-based organizations who are trying to  
17 do exactly what you're talking about on a daily  
18 basis, and how hard that is, ultimately, it bumps  
19 up against what Moises shared earlier, you know,  
20 that ultimately, you know, we're going to have to  
21 look at the entire system itself. We're going to  
22 have to really be super careful about the way in  
23 which you pull one lever over here, it has an  
24 impact over here of unintended consequences.

25           For example, the high-speed rail project

1 coming into Bakersfield, I know several folks  
2 with contracts in those arenas. They have to,  
3 because of the public investment, make sure that  
4 they're hiring from particular segments of our  
5 community, great, great, great thing, has had an  
6 impact within the child support services arena,  
7 because the minute, you know, a good job comes  
8 down the pike, that now is registered within the  
9 system, and it has created a situation where any  
10 monies that are now needing to be recuperated  
11 within Health and Human Services creates a  
12 situation where that worker will "peace out."  
13 Like, they will leave that job. They will not  
14 commit to it for the long run.

15           So we probably need to have a lot more  
16 conversations about it, but it's ultimately very  
17 systems-oriented.

18           MS. ROJAS-MORA: That's exactly where I  
19 was going to go as well, in terms of having  
20 to -- I mean, it's -- again, I said earlier these  
21 are complex issues that we're now starting to  
22 address, but I would agree with you, Tim, in  
23 terms of, you know, the community-based  
24 organizations really are the trusted messengers.

25           They're the ones that will get people to

1 the table, and, again, it's a fact that many of  
2 them are under-resourced to be able to do that  
3 work, and so being able to partner with  
4 institutions that can help support that, so that  
5 the messaging is getting out, and so that people  
6 are understanding the opportunities that exist  
7 for them, is, I think, critical to this entire  
8 process.

9 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Do you want to add  
10 anything?

11 MR. JATKAR: Yes, a couple of thoughts.  
12 One is, again, just the power of partnerships to  
13 address these issues. What we've seen -- you  
14 know, I'll give an example of that sort of  
15 unintended consequence with our multi-craft  
16 pre-apprenticeship program in Oakland.

17 Some of those folks were receiving  
18 stipends, and their subsidized housing was at  
19 risk as a result, and it was only because, you  
20 know, the training provider had developed  
21 relationships with the county, you know, the  
22 county housing authority and others, and worked  
23 intimately with the participants to begin with to  
24 even uncover this issue, that a solution was  
25 developed where not only were those folks kept in

1 their subsidized housing, but a new program was  
2 created to actually help those folks who get into  
3 apprenticeship and are earning, earning well, and  
4 are going to earn more over time as they gain  
5 more skills, actually get into home ownership  
6 programs.

7           So it just transformed -- I mean, that's  
8 truly transformational, where it wasn't just, you  
9 know, "Let's band, let's stop this problem," but  
10 taking it to a whole other level that is just not  
11 possible when we think about workforce  
12 development as training programs, but, instead,  
13 when we think about them as training  
14 partnerships.

15           Just to hit on a couple of things that  
16 have also -- trauma-informed care is a really  
17 essential, almost now a universal kind of  
18 practice in a lot of the programs that we know  
19 about. What's been also very important is things  
20 like mentorship and peer support. We're trying  
21 to bring underrepresented populations like, say,  
22 women in the construction trades, into a line of  
23 work that is inhospitable.

24           You know, programs alone, even changing  
25 laws, they're not going to change culture on the

1 worksite, right? But the mentorship, the  
2 partnerships with groups like Tradeswomen,  
3 Incorporated, those have really made a big  
4 difference, you know, all-women cohorts of  
5 trainees, alumni groups.

6           You know, it's just, you've got to think  
7 it through from beginning to end, and like the  
8 word "wraparound," like, all around, thinking  
9 about all these different practices and services  
10 that, again, are only possible when you've got a  
11 lot of different entities at the table thinking  
12 and working together.

13           Just to shift to the other question, I  
14 just want to really echo what Betony was saying.  
15 By adding the -- this is what we do already. We  
16 leverage our spending power to get the kinds of  
17 results that we want. We already do things like,  
18 we set aside funding of our programs to reach,  
19 you know, disadvantaged or low-income  
20 communities.

21           You know, we say, if you want to get an  
22 incentive for a water heater, it can't just be  
23 any water heater. It's got to be better than  
24 average, you know, best in class, really. Or, if  
25 you want a rebate to get a zero-emission vehicle,

1 it's not any vehicle now in California. It's got  
2 to be a ZEV that meets certain fuel economy  
3 standards on a charge, right? So we already  
4 do this as a state, and we've got to be just as  
5 intentional and deliberate, and leaving that on  
6 the table is just leaving it to chance.

7           So this is why, really, we have these  
8 partnerships. We're trying to build with our  
9 state agencies so that we can help figure out the  
10 "how," and to actually just go from sort of, you  
11 know, our goals and intents and values to  
12 actually, like, "What's the language in a program  
13 guidelines or in a funding solicitation that can  
14 make it so?" So, really, it's a call to all of  
15 our agencies for us to work together to really,  
16 again, unify and operationalize our good jobs  
17 agenda and our climate agenda.

18           VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you so much for  
19 all the comments. I mean, I think we are right  
20 on time. It's 11:48, so I want to make sure we  
21 actually transition to the next phase.

22           I had plenty of questions before the  
23 others asked the questions, so I feel like the  
24 discussion was really profound. It's sobering,  
25 it's inspiring, but it's also profound in a lot

1 of different ways.

2 I think the one comment, maybe -- and if  
3 anyone has a quick comment -- is, you know, over  
4 the last regional workshop we had in Imperial  
5 County, you know, we talked about -- Doctor  
6 Pastor from USC talked about solidarity economy,  
7 right, the economy that is not the economy, it's  
8 our economy, and the ability to lean into  
9 conflict to help move the conversation forward.

10 So I think, if -- you know, this is  
11 something that Norma mentioned. In terms of  
12 creating the necessary relationships, right -- I  
13 mean, Shrayas talked about it a lot, that  
14 relationships and partnerships are important. I  
15 think one question I have is, what is your one  
16 advice on bringing people to the table with  
17 diverse opinions? How do you do that? How do  
18 you build the trust to bring people together?

19 MS. ROJAS-MORA: As Lori and I smile at  
20 each other. And, again, I hate to keep referring  
21 to it, but yesterday I think you saw a good  
22 example of it, and I think it's finding  
23 likeminded people who are willing to think  
24 outside of just their own -- you know, sometimes  
25 our own personal philosophies are really

1 entrenched, but, if you're willing to at least  
2 take that little step to open that door and  
3 listen, and in a respectful manner, I think that  
4 that's what's important.

5           So going out and identifying people who  
6 are willing to open that door is how you start,  
7 and sometimes that room may only be one or two  
8 people, but eventually you start growing it,  
9 because you start finding other people  
10 within -- whether it's a community-based  
11 organization, whether it's industry, whether  
12 it's, again, institutions. You have to find  
13 people that start seeing that alignment, and who  
14 may not always agree on everything, but, again,  
15 are willing to come in and have that difficult  
16 conversation, is what I would say.

17           I don't know, Lori, if you --

18           MS. PESANTE: I actually -- I saw a  
19 really great example of exactly this last week.  
20 I was in a workshop related to satellite imagery  
21 being used to measure methane emissions, and it  
22 was a room filled with oil and gas industry  
23 folks, and because the conversation was technical  
24 in nature, because it made use of facts and data,  
25 and very compelling visual imagery, there was a

1 moment when somebody from the audience raised  
2 their hand and said, "You know, wouldn't it  
3 better if we put the sensors on the foundation?"  
4 And, you know, the folks who were doing the  
5 imagery work said, "Yes, absolutely. You want to  
6 help us make that happen?"

7           This is a request that if folks on the  
8 local level had asked in a public way, or in a  
9 formal way, it would have probably not gotten  
10 very far, but because, you know, you get  
11 underneath the weeds on the surface to the deeper  
12 soil underneath of data, it was a way for people  
13 to have a shared language and a shared  
14 understanding, to get away from some of the  
15 obstacles to communication.

16           VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you.

17           I'll ask, Betony, if you have anything  
18 that you want to add.

19           MS. JONES: Yes. I mean, this is -- it's  
20 so important, it requires a lot of capacity,  
21 actually, like those organizations with the local  
22 relationships who can facilitate difficult  
23 conversations that, over time, build trust.

24           So it takes capacity, which, again, takes  
25 resources, but this is something that, if we're

1 trying, really authentically, to break down  
2 silos, we need to invest in that capacity. The  
3 second thing is patience, because sometimes, when  
4 you're trying bring together people who haven't  
5 worked together before, you have to start with  
6 trust-building, and that can just take a little  
7 way. So, patience and consistency.

8 I think that Shrayas mentioned a few  
9 times the importance of partnerships, but I think  
10 that foundational work -- it requires  
11 organization to convene those intermediaries and  
12 invest the capacity over a sustained period of  
13 time to keep people at the table.

14 MR. RAINEY: If I could build quickly on  
15 what Betony said, because you brought up Manuel  
16 Pastor, and his colleague, Chris Benner, wrote a  
17 lot about what they called "epistemic regions,"  
18 which is kind of a clunky word, I reckon, but  
19 what it means is a shared vision in a region  
20 among key groups that have influence and power,  
21 community groups, government, of course,  
22 organized labor, industry, civic organizations  
23 and advocates, having a shared understanding and  
24 vision for where the region should be in five,  
25 ten, fifteen years, economically and socially,

1 and when you have that, they wrote -- they did  
2 studies all around the country -- where you have  
3 that shared vision, you'll get greater economic  
4 equity.

5           It's way easier to say than do, but there  
6 are good examples of those very coalitions and  
7 those partnerships working and making these  
8 things happen. It's hard from this -- you know,  
9 living up in Sacramento, you definitely are in a  
10 bubble, and we say a lot of things that sound  
11 really cool to us, and actualizing it is a really  
12 different story.

13           So building that coalition, doing that  
14 kind of work, as Betony said, takes a great deal  
15 of leadership, but also resources and capacity,  
16 and we have tried to figure out good ways to  
17 invest in that capacity, but with the CERF  
18 investments, we're finding -- I've found this  
19 before in other initiatives around regional  
20 partnerships -- when you put the money out, it  
21 doesn't necessarily cause that kind of  
22 partnership to happen. Instead, it tends to sort  
23 of push people into their corners, and it sets  
24 people against -- organizations against other  
25 groups against other groups.

1           I hope, with CERF, that we see something  
2 different happening, that different forms of  
3 leadership actually come together with a common  
4 vision and take those dollars down with the  
5 intent of driving their regions in the right  
6 direction, but, again, that sounds really cool  
7 sitting in rooms in Sacramento, or on Zooms in  
8 Sacramento, whatever we're doing here. I  
9 understand how hard that is, though, in reality,  
10 and Lori, I think -- you know, she's the  
11 conscience of this conversation in a lot of  
12 ways -- points out why this is so hard.

13           VICE CHAIR GUNDA: All right. Shrayas,  
14 did you want to add anything?

15           MR. JATKAR: Just to put a point on  
16 power. I think, you know, one practice that I've  
17 heard people talk about is, you know, first of  
18 all, making sure that those spaces are not just  
19 consultative, but where there's actual shared  
20 decision-making power, and with equity in mind,  
21 you know, it's understanding the historical  
22 legacy of that imbalance in power.

23           So, you know, just a very specific  
24 example of -- if there is a vote to be taken,  
25 maybe community groups get three votes, to

1 somebody else's one vote. You know, that is a  
2 way to try to address what is otherwise going to  
3 be very fraught and difficult, when you enter  
4 into these conversations without recognizing and  
5 trying to level the playing field.

6 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yes. Thank you.

7 I think I could probably ask another 15  
8 questions, but we'll keep the conversation.  
9 Hopefully, this is the beginning of a broader  
10 conversation amongst all of us here.

11 You know, I take it very clearly today,  
12 the importance of community-based organizations  
13 having the necessary resources to  
14 transform -- develop vision and transform the  
15 state to a place where we would like, but I  
16 guess, you know, we have seriously  
17 under-resourced that part of it, and, you know,  
18 figuring out a way to provide the legislature and  
19 decision makers on the importance of that,  
20 collectively, is important, right? So we need to  
21 figure that out, how that starts to collect.

22 So, with that, I'll pass it to Katrina.

23 MS. LENI-KONIG: Sure. We have one  
24 question online, and so it's first from Tom  
25 Phillips of Davis, California. He says:

1 "Thanks for the great discussion  
2 of issues and strategies.  
3 Regarding climate action for the  
4 building sector, where is energy  
5 poverty inequity addressed in  
6 the CEC programs? This problem  
7 is being exacerbated by  
8 increasing climate change, urban  
9 heat, wildfires, grid outages,  
10 and utility prices.  
11 Energy-efficient and  
12 low-greenhouse gas retrofits of  
13 our buildings produce both  
14 energy and nonenergy benefits,  
15 including jobs and macroeconomic  
16 benefits, which California  
17 should assess and capture."

18 For example, he provides an example of  
19 the European Climate Foundation:

20 "Building Europe's net zero  
21 future while the transition to  
22 energy-efficient and electrified  
23 buildings strengthens Europe's  
24 economy."

25 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: So I was just

1 wondering, Katrina or Noemi, do you want to speak  
2 to that question?

3 MS. GALLARDO: So it's a wonderful  
4 question. Thank you for that, and I don't feel  
5 like I'm qualified to answer it fully, so I  
6 apologize you're not getting the best response  
7 here, but we are looking to do equitable building  
8 electrification.

9 That's a process that we're committed to  
10 and are just starting to talk about with state  
11 leadership. That's why I feel like we can't, you  
12 know, completely respond to the question, but we  
13 are starting that process, and we do have a  
14 Commissioner at the Energy Commission who leads  
15 building -- well, energy efficiency and, related  
16 to that, building efforts, and he is not here  
17 today with us. Otherwise, he would be able to  
18 speak more to that. That's Commissioner  
19 McAllister.

20 So I feel like that's what I can respond  
21 to you right now, but, Vice Chair Commissioner  
22 Gunda, if you'd like to add, please feel free.

23 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yes. Noemi, I think  
24 I'll actually pass it back to you, but I think  
25 this is the work we're trying to do, right,

1 through this IEPR cities, is trying to double up  
2 those necessary tools and metrics to really  
3 evaluate our programs, and how to move them  
4 forward. So, maybe, if you want to just give a  
5 summary of what we're trying to do?

6 MS. GALLARDO: Yes. I think, in general,  
7 what we're trying to do at the Energy Commission  
8 is ensure that we have an equity and  
9 environmental justice lens on all of the efforts  
10 that we do, and so that's why it was really  
11 important that, you know, we decided and were  
12 very deliberative about using this IEPR as a  
13 mechanism to, you know, talk with the public  
14 about what we want to do with equity and  
15 environmental justice, and putting that lens on  
16 all of the efforts that we do.

17 So I'm going to talk about that in a  
18 little bit, but I didn't want to take up too much  
19 space right now, because I know there might be  
20 other questions from attendees, but I will  
21 address that more fully in my talk in a moment.

22 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yes. I think the one  
23 thing I just want to lay out is the  
24 intersection --  
25 thanks, Commissioner Monahan, for reminding that

1 we should mention -- is the intersection between  
2 the gas transition and the electricity  
3 transition.

4           So we have some studies that have been  
5 conducted that show that if electrification is  
6 not happening with the communities of concern,  
7 or, you know, opportunity with disadvantaged  
8 communities, you will end up having low-income  
9 communities stuck with, you know, the gas system.  
10 So we are looking through the broader transition  
11 and the interaction between the two systems, the  
12 electricity and gas, and we are hoping to begin  
13 that conversation more publicly beginning next  
14 year.

15           MS. LENI-KONIG: I can also share. So,  
16 with regards to existing programs, we do have a  
17 lot of programs that are targeted for addressing  
18 inequities in energy, and related to building,  
19 specifically, and so recently have launched the  
20 BUILD Program, which is targeted for low-income  
21 housing, and that provides funding for  
22 technologies such as solar, energy storage,  
23 heat-pump water heaters, and so forth.

