

Biographies of Panelists and Speakers at the 14th Annual California Bioresources Alliance Symposium

Bios

Workshop

Errol Villegas is a Permit Services Manager (Central Region) for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and has been with the agency for over 21 years. In his current position, he helps manage the Air District's permitting program, which is responsible for the issuance of Authority to Construct (ATC) permits and Permits to Operate (PTOs) for all stationary sources (including Landfills, Biomass facilities, Composting Operations, and other organics management operations) within the eight county jurisdiction of the District. Prior to his position as a Permits Manager, he was the Planning Manager responsible for developing regulations such as District Rule 4566 (Organic Material Composting Operations) and developing the Air District's long-term air quality strategies to attain the federal ambient air quality standards.

Paulina Lawrence has worked at CalRecycle for 18 years serving in the Environmental Education Office, Local Assistance Market Development Branch, and the Waste Evaluation and Enforcement Branch. Currently she is Chief of the Permitting and Assistance Branch. She brings a diverse background working with stakeholders, local governments, facility operators, and state agencies on environmental issues.

Greg Reyes has been the Supervisor of the Solid Waste program for Riverside County for 9 years. He has worked in environmental health for a total of 22 year with experiences in a number of program areas.

Tim Goncharoff is a well-known innovator in the field of waste reduction and environmental protection. The creator of numerous groundbreaking programs and ordinances, Tim's work has inspired imitators around California and across the country, and prompted the creation of several new statewide laws.

Bill Prinz has been in the environmental health profession since 1984 and is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist. He began his career in Riverside County then migrated to San Diego in 1998 and is currently the Program Manager for the City of San Diego Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency (LEA). The LEA's responsibilities include the permitting, inspection and enforcement of state regulations at landfills, composting facilities, transfer /processing stations, MRFs, waste haulers and closed disposal sites within San Diego's jurisdiction. He is an associate member of the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health - Solid Waste Policy Committee. This organization works with Cal Recycle to assure that public health, safety and the environment are considered in making statewide solid waste policy.

Nora Goldstein is Editor of *BioCycle*, the Organics Recycling Authority (www.biocycle.net). *BioCycle* is in its 60th year of publishing, and in January 2020 is transitioning to a digital only platform with the launch of BioCycle CONNECT. Nora has authored numerous articles on all facets of zero waste, food recovery and recycling, composting and anaerobic digestion. She

received the US Composting Council's Hi Kellogg Award for Outstanding Service to the Composting Industry, and the American Biogas Council's Biogas Visionary Award.

Robert Busby is a Supervising Engineering Geologist for the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region in Sacramento, California. Robert manages a section of supervisory seniors and staff who enforce the dairy, landfill, mines and waste discharge to land regulatory programs. Robert has twenty-one years of experience as a regulator for the State of California and six years of varied project management experience as a consultant.

Advanced Tech and Bioproducts

Chuck White leverages over 25 years of regulatory and environmental consulting experience, providing clients integrated, strategic advice on complex issues related to environmental policy. With a strong analytic background in the waste industry, government affairs and several professional trade associations, Chuck can advise on a range of matters, including solid waste, hazardous waste, air quality and water quality public policy issues. Chuck comes to Manatt after heading a successful professional engineering practice offering consulting services related to California state government and environmental matters. As the former Director of Regulatory Affairs with Waste Management in Sacramento for over 20 years, he gained an intimate understanding of how federal and state government regulations can impact key stakeholders in the environmental industry, having represented the interests of the waste management industry before federal, state and local agencies.

Carlos Ramos is currently the President of Operations for NOWON. He has held this position for nearly 4 years and has been responsible for the company's start-up activities and bringing NOWON's organic processing technology to the US Market. Since NOWON's inception, Carlos has worked closely with NOWON's global partner in Europe to develop the strategy and business plan to market and distribute the technology in the US. He brings nearly 20 years of experience in Operations and Management in the waste and recycling industry. Prior to joining NOWON, Carlos was a General Manager for a local waste company (Athens Services), area manager for RockTenn Recycling, and also served as an area manager for International Paper and Weyerhaeuser's Recycling divisions.

