

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES
INFORMATIONAL HEARING

**Negative GHG Emission Impacts and Annual Update on Statewide Trends of
Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Indicators**

Monday, February 3, 2020

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



MARY NICHOLS
CHAIR, CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Mary Nichols is the Chair of the California Air Resources Board, where she occupies the attorney seat. She has served on the Board under Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. (1975–82 and 2010–18), Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (2007–2010) and Governor Gavin Newsom (2019—present). She also served as California’s Secretary for Natural Resources (1999–2003), appointed by Gov. Gray Davis. Mary was a senior staff attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council; Assistant Administrator for EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation, in the administration of President William Jefferson Clinton; and headed the Institute of Environment and Sustainability at UCLA. Her career as an environmental lawyer spans over 45 years and she has played a key role in California and the nation’s progress toward healthy air.



GEORGE PERIDAS
LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LAB

George Peridas’s research on carbon capture and sequestration is central to NRDC’s effort to reduce industrial carbon pollution by making this technology safe, effective, and commercially viable. Peridas also offers support to the Climate & Clean Air program’s science work. Prior to joining the organization in 2006, he worked as an expert on energy markets for Pöyry, a global engineering and consulting firm, and for other energy-related organizations in both the private and public sectors. He holds a master’s in environmental science and policy from London’s Imperial College and a master’s and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Oxford. He is based in San Francisco.



BLAKE SIMMONS
**DIVISION DIRECTOR FOR BIOSCIENCES AT LAWRENCE BERKELEY
NATIONAL LAB**

Dr. Blake Simmons serves as the Chief Scientific and Technology Officer and Vice President of the Deconstruction Division at the US Department of Energy’s Joint BioEnergy Institute (JBEI) in Emeryville. After earning his BS in chemical engineering from the University of Washington, Dr. Simmons continued his studies at Tulane University and received his doctorate in the same field. Dr. Simmons worked as part of the Senior Management team at Sandia National Laboratories for 15 years, most recently serving as the Senior Manager of Advanced Biomanufacturing as well as the Biomass Program Manager. He joined Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in February of 2016 as the Division Director of Biological Systems and Engineering. His expertise includes advanced biofuels,

renewable chemicals, biomanufacturing, ionic liquids, abiotic-biotic interfaces, biomass pretreatment, enzyme engineering, biofuel cells, templated nanomaterials, microfluidics, desalination, and biomineralization



LOUISE BEDSWORTH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

Louise Bedsworth is the Executive Director of the Strategic Growth Council, a state agency that brings together multiple agencies and departments to support sustainable communities emphasizing strong economies, social equity and environmental stewardship. Prior to joining SGC, Louise was the Deputy Director of the Office of Planning and Research in Governor Jerry Brown's office. At OPR she led work on a number of collaborative research initiatives and climate change adaptation and resilience, including development of the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program and implementation of the State's \$70 million grant awarded under the National Disaster Resilience Competition. Before joining OPR in 2011, Louise was a research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, where her work focused on climate change adaptation, local government action on climate change, and transportation. She has also held positions at the Union of Concerned Scientists, Redefining Progress, and the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis. Louise received a B.S. in Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering and Ph.D. in Energy and Resources, both from the University of California at Berkeley.