24           We also have our Eco Loan Program that's  
25 just been expanded to also support tribes. It's

1 a low-interest-rate fund that can address energy  
2 efficiency in buildings, and we continue to  
3 develop additional programs.

4           Our research and development program also  
5 supports and advances a lot of research regarding  
6 how to electrify hard-to-electrify buildings.  
7 So, for example, we look into manufactured homes.  
8 We look into existing buildings as a solution,  
9 and we've also launched a recent program, a  
10 design-build research program, around -- it's  
11 called The Next Epic Challenge -- to really think  
12 about how we can do this affordably as well.

13           So we are certainly developing programs  
14 in addition to the ones that exist today, and we  
15 look forward to doing that more and more.

16           MS. GALLARDO: And this is Noemi. I'll  
17 add one more comment. Thank you, Katrina, for  
18 listing those out, and, again, the equitable  
19 building electrification will be a big process,  
20 so we hope to share more information about that  
21 with you.

22           I noticed in the question that there was  
23 an example of -- you know, that's international,  
24 from another location, and the Energy Commission  
25 works really closely with international partners,

1 and we do look to those lessons learned to  
2 improve our processes. So thank you for sharing  
3 that with us as well.

4 MS. RAITT: So should we go over the  
5 questions? We are short on time. Go ahead.

6 MS. LENI-KONIG: Okay. So I have another  
7 question, from David Park:

8 "Some really excellent comments  
9 were made on oil and gas. I  
10 just transitioned. Under the  
11 presumption that agricultural  
12 labor is significantly  
13 undereducated, what are the  
14 thoughts on transition of those  
15 jobs into the energy sector?"

16 MS. ROJAS-MORA: Again, I think the way  
17 that we're addressing that is not just looking at  
18 the energy sector, but looking at all sectors,  
19 and how you really start developing a pathway for  
20 workers.

21 I think really understanding what those  
22 workforce needs are is the only way that we'd be  
23 able to establish a transition to a job outside  
24 of agriculture, so identifying what the  
25 opportunities are, but really building pathways,

1 so that they're able not just to enter into a  
2 different sector, but would be able to have the  
3 economic mobility and the career mobility to keep  
4 advancing within that job sector.

5 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Norma.

6 Do you have any more questions?

7 MS. RAITT: No. I'm sorry. No, we don't  
8 have any more questions, unless somebody in the  
9 audience had a question that they'd like to  
10 raise.

11 Go ahead, and you could just go to the  
12 microphone.

13 MS. DE LA ROSA: Good morning, everyone.  
14 My name is Emma De La Rosa, and I'm the Regional  
15 Policy Manager with Leadership Counsel. So I  
16 heard a lot about -- there was a really good  
17 discussion on the technologies, and helping  
18 communities understand what these technologies  
19 are, how they can benefit the communities, right?

20 I think we need to look at the flip side  
21 of that coin, and I would love to ask you, do you  
22 understand what the impacts of these technologies  
23 are to the residents that are going to have to  
24 live right next to them, such as the community in  
25 Fuller Acres?

1           Have you fostered the Burn Groove  
2 (phonetic) to show in your research, in your  
3 documents, how these residents, again, will be  
4 impacted, and is it in your policies and in your  
5 program development and in your funding  
6 opportunities -- is that also -- does that  
7 reflect how you plan to address the impacts that  
8 residents are going to face?

9           Again, Fuller Acres is right across the  
10 street from the Kern Oil Refinery, and CCS is a  
11 huge concern for these residents. They already  
12 face the emissions that come out from these  
13 refineries, from this refinery, every single day.  
14 They have no clue when they have exceeded  
15 thresholds. All they know is that they see a big  
16 flare up in the sky, and that they can't turn on  
17 their cooling system because they have swamp  
18 coolers, and all of the emissions come into their  
19 homes.

20           So we think about that, and I'm asking,  
21 have you thought about that? Have you included  
22 that into your documents and into your research,  
23 and into funding opportunities?

24           I really appreciated the discussion on  
25 the electrification of buildings. Again

1 considering Fuller Acres, these homes are a  
2 little older. They don't have the proper  
3 weatherization. They don't have the proper  
4 insulation. They don't have the building  
5 capacity, the roof capacity, to be able to take  
6 the solar panels. So this community is a  
7 community that would really benefit from that,  
8 and so I just want to echo that or mention that  
9 piece. Thank you.

10 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yes. I just want to  
11 quickly respond to that. I think it's a -- it's  
12 the most pressing question, right? I mean, how  
13 much do we, in different areas of the state,  
14 understand the effects of the transition? And I  
15 think it's a question that we ought to be  
16 thinking.

17 One of the things on SB 100, for example,  
18 when we put the last report out, we haven't  
19 really considered the non-energy benefits or the  
20 impacts from transition of building, you know, a  
21 lot of solar or wind or, you know, whatever the  
22 resource might be, and we have been encouraged to  
23 look at it this time, and we are going to.

24 A part of this workshop series is really  
25 to understand what are the needs in terms of

1 doing that kind of analytical work, developing  
2 the tools necessary to look at the impacts that  
3 are not obvious from a community standpoint. So  
4 thank you for challenging us, and we absolutely  
5 would like to do it. I don't think we do a good  
6 job today. We need to continue to be better.

7 MS. RAITT: Commissioner, this is Heather  
8 Raitt. Can I make a suggestion that we move on  
9 to our next presentation? Great.

10 So Noemi Gallardo is here as Chief of  
11 Staff to Chair Hochschild, and she has a  
12 presentation. So go ahead, Noemi.

13 MS. GALLARDO: All right. Thank you,  
14 Heather.

15 Buenas tardes. Good afternoon, everyone.  
16 I am Noemi Gallardo, and my pronouns are she/her,  
17 "ella" in Spanish. I serve as Chief of Staff to  
18 Chair David Hochschild, and I'm very proud to do  
19 that. I'm also holding -- doing another  
20 position, which is Interim Public Advisor, and I  
21 wanted to make it clear today I'm functioning as  
22 the Public Advisor, just to make sure there's no  
23 confusion there.

24 All right. So one of our goals for the  
25 Integrated Energy Policy Report this year was to

1 make the process more accessible, because this  
2 report does affect all Californians, although  
3 most Californians probably don't even know what  
4 the IEPR is, or haven't heard of it. I know I  
5 didn't know what it fully was until I got to the  
6 Energy Commission.

7           We thought one of the best ways to make  
8 it more accessible was to bring the IEPR to the  
9 people, and that's why we're here today, and I'm  
10 personally excited to be in the San Joaquin  
11 Valley. I think is very appropriate for our  
12 conversation, given that the San Joaquin Valley  
13 was the birthplace of a major justice and equity  
14 movement led by Filipino and Latino workers,  
15 which led to the establishment of the United Farm  
16 Workers.

17           My father was a member of the UFW, and  
18 marched alongside Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta  
19 in the Ventura County region, where I grew up.  
20 So being where the movement started is personally  
21 meaningful, and I thank you, Lori, for all the  
22 work you do through the Dolores Huerta  
23 Foundation.

24           All right. So thank you for letting me  
25 share that. Now I will provide some information

1 about our process. Let's move to the next slide.  
2 So the Integrated Energy Policy Report, or  
3 "IEPR," as we call it for short, I-E-P-R, is a  
4 report that is mandated by legislation, and it an  
5 obligation for the Energy Commission. Luckily,  
6 we do have fun in the process, and enjoy what we  
7 do here.

8           Through the IEPR, the Energy Commission  
9 is required to conduct assessments and forecasts  
10 of all aspects of energy, which are then meant to  
11 be used to develop energy policies that conserve  
12 resources, protect the environment, ensure energy  
13 reliability, enhance the state's economy, and  
14 protect public health and safety.

15           The report is biannual, which means we  
16 produce a report every other year. In the years  
17 in between, we produce an update, rather than a  
18 full report. The updates happen on even years,  
19 like 2022, so this years it is considered an  
20 update, and the key thing to know is that the  
21 report is taken very seriously, whether it's the  
22 full report or an update, it is important for two  
23 keys reasons, from my perspective.

24           First, the report is provided to the  
25 government and the legislature for them to

1 consider recommendations about what can be done  
2 for energy policy moving forward.

3           The second reason is that the IEPR is a  
4 mechanism to get ideas informed by the public.  
5 The IEPR is done through a public process that  
6 runs almost the entire year, and we work  
7 diligently to gather information from an array of  
8 people with diverse experience, backgrounds, and  
9 expertise.

10           So the report provides the governor and  
11 the legislature about what the Commission learns  
12 during this process, and provides recommendations  
13 that are informed by the people who get involved.  
14 Today, just by being here, you are influencing  
15 the report and, with your comments, will  
16 influence the policy, and we encourage you to  
17 maximize that opportunity to participate and make  
18 this your IEPR, not just "that random thing that  
19 I heard about." Right?

20           So, next slide.

21           There are three key phases to the report.  
22 The first is to develop the scope, and there are  
23 infinite topics that we can choose from. So I  
24 want to pause here to thank Vice Chair Gunda for  
25 selecting equity and environmental justice to be

1 included in this year's IEPR, and for championing  
2 our efforts.

3           The second phase of the IEPR is to  
4 collect information, so that's the phase we're in  
5 now. We collect information in a variety of  
6 ways, but the main way is through workshops like  
7 this one.

8           So we have a third workshop coming up,  
9 and we want to make sure that you mark your  
10 calendars for that final IEPR equity workshop.  
11 That's happening August 31st in Oxnard, on the  
12 Central Coast area, where I'm from.

13           Then the final phase is to develop the  
14 report. We'll share a draft for comment in  
15 October. The final report is shared early next  
16 year, in January, and then the Energy Commission  
17 considers adopting it in February. We hope you  
18 can take time to provide comments to us  
19 throughout.

20           Next slide.

21           So now I'd like to talk about the ways  
22 you can stay updated about the IEPR, and to  
23 provide us comments and feedback, and we realize  
24 that people have varied preferences on how to  
25 participate, so we're trying to implement

1 different methods to accommodate everyone.

2           Today we have opportunities for public  
3 comment and questions. We also want to share a  
4 Jamboard, which is an electronic whiteboard where  
5 you can put in comments. We have an array of  
6 questions you can respond to, and to access that  
7 Jamboard, you'll click on the link that we'll  
8 share with you in the chat, through Zoom. I  
9 believe that has already been shared.

10           For those of you in the room, we have  
11 those same questions written in the back. I  
12 notice that they're on the whiteboard there, and  
13 we have Post-Its that you can use to write your  
14 comments and post those under the question of  
15 your preference.

16           All right. And to ensure that you are  
17 receiving the latest information, we recommend  
18 you subscribe to the docket associated with this  
19 IEPR, which is on this slide here that you're  
20 looking at, and which we'll share, also, in the  
21 Zoom chat.

22           We also encourage you to submit comments.  
23 You can do that by e-mailing the Public Advisor,  
24 so that would be my office,  
25 "Public.Advisor@Energy.ca.gov." We'll also share

1 that in the link. Again, that's  
2 "Public.Advisor@Energy.ca.gov."

3 Then you can also go to the Energy  
4 Commission's website to find that docket, to get  
5 alerts and to submit comments. So you'd go to  
6 "www.Energy.ca.gov," and write, "IEPR," I-E-P-R,  
7 in the search box. I think that's the easiest  
8 way to do it.

9 Then you'd click on the first link that  
10 appears in the list. You'd scroll down and click  
11 on "2022 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update,"  
12 then click where it says, "22-IEPR-04-Equity," as  
13 shown here on the screen, and we'll share it in  
14 the Zoom chat as well.

15 For those in the room, if you want help  
16 today signing up for that list-serv or docket,  
17 please feel free to ask one of our staff members.  
18 There are plenty of us here, happy to help, and I  
19 want to ask CEC staff to please raise your hand,  
20 those of you who are in the room, so that folks  
21 can see who they can go to. All right. All  
22 those very approachable people there. Thank you,  
23 team.

24 All right. So, you know, just going  
25 through this, just talking it through, we try to

1 make it easy, but we realize that it's a bit  
2 clunky to go through state agency processes for  
3 comments. So we acknowledge that, apologize for  
4 that, and, at the same time, encourage you to use  
5 what we have now, and we'll also take feedback  
6 on, you know, what are better ways for us to be  
7 able to take your comments?

8 All right. So we'll go to the next  
9 slide.

10 So our Agency's mission is to achieve 100  
11 percent clean energy future by 2045. That's an  
12 ambitious goal, and we won't accomplish it if  
13 only some of us are contributing to it, or if  
14 only some of us are benefitting from it.

15 So, to get there, we realize we must  
16 prioritize equity and environmental justice, and  
17 be able to, how we talked about earlier today, to  
18 hear the information we need to customize our  
19 resources, so that we can bring in those people  
20 who have been most impacted by pollution and  
21 poverty and everything else, and hear from them  
22 directly, and we know that we must tailor our  
23 policy and programs also so that those folks can  
24 benefit from our policies moving forward.

25 I like the visual on the screen because

1 it's a good reminder that, as we are moving  
2 towards 100 percent clean energy, 100 percent of  
3 California must be part of that future, and our  
4 goal is 100 percent clean for 100 percent  
5 Californians. It's a "California for all," and  
6 the cyber process is a mechanism for us to  
7 include more voices in that report. So thank you  
8 to those of you who have spoken up, and, again,  
9 we encourage others to do so.

10 All right. We'll go to the next slide.

11 I just want to be clear that, although  
12 this is the first time that equity and  
13 environmental justice are key topics for the IEPR  
14 process, it is not the first time that the Agency  
15 is working on these efforts. In 2015, for  
16 example, we established our diversity policy,  
17 through a resolution where we committed to  
18 optimize the fair and equal opportunities for  
19 small and diverse businesses, as well as  
20 disadvantaged and underserved communities, to  
21 participate in and benefit from the Commission's  
22 programs. So this is an example of one of our,  
23 you know, explicitly written commitments.

24 Next slide.

25 In 2019, we also started an initiative to

1 achieve inclusion, diversity, equity, and access  
2 in a comprehensive way for both our internal  
3 workplace and our external programs. We want to  
4 make sure that the Energy Commission reflects  
5 California's diversity and is a place of  
6 belonging, and we want our employees to  
7 experience and understand what equity and  
8 environmental justice means, right, in the energy  
9 space, so that then, when they understand that,  
10 when they get it, they'll also be able to shape  
11 the programs and policies that they're working on  
12 even better than what they're doing now.

13           Next slide.

14           So that leads us to the 2022 IEPR update.  
15 So, as shown on the screen here, there are four  
16 key deliverables, and I will go through each of  
17 them in a little bit more detail, but just wanted  
18 to show you what they are.

19           So first is testing a regional approach  
20 to engagement. Second is developing an equity  
21 and environmental justice framework that we can  
22 use agencywide. Third is an assessment tool that  
23 helps staff determine if they are applying an  
24 equity and environmental justice lens in their  
25 work, and then an action plan to keep the Agency

1 on track to meet our goals, and that keeps us  
2 accountable to our commitments.

3           Then, finally, we are revisiting the  
4 Energy Commission's equity indicators tool that  
5 was originally produced as a recommendation from  
6 Senate Bill 350.

7           Next slide.

8           So we are very committed to doing a lot  
9 of engagement, including with tribes and with  
10 communities. That was a vital part of our plan  
11 for this IEPR, and to make that happen, we knew  
12 we would need to take the IEPR to the people, as  
13 I've mentioned, and meet people where they are,  
14 rather than expecting everyone to come to us and  
15 enter our bubble in Sacramento, right?

16           So, with that in mind, we decided to try  
17 a regional approach that looks like what we have  
18 on the screen here. We use the fourth climate  
19 change assessment map, and they have nine regions  
20 selected.

21           We decided that we wouldn't be able to do  
22 a good job, right, a thorough job, with all nine  
23 regions in one year, and we really didn't have  
24 the full year, so we decided to select three  
25 regions, and that would enable us to have three

1 workshops, one in each of those regions, and  
2 then, if we get positive feedback about this  
3 approach, we would like to continue moving  
4 forward with engaging with the other six regions.

5           So we selected the Salton Sea region, the  
6 Central Coast, and the San Joaquin Valley. So  
7 these are regions that have significant areas  
8 considered disadvantaged by the CalEnviroScreen  
9 tool, and these are also areas where the Energy  
10 Commission is currently focused.

