

2022 Solar Valley Conference biographies

Matt Barth

Dr. Barth joined the University of California-Riverside in 1991, conducting research in Electrical Engineering and at the Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT), where he is currently Director and the Yeager Families Chair. Professor Barth's research focuses on applying engineering system concepts and automation technology to Transportation Systems, and in particular how it relates to energy and air quality issues. His current research interests include Intelligent Transportation Systems, Vehicle Activity Analysis, Transportation/ Emissions Modeling, Electric Vehicle Technology, and Advanced Sensing and Control. Professor Barth is active in the U.S. Transportation Research Board currently serving on the Transportation and Air Quality Committee and the Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee. He has also served on a number of National Research Council (NRC) committees. Professor Barth has also been very active within IEEE Intelligent Transportation System Society for many years, participating in their conferences as a presenter, invited session organizer, session moderator, program chair, associate editor of the Transactions of ITS, and member of the IEEE ITSS Board of Governors. He was the IEEE ITSS Vice President for Conferences from 2011-2012, President-Elect for 2013, President for 2014-2015, and Past-President for 2016. He recently received the IEEE ITSS Outstanding Research Award



Ronald O. Loveridge

Ronald O. Loveridge is a long time professor of political science at UC Riverside, is Co-Chair of the Solar Valley Consortium, and is a former local elected official, with 19 years as Mayor of Riverside and 14 years as a Council member. He was President of the League of California Cities (2004) and President of the National League of Cities (2010). He is currently on the Board of the National Civic League Board and a Fellow in the National Academy of Public Administration. He is Vice President of the Ontario International Airport Authority, President of the Friends of the California Citrus Park, President of the Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California, Board of Directors of the Coalition for Clean Air, Board of Directors of Riverside's International Relations Council, and member

of two local leadership groups—Raincross and Monday Morning. Dr. Loveridge completed his BA from the University of Pacific (1960) and his PhD from Stanford University (1965)."



Siva Gunda

Siva Gunda is Vice Chair of the California Energy Commission. Appointed as a Commissioner in February 2021, he was elevated to Vice Chair in September 2021 and is the lead Commissioner on Energy Assessments. He previously served as Manager of the Demand Analysis Office and as Deputy Director of the Energy Commissions Energy Assessments Division. Before joining the Energy Commission he served in various positions at the Energy Institute at UC Davis, including director of research. He holds a Master of Science in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering from Utah State University, and is pursuing a PH.D. in Mechanical Engineering from UC Davis.



V. John White

Next I am pleased to introduce our good friend and colleague V. John White as Moderator of our Net Energy Metering panel. John is the co-founder of the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT) and he is the Legislative Director of the Clean Power Campaign. Over his lengthy career he has been involved in developing legislation and innovative regulatory programs focused on air quality, renewable energy resources, and the mitigation of global warming. John's efforts have resulted in billions of dollars of investment in California, funding for fuel cells, transportation technologies and the retrofitting and retirement of old polluting school buses. John currently serves on three Boards of Directors, and several steering committees. We're very grateful for his participation and support, and are always interested in hearing what he has to say.

**Rick Umoff**

Rick Umoff is Senior Director and Counsel, California, at the Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA) where he leads the industry's efforts to grow solar markets in California. In this role, Rick manages SEIA's legislative and regulatory initiatives representing all major solar segments in the state. In addition, over the last several years Rick has led SEIA's efforts to ensure solar plays a central role in federal carbon regulations established by the EPA. Previously, Rick worked at 3Degrees, The Center for Resource Solutions, and the CPUC. Given this most stellar background Solar Valley is extremely pleased to have Rick as a panelist on the Net Energy Metering panel.



Bernadette Del Chiaro

Bernadette Del Chiaro is Executive Director of the California Solar and Storage Association, and has responsibly led the solar rooftop industry's pushback against the CPUC's proposed new Net Energy Metering policies. A California native, Bernadette graduated from UC Berkeley in 1995. She came on with the California Solar & Storage Association in July 2013 and has built the organization into the largest clean energy business group in the state. Prior to her work with CALSSA, she served as the Director of Clean Energy and Global Warming Programs at Environment California as well as the Western States Regional Director for Environment America. As a result she is in a unique position to discuss the impacts of California's proposed NEM 3 policies. Please welcome Bernadette Del Chiaro.



Jaime Alonso

Next up is Jaime Alonso. In August of 2019 Jaime became Executive Director of Grid Alternatives Inland Empire region. Originally from the Coachella Valley, Jaime recognized early on that access to adequate housing, safe drinking water, and reliable clean energy sources were keys to a happy healthy prosperous life in the counties. After graduating from UCLA in 2005, he worked in collaboration with faith communities to expand and improve green space in the City of Coachella. In 2009 Jaime graduated with honors from Brooklyn Law School, followed by a career as a legal and policy professional in Washington, DC. As Executive Director of Grid Alternatives Inland Empire, he brings a breadth and depth of knowledge of the region from personal experience and from maintaining deep contacts in the community. He looks to positively transform the lives of residents and communities by providing Low income families with access to clean renewable solar energy and to help workers enter the solar industry. Please welcome Jaime.

