

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES
INFORMATIONAL HEARING
URBAN GREENING AND URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAMS
February 15, 2018

PANEL BIOGRAPHIES

HELGE ENG, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Helge Eng is Deputy Director of Resource Management at Cal Fire. Helge has over 25 years of forestry experience, including working in other countries as a forestry consultant. In 1992 Helge started his CAL FIRE career as a timber supply analyst at the Fire and Resources Assessment Program. He promoted in 1995 to Forester I then Forester II in 2002. From 2002-2005 he was responsible for forest inventories and harvest scheduling on the State Forests. In 2005, he promoted to Deputy Chief to become State Forest Program Manager. His most recent position was Assistant Deputy Director, Resource Protection and Improvement. Helge has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry from the University of British Columbia, a Master's Degree in Forest Measurements, a Master's Degree in Statistics, and a PhD in Forest Operations Research from Oregon State University.

JULIE ALVIS, CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

Julie Alvis serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration and Finance with the California Natural Resources Agency, the state agency responsible for managing California's natural, cultural, and historical resources. Julie serves as key staff to the California Strategic Growth Council, and as a designee of the Secretary for Resources to the San Joaquin River Conservancy and Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy boards, and other committees. Prior to joining the Natural Resources Agency in 2008, Julie served as board liaison to the California Bay-Delta Authority, as an analyst working on watershed management issues, and as an editor for various publishing firms. She is a graduate of the University of California at Davis.

MARY CREASMAN, THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

As California Director of Government Affairs for The Trust for Public Land, Mary Creasman oversees the organization's statewide policy and advocacy, local Climate-Smart Cities partnerships, public grants program, and local and statewide ballot measures. Mary has a long and successful track record of leading campaigns and initiatives at regional, statewide and national levels as the Chief Strategy Officer of Green For All, the Associate Director of the Partnership for Children & Youth, and the Political and Organizing Director of the South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council. She serves on the Wildlife Conservation Board as a Senate Appointee, and is on the Advisory Council for the Bay Area Open Space Council. Mary has also advised organizations across the country as an organizational development and effectiveness consultant.

CINDY BLAIN, CALIFORNIA RELEAF

Since joining California ReLeaf in late 2014, Cindy has prioritized urban forest grant programs that best support under-resourced communities, where trees are most needed. The goal is to strengthen all California neighborhoods through tree planting and tree care activism. A complementary ReLeaf initiative focuses on educational outreach and accessible community college training for tree care jobs. Involved in several public

health and urban forest studies, Cindy served as the project lead on the Green Prescription project at Sacramento Tree Foundation from 2011 to 2014. She is the co-author of two peer-reviewed journal articles regarding trees and human health. Cindy currently serves as an advisor on a new tree canopy and health care cost study in Northern California. She also serves on the Sustainable Urban Forest Council's Research Committee, the Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation (ARRCA), and CAL FIRE's Community and Urban Forest Advisory Committee (CUFAC). Her previous experience includes 6 years at Sacramento Tree Foundation and 10 years at Tandem Computers. Cindy has a BA from Rice University and an MBA from Georgia State University.

LINA VELASCO, CITY OF RICHMOND

Lina Velasco is Planning Manager with the City of Richmond, California. Ms. Velasco joined the Richmond Planning Division in 2005 and has over 15 years of planning experience. She has led the development of several community-driven plans in the City of Richmond, including the Climate Action Plan, South Richmond Transportation Connectivity Plan, Richmond Bay Specific Plan, Yellow Brick Road Iron Triangle Walkable Neighborhood Plan, Urban Greening Master, and the Livable Form-Based Code. Her experience also includes engaging residents and stakeholders in the development of other citywide plans, including the City's General Plan Update and Zoning Ordinance Update. Ms. Velasco also processes planning applications for large development projects in the City, including the \$1 billion Chevron Richmond Refinery Modernization Project, which included a \$90 million Environmental and Community Investment Agreement, and several large residential projects. Through her own work and through partnership efforts, with community-based organization, she has helped bring millions of planning and capital improvement dollars to the City of Richmond. Lina has a B.A., History and Chicana/o Studies with Minor in Public Policy, from UCLA.

DEBORAH WEINSTEIN BLOOME, TREEPEOPLE

Deborah has spent the past 20 years working on environmental policy issues. As the Senior Director of Policy and Research at TreePeople, Deborah's work focuses primarily on local and state policies related to decentralized stormwater capture and urban forestry. She was a central influence in LA's Department of Water and Power decision to create the Stormwater Capture Master Plan and oversaw TreePeople's involvement in the entire planning process; managed a pivotal delegation of public officials and agency leaders to study Australia's 12-year drought, and has been instrumental in the development of many local laws and regulations, including the City of LA's Low Impact Development Ordinance. She was a Presidential Management Fellow with the U.S. Dept. of the Interior in Washington D.C., worked for the City of LA as Councilman Rosendahl's Environmental Deputy and holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from UCLA.

IGOR LACAN, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Igor Lacan is a University of California Cooperative Extension Advisor for the San Francisco Bay Area, specializing in urban forestry. His program of applied research and extension provides technical and policy tools to advance sustainable environmental management. Focusing on urban trees and urban water, he develops research projects on emerging issues in urban landscapes. He produces extension and outreach materials that transfer findings from the University of California and other academic sources to the practitioners, and serves as a technical resource for landscape professionals, planners and architects, local governments, Cooperative Extension colleagues and other academics, and tree-focused non-governmental organizations.