11           So we thought that would help add -- you  
12 know, using the IEPR, we would add an equity/EJ  
13 lens to our existing work, and provide more  
14 exposure, and just, you know, I think,  
15 partnership in general from the Energy Commission  
16 on what we're already doing.

17           So I want to remind folks that Oxnard is  
18 our next location, August 31st.

19           Next slide.

20           So, in terms of our framework, we are  
21 seeking to develop a baseline understanding for  
22 the Energy Commission about equity and  
23 environmental justice, and we think this will  
24 better enable us to all move forward together to  
25 achieve our vision of all Californians

1 benefitting from a clean energy future regardless  
2 of race, income, or location.

3           So the framework is meant to be a  
4 repository for definitions. For example, how are  
5 we defining "equity," and what terms are we using  
6 to label the people we serve? We don't want to  
7 use labels or terms, but, as state agencies, that  
8 kind of is what we have to do, given that we are  
9 addressing so many people.

10           Then, also, you know, there's tribes that  
11 we're working with, and so we're also keeping  
12 that in mind, and trying to be diligent about how  
13 we work with the tribes, given that they are  
14 sovereign nations, and they're different, you  
15 know, from community, and should be treated as  
16 such. So there's a lot here, and we're doing our  
17 best to get this framework accomplished, and we  
18 really appreciate everyone helping us with this.

19           We're also going to include guiding  
20 principles and best practices, and we are already  
21 inspired by some existing resources, including  
22 the Jemez Principles from the First National  
23 People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit  
24 that happened back in 1991.

25           We're also using the framework

1 established by our advisory body, the  
2 Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group, and  
3 then other resources listed here. We know that  
4 Greenlining, for example, has been doing a lot of  
5 good work in this space. We know that other  
6 state agencies are providing materials. We're  
7 looking at that.

8           Then we also know that the federal  
9 government, as Betony, you know, talked about  
10 earlier, is doing a lot of work, including their  
11 Justice40 Initiative. So we're also going to  
12 learn from them.

13           Next slide.

14           So we plan to develop an assessment tool  
15 like the matrix that we're showing here on the  
16 screen. So this actually is a matrix that my  
17 fellow -- let's see -- Deputy Public Advisor,  
18 Tribble Liaison, Katrina Leni-Konig, who is here  
19 today with us, she actually developed this  
20 matrix, using the equity framework provided by  
21 our Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group. So  
22 we know that it can be done, and we're using this  
23 example to formulate our assessment tool.

24           Okay. So, next slide.

25           So we're also, as I mentioned, developing

1 an action plan that could look like the one shown  
2 here. This one is based on the Strategic Growth  
3 Council's template, which I thought was really  
4 helpful, and what it includes here is making sure  
5 that we're providing the action, that we're  
6 designating leads for the action, we're putting  
7 start and end dates, so that we have a timeline,  
8 and we also are including in here, how are we  
9 going to follow up? How are we going to monitor  
10 this, and then how are we going to make  
11 corrections based on the lessons that we're  
12 learning? So we want to make it a full loop, and  
13 not just a one-time thing.

14           The next slide.

15           So we are planning to submit a draft of  
16 the framework. We're saying around July 29th.  
17 It's an ambitious goal, but we want to make sure  
18 that we provide everyone an opportunity to be  
19 able to comment on it, provide us feedback, guide  
20 us, and that we have a few key questions here  
21 that we are posing.

22           So, you know, are we moving in the  
23 correct direction with what we're doing in this  
24 framework? What is missing? What other  
25 resources do you recommend that we should be

1 looking at? And then anything else that you  
2 think would be helpful to us as we are on this  
3 journey of developing this framework.

4 So that concludes my presentation. I  
5 welcome any questions, if there are any, and feel  
6 free to give us feedback now, too. We'll take  
7 it.

8 MS. RAITT: Thank you, Noemi. This is  
9 Heather Raitt. So we actually are running a  
10 little behind schedule. So, if it's okay, we  
11 will go ahead and move on to public comment.

12 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yes.

13 MS. RAITT: Okay. Great.

14 So I did get one blue card. If anyone  
15 else in the room wants to make comments, please  
16 fill out a card and pass it to me, and if you're  
17 on Zoom, just use the "Raise Hand" feature to let  
18 us know you'd like to comment, and if you're on  
19 the phone, press star, nine.

20 So we'll limit comments to one per  
21 person, per organization, and three minutes per  
22 person, and if we do have a number of commenters,  
23 we will need to reduce that down to one and a  
24 half minutes, since we are getting low on time.

25 So, with that, if you could go ahead

1 and -- I thought I had it. Okay. Where did I  
2 put it? Go ahead and just introduce yourself.  
3 Spell your name, and provide your affiliation,  
4 and we'll go from there.

5 MR. SALDANA: Okay. Thank you. Paul  
6 Saldana, S-A-L-D-A-N-A, and I am the Director of  
7 Economic Development and Economic Community  
8 Development for the city of Bakersfield, and on  
9 behalf of the mayor and city council, I did want  
10 to extend a welcome to the city of Bakersfield,  
11 and the opportunity to host this meeting here.

12 The mayor and city manager, and all of  
13 our councilmembers and department heads, are down  
14 the street at the State of the City address, and  
15 so, if you see me disappear and come back, it's  
16 because I need to kind of make an appearance over  
17 there.

18 As you know, the city of Bakersfield is  
19 the ninth largest city in the state of  
20 California, and the third largest in terms of  
21 geography, and we appreciate the opportunity to  
22 have this conversation on equity and  
23 environmental justice here in our community.

24 I wanted to share with you a few areas in  
25 which the city of Bakersfield is engaged in

1 advancing technologies in clean energy, and also  
2 relate that to equity and environmental justice.

3           Today, in just about 10 minutes, the  
4 mayor will be announcing the location of a  
5 company that is bringing with them 13 patents in  
6 the area of electronic technology that they  
7 developed through the Department of Energy and  
8 the University of North Carolina, and they're  
9 relocating from Charlotte to Bakersfield, where  
10 they'll continue to advance that technology in  
11 the development of practical application here,  
12 and their specific focus in doing this is with  
13 working in the disadvantaged communities as part  
14 of those pilot projects for those entities.

15           So I would -- I don't want to get ahead  
16 of the mayor in 10 minutes, so I'll let you read  
17 about that, the rest of it, later on.

18           The city of Bakersfield signed a  
19 memorandum of understanding with Arizona State  
20 University and the Center for Strategic Policy  
21 Innovation to establish the Center of Excellence  
22 in Agrivoltaics here in Bakersfield. We're  
23 including the creation and funding for a learning  
24 lab and the research necessary to advance  
25 agrivoltaics throughout our region.

1           The first project that we're working --  
2 of that we've worked on with ASU and the  
3 University of Merced is developing the research  
4 behind socioeconomics of agrivoltaics, so we can  
5 demonstrate how it's both profitable for the ag  
6 industry as well as the benefits to the community  
7 as well.

8           We entered into a partnership with CSU  
9 Fresno's Water, Energy, and Technology Center to  
10 receive designation as an I hub, an innovation  
11 hub, here in Bakersfield. That particular work  
12 is actually advancing the entrepreneurial  
13 development and job elements for microgrids, and,  
14 specifically, our investment in that is only and  
15 solely in our disadvantaged community in  
16 Southeast Bakersfield. So they'll be the only  
17 beneficiary of that investment and that work.

18           We work with a cohort of cities across  
19 the nation to not only identify opportunities in  
20 collaboration in clean energy and advanced  
21 technologies, but, more important, all of the  
22 cohorts that I -- or the cohorts that I work with  
23 in these other cities are taking everything from  
24 a lens of equitable investment and purposeful  
25 investment in the communities that we, each of

1 us, serve.

2           We recognize in the city of Bakersfield  
3 that, you know, there's clear disparities in  
4 opportunity and prosperity, and economic  
5 development has always taken this sort of  
6 macroeconomic lens. We've intentionally focused  
7 on the subpopulations within our community, and  
8 how we pursue inclusive growth, how we pursue  
9 those things, are done at the neighborhood level.

10           So, to some of the questions that came  
11 up, we're doing things at the -- you know, going  
12 house to house and neighborhood by neighborhood  
13 to find out, really, how we can make this impact.  
14 In the city of Bakersfield -- I think it was  
15 Tim's observations about supported services, the  
16 work that we're doing in not just economic  
17 development, but in homeless services and housing  
18 and other areas.

19           We're actually funding the delivery of  
20 supportive services that, traditionally, a city  
21 does not do, but that's how purposeful and how  
22 intentful we take the work that we're doing.

23           So I know the city manager will be here  
24 later this afternoon, and both of us will be here  
25 to, you know, discuss some of the work that we're

1 doing here, but I just wanted to share those  
2 things, and, again, thank you for the opportunity  
3 to have this discussion here in the city of  
4 Bakersfield.

5 MS. RAITT: Appreciate those comments.  
6 Thank you.

7 I didn't get any other blue cards. Maybe  
8 raise your hand, if someone else in the room  
9 wanted to comment. Okay. I'm going to move on  
10 to Zoom, and so, Angela Bai, go ahead. Spell  
11 your name for the record, and your affiliation.

12 MS. BAI: Hi, everyone. Angela Bai,  
13 A-N-G-E-L-A, B-A-I. I'm with the Los Angeles  
14 Alliance for a New Economy, LAANE. I'm the  
15 workforce development organizer, and I just  
16 wanted to make a comment that (indiscernible).

17 MS. RAITT: Angela, I'm sorry to  
18 interrupt. We're having trouble hearing you. I  
19 don't know if there's some background noise that  
20 you can change at all.

21 MS. BAI: Okay. Sorry about that. let  
22 me. Okay. So, hopefully, this should be better.

23 So I wanted to make a comment that,  
24 earlier, the visualization that was shared for  
25 the progress to 100 percent clean electricity

1 was -- I did not see a breakdown between hydro,  
2 nuclear, and renewables for the 100 percent clean  
3 electricity scenario that will be achieved by  
4 2045, and to that, I would like to know the  
5 breakdown in maybe like a future report or a  
6 presentation.

7 I would also like to flag that we -- so,  
8 at LAANE, we work with and are in coalition with  
9 many, many community organizations, and there's  
10 widespread skepticism of green hydrogen as a form  
11 of energy that is not fossil fuels, and those  
12 community groups are always advocating for the  
13 transition to renewables to include more wind and  
14 solar, rather than green hydrogen.

15 So I would like to make a comment to  
16 everybody in the specifically the Commission to  
17 focus on wind and solar, rather than hydrogen and  
18 nuclear, because, once the infrastructure for  
19 hydrogen and nuclear are built, it is hard to  
20 phase out, and that would create barriers to  
21 achieving full clean energy that is not harming  
22 communities on the ground.

23 Thank you so much, everybody, for such an  
24 informative session so far.

25 MS. RAITT: Thank you for those comments.

1           If anyone else on Zoom wanted to make  
2 comments, just press the "Raise Hand" feature,  
3 and if you're on the phone and would like to make  
4 a comment, press star, nine. So I'll allow a few  
5 more seconds for that before we close the  
6 session.

7           Okay. I don't see any more raised hands.  
8 Commissioner, if we'd like to -- okay.

9           So we will close this morning's session,  
10 and I invite everybody to join us again at 1:30.  
11 For those online, it's the same Zoom log-in, but  
12 we're going to log off during this lunch hour,  
13 and we'll be back at 1:30. So I look forward to  
14 seeing you then. Thanks.

15           (Off the record at 12:37 p.m.)

16           (On the record at 1:34 p.m.)

17           MS. RAITT: For the folks in the room,  
18 we're just waiting to allow folks on Zoom to log  
19 in, just a few seconds, here.

20           All right. Well, I'll go ahead and get  
21 started.

22           Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome back  
23 to today's 2022 IEPR Update Workshop on Centering  
24 Equity and Environmental Justice Throughout the  
25 California Energy Commission's Efforts.

1 I'm Heather Raitt, the Director for the  
2 Integrated Energy Policy Report, or the IEPR, for  
3 short.

4 Next slide. You got it.

5 So just a couple reminders for this  
6 afternoon. We do have interpreting services  
7 available, and I'll go ahead and ask our  
8 interpreter to go ahead and announce that for us,  
9 in Spanish.

10 THE INTERPRETER: (Speaking Spanish.)

11 MS. RAITT: Thank you.

12 So, just to recap, we invite folks to  
13 participate today a few different ways. We'll  
14 have opportunities to ask questions of our  
15 presenters, and for folks on Zoom, you can use  
16 the Q and A feature on Zoom to ask questions.

17 Then, folks in the room, feel free to  
18 take a card and write it down, and we can read  
19 out your questions when we allocate the time,  
20 which will be appreciated.

21 Then we also are going to have, at the  
22 end of the day, an opportunity for public comment  
23 again, and that's when we set aside time for  
24 making remarks directly to our Commissioners and  
25 Agency leadership.

1           Then, finally, we have written comments  
2 that we welcome, and those are due on August  
3 10th. I believe I misspoke this morning and said  
4 July 20th.

5           Then we're also going to have some  
6 breakout session discussion time this afternoon,  
7 and really encourage everybody to participate in  
8 that.

9           So, with that, I'm pleased to turn the  
10 microphone back over to Commissioner Patty  
11 Monahan to help us start this afternoon.

12           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Thanks. Just give  
13 me a minute to pull up my notes.

14           MS. GALLARDO: While the Commissioner  
15 does that, I'll give a reminder as well. This is  
16 Noemi Gallardo, functioning as Public Advisor  
17 today. I wanted to let folks know, those of you  
18 in the room can provide some comments to some  
19 questions we have around equity and environmental  
20 justice. That's at the back of the room on the  
21 whiteboard. You can use the Post-Its to add your  
22 comments.

23           Then, folks who are joining us via Zoom,  
24 we have the Jamboard available to you all. We'll  
25 put the link in the chat so you can go in there

1 and review those questions and provide responses.  
2 So that's another way to be able to provide  
3 feedback and comments to us. So we thank you for  
4 participating on that.

5 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Thanks, Noemi.

6 It took me a little while. I'm using an  
7 iPad instead of my normal computer, so it's a  
8 little more confusing to me.

9 So I just want to thank everybody for  
10 joining us today, and really acknowledge the  
11 morning session, which I thought was fascinating,  
12 and, you know, both, as Commissioner Vaccaro  
13 said, on an intellectual level, but also just on  
14 an emotional level, and I think it's that place  
15 of when our emotions and our intellect connect is  
16 when we can make real progress in terms of  
17 acknowledging the problems that exist and working  
18 through solutions that are, hopefully, going to  
19 be most effective at addressing those problems.

20 So my name is Patty Monahan. I'm the  
21 Lead Commissioner for Transportation at the  
22 Energy Commission. I'm also the Lead on  
23 Industrial Decarbonization and the Role of  
24 Hydrogen in Meeting California's Goals for a  
25 Safe, Clean, Affordable, Reliable Energy System,

1 and I have the pleasure of being second to Vice  
2 Chair Gunda for the Disadvantaged Communities  
3 Advisory Group and the Energy Commission's  
4 engagement with that group.

5           So I want to talk a little bit more about  
6 panel one, and again thank Norma Rojas-Mora from  
7 Bakersfield College, Lori Pesante from the  
8 Dolores Huerta Foundation, Betony Jones from the  
9 Department of Energy, and Shrayas Jatkar from the  
10 California Workforce Development Board, and just  
11 a few takeaways from that conversation.

12           Lori, I think, in particular, highlighted  
13 how we need to recognize the long arc of history  
14 and trauma that has occurred. I hadn't heard  
15 that term before, the "plantation economy"  
16 before. I thought that was a really interesting  
17 concept, and, as Tim Rainey noted, she really  
18 served as the conscience of the conversation, I  
19 think, in a lot of ways.

20           Norma and others really highlighted the  
21 importance to engage community-based  
22 organizations and make sure they're at the table,  
23 and that they have sufficient funding for  
24 engaging, and the importance -- a number of  
25 panelists recognized the importance of wraparound

1 funding and services, that you need to be  
2 cognizant that there could be unintended  
3 consequences that undermine job creation, and I  
4 thought that was just a really fascinating  
5 observation, and one that I personally feel like  
6 I haven't paid enough attention to.