**Dr. Alfredo Martinez-Morales**

Dr. Alfredo Martinez-Morales is the Managing Director of the Southern California Research Initiative for Solar Energy (SC-RISE), Research Professor at the Bourns College of Engineering Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT), and along with Dr. Loveridge he is Co-Chair of the Solar Valley Consortium. Alfredo received his Ph.D., M.S. and B.S. degrees in electrical engineering from UCR. His current research includes solar cells, alkali metal-ion batteries, highly integrated renewables, energy storage systems, and micro grids. Dr. Martinez-Morales is a principal investigator in the Sustainable Integrated Grid Initiative (SIGI) at UCR, and has contributed to the engineering, permitting, and deployment of the SIGI smart grid test bed system and multiple microgrids including with Tribes throughout Southern California.

**Ed Smeloff**

Ed Smeloff, recently retired, was Vote Solar's Director of Grid Integration, where he worked to transform the electric power system to be cleaner, smarter, and more resilient by integrating solar power and other clean energy resources at all scales from rooftop to utility. He is currently consulting with the California Large-Scale Solar Association and with GridLab, a non-profit energy policy think tank, on the Integrated Resource Planning and Resource Adequacy proceedings at the CPUC.

Previously Ed worked with SunPower, Sharp Electronics, as Assistant General Manager for electricity at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and as executive director of the Pace Law School Energy Project. He also served for 10 years as an elected Board Member of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. He is author of *Reinventing Electric Utilities: Competition, Citizen Action, and Clean Power*. Ed holds a B.A. from UC Davis, and a Masters of Public Administration from USC.



Tom Soto

Tom is a two-time appointee of President Clinton, was the Team Lead for The Executive Office of the President's Transition Team for the White House Council on Environmental Quality for former President Barack Obama, and is a founding member of the Executive Council for Biden for Clean Energy. He was born and raised in East L.A., and both his parents served as Assembly Members in the California State Legislature. He is former Chairman and longtime board member of the New America Alliance, the national Latino business initiative seeking to increase access to capital for diverse fund managers and business leaders, founder and Vice Chair of the LA Clean Tech Incubator and Trustee of the California Science Center, and is on the Board of Lamplighter Energy and is a founder and Managing Partner of Diverse Communities Impact Fund. Tom has also served as Managing Director of TCW Alternatives where he grew the fund to \$10.3b, he is a senior advisor to Trndsttrs Media the country's leading Gen Z social media platform, and to Camino Financial which is democratizing access to capital to under resourced low income and diverse communities.

**Suzanne Leta**

With 17 years in renewable energy, Suzanne is an industry leader in solar power. At SunPower she directs the market policy and strategy team Policy and Strategy, one of the oldest and most highly regarded solar companies in the US. In 2021 she was elected to the executive committee of the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) Board of Directors, where she contributed to SEIA's solar vision for the Biden Administration. This agenda includes extension of the Investment Tax Credit for individuals and corporations, developing a diverse workforce, and increasing low income access to distributed solar and storage. She is also working with SEIA to reduce permitting costs through the use of DOE's SolarAPP+, to advance building codes that include solar and storage, and to adopt a clean electricity standard that includes clean distributed generation. She also serves on leadership and policy councils for the American Council on Renewable Energy, Advanced Energy Economy, Local Solar for All and SolarAPP.



Terang Kim is currently a Principal Manager in Strategic Planning at Edison International. He holds an MBA in Energy and Strategy from the UCLA Anderson School of Management, where he was actively involved in Energy & Utilities, Clean Technologies and Environmental Sustainability. Before his current role, he was Senior Project Manager in Strategic Planning at Southern California Edison, working on a variety of projects related to Clean Energy, Distributed Generation and Utility Strategy. Prior to that, he worked in various Infrastructure, Energy and Technology projects as a Consultant at The Boston Consulting Group in Seoul, Korea. His pre-MBA experience focused on Project Management and Engineering Consulting.



Eduardo Garcia

Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia proudly represents California's 56th Assembly District, including cities and unincorporated communities in eastern Riverside County and Imperial County. Elected in 2014, he's the current chair of the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee. In this key role he oversees some of the state's most pressing issues. He also serves on the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee. In March 2015 he was

appointed to chair the Select Committee on Renewable Energy Development and Restoration of the Salton Sea. Mr. Garcia is a 2003 alumnus of UC Riverside. He also completed the "Senior Executives in State and Local Government" program from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and earned a Master's Degree from the University of Southern California. He was first elected to the Coachella City Council in November 2004 and two years later, at the age of 29, became the City of Coachella's first elected Mayor. Eduardo is a proud father, husband and life-long resident of the Coachella Valley.