Pedro Lorenzo is currently the R&D Engineer for ECOWNWARD, NOWON's global partner based in Madrid, Spain. Pedro has more than 5 years of international experience in the public and private sectors. He also has experience in the academic and scientific fields. Prior to joining ECONWARD, Pedro worked with Bureau Veritas and was instrumental in conducting all testing and certification for ECONWARD's organic processing technology. Pedro is credited with writing several publications on the environmental economy, conservation, and sustainable public policies. Besides his work with ECONWARD, Pedro is also involved with NOWON and serves as the primary liaison between both entities. His main focus is the post-processing use of the biomass in the composting and anaerobic digestion processes.

Meredith Roberts is the Director of External Relations at Sierra Energy, a technology startup located in Davis, CA. Meredith earned her B.S. in Entomology at University of California, Davis, and has been in the environmental field for over 15 years working in business development, strategic planning, environmental management, communication and fundraising for both the private and non-profit

sectors. Meredith currently serves as the Chair of the Ambassador Committee for the Davis Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Sacramento Metro Chamber Edge Committee.

Charles A. Smith is CEO of Integrated Sustainability Solutions, Inc. (ISSI), parent, and CEO of Hotel Sustainability Solutions, Inc. (HSSI), its subsidiary. The entities focus in their respective markets on the analysis, development and implementation of turnkey sustainability platforms achieving operating cost reductions, added asset value, transferability and competitive edge market positioning, technology research and are recognized for their Sustainability Leadership directed toward Climate Change Initiatives. Throughout his business career, it has been a blend of senior corporate management and entrepreneur business ventures. Mr. Smith has implemented sound business practices in development, acquisition, environmental technology research, product development, strategic planning of marketing and implementation of operational strategies.

Market Logic and Facility Rightsizing

Kournii Brown is worm wrangler, soil slinger, and the Founder and Director of Common Compost in Oakland, California. Her on-site community compost projects empower sustainable resource recycling and improve local food systems across Alameda County. Before Common Compost was hatched, Kournii spent 15 years as an environmental policy analyst working to strengthen natural resource management and build community resilience to climate change, with field experience across the Asia-Pacific region. She currently serves as a compost policy consultant to the Sustainable Economies Law Center where she hosts monthly Soil Policy Parties that educate community composters from around the Bay Area to influence local compost rules and ordinances. Kournii also co-founded and serves as the Steering Committee Chair of the California Alliance for Community Composting.

Geertje Grootenhuis manages the Wasted Food Prevention Program at the San Diego Food System Alliance. As Program Manager, she oversees technical assistance, consumer education, and network development initiatives that support government agencies, businesses, nonprofits, and residents throughout San Diego County in their efforts to reduce wasted food. Before her role at the Alliance, Geertje worked in the non-profit and for-profit sectors as a sustainability consultant, data scientist, zero waste coordinator, and environmental educator.

Elinor Crescenzi is the Operations and Policy Coordinator for L.A. Compost and a Co-Founder of the Pomona Community Farmers Alliance. She is also active in a number of community groups rethinking bioresource use and recovery through zero waste education, community scale composting, and ecological farming. Additionally, Elinor has worked to develop community composting program infrastructure in a variety of settings, including schools, churches, community gardens, teacher training centers, farmers markets, neighborhoods, and municipalities. Elinor holds a Masters degree in Positive Developmental Psychology (and is currently a doctoral candidate in the same area) and brings critical expertise from the social sciences to enhance the effectiveness of sustainability and social justice initiatives in the emerging field of community composting.

Bob Horowitz is a Supervising Environmental Scientist with CalRecycle, specializing in organics materials management. Bob's team works with a multitude of other agencies, including air and water quality regulators, as well as the agricultural community. From 2007-2012, he specialized in composting air emissions. During that time, Bob and a team of composting experts helped measure the emissions and operational benefits of a pioneering solar-powered positive-aeration composting system. Bob was a

member of the multi-agency team that helped the Department of Food and Agriculture implement registration of organic input materials in California. In 2018, he led a series of workshops around the State educating LEAs and county Ag Commissioner's staff about the potential impact of agricultural quarantines on green materials movement.