7           Betony highlighted that public investors  
8 have both the authority and the responsibility to  
9 build in worker protections in our grant  
10 programs, and she gave us a lot of good ideas for  
11 what that could look like.

12           So this process, the IEPR process, is one  
13 of the Energy Commission's sort of most important  
14 assessments. We use it for forecasting and  
15 planning. It's really critical for the grid, and  
16 I'm happy that equity and environmental justice  
17 are really taking center stage.

18           This is, you know, something that isn't  
19 just right to do, but it's absolutely essential  
20 for meeting California's goals. The governor has  
21 highlighted this. We are really working harder  
22 at the Energy Commission to do this, and I know  
23 other agencies are as well.

24           In the transportation space, we have been  
25 trying through our grants to increase attention

1 to workforce development. We've issued grants  
2 that are specific to that, to just, like,  
3 training a workforce for zero-emission vehicle  
4 technologies.

5 Kern Community College District and other  
6 colleges have gotten -- at the LEAP Institute,  
7 West Oakland Job Resource Center, we've been  
8 funding, but we've also been including in our  
9 regular transportation grants more attention to  
10 workforce development and allowing and, in fact,  
11 encouraging, some amount of the grant to go for  
12 that, and I want to say that we haven't practiced  
13 in that, and that's why this workshop is so  
14 important to helping us think through how to  
15 better use our grant funding to support good  
16 jobs, High Road jobs that are sustainable in  
17 communities, and that align with where the  
18 community wants to go.

19 So, with that, I think I will just turn  
20 it back over to Heather.

21 MS. RAITT: Great. So our panel this  
22 afternoon is on local partnership model and an  
23 equitable approach to community workforce  
24 development, and Shrayas Jatkar is available  
25 again today, this afternoon.

1           Thank you so much for being in this  
2 afternoon to moderate this panel. So go ahead.

3           MR. JATKAR: Thank you so much, and I  
4 want to also thank and acknowledge Commissioner  
5 Monahan's remarks recapping this morning's panel  
6 and sharing your takeaways. That was really  
7 great to hear.

8           You know, just to set up this panel real  
9 quick, as we were putting this workshop together,  
10 the thought here was really to start this morning  
11 with, you know, getting into a rich discussion  
12 about "What is equity? What is economic equity?  
13 What does it look like? How does that relate to  
14 energy, transportation, climate change writ  
15 large?"

16           With this panel, we really want to move  
17 to what, actually -- actual models of programs  
18 that are practicing those very principles and  
19 ideals, and this collection of panelists is  
20 fantastic, and I do want to say at the outset,  
21 this is not meant to be an exhaustive list of  
22 programs that are out there, but really just a  
23 good sample of what's happening in the region  
24 where you all are, in Bakersfield and in Kern  
25 County.

1           As you'll see, the panelists that we've  
2 lined up are able to talk about both energy and  
3 transportation in terms of climate change  
4 sectors. They cover different industry sectors,  
5 whether it's construction, or they're touching  
6 manufacturing, operations, and maintenance kind  
7 of work, and a number of these panelists, if not  
8 all of them, are working closely together, which  
9 really shows the power and advantages of working  
10 in partnership.

11           So, with that, let me just very quickly  
12 introduce the panelists. We have Ashley Matthews  
13 with the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment  
14 Board, where she coordinates ValleyBuild, the  
15 multi-craft pre-apprenticeship program that folks  
16 heard about this morning, and, again, thanks to  
17 the Energy Commission for providing the funding  
18 that really seeded and piloted this High Road  
19 construction careers program, and ValleyBuild is  
20 the local iteration of that in the region.

21           Anthony Ausbie is with the Kern County  
22 Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training  
23 Committee, where he's the training director, then  
24 Dave Teasdale with Kern Community College  
25 District, where he's the Economic and Workforce

1 Development Program executive director, and also  
2 the director of the 21st Century Energy Center,  
3 and then, lastly, Linda Urata, Regional Planner  
4 for Kern Council of Governments and Project  
5 Manager for the EV Ready Communities Grant that I  
6 think many of the folks here are involved with.

7           So we'll just go down that list. If we  
8 have time, I'll pose some questions to the  
9 panelists, after they make some remarks, and then  
10 we'll pivot to questions from the Commissioners,  
11 and then questions from the audience.

12           So, Ashley, why don't you go ahead and  
13 take it away.

14           MS. MATTHEWS: Hi. Thank you so much.

15           So thank you all for inviting us,  
16 ValleyBuild and the Fresno Regional Workforce  
17 Development Board, to share our program with you.  
18 I'm very, you know, delighted to be here, and I  
19 love our programs. I'll put that out there  
20 first. I'm a very "boots on the ground" kind of  
21 person, and my participants in the programs that  
22 we run and the people that we help, they're very  
23 dear to me, and so is this community. So, just  
24 thank you.

25           As mentioned, I am the Senior Coordinator

1 for ValleyBuild. If someone is not familiar with  
2 what ValleyBuild is or what a pre-apprenticeship  
3 is, we are a true partnership made up -- we run  
4 through 14 counties, from San Joaquin all the way  
5 down here to Kern.

6 We partner with four local building  
7 trades councils, and each of those areas, they  
8 are covered by a building trades council, and we  
9 have five Workforce Development Board partners,  
10 along with an array of multiple educational  
11 providers, community colleges, offices of  
12 education, as well as community-based  
13 organizations that we work with to be able to put  
14 on a program like ours. So it is not done in a  
15 silo. It is definitely a huge community effort  
16 to be able to create a pathway to sustainable  
17 job, an equitable pathway.

18 So, from that, you know, what ValleyBuild  
19 does is, we provide an MC3, which is multi-craft  
20 core curriculum, pre-apprenticeship training, to  
21 individuals that might not otherwise have access  
22 to this type of training. That creates a pathway  
23 for them to gain apprenticeship.

24 So a pre-apprenticeship, for us, it's a  
25 six- to eight-week model, and they are in

1 partnership with the building trades councils, so  
2 our participants are actually being taught and  
3 partnering with the trades that can then hire  
4 them into apprenticeship.

5           Our focus groups that we help are  
6 barriered individuals within the community. They  
7 are individuals that are unemployed or  
8 underemployed, and just to give you an idea, even  
9 when I'm talking to, you know, participants, I  
10 can say, "You're working 40 hours a week, making  
11 minimum wage. You're underemployed. So you  
12 still qualify for these programs."

13           We focus on highly barriered individuals,  
14 so those who might be justice-involved. I can  
15 think of one amazing success story we've had, is  
16 an individual who had spent over 15 years  
17 incarcerated, who came through our program after  
18 applying to over 150 places, and he didn't even  
19 get an interview.

20           So, you know, now he works for the UA  
21 program, through IEBW, and he's making, you know,  
22 family-sustaining wages, and he's got a good  
23 career, and the support of our local coordinator,  
24 David Hudgins, who works here directly with our  
25 participants in Kern County.

1           So not only does he have a career now,  
2 but he has a support system, too, and through the  
3 Workforce Development Board here in Kern County,  
4 he has his case managers, he has our  
5 coordinators, and, you know, that's going to help  
6 him retain, and, you know, that's a huge return  
7 on investment for our community as well, because  
8 now he is putting those wages back into his  
9 community. He is working on a local project.

10           We also focus on getting women into the  
11 trades, so that's been a huge -- making sure that  
12 we have equitable access. Out of that need, we  
13 actually created our ValleyBuild NOW program,  
14 which stands for Nontraditional Occupations for  
15 Women, and that is launching its first all-female  
16 construction cohort in Fresno this August, so  
17 making sure that women have access to these jobs,  
18 and making sure that they know that they're  
19 wanted, they're needed, and they will be  
20 supported.

21           We have female mentors that will be  
22 coming from the trades in order to help women,  
23 and in partnership with Tradeswomen, Inc., even  
24 after graduation and after they have obtained  
25 apprenticeship, they will still continue to get

1 support.

2           We focus on justice-involved minority  
3 populations and at-risk youth, so helping them  
4 getting on these pathways to apprenticeship is  
5 also a huge focus of our program, and we do this  
6 through many different ways. Creating  
7 equity -- you know, they talk about a lot of  
8 supportive services, and so, if you're not  
9 familiar with what a supportive service is from a  
10 Workforce Board standpoint, that is being able to  
11 give your participant any of the means that they  
12 need in order to obtain employment.

13           So, you know, for those that need  
14 needs-related payments, stipends to get through  
15 training, that's available, and once they obtain  
16 apprenticeship, being able to pay their union  
17 initiation fees, being able to help them buy  
18 tools. Startup tools for some unions I've seen  
19 go over a thousand dollars.

20           So, you know, we have those resources for  
21 somebody who is not in a great position, you  
22 know, to be starting an apprenticeship, or they  
23 have these barriers. Those are life-changing  
24 tools, for them to be able to have those to start  
25 work.

1           We also offer prep classes. So we have  
2 created a curriculum that allows for participants  
3 who are deficient in math, who are English  
4 language learners, and there's also remote  
5 components to that, and that's through Fresno  
6 City College. Right now we're piloting it in  
7 Fresno, and then hoping to expand it out to all  
8 of our other areas from San Joaquin to Kern. So  
9 those allow participants to be able to pass union  
10 entrance exams that are required for some of the  
11 trades.

12           Then, in addition to that, you know, we  
13 make sure that our participants -- like, I  
14 mentioned that support system, you know, that  
15 huge partnership of community organization,  
16 Workforce Board, building trade council, and  
17 their coordinator for each area, that are really  
18 helping to make sure that they have everything  
19 they need to be successful.

20           You know, in a nutshell, that's kind of  
21 what our program is. It's taking those who are  
22 the most barriered and the most disadvantaged in  
23 the community, that have the drive, that want to  
24 do something with their life, and, you know,  
25 giving them all of the support system they need

1 to get that pathway into an apprenticeship.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. JATKAR: Why don't we go ahead and  
4 turn it to Anthony next. Thanks, Ashley.

5 MR. AUSBIE: Thank you.

6 So my name is, again, Anthony Ausbie. I  
7 am the Training Director for the Kern County  
8 Electrical Apprenticeship, and I thank you all  
9 for having me. I just wanted to give you a brief  
10 overview of our program and what we have to offer  
11 with our apprenticeship.

12 So we have a joint partnership between  
13 our employers and our labor. So, fortunately for  
14 me, I have a board that is comprised of six  
15 members, so I have six bosses, and three of them  
16 are from the labor side, and three are from the  
17 employer side or our contractor side, and they  
18 are the ones who are responsible for overseeing  
19 the progress of all of the apprentices throughout  
20 their five-year apprenticeship.

21 So we bring in apprentices into our  
22 program, and those apprentices are placed with  
23 one of our many contractors, and the apprentices,  
24 they work within Kern County's jurisdiction, and  
25 they are placed under the supervision of a

1 certified journeyman electrical worker, and  
2 they'll work for that five-year period, over  
3 8,000 hours, and gain the skills that are  
4 necessary to become a certified electrical  
5 journeyman.

6           So those guys who come into our  
7 apprenticeship, they require no experience upon  
8 entry, and some of them come from all different  
9 types of backgrounds and walks of life, and by  
10 the time that they complete the apprenticeship,  
11 they have a career that will last them for the  
12 rest of their lives.

13           We also have them come to school. They  
14 come to our training school biweekly. So they  
15 work full-time, but biweekly they come down to  
16 the training center, and they spend, over that  
17 five-year period, more than a thousand hours in a  
18 training center.

19           They learn the theory behind the things  
20 that they do on the jobsite every day, and we  
21 also have labs and things like that that they're  
22 required to complete, so that they can take the  
23 things that they learn in the classroom and put  
24 it to practice immediately in our facility.

25           Another thing is, I guess, the wages.

1 So, when an apprentice comes in, into our  
2 program, they have no out-of-expense throughout  
3 the entire five-year period. They don't incur  
4 any student loans or any debt, that kind of  
5 thing.

6 An apprentice, over that five-year  
7 period, will earn more than \$300,000, starting  
8 off as a first-year apprentice, with entry level,  
9 they start off at 50 grand a year, and they get  
10 incremental advances throughout that time period,  
11 and they also receive medical benefits and  
12 pension benefits, with no additional  
13 out-of-pocket expense. It's all paid for by the  
14 contractor on their behalf.

15 So it's a great program, where they earn  
16 a lot throughout, but, more importantly, they  
17 gain a lot of skills that will last them for the  
18 rest of their career.

19 On the topic of equity and diversity, we,  
20 like everyone else, is very interested in  
21 increasing the diversity of our apprenticeship,  
22 so we partner with the pre-apprenticeships and  
23 with David Hudgins at America's Job Center, and  
24 the Work Board, and the MC3 and SB 1  
25 pre-apprenticeships recently, and we've done two

1 cohorts this year, with the second one just  
2 finishing up in July, and those  
3 pre-apprenticeships have allowed us to gain  
4 access to individuals who may not have had the  
5 opportunity to join an apprenticeship program, or  
6 maybe never even knew what one of those were.

7           So we've got a lot of the students who  
8 completed those programs working for our  
9 apprenticeship currently, on one of our  
10 mini-solar projects, and many more of them  
11 applying for apprenticeship, to get into the  
12 actual school.

13           So it's been very successful thus far,  
14 and in the future, this year alone, we have a  
15 couple more lined up with David Hudgins, also  
16 with Dave Teasdale at the Kern Community College  
17 District in October, so more to come, and,  
18 hopefully, more to come over the years following.

19           Also, in the discussion of adding women  
20 and veterans to our program, which is something  
21 we're very focused on, recently we've been able  
22 to double the amount of women that we have in our  
23 apprenticeship, and I think that a lot of that  
24 has come through our efforts with -- pre-COVID,  
25 we had something that we did with what was called

1 the Women in the Trades, and Dave Teasdale was  
2 involved in that as well.

3           We had 200 high school -- female high  
4 school students would come to our program, down  
5 to our partnership, and we would invite them down  
6 for an entire day. We would invite down a bunch  
7 of other unions from the building trades, the  
8 painters, plumbers, and pipefitters.

9           We had carpenters and operators,  
10 engineers, and those guys all come down, and they  
11 would bring down lab equipment, or the operators  
12 would bring down a virtual crane and that kind of  
13 thing, and we'd have the kids go union by union,  
14 station by station, doing little hands-on  
15 projects, asking questions about their  
16 apprenticeships and their unions and how all that  
17 worked, and we think that, you know, those type  
18 of things really allowed us to gain a lot of  
19 interest in our program from that community. So  
20 we hope to get back to that, hopefully this year.  
21 Later in November, we can do that again.

22           As far as veterans go, we're partnered  
23 with Helmets to Hardhats. We also have a  
24 veterans program through our Electrical Training  
25 Alliance, who is our curriculum parent company,

1 that they do pre-apprenticeships for veterans who  
2 have just completed or just exited the military.

3           They send them to three different  
4 locations, Alaska, L.A., and San Diego, and  
5 there's a six-week pre-apprenticeship there where  
6 they go through the first year of our curriculum,  
7 and then, at the end of, completion of that  
8 program, they're allowed to enter into our  
9 program as a second-year apprentice, and they go  
10 directly into our program. So that's another big  
11 push for us, to get more veterans into our  
12 program.

13           So, earlier, one of the panel members had  
14 mentioned the fact that they wanted to be able to  
15 train the workforce here, locally, for the jobs  
16 that we intend to build here, and that got me  
17 thinking about -- I think that's a really big  
18 advantage of the apprenticeship and the  
19 apprenticeship model, because, for example,  
20 myself, I was an apprentice.

21           I went through our five-year program.  
22 I'm a certified electrical journeyman, and in  
23 2007, when I got into the apprenticeship, there  
24 was a big push for windmills, and so we trained  
25 our workforce to be able to work on windmills,

1 and I climbed those windmills, and we worked in  
2 Tehachapi.

3           Then, next, we had a really big push on  
4 solar, when I was a fifth-year apprentice, and we  
5 built curriculums surrounding solar. We  
6 developed trainers for solar, and we knew that  
7 that was going to be around for a long time, so  
8 we heavily invested in that, and now our  
9 workforce, our apprentices and journeyman, they  
10 do tons and tons and tons and tons of solar right  
11 now.