Mark Specht

Mark Specht is the Western States Energy Manager/Senior Analyst for the Climate & Energy program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. In his role, he leads research and advocacy efforts in California and other Western states to advance the transition to a less polluting and less carbon-intensive energy system. Prior to joining UCS, Mr. Specht was an energy analyst for Ascend Analytics. He earned a bachelor's degree in integrated science and science in human culture from Northwestern University, and a master's degree in philosophy from the University of Otago.



Todd Foley



Todd Foley, ACORE's ex Vice President of Policy and Government Relations, currently operates Eagle Energy Ventures, a global consultancy focused on the deployment of clean energy sources at scale. He has over 30 years experience in Federal and State legislation and policy, renewable energy market design, business development and sales. He has directed US environmental, government and regulatory affairs, global and US policy, communications, and business development for a global TIER 1 energy corporation. He has also served in several US government positions, including the White House, US Senate, US EPA, and OSHA. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Solar Energy Industries Association, the Solar Alliance, Solar Electric Power Association, and the Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association. He received his B.S. from Boston College and legal degree from the Washington College of Law at American University.

Fred Schwartz

Fred Schwartz is Director of the Solar Valley Consortium at UCR. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change at York University, and is Executive Director of York's International Renewable Energy Academy. He is Senior Advisor and a Board Member of Lamplighter Energy, has worked in the field of renewable energy since the late 1970's, and has received energy related awards from the President of the United States, US EPA, and the United Nations. He has co-managed programs with the CEC, and was Manager of Renewables and Advanced Generation for the City of San Francisco in the early 2000s.



Paul Cook

With a military career spanning 26 years, and that included two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star Medal with a V for Valor, Paul retired from the Marines as a Colonel in 1992. In 2012 Col. Cook (RET) was elected to serve in the US House of Representatives for California's 8th Congressional District that includes high desert communities of San Bernardino County as well as Inyo, and Mono Counties. Prior to this he represented the 65th Assembly District for six years in the California State Legislature. In 2020 he was elected to represent the First District of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors.



V. Manuel Perez

"Victor Manuel Perez, was appointed in 2017 to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, representing the County's Fourth District. Back in 2008, he was elected to the California State Assembly, representing eastern Riverside County and Imperial County. Entering office during the great recession, he worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle and the Governor's Office to focus on fiscal accountability, health care reform, renewable energy growth and job creation legislation.

A champion for eastern Riverside County, Manuel had more than 60 pieces of legislation signed into law to help create jobs, jumpstart the local renewable energy industry and make neighborhoods safer. His legislation focused on jobs, economic development, small business, education, health care access, infrastructure, renewable energy, transportation, air quality, environment, public safety, parks, technology, agriculture, water and the Salton Sea. In the Assembly, Manuel became majority leader and worked closely with the Assembly Speaker on the day-to-day functions of the statehouse. After serving three terms in the State Assembly, Manuel continued his public service with election to the Coachella City Council.

**Devon Muto**

Devon Muto is a Senior Director of Development responsible for overseeing the development on EDF's utility scale solar and storage projects in their west region with a particular focus on California and Nevada. Since Mr. Muto joined EDF Renewables in 2018, the company has completed over 1 GW of projects in California including its Valentine and Big Beau Solar Projects in Kern County and the Desert Harvest and Palen Solar Projects in Riverside County. Mr. Muto and his team have several other projects in the works for the area including its 450 MW Desert Quartzite project in eastern Riverside County that is beginning construction this year. Prior to joining EDF Renewables, Mr. Muto's career covered several roles in the field of planning and environmental policy including Chief of Advance Planning for the County of San Diego, San Diego Branch Manager for ICF, and project manager for planning and environmental services on several large scale utility contracts and public projects.

**Marisa Mitchell**

Marisa leads land-use planning, community engagement, and environmental policy for Intersect Power. Marisa has worked on renewables since 2006 with a focus on minimizing environmental impacts and maximizing environmental enhancements. She has a wealth of experience with development, from site selection through construction. She is also conversant with environmental laws and policies and maintains close relations with key regulators. Marisa served on the Avian Solar Working Group and was appointed in 2017 to the US Department of the Interior's Royalty Policy Committee. She holds an MBA from the Haas School of Business, an MA in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz, and a BS in Environmental Science from UC Berkeley. She is also a part time summer lecturer in Corporate Finance at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business.



Casey Dailey

Casey Dailey serves as Director of Energy and Environmental Programs for the Western Riverside Council of Governments. In this capacity, he oversees a number of regional and statewide programs that serve the public sector, residential and business communities to reduce energy consumption, greenhouse gases and landfill waste, as well as to increase the use of alternative fueled vehicles and spark economic development through sustainable initiatives. Casey oversees the California HERO Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program as well as multiple residential and commercial PACE programs that provide competitive financing for energy efficient, renewable energy, water conservation and seismic improvements to homes and businesses which are repaid as an assessment on the property tax bill. Other programs that Casey is responsible for include: Western Riverside Energy Partnership, Regional Streetlights Program, Solid Waste & Used Motor Oil Programs and the Clean Cities Coalition. Casey has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from California State University, San Bernardino and enjoys traveling, live music, camping and golfing.