Enabling Anaerobic Digestion Deployment for Municipal Solid Waste-to-Energy

Dr. Corinne Scown is the Vice President and founder of the Life-cycle, Economics, and Agronomy Division (LEAD) at the Joint BioEnergy Institute (JBEI), Deputy Director for Research of the Energy Analysis and Environmental Impacts (EAEI) Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, and Head of Sustainability at the Energy and Biosciences Institute (EBI). Scown's expertise includes life-cycle assessment, technoeconomic analysis, biofuels and bioproducts and co-management of energy and water. She has led projects funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, California Energy Commission, California Air Resources Board, and Energy Biosciences Institute. She also frequently collaborates with companies ranging from small startups to large multinational corporations in the bioenergy and bioproducts domain.

Dr. Chelsea Preble is a postdoctoral researcher at UC Berkeley and Berkeley Lab. She earned her PhD in Environmental Engineering at UC Berkeley in 2017. Her research interests include: characterizing in-use pollutant emissions from the transportation of people and freight, including the performance and durability of emission control systems; developing community-based air quality sensor networks to better understand spatiotemporal trends in pollution; and quantifying the air quality and climate impacts of anaerobic digestion and composting of organic municipal solid waste.

Sarah Smith is a Senior Scientific Engineering Associate in the Sustainable Energy Systems group. Her current research focuses on modeling the organic waste management system to better understand the economic and environmental impacts of various landfill diversion and energy recovery pathways. She has also done electricity use modeling in the areas of data centers and demand response applications, and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. from U.C. Berkeley.

Project Finance and Venture Strategies

Michael Paparian has over 35 years of experience in environmental finance and environmental policy. He is currently California Representative for the Climate Bonds Initiative and consults on environmental finance issues. He has held a variety of positions inside and outside state government, including: California Deputy State Treasurer, Executive Director of the California Pollution Control Financing Authority, Special Consultant to the California Environmental Protection Agency, Board Member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board and Sierra Club California State Director. At the Treasurer's office, he ran a conduit bond issuer, developed and enhanced small business financing programs, and implemented environmental grant programs. He serves on the Boards of Solar Cookers International and the InterEnvironment Institute and is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.

Tom McGrath, Chief Executive Officer Vital Clean Tech Ventures - designing and developing renewable energy, lighting systems, film productions, and cleantech projects in 34 countries over 30 years, including village-level community Solar Thermal Energy case studies in Ithaca, NY for deployment in

African villages; a celebrated water documentary on the decimation of Canadian fishing villages from Tar Sands extraction; speaker appointments on Sustainability at the Milken Institute CA Summit and on Sister-City tours with the City of Los Angeles to Berlin and Sao Paolo; and innovative collaborations for SmartBuildings & SmartCampuses in CA and New England. Tom is CEO of VITAL and CSO of Bioproducts Innovation Center, in affiliation with LA Cleantech Incubator. Tom holds PMP and CRRA ZeroWaste certifications, and has been a member of five (5) national film unions (NABET-15, 53 and IATSE-52, 600, 728). His key interests are Sustainability Leadership, Triple Bottom Line Accounting, Water Remediation & Revitalization, Pop-up Tech & Music Events for Climate, Mission-Aligned Collaborations, Joint Venture Structuring and Sustainable Project Finance.

Reneé Webster-Hawkins has served as the Executive Director of the California Pollution Control Financing Authority since 2013. CPCFA is an independent public agency chaired by the State Treasurer dedicated to steering private capital and public funds towards environmental clean up projects through conduit bond issuances, and offering creative economic development and financing mechanisms tailored to small businesses, specific markets, and state policy objectives. Ms. Webster-Hawkins has served as an environmental and land use attorney and general counsel in both the public and private sectors, and as an administrator at several state agencies. In those roles, she has been at the drawing table of many successful public-private partnerships to advance California's environmental and economic policy goals, including collaborations between state agencies, local agencies, business and non-governmental organizations

Zach Knight is Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Blue Forest Conservation, an environmental finance firm dedicated to leveraging financial innovation to develop sustainable solutions to environmental challenges. Prior to founding BFC, Mr. Knight started his career at Merrill Lynch where he specialized in structured finance. Zach also served as a high-yield and distressed corporate bond trader before leaving Wall Street to pursue an MBA at UC-Berkeley's Haas School of Business with a focus on sustainability and environmental investing. Mr. Knight holds an MBA with honors from UC-Berkeley and a B.A. in Economics from Cornell University.