12           Next, the thing that's happening right  
13 now is vehicle charging and battery storage.  
14 Those things are big projects that are coming up  
15 that we're working on right now. We've developed  
16 curriculum and trainers and that kind of thing.  
17 So we're able to pivot and train our workforce  
18 based on the demands of the industry at the time,  
19 and so I think that's a really huge advantage.

20           And it's not just our apprentices that we  
21 train. We also offer continuing education  
22 courses for all of our journeymen. So those that  
23 have graduated and left the program, they can  
24 come back. We have them on our calendar. Every  
25 single month, they can come back and renew their

1 skills, and develop new skills for the new  
2 technologies.

3           So that's pretty much all I wanted to  
4 say. Thank you.

5           MR. JATKAR: Thank you, Anthony.  
6           Dave.

7           MR. TEASDALE: Anthony, let's agree to do  
8 that women in trades workshop again in November.  
9 Let's get that started again, take the "maybe"  
10 out of it. That was a great project.

11           My name is Dave Teasdale. I'm the  
12 Executive Director of Economic Workforce  
13 Development Programs, and in that role, I also  
14 lead the 21st Century Energy Center, and that's a  
15 photo there you see of a solar installation with  
16 partner Grid Alternatives.

17           Next slide, please.

18           You heard from Ashley and from Anthony,  
19 and so I'm going to be reiterating the importance  
20 of partnerships in driving equity, and it  
21 occurred to me today -- I know I'm a little slow  
22 on the uptake -- that equity is not a  
23 destination, but it's a continuous improvement  
24 project, and we've experienced that in these  
25 partnerships that we've had already.

1           What I like best about working with  
2 Anthony and then Linda, who's the next speaker,  
3 is we're willing to look at what worked, what  
4 didn't work, and make it better next time. We  
5 think that's kind of our role.

6           I just wanted to illustrate these  
7 partnerships. These are just the partnerships of  
8 the 21st Century Energy Center at Kern, and I  
9 want to thank the Commissioners and the Energy  
10 Commission. 21st Century Energy Center was  
11 launched by a grant, a Clean Energy Workforce  
12 Training Program grant, in 2010, and one of the  
13 things you asked for is that we come up with a  
14 plan for sustainability. So here we are in '22,  
15 and we still exist, so I think we achieved that.

16           It was a partnership. Our first  
17 important partner was Employers' Training  
18 Resource, America's Job Center, our local  
19 Workforce Development Board, Project Clean Air,  
20 and San Joaquin Valley Clean Cities Coalition.  
21 That was one of many CAPs that our partner here,  
22 Linda Urata, worked with, and they're still a  
23 partner of ours.

24           Kern Council of Governments, Grid  
25 Alternatives, who we showed, where we actually

1 could give our students hands-on experience  
2 installing solar on the roofs of folks in  
3 disinvested communities, lowering their utility  
4 bills, and being able to reap the benefits of a  
5 transition to a cleaner form of energy, and so,  
6 you know, I just thought that was a great  
7 triple-net opportunity, where we could have  
8 workforce contributing to another social benefit  
9 in the community. In fact, that install we  
10 showed there is up on Porterville.

11           We started with IBW and the electrical  
12 apprenticeship in 2013 in terms of partnering in  
13 a big way, and a lot of the folks that went out  
14 in the unindentured roles on these solar projects  
15 were folks that came out of our program, and many  
16 of them ended up into the apprenticeship and  
17 becoming journeymen down the road.

18           The Kern High School District, they've  
19 been an important partner, and they were a big  
20 resources for those Women in Trades workshops  
21 that Anthony was talking about.

22           The Superintendent of Schools' Community  
23 Schools, that's where we were able to work with  
24 at-risk youth, and you guys may know that some  
25 students don't do really well with "death by

1 PowerPoint" and sitting in the classroom. They  
2 need to get up and working.

3           They have a YouthBuild program. We  
4 connected with them. They also came out and did  
5 the student apprenticeship workshops that we run,  
6 similar to the Women in Trades, but for a  
7 different population, to give that awareness of  
8 the building trades and the opportunities to get  
9 a debt-free education as well.

10           Garden Pathways, Turning Point, so  
11 outreach to justice-involved individuals.  
12 Community Action Partnership is a really big  
13 partner of ours now, and the idea -- somebody  
14 much smarter than I once suggested that maybe  
15 trying to guess how to reach communities we  
16 haven't reached is a good idea. Maybe we should  
17 work with those people who are already working  
18 with those communities, and let them do the  
19 outreach to those communities, and I say that's  
20 great, because they're probably going to do a  
21 better job than I am.

22           Just this year, Kern Community College  
23 District convened the Energy Innovation Workforce  
24 Coalition, and we have three subcommittees. We  
25 have the Carbon Management Subcommittee, we have

1 the Clean Energy Innovation and Micro Grid  
2 Subcommittee, and the Clean Transportation  
3 Subcommittee, and that is an employer-led,  
4 everybody welcome, stakeholder group to plan  
5 together on how we're going to meet the workforce  
6 needs in these areas.

7           One of the things that's most frustrating  
8 is to be here to attract business, and to have  
9 them import the workforce because they don't have  
10 the workers they need, and that's something I  
11 think we're doing better on, like I talked about  
12 with continuous improvement, but it needs to  
13 stop. We have enough talent in Kern County that  
14 we can fill those roles, and we need to do that.

15           Next slide.

16           I should also mention that our  
17 partnership is so good that Linda had to be gone  
18 when we were making slides, so I also created her  
19 slides for her. So I don't want to steal too  
20 much of her thunder.

21           We're partners on an EV-ready communities  
22 grant. I want to talk about the Bakersfield  
23 College part of it, and it is developing electric  
24 vehicle modules with our partners, Valley Clean  
25 Air Now and others, so their automotive

1 technicians are already ready to work on electric  
2 vehicles when they get out and get employed.

3           There's also a partnership with the New  
4 Car Dealers Association, and we have a training  
5 center out in the actual facilities at the  
6 dealerships so they can both -- we're training  
7 the new workforce, but we're also upscaling the  
8 existing or incumbent worker workforce out there.

9           Then, the Zero-Emission Vehicle Workforce  
10 Pilot Grant, which we just learned about in  
11 April, and thank you, and we already have our  
12 first class planned. It starts September 19th.  
13 They are going to get an intro to zero-emission  
14 vehicles and zero-emission vehicle careers.

15           They're going to get a personal finance  
16 class we call "hands-on banking," so they know  
17 what to do when they start getting their  
18 paycheck. They're going to get OSHA 10, and NCCR  
19 safety, and electrical safety, and an NFPA 70E  
20 safety certification. Then they're going to go  
21 out to Anthony's shop. He's going to get them  
22 ready to be the very best candidates for their  
23 apprenticeship program, and they're going to get  
24 that opportunity to work with the actual  
25 apprentices, and understand that.

1           We learned in that continuous improvement  
2 that, instead of training for jobs, we need to  
3 train for careers. So an entry-level workforce  
4 for charging infrastructure installation, as  
5 laborers, who then, once the chargers are all  
6 installed, don't have anywhere to go, isn't a  
7 goal of ours, but, if they can get that work and  
8 continue on as apprentices, and then become  
9 journeymen, then we've trained them for a career,  
10 and that's what our goal is.

11           Then the other thing, in terms of -- we  
12 talked about community education and awareness,  
13 and, once again, I want to thank the Energy  
14 Commission for funding this. We're having  
15 workshops for contractors, for fleet managers,  
16 for ag operations, for electrification of ag  
17 operations, and for nonprofits, so that they can  
18 understand what incentives and projects are  
19 available for them to participate in, and so I'm  
20 really excited for the development of those.

21           So I think the next portion is Linda's,  
22 and I'm really excited that you guys decided to  
23 come down here and do the IEPR workshop in  
24 Bakersfield. Thank you.

25           MS. URATA: Good afternoon, everybody

1 here and everybody attending on Zoom. My name is  
2 Linda Urata, and I'm the Regional Planner at Kern  
3 Council of Governments, but, in my former life,  
4 from 1992 to 2006, I was the Executive Director  
5 at Project Clean Air, prior to joining Kern  
6 Council of Governments in 2006 as regional  
7 planner.

8           So Dave asked me to kind of fill in a  
9 little bit about the Project Clean Air and some  
10 of those partnerships. Project Clean Air is a  
11 local 501(c)(3) nonprofit that was established to  
12 improve air quality through education and  
13 collaboration on projects that improve air  
14 quality, and they manage the San Joaquin Valley  
15 Clean Cities Coalition, which is a Department of  
16 Energy program.

17           There's almost over 90 coalitions  
18 nationwide that are working on the deployment of  
19 alternative-fuel vehicles, infrastructure, idle  
20 reduction technology, vehicle mile travel  
21 reduction, and so on, and then, under the Clean  
22 Cities Coalition here, through a RICO grant,  
23 actually, from the CEC, we established two  
24 partnerships, and I'm here to talk about the  
25 electric vehicle partnership as well.

1           It is a business led collaborative. It  
2 came out from an economic development which was  
3 different from an air quality standpoint, so it  
4 was a really good opportunity for us to learn a  
5 lot and partner on energy.

6           Project Clean Air administers pilots.  
7 Like, they have two CARB grants right now. One  
8 is developing electric ag tractors. The other  
9 one is electric refrigerated units. The  
10 refrigeration is electric, the whole truck is  
11 electric, and those are being piloted here in the  
12 Valley.

13           They also employ people. They have an  
14 internship program, and, as with most nonprofits,  
15 they grow and shrink in jobs, as we grow and  
16 shrink with grants and we complete projects, and  
17 then they also do air quality education and  
18 awareness. They have a teachers' curriculum  
19 workshop on solar cars, for instance, and then  
20 they provide them with those materials to take  
21 back to the classroom.

22           They also were the lead on getting Tesla,  
23 a grant for a Tesla, for Kern Community College  
24 District to be using as part of their education  
25 and outreach, and I think that's arriving here

1 next week. So you're on the cutting edge of that  
2 one.

3 Alley Moyers is now the coordinator for  
4 Clean Cities. I stopped doing that in December.  
5 They do events, outreach, and annual inventory.  
6 They cover nine counties in the San Joaquin  
7 Valley, and they are also partnered with the  
8 National Lab. So we were really excited when  
9 NREL came here to work with the Kern Community  
10 College District, because we've been working with  
11 NREL for 30 years.

12 On the EV partnership side, we also have  
13 one for renewable natural and compressed  
14 liquified natural gas, and that's where the  
15 hydrogen work comes in. So I just wanted to  
16 throw that in there, because they do have an  
17 interest, also, in hydrogen. It's just not  
18 through our ED partnership. It's from the gas  
19 side, the events they plan for market  
20 development, and they have industry and  
21 economic-driven, which is, again, a little bit  
22 different from air quality-driven.

23 Next slide.

24 So Kern Council of Governments, we're a  
25 regional planning agency. We're designated

1 federally as a metropolitan planning  
2 organization, and our board is made up of a  
3 representative, a city council member of each  
4 incorporated city, and then we have two  
5 supervisors, and we have some XOs (phonetic) this  
6 year, members from the transit and other --  
7 Caltrans. We have two Caltrans districts. We're  
8 a very large county, and we have quite a lot of  
9 ground to cover.

10           Some of the ways that Kern COG addresses  
11 transportation is we have a social services  
12 transportation committee that meets at least  
13 three or four times a year with the transit  
14 operators, so that can include Aging and Adult  
15 Services, the Center for the Blind, and other  
16 low-income housing-type folks. All participate  
17 in that social services committee.

18           We were recently acknowledged with our  
19 Kern Regional Transportation Environmental  
20 Justice Performance Measure and Public Outreach  
21 Process. We were the first runner-up in a state  
22 competition for smart transformation projects  
23 that streamline the regulatory processes, and  
24 that competition was put on by Caltrans' Local  
25 Technical Assistance Program, and Caltrans has

1 now nominated Kern COG for consideration in the  
2 National LTEC Division.

3           So, you know, people ask what we do, but,  
4 basically, the communities that we serve are  
5 disadvantaged communities. The majority of the  
6 people that we serve come from disadvantaged  
7 communities, and so it's just part of how we have  
8 to operate every day, is making plans for  
9 transportation and doing that work.

10           Deepening and broadening the course  
11 offerings at Kern Community College Districts  
12 campuses provides training closer to those living  
13 in disadvantaged communities, and you heard Norma  
14 today saying -- you know, and you saw yesterday  
15 we're going out to Arvin. The college district  
16 is really making an effort to provide that  
17 education directly to the community and reduce  
18 barriers, and also to have that presence within  
19 the community.

20           Maybe a student would go -- a young child  
21 could go and hear a concert, or go see a  
22 presentation or a science fair thing, and that's  
23 very important to inspiring and encouraging  
24 youth, and I think that's a big part of what we  
25 need to be doing, is inspiring them, to let them

1 know what other jobs there are available.

2           Through the CED funding for the EV-Ready  
3 Communities, that requires that station  
4 installers are certified through the EVITP.org  
5 program, and Kern Community College District,  
6 Kern COG and others, work to make that program  
7 more accessible across the state of California.

8           We're very grateful for the CEC  
9 partnering to make that happen, because sometimes  
10 having to travel far away to Los Angeles to take  
11 an exam could be the barrier that prevents  
12 somebody from completing the program, and so  
13 we're appreciative of that.

14           Under the workforce development that Kern  
15 Community College is doing, they have the San  
16 Joaquin Valley Automotive Technology Training for  
17 Vehicles and Stations, OEM, which is Original  
18 Equipment Manufactures. Think dealerships.  
19 They're doing mechanic training for new and  
20 entry-level workers, for incumbent worker  
21 training, and that can be with the dealerships,  
22 but it can also be transit, municipal fleets, and  
23 other fleets.

24           Our Golden Empire Transit has some  
25 electric buses, but they're moving to hydrogen.

1 So we will be -- we have five hydrogen fuel cell  
2 buses in operation today, and they're expanding  
3 that to 12, though smaller cities like Shafter,  
4 they've been running electric dial-a-rides in  
5 their services for many years now, maybe seven  
6 years, I want to say. So they do have some  
7 leadership there, but we're also continuing to  
8 expand that, and having training available here,  
9 again, locally is very supportive of that.

10 Kern Community College District plans to  
11 recruit students to the program by conducting  
12 outreach directly to individuals transitioning  
13 out of the foster care system, and to high school  
14 students who may attend community college  
15 district classes while they're still in high  
16 school. You hear about that earlier.

17 For EV-ready communities, we have a  
18 shared mobility portion, which is, we are using  
19 Neocar. It's an electric car share program.  
20 We're going to be expanding that to Bakersfield  
21 and to eastern Kern County and Ridgecrest. We're  
22 piloting it over on that side of the mountain.  
23 And where Neocar is based on low-income housing,  
24 so, for instance, in the city of Wasco and other  
25 DACs, the plans are to open up the vehicles for

1 use as, like, a transportation network company.

2 Think Uber and Lyft.

3           So you might be a resident of a  
4 low-income housing. You can use one of the  
5 electric cars in that program and actually  
6 provide transportation as a service to others,  
7 but, for the communities that they serve, you  
8 don't have to live in the low-income housing to  
9 use that transportation, and they're currently in  
10 use to get people to medical appointments,  
11 shopping, recreation, school, commuter programs,  
12 or people who just want to try an electric car to  
13 see if they want to buy one. There's chance for  
14 them for a very low price to be able to rent an  
15 electric car, and we're happy to be able to  
16 expand that through this project.

17           Kern COG participates in the AB 617  
18 Community Program here in Kern County. Arvin and  
19 the city of Shafter are AB 617 communities, and  
20 we attend the community steering committee  
21 meetings, and that really provides us an  
22 opportunity to listen to the local needs, and  
23 then to provide information to the communities  
24 regarding our efforts and opportunities, and most  
25 recently we were up in Shafter, and they were

1 giving us some information on -- as Kern COG is  
2 planning on where to reroute freight traffic so  
3 it's not right through -- you know, right past  
4 their elementary school. We're, you know,  
5 working with them on ways that we can achieve  
6 that.

