



2019 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY

Confronting a Future at Risk

McGeorge School of Law

February 23, 2019

8:00 AM **REGISTRATION OPENS & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

9:00 AM **WELCOME – Main Hall**

Howard Penn, Executive Director, Planning & Conservation League

Graham Brownstein, Chairman, Planning & Conservation League

John Kirlin, Distinguished Professor of Public Policy, McGeorge School of Law

OPENING PLENARY SESSION (*Main Hall*): Looking Forward - City by City

The Mayor of San Jose, Sam Liccardo, will share his experience in leading San Jose to become a leader in sustainability in the opening session. San Jose has implemented many environmental initiatives such as reducing urban sprawl and funding public transit programs. In his speech, Mayor Liccardo will share how local governments can become leaders of the green and sustainable movement.

Speaker - Mayor Sam Liccardo (Invited)

9:45 AM **NETWORKING BREAK**

10:00 AM **MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

WATER TRACK

Water Plan 2.0: The Big Drivers for California's Water Future

As Yogi Berra said, “The future ain’t what it used to be.” You will hear the latest from leading experts on the three big issues that will drive California water management: Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act is revealing the hard choices those water users are facing. Updating the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan will affect virtually all water users in the State. And climate change is already beginning to be factored in some water agencies’ actions.

Moderator - [Jonas Minton](#), Senior Water Policy Advisor, Planning and Conservation League

Panelists

[Felicia Marcus](#), Chair, State Water Resources Control Board

[Dave Eggerton](#), Executive Director, Association of California Water Agencies (Invited)

[Aura Vasquez](#), Commissioner, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

POLICY TRACK

Redevelopment 2.0: Rebuilding a Good Idea

The dissolution of California Redevelopment Agencies in 2012 has left a void in affordable housing and community development resources. Despite successes in the creation of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities cap-and-trade program, Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts and other funding mechanisms, has never been adequately filled, and there is renewed interest in reinstating a new development program at the State. Redevelopment had great achievements, but it also had many problems that led to its demise. This discussion will focus on the potential solutions to those problems to promote the kinds of development we truly need in California, and the current approaches emerging from the legislature to do so.

Moderator - TBD

Panelists

[John Shirey](#), Senior Adviser, Hermocillo - Azevedo Strategic Communications LLC

LEGAL TRACK

CEQA 2.0: Goals and Progress

The session will begin with a description of PCL's statewide project known as "CEQA 2.0". The project is pursuing an expansive update to the California Environmental Quality Act to achieve greater clarity, efficiencies and predictability in application of the law. The working group consists of CEQA legal experts from around the state whose daily legal practices represent a wide range of stakeholders, including developer, lead agency, petitioner and environmental justice interests. The group is meeting on a monthly basis and has been examining a number of important and highly controversial topics dealing with the discretionary project approval process before lead agencies; litigation streamlining and early resolution; and select public policy issues of statewide importance, including GHG mitigation and the environment's impact on a project (sometimes referred to as "Reverse CEQA"). Following the "CEQA 2.0" presentation, experts will lead a group discussion on 1) GHG mitigation, including carbon credits; and 2) the environment's impact on a project, with particular attention to wildfire and other natural disaster impacts.

Moderator - [Kevin Johnson](#), Attorney, Kevin Johnson APCL

Panelists

[Clark Morrison](#), Partner, Cox Castle & Nicholson

[Ellison Folk](#), Partner, Shute Mihaly & Weinberger LLP

[Roger Lin](#), Clinical Supervising Attorney, Environmental Law Clinic UC Berkeley

11:15 AM

NETWORKING BREAK

11:45 AM

LUNCH SESSION (*Main Hall*): Preserving California's Environmental Values

Attorney General Becerra will speak on the most pressing question for California: how can we protect California's environmental values in an unpredictable environment. The Attorney General's office has taken numerous actions to preserve California's environmental policies such as protecting the Clean Power Plan and stopping California's coast from being exposed to offshore drilling. Attorney General Becerra will share the lessons learned from his experience in taking care of California and its environment and offer his predictions for the future.

Speaker - Attorney General Xavier Becerra (Invited)

12:45 PM

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

WATER TRACK

Land Use and the Sustainability of California's Future Water Supplies

Experts expect more intense cycles of drought and flooding to be an ever-increasing occurrence in the future. It is critical that we capture and bank storm water and floodwater during wet years to make it available during periods of drought. The cheapest, most readily available option is groundwater recharge and storage. This panel will provide an overview of the opportunities and the infrastructure and policy options.

Moderator - [Judy Corbett](#), Board Member, Planning and Conservation League

Panelists

[Julia Lave Johnston](#), Sustainability Program Manager, Institute for Local Government

[Graham Fogg](#), Professor, Department of Land, Air & Water Resources UC Davis

[Thomas Esqueda](#), Vice Chancellor, Fresno State University

POLICY TRACK

How will New Technologies Affect Our Transportation and Land Use Planning? Incentivizing the Future We Want!

The future of transportation is at a cross-roads and nobody knows where it's going. Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), autonomous vehicles, and shared mobility technologies are changing everything. The question of whether these new technologies will reduce or increase the amount of cars on the road will greatly depend on the policies we use to guide them.

This conversation will focus not only on the future of transportation, but also how improved Land Use policy will be essential to ensure the future of mobility will be employed in a way that meets our climate, environmental and equity goals.

Moderator - TBD

Panelists

[James Corless](#), Executive Director, Sacramento Area Council of Governments (Invited)

[Alberto Ayala](#), Executive Director, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Invited)

[Lilly Shoup](#), Senior Director of Transportation Policy, Lyft (Invited)

[Ryan J. Westrom](#), Professional Transportation Planner, Ford Motor Company (Invited)

LEGAL TRACK

Prioritization of Topics for CEQA 2.0 Update

The afternoon session will be conducted in a workshop format and will focus on primary CEQA issues submitted by participants. Both a questionnaire and input from the morning session will drive the discussion on both procedural and policy issues relating to EIR scoping and preparation, public hearings through the project approval vote, and the litigation process. PCL's goal is to coordinate as much broad input as possible to have "CEQA 2.0" legislation ready to go to by January 2020. Come join us and be part of an important statewide effort to make CEQA as effective as possible in helping elected representatives make informed decisions about many of California's most pressing environmental challenges.

Moderator – [Terry Watt](#), Planner, Committee for Green Foothills

Panelists

[Andrea Ruiz-Esquide](#), Esq.

[Doug Carstens](#), Managing Partner, Chatten-Brown & Carstens

[Rick Frank](#), Professor, UC Davis School of Law (Invited)

2:00 PM

NETWORKING BREAK

2:30 PM

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION (*Main Hall*): Looking Towards the Future

The final key session of the day will feature science fiction author, Dr. Kim Stanley Robinson speaking about the various possibilities for the future of the planet. Dr. Robinson is famous for his novels on terraforming Mars and will share his insights on how we can avoid a potential environmental disaster on Earth. He will be joined by CivicSpark fellows, youth participants from an AmeriCorps program, who will share their own big picture ideas on how to solve pressing environmental challenges for the future.

Speakers - Dr. Kim Stanley Robinson, Author, CivicSpark Fellows (Invited)

4:00 PM

RECEPTION & HAPPY HOUR