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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Thursday, January 14, 2021

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

ACCELERATING GOVERNMENT INNOVATION THROUGH MOONSHOT PROJECTS

The goal of a Moonshot is exponential rather than incremental improvement!



Moderator

STUART DROWN  
DEPUTY SECRETARY,  
INNOVATION AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY,  
GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS AGENCY



WADE CROWFOOT  
SECRETARY, CNRA



MARK S. GHILARUCCI  
DIRECTOR,  
CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY  
SERVICES



KARLA NEMETH  
DIRECTOR, DWR



TOKS OMISHAKIN  
DIRECTOR, DOT



THOM PORTER  
DIRECTOR, CAL FIRE

**Moderator: STUART DROWN, DEPUTY SECRETARY, INNOVATION & ACCOUNTABILITY GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AGENCY**

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Drown was executive director of the Little Hoover Commission for more than seven years, where he managed the citizen-led commission’s staff and study process. Before joining government, Mr. Drown was city editor of the Sacramento Bee. His two-decade newspaper career included stints as business editor, labor writer, and metro reporter at various daily newspapers. Mr. Drown has a Master’s degree in public policy and a Bachelor degree in economics from UC Berkeley.

**Panelists:**

**WADE CROWFOOT, SECRETARY, CNRA**

Wade Crowfoot was appointed California Secretary for Natural Resources by Governor Gavin Newsom in January 2019. As Secretary, Crowfoot oversees an agency of 19,000 employees charged with protecting and managing California’s diverse resources. This includes stewarding the state’s forests and natural lands, rivers and waterways, coast and ocean, fish and wildlife, and energy development. As a member of the Governor’s cabinet, he advises the Governor on natural resources and environmental issues.

Crowfoot believes effective management of California’s resources allows communities and natural places to thrive and the economy to grow. This includes strengthening the connection between Californians and natural resources by expanding access to parks and natural places.

Crowfoot is also prioritizing building California's resilience to growing challenges from climate-driven threats, including drought, wildfire, flooding and sea-level rise.

Crowfoot brings over two decades of public policy and environmental leadership to the office, with expertise in water, fisheries, and climate and sustainability issues. He most recently served as chief executive officer of the Water Foundation, a nonprofit philanthropy that builds shared water solutions for communities, economy, and the environment across the American West. In that role, he developed innovative partnerships among a broad range of partners including agricultural leaders and environmental conservation groups.

Prior to joining the foundation, Crowfoot served in Governor Jerry Brown's Administration as deputy cabinet secretary and senior advisor to the Governor. In that role he led the administration's drought response efforts and spearheaded several of the Governor's priority initiatives to build California's resilience to climate change. He previously served as West Coast regional director for the Environmental Defense Fund and a senior environmental advisor to then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, where he helped to lead many of Mayor Newsom's nationally-recognized environmental initiatives.

Crowfoot received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996 and earned a master's degree in public policy from the London School of Economics in 2004, where he graduated with honors.

A native of Michigan, Crowfoot grew up spending his summers outdoors. Upon moving to California in the mid-1990s, he became an avid hiker and backpacker and marks his first hike in the redwoods as Big Basin State Park as one of his defining California moments. Now, he spends his down time camping and hiking with his wife, Lisa, and their young daughter.

### **MARK S. GHILARUCCI, DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Director Mark S. Ghilarducci was appointed to this position in the Office of Emergency Services in July 2013. He serves as the Governor's homeland security advisor (HSA) and oversees statewide public safety, emergency management, emergency communications, counter-terrorism efforts, and the State Threat Assessment System (STAS).

In 2000, Governor Gray Davis appointed Mr. Ghilarducci deputy director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), where he oversaw statewide emergency operations, planning, and training. He has also served as a federal coordinating officer with the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), where he directed and coordinated federal response and recovery operations following numerous presidentially declared disasters and emergencies.

For nine years, Mr. Ghilarducci was deputy fire chief and director of special operations in the Fire and Rescue Division within the Office of Emergency Services. Operationally, Mr. Ghilarducci has been involved in disaster and emergency response and recovery activities resulting from hundreds of major incidents within California, nationally, and internationally. A principal author of the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System, Mr. Ghilarducci served for over ten years as an appointee to National US&R Response System Advisory Committee, providing direction and advice to FEMA and participating agencies and organizations on the implementation and operation of the US&R Response System, including

negotiation of local, state and federal cooperative contracts and related labor/ management agreements, development of US&R.