7           Other tasks that are part of the EV-Ready  
8 Communities Grant are outreach. That can  
9 include -- a lot of our efforts that we already  
10 were doing were used as matching funds. So, for  
11 five years now, we've put on a transit called  
12 TRANSITions -- get it, transit ions? -- to  
13 transit people to zero-emission vehicles in  
14 preparation for the innovative clean transit  
15 regulation for CARB, and that's been highly  
16 successful.

17           We get attendees from throughout the San  
18 Joaquin Valley, and, again, that's an opportunity  
19 for somebody from Modesto to come to a conference  
20 without having to, you know, leave the area or  
21 leave the state.

22           We do media campaigns. We have our site  
23 hosts. If you're putting in a charging station,  
24 they're required to do outreach, whether it's to  
25 their employees, to their communities. They

1 might have the mayor ride in an electric car in  
2 the parade. It might say, "Follow me to the  
3 charging station." Or maybe, if they have that  
4 electric dial-a-ride, that will be out there in  
5 use. So we're working with them to really  
6 increase that outreach to their community and  
7 express the direct benefit to that community.

8           In some of that advocacy, as people are  
9 getting more experienced with it here, then  
10 that's an opportunity for them to advocate back  
11 out to Sacramento and San Francisco and other  
12 places, and let them know what our needs are  
13 here, specifically. So it's not just about  
14 bringing something here, you know, outside to  
15 them. It's about giving people the ability to  
16 express what we need, and, again, we appreciate  
17 that you're here today to hear some of that from  
18 folks.

19           Our other task in that is an E-bike  
20 project. So, with the EV-Ready Communities  
21 funding, we'll be purchasing some E-bikes, and  
22 we'll be piloting those out in the community.  
23 Kern COG, tomorrow night, will be awarding a  
24 contract for our active transportation program,  
25 where we'll be doing bicycle education and

1 awareness training, through a consultant, in 13  
2 different disadvantaged communities throughout  
3 the county, and that's a two-year-long effort,  
4 and E-bikes will be piloted through that project.

5           So some of the other things that, you  
6 know, we work with is freight. So we're working  
7 on our -- we have another CEC grant to do the  
8 medium-duty and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicle  
9 infrastructure blueprint, and we plan to have  
10 that blueprint accomplished by this December. So  
11 we have some -- that's another place where we're  
12 integrating hydrogen.

13           Then the last thing, too, is, as far as  
14 partnerships, one of the things we've done is, we  
15 get money that used to go into the call box  
16 program, but, as people got cell phones, we were  
17 able to pull out call boxes, and we've been  
18 diverting that money to the homeless center,  
19 where they're training people on not just litter  
20 pickup but trash management, waste management,  
21 and they've been able to transition into careers  
22 out of that program, and we were happy to see  
23 this last year, but it was a model for a  
24 statewide effort.

25           Again, it's an underserved population.

1 That's not always being talked about, but that is  
2 a way that Kern COG is addressing the underserved  
3 populations. So I think that covers everything.

4 Next slide. Yes, there we are.

5 Thank you very much. I appreciate your  
6 time.

7 MR. JATKAR: Excellent. Thank you,  
8 Linda, and thanks to all the panelists. I'm  
9 going to just pose a couple of questions to our  
10 panelists, and then we'll pivot to questions from  
11 the Commissioners, and maybe, for the sake of  
12 time, I'll try to group some of these questions  
13 together.

14 So, for Ashley and Anthony -- maybe I'll  
15 start with you, Anthony. You know, the way our  
16 climate policy and energy policy is going, we're  
17 basically looking to electrify everything,  
18 transportation, stoves, water heaters, I mean,  
19 literally everything, and so one might think, you  
20 know, that's a huge boon for the electrical  
21 workers, and the apprenticeship programs are just  
22 going to be opening up left and right, and, you  
23 know, all kinds of new slots are going to open up  
24 for new apprentices.

25 Is that the right way to think about it,

1 or how do you actually decide when to open the  
2 doors, how many new apprentice slots to bring in?

3 MR. AUSBIE: So, traditionally, we've  
4 had, essentially, a set number of apprentices  
5 that we wanted to operate with annually, so we  
6 brought in, usually, 32 apprentices per year for  
7 the last maybe five or six years, but recently,  
8 with all the expansion in our workforce -- well,  
9 our work -- we need to expand our workforce.

10 So, you know, we've done looking into the  
11 amount of journeymen that are retiring and the  
12 amount of apprentices we're bringing in, and  
13 we're not close to replacement rates. So,  
14 recently, we decided to really increase our  
15 efforts to bring in more and more apprentices.  
16 We're at a process right now of expanding our  
17 facility.

18 So we're going to build an additional  
19 building that's going to allow us to potentially  
20 double our apprenticeship. That's our goal. So  
21 we have currently somewhere around 150  
22 apprentices that are indentured in our five-year  
23 apprenticeship, and we plan on doing everything  
24 we can to double that number.

25 So it's all based on the amount of work

1 that we can foresee for the next five years, that  
2 five-year look-ahead, and at this very moment,  
3 with the emergence of the battery storage and,  
4 like you said, the charging, and all the solar  
5 that's coming -- and it doesn't seem like it's  
6 going to be letting up here any time soon -- that  
7 is what is driving that effort of opening up far  
8 more slots than have ever been available before.

9 MR. JATKAR: All right. Thank you. And,  
10 actually, I think you touched on this briefly,  
11 but could you say a little bit more about, you  
12 know, ValleyBuild and the multi-craft  
13 pre-apprenticeship program, how it connects?  
14 What are some examples of how you integrate or  
15 connect with energy, climate change writ large,  
16 maybe some examples of what you do in the program  
17 or with the pre-apprentices?

18 MS. MATTHEWS: Yes, absolutely. So, like  
19 you mentioned, everything is integrated. We're  
20 not just training or, you know, exposing someone  
21 to a specific job that's, you know, only going to  
22 last a year or two. It's a career. Our  
23 apprentices do get -- part of the multi-craft  
24 curriculum is green construction training, so  
25 they are exposed to that.

1           They work with each of the trades to do  
2 some hands-on work, and that can include, you  
3 know, looking at different types of green  
4 construction projects throughout the Valley.  
5 That can include hands-on, especially when -- you  
6 know, sort of talking about solar with IEBW, when  
7 they come out, they do conduit bending, they do  
8 wiring as part of their projects with those  
9 trades.

10           Then we also -- with high-speed rail, so  
11 we're very fortunate for our Fresno class. They  
12 actually get to go to the high-speed rail viaduct  
13 on Cedar and 99, each cohort. It's an active job  
14 site, and we actually have apprentices on that  
15 site right now. We have cement masons and  
16 ironworkers that have graduated from our program,  
17 been indentured, and now are out on the  
18 high-speed rail.

19           MR. JATKAR: Wonderful. Thank you. And  
20 I really want to just also just put a bit in or  
21 highlight your comment about supportive services  
22 and the equity focus of this program, that story  
23 you shared about the individual who didn't get a  
24 single interview after 150 applications, but now  
25 has probably a six-figure salary in the trades,

1 or will soon, as Anthony was talking about, will  
2 be earning big dollars, thanks to the ability to  
3 get into pre-apprenticeship and now into  
4 registered apprenticeship, so just tremendous  
5 work.

6           That's a story that we can tell  
7 throughout this state with this program, that,  
8 again, we really piloted with Prop 39 dollars  
9 from the Energy Commission. You know, folks who  
10 came out of incarceration with little more than a  
11 criminal record now have an industry-recognized  
12 credential in the multi-craft core curriculum  
13 certificate, which really is sort of a ticket  
14 into the trades, so really just fantastic work.  
15 Thank you for sharing that.

16           To pivot over to Dave and Linda, I wanted  
17 to ask you, in the panel earlier, we didn't get  
18 into this too much, and so I'm curious if you  
19 could share a little bit about the  
20 distinctions -- you know, what's the difference  
21 between -- you were talking about the  
22 zero-emission vehicle automotive training  
23 program, which is a really great, unique program  
24 that I think is happening in California, in the  
25 region here, and you had talked about both

1 incumbent workers, meaning folks who are already  
2 in the industry, already doing this work, as well  
3 as serving folks who want to get into this, new  
4 workers.

5           Can you say a little bit about what that  
6 looks like, what the difference is in how you  
7 serve incumbent workers versus new workers?

8           MR. TEASDALE: All right. So Linda  
9 pointed at me, so I'll go ahead and answer that  
10 question. So, incumbent workers, usually they  
11 have the mastery of a career, but now there's a  
12 new skillset that they need to gain. So it's  
13 going to be a shorter, very topical skillset.

14           We don't need to teach them, you know,  
15 about differentials or axles or, you know,  
16 cooling systems, or any of those things, but they  
17 need to understand how regenerative braking is  
18 different than the brakes that they're used to  
19 servicing, what are the some of the issues with  
20 electric motors versus internal combustion  
21 engines.

22           It's a different set of troubleshooting,  
23 right, that the ability to do cause analysis is  
24 the same skillset, but it's kind of just thinking  
25 through, what are some of the things that might

1 be causing faults? And then it also needs to be  
2 done in partnership with the employer, to make  
3 sure that they're staying productive and doing  
4 the work of getting people back on the road  
5 driving, while also being prepared to service the  
6 new vehicles coming in.

7           With the entry-level folks, that's a more  
8 comprehensive training. It's going to take  
9 longer. They need to be introduced -- in a lot  
10 of cases, you know, we don't -- I mean, we're  
11 starting to improve, but we don't have auto shop  
12 in high schools like they used to 50 years ago,  
13 and so, from the tires, you know, to the roof of  
14 the car, we're having to teach them about the  
15 entire vehicle and the, you know, electric motor,  
16 the regenerative braking. The charging station  
17 is just one component of that whole thing.

18           The information, the learning objectives,  
19 are going to be the same in those modules. We  
20 just could be very much more precise and agile  
21 with the incumbent worker, getting them that new  
22 skill that they need, and not have to be  
23 redundant and cover stuff they already know.

24           So I hope that is part of what you're  
25 looking for, and then I also want to take that

1 opportunity -- and it might not have been the  
2 question you asked -- is what we did here,  
3 because we have a good collaborative partnership,  
4 is, our zero-emission vehicle workforce pilot  
5 grant is about charging infrastructure training,  
6 rather than the mechanic training, because we  
7 were already doing that.

8           I forgot to mention, we have a  
9 partnership with the manufacturers to develop  
10 charging station maintenance technicians. It's a  
11 different skillset than actually getting these  
12 charging stations installed, and, in fact,  
13 usually it's not the electrical. You know, our  
14 friends at the FBW (phonetic) do a fantastic job  
15 installing those.

16           It's usually the communications software  
17 that is the challenge with the charging stations,  
18 and for those of us that have vehicles that plug  
19 in, there's nothing more frustrating than to pull  
20 up to a charging station and have it not work,  
21 right? So we want to be part of that solution.  
22 You know, that's chicken and the egg, right? We  
23 need to get the infrastructure in the vehicles,  
24 and we're looking to service both of those.

25           MS. URATA: And I do want to add -- I had

1 to change hats there for a second -- with Project  
2 Clean Air and the Clean Cities Coalition, one of  
3 the significant incumbent workers that we train  
4 is first responders.

5           So we were out last November in Fresno  
6 teaching a group of about 30 first responders on  
7 how to respond to electric and hydrogen fires,  
8 and how is that different from, you know, with a  
9 Tesla and a fuel cell, and what does that mean,  
10 and how do you have to deal with that, as opposed  
11 to a regular traditional fire?

12           Then there are some things that are the  
13 same. It's like, when you respond to the scene,  
14 what's the first thing you do? And they raised  
15 their hand and said, "We turn off the car." And  
16 then this other young man said, "I've never been  
17 in an electric car. How do you turn that off?"

18           You know, so, at a very basic level, we  
19 had out there a truck and a school bus and  
20 vehicles, so that they could see the vehicles,  
21 recognize that they do just look like every other  
22 car on the road, but they have to figure out, how  
23 do you know that it's an electric car when you  
24 first see it and approach it, and then how do you  
25 handle that situation? So that's a very

1 significant training that the Clean Cities  
2 Program is doing in the San Joaquin Valley.

3 MR. JATKAR: Well, thank you. I'm glad  
4 you got a chance to chime in there, Linda,  
5 because I do want to pivot back to the  
6 Commissioners, but just want to say congrats on a  
7 lot of the national recognition for the work that  
8 you've been leading in the area.

9 In particular, I want to just highlight  
10 what you had mentioned, bringing the testing for  
11 the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training  
12 Program, or EVITP, online, to reduce the burden  
13 associated with having to go to in-person testing  
14 sites. I think there's been a lot of improvement  
15 and sort of innovation to bring that training and  
16 certification online so that it's more  
17 accessible. So, great. Thank you.

18 I'm going to turn it back to Heather to  
19 moderate Q and A from the Commissioners and with  
20 the audience. Thank you.

21 MS. RAITT: All right. Commissioner  
22 Monahan, do you have any questions you'd like to  
23 go ahead and start us off with?

24 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I do. I'm  
25 actually going to start with Anthony. I was

1 fascinated by this model of having three  
2 businesses and three labor interests actually  
3 aboard. Sounds complicated. I think our team at  
4 the Energy Commission probably says the same  
5 thing. We have five Commissioners.

6           So are these -- the businesses, are they  
7 the ones that are actually taking your  
8 apprenticeships and giving them on-the-job  
9 training?

10           MR. AUSBIE: Yes. So, for the  
11 contractors' side of our board, we have two of  
12 them who are actual contractors who I worked for,  
13 and who our apprentices and journeymen work for,  
14 and then we have one of them who is the  
15 representative for all of the contractors, and on  
16 our labor side, we have our business manager, and  
17 then we have two labor individuals who work in  
18 the field as journeymen electricians currently.  
19 One of them is the president of our union.

20           So, yes, a board like that with three and  
21 three is a great way to not get anything done,  
22 but they, fortunately enough for us -- I can't  
23 say -- you know, decades ago, it wasn't so, but  
24 currently they work very well together, and we  
25 have a very shared vision of what we want this

1 apprenticeship to be like in the future, and  
2 we're working towards it. So it's going well.

3 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: To get into the  
4 program, you said you didn't have any training.  
5 Do you have to graduate from high school? Is  
6 there any criteria to get in?

7 MR. AUSBIE: Yes. So we have -- for our  
8 indentured five-year apprenticeship, we have some  
9 requirements, and the basic requirements are  
10 you've got to be 18 years old. You have to have  
11 graduated high school or have a GED equivalent.

12 If you don't have that specifically, we  
13 have a partnership with Bakersfield Adult School,  
14 where they have a class that they offer, that you  
15 can go in there and complete that certificate,  
16 and that completes that requirement.

17 The last requirement is that you must  
18 have taken algebra in high school or college, but  
19 in high school, and passed it with a C or better  
20 for two semesters. That's our biggest hurdle of  
21 getting people into the apprenticeship, and so,  
22 again, we have a partnership with Bakersfield  
23 Adult School, where they have an independent  
24 study course online or an in-person-taught course  
25 that they provide for us, where you can go down

1 and sit with an instructor for three weeks, you  
2 know, a complete four-hour or five-hour day for  
3 three weeks, or a two-hour day for six weeks, and  
4 get all the tutoring and whatever you need, and  
5 once you complete that program, that will satisfy  
6 that algebra requirement.

7           So, even if the individuals don't have  
8 what they need when they initially come see us,  
9 eventually they often get in, if they want to.

10           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: What's the,  
11 like -- I don't know if it's success rate, but  
12 what's the rate for the people who enter to the  
13 ones that exit, like, last the full five years  
14 and then get a job?

15           MR. AUSBIE: It's well over -- well, I'd  
16 say it's got to be somewhere around high 80s to  
17 90 percent, from the day that they indenture in  
18 to the day that they complete. If we lose an  
19 apprenticeship, it's going to be in their  
20 probationary period, which is first year, and  
21 their first year is a trying-out process, right?

