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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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MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

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MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

December 7, 2022