**KARLA NEMETH, DIRECTOR, DWR**

Karla Nemeth was appointed Director of the California Department of Water Resources by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on January 10, 2018, and was reappointed by Governor Gavin Newsom on June 28, 2019.

DWR operates and maintains the California State Water Project, manages floodwaters, monitors dam safety, conducts habitat restoration, and provides technical assistance and funding for projects for local water needs. Nemeth oversees the Department and its mission to manage and protect California's water resources, working with other agencies in order to benefit the State's people and to protect, restore and enhance the natural and human environments.

Nemeth worked at the California Natural Resources Agency as Governor Brown's deputy secretary and senior advisor for water policy since 2014. She was Bay Delta Conservation Plan project manager from 2009 to 2014.

Nemeth was environmental and public affairs director for the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District from 2005 to 2009. She was community affairs manager at Jones and Stokes from 2003 to 2005.

She has a Master's degree in public administration from the University of Washington.

**TOKS OMISHAKIN, DIRECTOR, DOT**

Toks Omishakin was appointed the 33rd Director of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) by Governor Gavin Newsom and sworn in October 2019. As Director, he manages a \$15 billion budget and nearly 21,000 employees who oversee 50,000 lane miles of highways, maintain 13,000 bridges, provide permitting of more than 400 public-use airports, fund three of Amtrak's busiest intercity rail services and provide transit support to more than 200 local and regional transit agencies.

Omishakin's transportation vision for California features a safe, sustainable and multimodal transportation system that builds on strong local partnerships. Transformative innovation will also be needed to achieve zero traffic-related deaths and reduce GHGs by 40% by 2030. All local communities must be heard and share in the benefits of Caltrans projects, and he encourages a Caltrans culture of innovation and taking intelligent risks.

He came to Caltrans following eight years with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). There, he successfully established environmental, multimodal and planning policies to make TDOT one of the best DOTs in the country. As Deputy Commissioner for Environment and Planning, Director Omishakin was responsible for an administrative and project budget of more than \$300 million annually. He also led the activities of the divisions of Environmental Services, Long-Range Planning, Multimodal Transportation Resources, and the Freight and Logistics Division. Prior to that, he served as Director of Healthy Living Initiatives in the

Nashville Mayor's Office. In that capacity, he led development of Metro Nashville's Complete Streets Policy and helped establish a more balanced approach to transportation planning and design. This included spearheading creation of two bicycle sharing programs.

In December 2019, Omishakin became Chair of the Active Transportation Council for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). This came after two years serving as committee vice chair and serving as chair of AASHTO's Multimodal Task Force. He is also on the Board at America Walks and has advised the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis through its Transportation Council Board.

Born in Knoxville, Tenn., Omishakin and his wife have two children. He is completing a Ph.D. in Engineering Management from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; has a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Jackson State University; and a bachelor of arts in Engineering Technology from Mississippi Valley State University.

### **THOM PORTER, DIRECTOR, CAL FIRE**

Director Porter was appointed Director by Governor Gavin Newsom on January 8, 2019.

Director Porter was designated Acting Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on December 14, 2018.

He has been serving as Chief of Strategic Planning in CAL FIRE Sacramento Headquarters since January 1, 2018. Previously, he served as the Southern Region Chief, Assistant Region Chief, and San Diego Unit Fire Chief.

Director Porter's depth of fire department management expertise is balanced by his forestry background. He is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) in California with a Bachelor of Forestry Degree from the University of California Berkeley.

Thursday, January 21, 2021

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

ACCELERATING GOVERNMENT INNOVATION THROUGH A CULTURE OF CHANGE LEADERSHIP



**Moderator**

**GRACE KOCH**  
CHIEF DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR (Retired),  
CAL-OES



**PAUL DANCZYK**  
DIRECTOR OF  
EXECUTIVE  
EDUCATION, USC SOL  
PRICE SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC POLICY



**JOHN SANBORN**  
STATEWIDE TALENT  
DEVELOPMENT,  
CALHR



**STEPHANIE TOM**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR,  
STRATEGIC PLANNING,  
BROADBAND AND  
DIGITAL LITERACY  
CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
TECHNOLOGY



**MEREDITH WILLIAMS**  
DIRECTOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF  
TOXIC SUBSTANCES  
CONTROL, CAL-EPA