22           Even me, when I was a first-year  
23 apprenticeship, I had no idea what I was getting  
24 into. I had a sales background. I got into the  
25 apprenticeship with no experience, and, you know,

1 I showed up to class in pretty much a suit like  
2 this, you know, and I had no clue what I was  
3 doing.

4           Some kids come to us in that same  
5 scenario, and, you know, they say, "Hey. This  
6 wasn't for me." And when that happens, it's  
7 usually very early on in the process. Once they  
8 get past that first year, relatively no one ever  
9 leaves our program.

10           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: That's great to  
11 hear.

12           MR. JATKAR: I just want to just jump in  
13 real quick to just say that you heard from Ashley  
14 talking about the multi-craft core curriculum.  
15 That's the curriculum used in the  
16 pre-apprenticeship program.

17           It's 120 hours, and fully one-third, 40  
18 hours of that, is math, because, as Anthony was  
19 talking about, there are, for certain trades,  
20 very high bar, high prerequisites, but it's  
21 common across the different trades and crafts,  
22 and so, again, fully one-third of that  
23 pre-apprenticeship curriculum is devoted to  
24 helping people be able to gain their skills so  
25 that they have, you know, easier access in the

1 apprenticeship application process.

2 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Thanks, Shrayas.

3 So I'm just going to do one more  
4 question, and then I'll pass it to other folks to  
5 see if they have comments or questions.

6 I was really impressed, Linda, with all  
7 the activities that you're involved with. It's  
8 impressive.

9 I'm sorry. My thing keeps telling me to  
10 do things.

11 I'm curious about what you're seeing as  
12 sort of the biggest barriers to getting a skilled  
13 workforce to support all these big plans around  
14 transportation electrification.

15 MS. URATA: I think it's just the  
16 encouragement of not just -- you know, we talk a  
17 lot about the need to inspire youth, but, through  
18 the Energy Workforce, for instance, they'll be  
19 talking about "How are we going to transition the  
20 workforce to other careers?"

21 I think it's just that idea of knowing  
22 what it is to reach those folks who might be  
23 interested, but they don't know what they don't  
24 know, and we're on the other side, and we don't  
25 know what they don't know, and so you've got two

1 people just kind of not understanding what it is  
2 that we need to communicate.

3           It's not necessarily that we don't know  
4 how to communicate or where to communicate. I  
5 think Dave was on the right track when he said  
6 reaching out to somebody like Garden Pathways,  
7 and then letting that group help you direct, you  
8 know, the people into the right programs, but I  
9 think that's one of our larger challenges.

10           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Yes. Well, I  
11 really appreciated that idea. It's not about,  
12 necessarily, jobs. It's about a career, and  
13 something sort of larger and more inspirational.

14           COMMISSIONER MORENO-RIVERA: May I?

15           VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Go ahead.

16           COMMISSIONER MORENO-RIVERA: I really  
17 appreciated the conversation with the formerly  
18 incarcerated folks and, really, that transition.  
19 I know, in some of the conversations that I have  
20 with my colleagues, there's also a conversation  
21 about ableism, and working with folks that have  
22 disabilities, persons with disabilities, and  
23 folks that maybe, perhaps, here on a work visa,  
24 or may not have documentation.

25           So can you speak a little bit about how

1 you engage with other folks that are from -- you  
2 know, that are other underserved populations, and  
3 how that may fit into your apprenticeship  
4 programs?

5 MS. MATTHEWS: I can speak a little bit  
6 to that from a workforce development point. When  
7 we have a participant come through our doors who,  
8 you know, faces any kind of challenge, really,  
9 it's up to our case managers to find those  
10 resources to help solve, you know, whatever  
11 barrier it is that they're up against.

12 So we have relationships with the  
13 Department of Rehab, you know, with DOR. We have  
14 relationships with our local Public Defender's  
15 Office, just a wide variety of community  
16 organizations.

17 So, if we don't have the answer for that  
18 person, if their barrier is something that we  
19 can't solve in-house, we have relationships with  
20 all of our community partners to be able to refer  
21 them out to get the help they need to, you know,  
22 overcome that, and they come back, and we help  
23 them get in.

24 COMMISSIONER MORENO-RIVERA: Thank you.

25 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: First of all, I just

1 want to say thank you, Shrayas, for basically  
2 getting this panel. I loved Ashley when she  
3 said, "I love my work," as a disclosure -- or a  
4 disclaimer -- at the top, and I just want to use  
5 that as a way to just recognize, you know, the  
6 love that you all bring to the work that you all  
7 do, and the transformational work you're doing,  
8 and how important it is for not just the county,  
9 but for California and the world. You know,  
10 you're kind of setting up models that inspire  
11 generations to come. So thank you for all of  
12 your work.

13           So, I mean, it's very hard to follow  
14 Commissioner Monahan, because she asks the  
15 greatest questions than I ever can think of.

16           So it's always difficult to follow her,  
17 but, you know, I kind of wanted to just do kind  
18 of a 30,000-foot-level -- now, you're the real  
19 boots on the ground. You're kind of making this  
20 happen.

21           From your vantage point, you know, to the  
22 understanding that you have on the clean energy  
23 transition -- you know, we have this huge  
24 electric build that we have to do. You know,  
25 once we build it, we have to maintain and

1 commission the power. On the other side, we're  
2 also trying to decarbonize the transportation  
3 sector, whether it be hydrogen or, you know,  
4 electrification of certain cases, or other clean  
5 molecules.

6           From your vantage, do you think we're  
7 going to succeed? And it's not the first time  
8 we're doing this, right? I mean, we have created  
9 these pathways in the past. You know, what's  
10 your level of optimism on where you see things  
11 are, and what's missing?

12           You know, this morning, it was very clear  
13 that, you know, there is a gap in community  
14 engagement and the CBOs. There isn't enough  
15 resources going on to really understand the needs  
16 of the communities, and bring them to the table  
17 for discussion.

18           From your vantage point, as you look  
19 through, what is your optimism, what are you  
20 fears, and how can, you know, we, to the extent  
21 that we have influence, to the extent that we can  
22 facilitate the conversation, move things?

23           MR. TEASDALE: Well, I'll take the  
24 optimistic one, and, I mean, you already heard  
25 this conversation. We had a very lightly

1 attended San Joaquin Valley Electric Vehicle  
2 Partnership meeting this week, and we started  
3 talking about what happened. Back when we  
4 started it, we used to have 40, 45 people at the  
5 meeting.

6           The reason is, it was a brand-new  
7 industry, and they were looking for networking  
8 opportunities to try to create demand, and Ollie  
9 Ganner (phonetic), who is our current chair for  
10 the San Joaquin Valley Electric Vehicle  
11 Partnership, did make the meeting, and we  
12 realized everybody is too busy now, and so it  
13 dawned on me that it's different than in 2012,  
14 2013, when we started that.

15           Everybody that we work with in that  
16 industry is too busy to attend a meeting, and  
17 even the tours we're talking about doing  
18 tomorrow, those folks were like "Yes, you can  
19 come, but just understand we're really busy." So  
20 that gives me optimism, right?

21           VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Right.

22           MR. TEASDALE: Right? I don't know if  
23 we're going to hit all the dates, but I've never  
24 seen the engagement at all levels of stakeholders  
25 better than now. And Linda has taught me most of

1 what I've learned about electric vehicles and the  
2 policy drivers behind it. You know, I'd defer to  
3 you, but I think we're in a better place now than  
4 we were 10 years ago, and so back to that  
5 continuous improvement process. We're at least  
6 trending very drastically in the right direction.

7 MS. MATTHEWS: I'll just chime in real  
8 quick. To your point about, you know, what's  
9 missing, the communication, you know, with the  
10 community members, for me, you know, in my world,  
11 it's really about staff training. You know, what  
12 does my staff -- are they aware of what's coming  
13 up, of what's going to be, you know, coming down  
14 the road, so that they can look at "Okay. What  
15 programs do we need? What programs are we going  
16 to need in the future?"

17 We are the boots on the ground, like you  
18 said, and, you know, we're the ones who are out  
19 in the community talking to our participants,  
20 but, if we're not educated, and we're not funded,  
21 and we're not -- you know, if we don't have the  
22 resources, then, you know, like you said,  
23 everyone is so busy right now. I think that  
24 piece and that education is, you know, a link  
25 there for the communities to -- you know, the

1 programs and the projects and, you know, the  
2 policy.

3 MS. URATA: I'm kind of happy that you're  
4 here, because the San Joaquin Valley is the land  
5 of innovators. We were talking yesterday about  
6 with natural gas, when it came along, and the  
7 trash trucks weren't working with the hydraulic  
8 lifts. Well, they didn't wait for somebody to  
9 repair it. You know, we had an engineer that was  
10 also a fleet manager, and he worked with the  
11 company to, you know, create the hydraulic lift.

12 So I think there's those kind of "boots  
13 on the ground" people out there that are solving  
14 the problems every day. I think that the hardest  
15 thing -- we came back to economics -- is making  
16 that economic case, and I'll give you an example.

17 We used to do -- Project Clean Air used  
18 to do the car-crushing program, and when we  
19 offered a thousand dollars a car, we had no  
20 problem getting cars in, and turning over fleets,  
21 and putting people into vehicles that were  
22 cleaner and worked, and we have now the MSAC  
23 (phonetic) program that's helping with that, for  
24 low-income, but, for the most part, our incentive  
25 programs fill up to the delta.

1           We were working recently with a gas  
2 station, and for them to give up parking spaces  
3 right now to put in charging stations, they would  
4 still make more money to have those parking  
5 stations (sic) funding the people who come to  
6 their market.

7           So, until there's a high enough vehicle  
8 population, you're not going to get the fueling  
9 stations to start putting in charging, which  
10 would then really start putting in the  
11 infrastructure. So I think we have to take a  
12 look at our incentives and say, "Are you really  
13 incentivizing something, or are you just  
14 encouraging?" And so that's one of the areas.

15           Of course, the grid, we're working with  
16 California City, which is, you know, a desert  
17 community on the eastern side of the Sierra, and  
18 they're more interested in putting in a charging  
19 station that has mobile off-grid possibilities,  
20 like the BNEVR (phonetic) grid, with an even  
21 recharge, and yet, if you pull two cars in there  
22 and charge them, it might be another four to six  
23 hours before those batteries in that unit are  
24 full up enough to charge the next car.

25           So I think, you know, until we have

1 worked out some of those -- you know, you'll see  
2 long lines now at EV charging stations where you  
3 have popular stops. So I think there's those  
4 kinds of things that are going to either, you  
5 know, cause anxiety among the people who you want  
6 to buy and drive the vehicles, and so I really  
7 think we need to be addressing the infrastructure  
8 on a more broad basis, and also battery storage  
9 for EV off-grid charging stations.

10           The ag project that I mentioned, he put  
11 in solar in his field, so that he could use solar  
12 to charge his vehicles, like the truck that was a  
13 tender truck. You charge the tender truck, and  
14 it goes out and charges the tractors. But he  
15 has -- you know, he's a large farm, and he could  
16 afford to do that, but, even at that, it took an  
17 extra year for the project, because PG and E had  
18 to come in and drop a transformer.

19           On the Neocar project, it's the same  
20 thing. You can tell people, "You need to contact  
21 your utility, day one," but they think, "No, you  
22 just call them at the end, and they flip a  
23 switch," and then they don't realize there's  
24 other work that has to be done.

25           So I think there's a lot of work that has

1 to be done on that utility and solar  
2 infrastructure side in order for this to actually  
3 start working, not just interstate highways, not  
4 just, you know, community to community, and in an  
5 earlier workshop, we did talk about the Biden  
6 influx of funding for charging, and some of --  
7 the requirement was that 40 percent of the  
8 chargers need to go into disadvantaged  
9 communities, and yet, at the same time, we're  
10 selling disadvantaged, low-income communities the  
11 used cars that can't charge at the high-powered  
12 chargers that are being required.

13           So, you know, it's like, you know, you're  
14 requiring people to -- "Hi, there's a" -- wave as  
15 you drive by or stop through the DAC, and I think  
16 we need to start addressing. You know, we're  
17 back to your theme. We need to be addressing  
18 equity, even on those interstate corridors,  
19 because you don't want to be telling people,  
20 "Well, you can have an electric car, but you have  
21 to stay within 40 miles of your house." So  
22 there's some of those kinds of things that I  
23 really think need to still be addressed.

24           VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Anthony, did you want  
25 to add anything?

1           MR. AUSBIE:  Yes.  So I'd say, from a  
2 slightly different perspective, I'm optimistic  
3 that we're going to be successful with the EV  
4 charging, specifically because, you know, I got  
5 to see where we started, with all of these other  
6 industries.

7           Luckily, I was a part of the beginning of  
8 a lot of them, especially with solar, when I was  
9 an apprentice and holding these huge,  
10 metal-framed, you know, solar panels, way back  
11 then, installing them when, you know, it was  
12 brand new, and we were just building small,  
13 five-megawatt projects.

14           You know, one of the first projects I ran  
15 as a foreman was a 20-megawatt project, and now  
16 we're building thousand-watt projects with highly  
17 efficient panels.  You know, we're currently  
18 building the largest solar panel battery storage  
19 project in the world, with the largest solar  
20 panel battery storage project in the world  
21 underway, right?

22           So I think, with all these other  
23 industries that have been highly successful, I  
24 think they all started here, and I think we'll --  
25 you know, looking at where they've gone from

1 there, I think -- with all of our efforts aligned  
2 in the same direction, I think we'll all be where  
3 we want to be a few years from now.

4           VICE CHAIR GUNDA: I'm looking at  
5 Heather, so I'm guessing we're on time, but I  
6 just want to repeat my thank you to all of you,  
7 and, you know, I hope that this is the beginning  
8 of conversations. I mean, with some of you, we  
9 know already, like, how I feel. Like, I know  
10 Linda from my life, after yesterday's  
11 conversation, but this has been incredible.

12           I think there are elements of equity that  
13 we need to continue to think through, and one of  
14 the points we discussed this morning is basic to  
15 Kern, in the body at community transition, but  
16 also, you know, the oil, oil and gas industry,  
17 and how do we ensure that the transition is  
18 equitable for people who are currently in that  
19 industry, and it's meaningful, without losing,  
20 you know, the amount of money they make today?

21           So I think there are a lot of challenges  
22 that were raised today, and I would like to  
23 continue to discuss those. Thank you so much.

24           MS. RAITT: All right. Thank you.

25           So we do have one question. This is

1 Heather Raitt again. We have one question on  
2 Zoom, and so, if folks in the room have  
3 questions, we have a little bit of time, if you  
4 wanted to write it down or raise your hand, and  
5 we can take that.

6 So I'll read the first one. It's from  
7 Robert Perry from Synergistic Solutions, and he  
8 says:

9 "Great to see the community  
10 colleges serving a central role  
11 in workforce development. Will  
12 there be any effort to develop  
13 basic technical curricula at  
14 high schools, particularly if  
15 there are plans to site  
16 distributed-energy technologies  
17 at school campuses?"

18 I don't know if somebody could take that.

19 MR. TEASDALE: Well, I'm probably the  
20 closest to a high school representative, so I'll  
21 talk about the partnerships. Yes. Kern High  
22 School District just built an \$80,000,000 dollar  
23 technical education high school in South  
24 Bakersfield, and the number of technical  
25 education programs they have been developing has

1 been astronomical. They're aligned with  
2 Bakersfield College. So we have a baccalaureate  
3 in industrial automation at Bakersfield College.

4 We were one of the pilot community  
5 colleges that offer a bachelor's degree. So we  
6 have high schools in the community where they get  
7 their first two years of college done before they  
8 graduate high school, so they can graduate with a  
9 bachelor's degree, without any debt, at 20, that  
10 makes 50, \$60,000, and then six figures in, you  
11 know, three to five years, and there's a lot of  
12 automation, is a big part of energy, with the  
13 micro-grids and the energy management systems and  
14 things like that.

15 You know, Anthony, you work with the high  
16 school district, with those pathways. So, once  
17 again, you know, I'm going to kind of echo what  
18 Linda and Anthony said. Yes, it's being done in  
19 Kern County, and if your county is not doing it,  
20 you can come and talk to us. We can give you  
21 some road maps on how to get there.

22 MS. URATA: And my husband is a high  
23 school science teacher, and so we did talk a  
24 little bit about the solar car curriculum, but  
25 don't underestimate what's going on in your

1 classrooms in the high schools already.