**JOE XAVIER**  
DIRECTOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF  
REHABILITATION

**Moderator: GRACE KOCH, CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR (Retired), CAL-OES**

Grace Koch retired from state service in July 2019 as Chief Deputy Director at the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (formerly Cal EMA). She was appointed to this position in May 2017. Previously, she was appointed as the Deputy Director of Finance and Administration in 2015 and Special Advisor to the Director in 2013. From January of 2008 to December 2012, Grace served as the Office Chief for the Department of General Service’s (DGS) Office of Strategic Planning, Policy, and Research. Prior to DGS, she was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2004 as a Deputy Director in the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES). Grace served as Deputy Director of External Affairs, and two years as the agency’s Deputy Director over Preparedness in the areas of Planning and Technological Assistance, Hazard Mitigation and Analysis, Geographical Information Systems, Training and Exercises, and Legislation. Prior to her appointment, she worked for the OES for over 17 years and participated in emergency management efforts in many key areas of the agency, including, the California Warning Center, Fire, and Rescue, Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, Grant Management, Recovery Planning, Executive Programs, and Legislation. Prior to her tenure at the CA OES, she was employed at the Rancho Seco Nuclear Power Plant in California where she began a career in emergency management in 1986. Grace served as a Commissioner on the California Seismic Safety Commission in 2007 and as the First Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for the Sacramento Sierra Chapter of the American Red Cross from 2008-2010, and in 2013 served as second Vice-Chair at the Asian Pacific Employees Association (APSEA). Currently serving on the Advisory Board for USC Price School of Public Policy. Grace completed the Presidio School of Management Executive Program in Sustainability Management in 2009, and have a BS in Management and Ethics from William Jessup University in California.

**Panelists:**

**PAUL DANCZYK, DIRECTOR OF EXECUTIVE EDUCATION, USC SOL PRICE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY**

Paul Danczyk, PhD, is the Director of Executive Education in Sacramento for the University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy and past-president of the American Society for Public Administration.

In his current capacity, Paul designs, coordinates, and presents in leadership and management programs – reaching national, state and local governmental and nonprofit organizations – and teaches master-level classes in California and, previously, Mexico. Over the last five years, he has expanded programmatic collaborations through a portfolio reaching over \$1M annually. He is an executive coach, working with over 600 public sector senior executives and administrators one-on-one and in teams, and cofounded and is the lead architect of [www.LeadershipEnergizes.com](http://www.LeadershipEnergizes.com) and [www.ElectedLeaders360.com](http://www.ElectedLeaders360.com).

A returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Paul earned his PhD from the University of Pittsburgh, focusing on Public and International Affairs; Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California; Bachelor of Science in education from the Pennsylvania State University; Professional Certified Coach through the International Coaching Federation, trained at the Hudson Institute for Coaching; and holds certifications from the Harvard University's Mediating Disputes Program and the Barrett's Values Centre.

An ongoing student of the arts and natural sciences, Paul enjoys landscaping, creating sculptures, painting, and bee keeping. He can be reached at [danczyk@usc.edu](mailto:danczyk@usc.edu).

#### **JOHN SANBORN, CHIEF LEARNING OFFICER, CalHR**

A dynamic, accomplished Chief Learning Officer highly regarded for orchestrating superior programs for the reform and development of employee and organizational excellence. Known as an expert at synthesizing personnel, management and operations decisions to meet requirements and align goals with values and visions. Proud US Navy veteran and an extremely creative leader with outstanding work ethic. Out-of-the-box, strategic thinker who constantly promotes excellence, builds superb talent development solutions and motivates employees toward top-level performance.

#### **Stephanie Tom, Deputy Director for Strategic Planning, Broadband and Digital Literacy California Department of Technology**

**Stephanie Tom, Deputy Director for Strategic Planning, Broadband and Digital Literacy at the California Department of Technology (CDT)** manages the California Broadband Council and its coinciding task forces focused on providing broadband access and adoption in rural areas of the state. She is the tribal liaison for her department advocating for tribal broadband needs for the state's 109 federally recognized tribes, and manages statewide digital literacy efforts by centralizing digital skills training and resources for easy access by residents. Within six months of joining CDT, leveraging her corporate background and skillset, Stephanie re-invigorated the California Broadband Council, has become an advocate for digital literacy and tribal needs, and evolved the state's vendor relationships to focus on broadband access and adoption. Stephanie serves on the California First Responders Network (CalFRN) Board for the state of California, the Technology Council for the City of Sacramento, and is a member of CENIC's conference committee.

Stephanie also leads the statewide information technology (IT) strategy for the state of California. She is creating "Vision 2023" which capitalizes on the current statewide IT strategic plan by enhancing the mission, vision, goals and objectives guiding the state's IT workforce to establish one digital government.

Prior to joining the state, Stephanie was the Director of Sales Programs for the North America Technology Division at Oracle Corporation. She was selected as a core team member for Oracle's new cloud solution engineering group driving a customer first, service oriented culture shift at the company. Stephanie joined Oracle in 1999 as a Partner Marketing Manager in the Alliance and Channels division. During her 19 years at Oracle, Stephanie's responsibilities expanded into more challenging and complex roles as the lead in sales and marketing teams and included the inaugural Executive Engagement team where she was responsible for managing and executing customer engagement strategies for Oracle's corporate executives. Prior to joining Oracle, Stephanie led Business Development for the International Sales division at CyberCash, Inc. driving the establishment of CyberCash GmbH and CyberCash K.K. Other work experience includes: Aerotek and IBM. Leveraging her sales and marketing background focused on the high technology industry, in 2015 Stephanie founded 2S Technology Services - a small business providing technical support to private residences and small businesses.

Stephanie is passionate about leveraging her corporate experience to give back to the community. She was the Chairperson and Co-Founder of Oracle's first Asian employee resource group, Oracle Professional Asian Leadership (OPAL) and served on the Board of Directors for the California Asian Chamber of Commerce. Currently, Stephanie is a member of the Board of Directors for Asian Resources Inc. (ARI) and Ascend's Northern California Division. Stephanie is the Co-chairperson for Ascend's "Inspiring Across Generations" (IAG) professional development program providing middle management Asian Pacific Islanders (APIs) in the private sector critical skills for advancement. She is a Strategic Advisor for My Sisters House, a non-profit dedicated to serving women and children impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, where she launched the first "Fashion for "A Cause" fundraiser. Stephanie is a member of the Asian Pacific Islander Public Affairs (APAPA) Steering Committee for its Annual Statewide Voters Education and Candidates Forum, and the Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA).

Stephanie cherishes time with family and friends, and practices self-care with music, meditation and yoga. She holds an M.B.A. in Global Business Practices from San Jose State University; a Bachelor's of Science Degree in International Management from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo; is a graduate of the Leadership for the Government Executive program at Sacramento State University, and is in the 2020 cohort for Leadership California.

### **MEREDITH WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL, CAL-EPA**

Meredith Williams is the Director of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. She was appointed to the position by Governor Gavin Newsom on December 19, 2019.

Meredith joined DTSC in 2013 as Deputy Director of the Department's Safer Consumer Products Program to lead the implementation of California's groundbreaking effort to reduce toxic chemicals in consumer products. She has expertise in research and development, product management, and operations for Fortune 500 companies in the technology, consumer product, and chemical sectors, including 3M and Applied Materials, a leading semiconductor manufacturer.

Following her work in the private sector, Meredith held a number of leadership positions at the nonprofit San Francisco Estuary Institute, a nationally recognized center for science in support of aquatic resource management.

Meredith strives for collaborative solutions to complex problems and has a track record of championing interdisciplinary project management approaches. She holds a B.A. degree from Yale University and a doctorate in physics from North Carolina State University.

**JOE XAVIER, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION**

Director Joe Xavier was a small business owner for over 14 years before he began his career in public administration in 1998. For almost 30 years, Joe has been actively involved in community and advocacy organizations, including the Association of California State Employees with Disabilities and the Asian Pacific State Employees Association.

He has served as a gubernatorial appointee at the Department of Rehabilitation since 2008. Director Xavier's current career highlights include service as project director for a \$50 million cross-organizational project aimed at reducing reliance on public benefits among families of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients ages 14 to 16 as well as a multi-state \$866 million proposal to provide food services to United States Marine Corp bases in California and Arizona.

In addition to managing these high-profile projects, Director Xavier led the successful transition of the Traumatic Brain Injury program into the Department of Rehabilitation and initiated the realignment funding for the Older Individuals Who are Blind program. Through the University of Southern California's School of Public Policy, Director Xavier is a fellow of the Sierra Health Foundation Leadership Institute and a graduate of San Diego State University's National Rehabilitation Leadership Institute. He has also completed the California Health and Human Services Agency Leadership Academy program.