2 I'd say that's where most of it is, in  
3 the math and sciences. There's science pools.  
4 There's other kinds of opportunities for  
5 competitions. You know, there's robotics classes  
6 and clubs and things going on. So don't  
7 underestimate what's already happening in the  
8 high schools. It's just encouraging, and getting  
9 more people engaged.

10 MS. RAITT: All right. Thank you.

11 Thank you for that question, too.

12 We do have one person who would like to  
13 make a comment, Vivian Cao, District Director,  
14 from Senator Shannon Grove's office.

15 MS. CAO: Good afternoon, Chair  
16 Hochschild, Vice Chair Gunda, Commissioners  
17 Monahan, Vaccaro, Noemi, the CEC team, and  
18 esteemed guests. My name is Vivian, and I am  
19 Senator Shannon Grove's District Director.

20 On behalf of Senator Grove, I wanted to  
21 extend a warm welcome to -- literally warm  
22 welcome -- to the Senate's District 16. We thank  
23 you so much for including Kern County into the  
24 three counties you selected to take the  
25 conversations to. I think it's really important.

1           I wanted to especially thank Vice Chair  
2 Gunda for your kind of last comments you made  
3 about including the folks that are currently in  
4 the oil and energy sectors. We're very  
5 energy-rich districts, and, as Anthony, Linda,  
6 and Dave have talked, I mean, we kind of are  
7 ahead of the curve for a lot of these  
8 transitional programs.

9           We're very aware of our youth. We're  
10 very aware of our poverty-stricken populations,  
11 our second-chancers, as Senator Grove likes to  
12 refer to the justice population. You know, we're  
13 aware of a lot of those things, so we're very  
14 happy that you're taking the conversation here,  
15 actively engaging multiple parts of the state to  
16 see what can be done, and I am actually full of a  
17 lot of optimism.

18           I missed the first panel, which is  
19 probably a good thing, but the second panel, in  
20 terms of workforce development and bringing  
21 everybody to the table, has been very pleasant to  
22 watch. It's been a nice, robust conversation.  
23 It's been fair. It's been honest. It's been  
24 transparent.

25           So I appreciate all that, and I don't

1 really have much other to say than thank you so  
2 much for coming here, and I do look forward to  
3 more opportunities to have the communities that  
4 will be affected engage, and I'm sure that  
5 everybody here would like that opportunity as  
6 well. So, thank you.

7 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Pardon me, Heather.

8 I just wanted to extend my thanks to the  
9 Senator's office as well. Thanks for being here  
10 and engaging. Thank you.

11 MS. RAITT: All right. Well, thanks.

12 Well, thank you so much to our panelists  
13 and everybody for participating. I think we will  
14 conclude that, and we'll move on to our next  
15 part. So I really appreciate all that great  
16 input and conversation.

17 So next we're going to -- I'm going  
18 to -- I'd like to introduce Akurty Gupta, and  
19 she'll talk a little bit about our -- we're going  
20 to move into small-group discussion, and I just  
21 wanted to note before that that when -- we're  
22 going to be breaking out in rooms, and I hope  
23 everybody participates, and we will also have a  
24 conversation on Zoom, and we'll keep that  
25 conversation on Zoom. We'll continue to record,

1 but, in the breakout rooms, they won't be  
2 recording, so just wanted to let you know.  
3 Thanks.

4 MS. GUPTA: Hi, everyone. My name is  
5 Akurty Gupta. Thank you all for an incredible  
6 conversation, and it's been great to learn from  
7 you all. As Heather mentioned, we'll be moving  
8 into small-group discussions now, so Dorothy  
9 Murimi will be facilitating the discussions with  
10 participants that are online, using the Jamboard.

11 So, folks that are online, please go into  
12 those sessions with Dorothy, and then, for those  
13 in the room, it does seem like we may be able to  
14 do this with one group, so we'll be staying in  
15 this room here, and probably focusing in the  
16 back. So we'll break out now into those  
17 sessions, and, hopefully, have a chance to  
18 discuss some questions that we have, and build  
19 some connections with the community. Thank you.

20 (Off the record at 2:59.)

21 (On the record at 3:51.)

22 MS. RAITT: Okay. All right. So we'll  
23 get started again. We'll reconvene after this  
24 great discussion time, and so, Dorothy, are you  
25 there? Is your group wrapped up?

1 MS. MURIMI: Yes, we are wrapped up.

2 MS. RAITT: Super. All right.

3 So, welcome back. So now I think we're  
4 going to get to hear some reporting out from the  
5 discussions.

6 So, Akurty Gupta, if you could come back  
7 up here and share with us what you all talked  
8 about? Thanks.

9 MS. GUPTA: Yes, absolutely.

10 Hi again. My name is Akurty Gupta. Our  
11 group had a pretty lengthy discussion on a few  
12 questions, so I'll try to summarize what we  
13 talked about. The first was mainly to talk about  
14 what terminology would be appropriate to use in  
15 our equity framework, equity and environmental  
16 justice framework.

17 There was a lot of discussion, and  
18 introduction of a new term that we had yet to  
19 hear, which was "disinvested communities," and so  
20 the discussion that the group had was, the reason  
21 this might be a preferred term is because it  
22 brings the accountability piece back in, and kind  
23 of using it as a way to describe communities in a  
24 more asset-based way, as opposed to simple just  
25 "disadvantaged."

1           So there was a lengthy discussion on  
2 that, but that's essentially the summary, and  
3 also that terminology won't be able to cover all  
4 the groups, and we may need to be using a broader  
5 term, but then clearly define who this framework  
6 is focused on.

7           So that was on terminology, and the  
8 second and final question we discussed was mainly  
9 around the equity indicators work, and whether it  
10 would be useful to communities and  
11 community-based organizations, and the  
12 overwhelming answer was yes.

13           There was a lot of discussion about what  
14 exists, and then, also, what may be missing, so,  
15 on the energy indicator side, being able to  
16 provide information about the location of  
17 fossil-based plants, being able to have  
18 information be turned into action by  
19 community-based organizations, so getting them  
20 the information would be useful, and generally  
21 trying to understand and align all the data and  
22 data tools that we have available, and make sure  
23 that we're filling in the gaps.

24           So those were kind of the main pieces  
25 that we took away, but it was a great

1 conversation.

2 MS. RAITT: Okay. Great. Thank you for  
3 that summary, and thank you for sharing that.

4 So, Dorothy, can you tell us a little bit  
5 about what you all did in your breakout?

6 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Heather. I want  
7 to share my screen, here. We were really  
8 ambitious, trying to tackle a lot of these  
9 questions. I'll highlight just the first few  
10 slides of responses.

11 So, for what resonated with folks during  
12 the panel, it was more understanding generational  
13 traumas, and farm communities have experience.  
14 Because these policies affect all Californians,  
15 we shouldn't lose our focus on that in our work.

16 Next up is, what does "economic equity"  
17 mean to us? And it was asked as to opportunity,  
18 economic or other, a resource, really, and that's  
19 been marginalized populations, and a look at fair  
20 impact of costs, and making sure there's access  
21 to those resources now and in the future.

22 Then just one more I'm going to mention  
23 is this portion on workforce development.

24 Actually, let me help right here for the  
25 terminologies that should be used. This has been

1 mentioned before, but it really stuck out to me  
2 in the end. What priorities are we referring to,  
3 and who is setting those priorities?

4 I thought that was really important to  
5 mention because, even as these are being  
6 mentioned by folks, people in the room, and  
7 everyone here, really had problems with the  
8 conversation on setting that priority. Members  
9 of those communities are key in setting that  
10 priority.

11 So, without taking too much time, I  
12 wanted to highlight those. Thanks, Heather.

13 MS. RAITT: Thanks, Dorothy.

14 So, Commissioners, unless you had  
15 something else you wanted to talk about, we'll  
16 move to public comments.

17 Go ahead.

18 MS. MONAHAN: I wanted to thank the folks  
19 that participated in the breakouts, and I love  
20 the idea of trying new things in IEPR workshops,  
21 and engaging everybody, because I think we all  
22 get tired of hearing panels, and we all have  
23 things to say and to contribute. So just thanks  
24 for doing that.

25 Also, I would say that this question

1 about what to call communities, I feel -- I  
2 wrestle with that all the time. "Disadvantaged  
3 communities" just feels so pejorative in some  
4 way. "Priority communities" is too broad, and we  
5 struggle with what the definition is, and then  
6 how to hold ourselves accountable.

7           Like, we can't hold ourselves accountable  
8 if we can't define it, which is why we've settled  
9 on definitions that are in statute and legal,  
10 while we recognize that they're not fully  
11 representative of how we want to be supporting  
12 the diverse communities that are California.

13           So I just wanted to say that that is  
14 something I personally have struggled with, and I  
15 hear in the comments that others, too, are giving  
16 us advice around that. Thanks, Heather.

17           MS. RAITT: Thanks, Commissioner.

18           All right. So we will move on to the  
19 public comment period, so this is an opportunity  
20 to -- we'll allow three minutes per person, one  
21 person per organization, please -- to make  
22 comments.

23           So, if you're online on Zoom, press the  
24 "Raise Hand" icon to let us know that you'd like  
25 to make a comment, and I don't think we have

1 anyone on the phone, but, if you are, press star,  
2 nine, and that will let us know you want to make  
3 a comment.

4           If you're in the room, go ahead and raise  
5 your hand, and you can just come up to the  
6 podium, and you're welcome. We'd love to hear  
7 any comments you have.

8           If you could just please say your name  
9 and spell it for the record, and give us your  
10 affiliation.

11           MS. DE LA ROSA: Emma De La Rosa,  
12 E-M-M-A, De La Rosa, D-E, space, L-A, space,  
13 R-O-S-A. I'm the Regional Policy Manager with  
14 Leadership Counsel.

15           So I just wanted to say thank you for  
16 being here. We really appreciate your  
17 willingness to collaborate with all of us, and to  
18 hear our comments and our concerns. You know,  
19 when I think about energy, let's say, before I  
20 actually started this job, I probably wouldn't be  
21 able to say more than just gas and light, right?

22           I would be able to tell you that my mom  
23 would struggle with being able to pay bills,  
24 having to pay for gas, maybe not wanting to take  
25 me to after-school activities when I was younger

1 because she didn't want to waste so much gas. So  
2 those are all, like, things that are real  
3 problems for community members.

4 I think, when we start being in these  
5 spaces, we often forget, and I really hope that,  
6 with us working together, we can ensure that all  
7 of those concerns are addressed, or at least on  
8 paper, so we can make sure to visit them as we go  
9 on through the planning, and, yes, I think -- I  
10 feel like I have so much more to say, that it's  
11 just -- workforce development, it's just so  
12 difficult.

13 Community members here have to sacrifice  
14 their health, right, or their livelihood for the  
15 jobs that we currently have here in Kern. It's  
16 either ag, right, where they're exposed to  
17 pesticides every day. They bring pesticides to  
18 their home. The water is contaminated, or it's  
19 oil.

20 Earlier there was a comment about the  
21 trauma, trauma-informed care, and when I spoke to  
22 one of the residents who works in the oil fields,  
23 he shared that there's a lot of drug use because  
24 they have to work extremely long hours, because  
25 that's the only way to make money, and so we have

1 to think about all of those things as we move  
2 forward with the new economic development.

3 I also would like to mention that we do  
4 have multiple prisons that are around our  
5 community, and really want to push against any  
6 type of economic development that includes the  
7 prisons, but also recognizing that we do have to  
8 think about how prisons being so close to us has  
9 impacted our communities, and how it impacts your  
10 ability to be able to work, right, and making  
11 sure that we are providing that trauma-informed  
12 care and behavioral health services. So, yes.  
13 Thank you.

14 MS. RAITT: Thank you.

15 Is there anybody else in the room who  
16 would like to make comments? Okay. An if anyone  
17 on Zoom would like to make a comment, again, just  
18 press that "Raise Hand" icon, and if you do, then  
19 we will open up your line. I'll give it another  
20 moment, here. All right. I'm not seeing any  
21 hands up, so I think we can conclude the public  
22 comment period.

23 So, before we go to closing remarks,  
24 Raquel, if you could advance the slide.

25 I just wanted to remind everybody that we

1 do have a couple workshops coming up, and the  
2 next one -- we have our third and final  
3 installment -- not final, but for this year. We  
4 plan to do much more, but, for this year, the  
5 last one on equity is on August 31st, and that  
6 will be in the Oxnard area. So, welcome,  
7 everybody, to join there.

8           So, with that, I will just pass it back  
9 to the Commissioners. Thank you.

10 \*\*           VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yes. Just, you know,  
11 in closing, you know, it's been an awesome day,  
12 another wonderfully done regional workshop, and  
13 we thank you, Katrina, Denise, and Raquel. Thank  
14 you so much for everything, and rest of our IEPR  
15 team.

16           I just wanted to say, you know, the  
17 discussion both this morning, in panel one, and  
18 panel two, today's afternoon, really drives home  
19 the importance of collaboration, the  
20 partnerships, the resources needed to advance the  
21 solutions.

22           I think some of the messages are coming  
23 very, very clear for us, to be able to develop  
24 the record and put in recommendations. So I'm  
25 just grateful for everybody who showed up. Thank

1 you for your time. Thanks to all the panelists  
2 today. So we are looking forward to the  
3 continued engagement. I feel like I made a lot  
4 of new friends and colleagues.

5 I don't know, Patty, if you want to say  
6 anything.

7 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, the IEPR  
8 team does do a crack job, from going from Zoom to  
9 in person to this hybrid, and it's hard to do  
10 that, so just thanks. You guys are amazing.

11 Thanks to everybody who joined, our  
12 participants, the panelists.

13 Emma, I want to thank you for your  
14 heart-felt comments, and just -- I think I speak  
15 for Vice Chair Gunda and the other Commissioners  
16 that we want to do a better job on equity.

17 The gap between the rich and poor is  
18 widening. There are real problems, some  
19 exacerbated by climate change, including  
20 wildfires that the state is wrestling with, and  
21 we want to do all we can as an Energy Commission  
22 to make sure that we are really creating an  
23 energy system that works for everybody, and I  
24 think it's especially people like Emma's mom who  
25 are struggling to make their utility bills.

1 Those are the problems that people face on a real  
2 day-to-day basis, that we need to do a better job  
3 of supporting.

4 That's all. Thank you.

5 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: I see Commissioner  
6 Vaccaro online. Commissioner Vaccaro, did you  
7 want to make any comment?

8 COMMISSIONER VACCARO: Thank you. It's  
9 so very hard for me to talk, so I think I'll keep  
10 this very brief.

11 I just thank Commissioner Monahan, Mr.  
12 Gunda, for your leadership today. It's a really  
13 important discussion, so many important  
14 perspectives, just a lot of recognition and  
15 appreciation to the panelists for this very  
16 important work that they do.

17 I feel that a lot of knowledge gaps, for  
18 me, were filled today, and, as you said,  
19 Commissioner Monahan, this is an area where we  
20 all want to do better at the Energy Commission.  
21 I think today's forum provided a lot of good  
22 information for us to take back and to think  
23 about as we implement our programs.

24 So thank you so much.

25 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Did you want to say

1 anything, Noemi?

2 MS. GALLARDO: Yes. So just a quick  
3 comment. As Public Advisor at the Energy  
4 Commission, my main responsibility is to ensure  
5 meaningful participation of the public in all of  
6 our proceedings, and we felt that today. We  
7 experienced it today.

8 So I want to thank you all, both through  
9 Zoom and in person, for opening your home here in  
10 the Central Valley, San Joaquin Valley, and also  
11 opening your hearts and minds to, you know,  
12 sharing, and also learning, you know, from our  
13 Commissioners.

14 I think, you know, questions can be as  
15 impactful as responses, and so receive everything  
16 you have given to us with so much gratitude. I  
17 just want to emphasize that. So thank you so  
18 much.

19 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you all again,  
20 and, thank you to the community college here for  
21 hosting us. It's been wonderful. Thanks, and  
22 we'll see you again, and continue the  
23 conversation.

24 We can adjourn for the day. Thank you.

25 (The workshop was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.)

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I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 7th day of December, 2022.



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MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT\*\*367

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MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT\*\*367

December 7, 2022