Thursday, January 28, 2021

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

ACCELERATING GOVERNMENT INNOVATION THROUGH A CULTURE OF RISK INTELLIGENCE



**Moderator**

**KATHLEEN WEBB**  
CHIEF DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF  
MOTOR VEHICLES,  
Cal-IPGCA  
EXECUTIVE SPONSOR



**JOHN CHIANG**  
CO-CHAIR,  
CALIFORNIA  
FORWARD, FORMER  
CALIFORNIA STATE  
TREASURER AND  
CONTROLLER



**RICHARD GILLIHAN**  
COO, DEPARTMENT  
OF FINANCE



**HENRY JONES**  
DIRECTOR,  
PRESIDENT, CalPERS  
BOARD



**SELVI STANISLAUS**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
FRANCHISE TAX  
BOARD



**BETTY YEE**  
CONTROLLER,  
STATE OF  
CALIFORNIA

**Moderator: KATHLEEN WEBB, CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES - Cal-IPGCA EXECUTIVE SPONSOR**

In July 2019, Kathleen Webb was appointed Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Ms. Webb served as the Acting Director of DMV. Previously, she was Director of Performance Improvement, Eureka Institute, a part of the Government Operations Agency Innovation and Accountability portfolio. Prior to joining the Government Operations Agency in January 2015, Ms. Webb's public service experience included Chief Risk and Compliance Officer for CalPERS from 2012 to 2014, Director of Policy and Risk Management for Correctional Health Care Services from 2010 to 2012, Deputy Director at the Department of General Services from 2008 to 2009 and Director for the Governor's Office of the Insurance Advisor from 2006 to 2008. Ms. Webb also held multiple positions with State Farm Insurance from 1986 to 2006, including agency, claims management and legislative affairs. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Women's Studies from UC Berkeley and a Charter Property & Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) professional designation.

**Panelists:**

**JOHN CHIANG, CO-CHAIR, CALIFORNIA FORWARD, FORMER CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER & CONTROLLER**

John Chiang is Co-Chair of California Forward. CA Forward leads a statewide movement to ensure that our communities are growing, green and great for everyone. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Apollo Medical Holdings (NASDAQ:AMEH), Aegis Systems, Zeuss Technologies, Inc. and Pasadena Private Finance. From 2015-2019, John Chiang served as California's 33rd State Treasurer. As the state's banker, he oversaw trillions of dollars in annual transactions, managed a \$75 billion investment portfolio, and was the nation's largest issuer of municipal bonds.

Prior to being elected Treasurer, Chiang served from 2007 through 2014 as State Controller. During the Great Recession, he took steps to preserve cash to meet obligations to education and bond holders. His cash management decisions — which included delaying payments and issuing IOUs — were instrumental in keeping the state's credit rating from plunging into junk status. Chiang's actions saved taxpayers millions of dollars.

He aggressively used his audit programs to identify more than \$9.5 billion of fraud, waste and abuse in government programs, the most by any Controller in California's history. Chiang was

first elected to the Board of Equalization in 1998 where he served two terms, including three years as chair. Chiang graduated with honors from the University of South Florida with a degree in finance. He received his law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center.

**RICHARD GILLIHAN, COO, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**

Richard Gillihan was appointment by Governor Jerry Brown as the Chief Operating Officer of the California Department of Finance in September, 2018. Previously Richard was the Director of CalHR where he was responsible for all issues related to labor relations and collective bargaining, employee salaries and benefits, job classifications, civil rights, training, exams, recruitment, and retention.

Since 2002, Gillihan held several positions at the California Department of Finance, including program budget manager, assistant program budget manager, chief of information technology operations, and consulting and assistant chief and data processing manager at the Office of Technology Review, Oversight and Security.

From 1994 to 2002, Gillihan served in several positions at the California Department of the Youth Authority, including data processing manager in the Information Technology Office, associate programmer analyst at the N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility, Programmer II at the Preston Youth Correctional Facility and Programmer I in the Training Services Division. Gillihan was an independent information technology consultant from 1991 to 1994.

**HENRY JONES, PRESIDENT, CalPERS BOARD**

Henry Jones is serving his fourth term on the CalPERS Board of Administration and his second one-year term as president. Prior to being elected president, he served three years as vice president of the board.

He retired in 1998 from the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) — the second largest in the nation. As chief financial officer, he oversaw LAUSD’s \$7 billion annual budget. He also headed their Annuity Reserve Fund Board overseeing the pension fund for 7,000 schoolteachers and administrators.

Henry currently serves as a personnel commissioner for the Los Angeles Community College District. He is a member of the governing board of the Robert Toigo Foundation, a nonprofit organization that encourages minorities and women to pursue careers in finance. He also serves on the board of the Pacific Pension & Investment Institute, an educational organization that assists pension funds, corporations, financial institutions, and endowments worldwide with their fiduciary responsibilities, particularly in Asia and the Pacific region.

Previously, Henry represented CalPERS on the Advisory Council of California All, a nonprofit organization focused on closing the achievement gap from preschool to professional careers in law, financial services, and technology.

He has served on the board of directors for Community Partners, a nonprofit organization that works with social entrepreneurs, grant makers, and civic leaders to design solutions, foster, launch, and sustain initiatives for change.

### **SELVI STANISLAUS, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FRANCHISE TAX BOARD**

Selvi Stanislaus was appointed Executive Officer of the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) on January 11, 2006. Selvi is FTB's fourth executive officer and is the first woman to hold the post. Selvi oversees the second largest tax department in the nation, with more than 6,000 employees in California and its three out-of-state offices.

After graduation from the Sri Lanka Law College as an attorney at law, Selvi worked in the private sector, and thereafter in the Chambers of Sri Lanka's President's Counsel. After establishing herself in Sri Lanka, Selvi and her husband chose to pursue the vast opportunities in the United States. They immigrated to California in 1986, where Selvi returned to law school, completing a J.D. degree with Honors and an LL.M degree in tax law. After another period in the private sector, she joined the State Board of Equalization's legal staff in 1996, to pursue her passion in tax law. In April 2005, Selvi was appointed the Acting Assistant Chief Counsel of the Tax and Fee Programs Division of the Legal Department, formulating legal policies affecting every tax and fee program in California administered by the Board, which collects nearly \$53 billion annually in taxes and fees.

In her spare time, Selvi is actively involved in doing pro bono work in Northern California's large East Asian community. She is also a part-time professor at a local law school where she teaches tax law.

### **BETTY YEE, CONTROLLER, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

State Controller Betty T. Yee was elected in November 2014, following two terms of service on the California Board of Equalization. As Controller, she continues to serve the Board as its fifth voting member. Reelected for a second term as Controller in 2018, Ms. Yee is only the tenth woman in California history to be elected to statewide office.

As the state's chief fiscal officer, Ms. Yee chairs the Franchise Tax Board and serves as a member of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) Boards. These two boards have a combined portfolio of more than \$570 billion. Ms. Yee also serves on the Ceres Board of Directors, a nonprofit organization working to mobilize many of the world's largest investors to advance global sustainability and take stronger action on climate change.

Ms. Yee serves on dozens of boards and commissions with authority ranging from land management to crime victim compensation. As a member of the State Lands Commission (and chairperson in even-numbered years), she helps provide stewardship of public-trust lands, waterways, industrial wharves, marine terminals, pipelines, and resources through economic development, protection, preservation, and restoration consistent with the state's environmental needs.

Through other financing authorities, Ms. Yee is dedicated to creating incentives to increase the number of affordable housing units, spur economic development, support pollution-control innovations, and strengthen health and educational facilities.

Ms. Yee has more than 35 years of experience in public service, specializing in state and local finance and tax policy. Ms. Yee previously served as Chief Deputy Director for Budget with the California Department of Finance where she led the development of the Governor’s Budget, negotiations with the Legislature and key budget stakeholders, and fiscal analyses of legislation. Prior to this, she served in senior staff positions for several fiscal and policy committees in both houses of the California State Legislature. She also cofounded the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project, which exposes California high school youth to the public service, public policy, and political arenas.

A native of San Francisco, Ms. Yee received her bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, and she holds a master’s degree in public administration.

Thursday, February 4, 2021

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

ACCELERATING GOVERNMENT INNOVATION THROUGH DIGITAL UPSKILLING



Moderator

**ALICIA WONG**  
SENIOR VP,  
ENTERPRISE PROJECT  
SERVICES, STATE  
COMPENSATION  
INSURANCE FUND,  
PAST PRESIDENT, APSEA



**PETE CERVINKA**  
CHIEF OPERATING  
OFFICER, CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES  
(CDSS)



**SCOTT GREGORY**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR,  
CAL FIRE



**KAMYAR GUIVETCHI**  
DIRECTOR,  
INNOVATION AND  
COLLABORATION,  
Cal-IPGCA  
ASSOCIATION



**STEPHENSON LOVESON**  
DATA CENTER CHIEF,  
CalPERS



**BRIAN WONG**  
CHIEF DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE  
OF SYSTEMS  
INTEGRATION, CHHS

**Moderator: ALICIA WONG, SENIOR VP, ENTERPRISE PROJECT SERVICES STATE COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND; PAST PRESIDENT, APSEA**

Alicia is a results-driven leader with expertise in multiple aspects of information technology and administrative programs, project management, state IT policies, strategic planning, and government operations. Proven ability to bring cross-functional teams together to achieve desired results. Self-motivated and energetic with a successful track record of implementing solutions that have resulting in cost savings to the State of California, yielded greater efficiencies to departments and increased customer satisfaction for the public.

Alicia’s tenure with Cal-IPGCA dates back to 2012 as an originating executive sponsor of the program. Her vision remains a driving force for the program. She serves as a liaison between Cal-IPGCA and the Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA).

**Panelists:**

**PETE CERVINKA, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Pete Cervinka is the Chief Operating Officer for the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), since November 2019. He oversees and directs the Department’s administrative and IT services; efforts related to research, automation and data; public affairs; legislative affairs; and other enterprise-wide efforts. He spent the prior ten years as the Department’s Chief Deputy Director, providing policy guidance and direction for Adult Programs, Children and Family Services, and for TANF, CalFresh [SNAP], child care, immigrants and refugees, and other programs. He is a strong advocate for comprehensive data-driven, outcome-focused strategies that improve life trajectories. Before joining CDSS, Pete served as Assistant Secretary with the California Health and Human Services Agency, and held a number of positions with the California Department of Finance and Cal-EPA. He holds BA and MS degrees from the University of California at Davis.

**SCOTT GREGORY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CalFIRE**

Scott Gregory was appointed Deputy Director of Technology at CAL FIRE in July 2020. Before joining CAL FIRE, Scott was the Deputy Director of the Office of Digital Innovation at the California Department of Technology, where he has served as the state geographic information officer since 2011. He was a public safety manager at the Environmental Systems Research Institute from 2005 to 2010, geographic information systems manager at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District from 2001 to 2005 and a programmer analyst at Anteon Corporation from 1999 to 2001. Gregory was a geographic information systems specialist for the County of Sacramento from 1997 to 1999. He earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Regis University.

**KAMYAR GUIVETCHI, DIRECTOR, INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION, Cal-IPGCA ASSOCIATION**

**Kamyar Guivetchi** was appointed a division manager at the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in 2008. During his 42 years with DWR, Kamyar worked on technical and planning studies and projects with Statewide Integrated Water Management, North-Central Region Office, Division of Planning, Bay-Delta Office, and Division of Environmental Services managing the Suisun Marsh Program. From 2000 Kamyar managed staff work and coordinated the collaboration of numerous government agencies, Native American Tribes, stakeholders, and public to prepare the California Water Plan Updates 2005, 2009, 2013, and 2018. He chairs the 30-member State Agency Steering Committee and is the State Co-chair of the California Biodiversity Council’s Executive Committee. Kamyar has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering; completed post graduate work in Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Davis; and is a California registered Civil Engineer.

**STEPHENSON LOVESON, DATA CENTER CHIEF, CALPERS**

Stephenson Loveson serves as Chief of the CalPERS Data Center, one of the largest, most complex data centers in the state. His responsibilities include managing policies, standards, processes and modernizing the CalPERS Data Center infrastructure by advancing cloud technologies and automation frameworks. Stephenson has extensive experience in technology

strategic planning, improving, and implementing large scale, cross-functional, and complex IT solutions, project management, policy, governance and change management. Stephenson believes in utilizing technology to advance business outcomes and serve the people of California.

Stephenson is a graduate of the Information Technology Leadership Academy, a program focused on developing leadership skills among State IT professionals. Stephenson has a Master of Business Administration degree specializing in Information Technology Management and Finance as well as a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering.

**BRIAN WONG, CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SYSTEMS INTEGRATION, CHHS**

Brian Wong is the Chief Deputy Director and Chief Information Officer, Office of Systems Integration, California Health and Human Services. Previously, Brian served as the Chief Information Officer at the Department of Social Services. Prior to that he was the Solutions and Framework Manager and IT Modernization Project Director at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). He spent ten years at DMV in IT roles, including Section Chief of Network and Communications. As a Technical Project Manager he successfully delivered multiple large-scale, multi-million dollar IT projects, including the CDT-hosted Website Infrastructure (WSI) Re-Architecture project to quickly scale and modernize DMV online services for an additional 1.4 million customers. Brian has a Bachelor's Degree in Finance from Cal State Long Beach and has been a Vice President and Board Member of the Asian Pacific State Employees Association since 2014.

Thursday, February 11, 2021

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

ACCELERATING GOVERNMENT INNOVATION THROUGH INTRAPRENEURSHIP



Moderator

**PAUL DANCZYK**  
DIRECTOR OF  
EXECUTIVE  
EDUCATION, USC  
SOL PRICE SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC POLICY



**SEAN ADAMS**  
CO-CHAIR,  
VICE PRESIDENT,  
INNOVATION,  
STATE  
COMPENSATION  
INSURANCE FUND



**JOHN BENARD**  
AUTHOR,  
"GOVERNMENT  
THAT WORKS"  
GUBERNATORAL  
ADVISOR



**REBEKAH CHRISTENSEN**  
CO-FOUNDER—CEO,  
ORA SYSTEMS, INC.,  
CHAIR, Cal-IPGCA



**KOFFI KOUASSI**  
ENTERPRISE  
BUREAU CHIEF,  
CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES,  
CAL-IPGCA BOARD  
OF ADVISORS



**ALICIA WONG**  
SENIOR VP,  
ENTERPRISE PROJECT  
SERVICES, STATE  
COMPENSATION  
INSURANCE FUND,  
PAST PRESIDENT, APSEA

### **PAUL DANCZYK, DIRECTOR OF EXECUTIVE EDUCATION, USC SOL PRICE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY**

Paul Danczyk, PhD, is the Director of Executive Education in Sacramento for the University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy and past-president of the American Society for Public Administration.

In his current capacity, Paul designs, coordinates, and presents in leadership and management programs – reaching national, state and local governmental and nonprofit organizations – and teaches master-level classes in California and, previously, Mexico. Over the last five years, he has expanded programmatic collaborations through a portfolio reaching over \$1M annually. He is an executive coach, working with over 600 public sector senior executives and administrators one-on-one and in teams, and cofounded and is the lead architect of [www.LeadershipEnergizes.com](http://www.LeadershipEnergizes.com) and [www.ElectedLeaders360.com](http://www.ElectedLeaders360.com).

A returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Paul earned his PhD from the University of Pittsburgh, focusing on Public and International Affairs; Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California; Bachelor of Science in education from the Pennsylvania State University; Professional Certified Coach through the International Coaching Federation, trained at the Hudson Institute for Coaching; and holds certifications from the Harvard University's Mediating Disputes Program and the Barrett's Values Centre.

An ongoing student of the arts and natural sciences, Paul enjoys landscaping, creating sculptures, painting, and bee keeping. He can be reached at [danczyk@usc.edu](mailto:danczyk@usc.edu)

**Panelists:**

**SEAN ADAMS, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF INNOVATION DESIGN, COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND, EXECUTIVE SPONSOR, Cal-IPGCA**

Appointed in early 2019, Sean Adams assumed the Senior Vice President of Innovation Design for State Fund. He is a technology leader with ten years of experience directing software products and applications through the definition, delivery, integration, and maintenance phases. Responsibilities include influencing stakeholders, resource allocation, market analytics, budget compliance, cost analysis, scope definition, project and program planning, and risk-mitigation analysis.

**JOHN BENARD, AUTHOR, “GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS” – GUBERNATORIAL ADVISOR**

John M. Bernard is a widely recognized authority on government performance transformation and Lean management systems and a columnist for GOVERNING. He’s the author of the best-selling book *Business at the Speed of Now* (Wiley 2012) and the widely read *Government That Works*, *The Results Revolution in the States* (Results America 2015). *Government That Works* features forewords by two governors, Martin O’Malley (D) of Maryland and Rick Snyder (R) of Michigan, and endorsements by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper and Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber. John is host of the podcast *The New Bureaucrat* and creator of *The Results-Driven Manager*, his online Master Class for State Government.

John has been an advisor to four governors and served as the external advisor on the design and rollout of Governor Jay Inslee’s highly respected *Results Washington* effort, Governor Doug Ducey’s *Arizona Management System*, and Governor Rick Snyder’s *Good Government* program.

John was a member of the team that led the first documented large-scale implementation of Lean in the U.S. at Omark Industries in 1981. John has pioneered the application of Lean to the work of management, driving a relentless focus on results through a management system that achieves high levels of employee engagement.

**REBEKAH CHRISTENSEN, CO-FOUNDER – CEO, ORA SYSTEMS, INC., CHAIR, Cal-IPGCA**

The common denominator that unifies my career is my penchant to unleash and accelerate the human potential in each and every one of us. As founder and CEO of ORA Systems and Chair of the California Innovation Playbook for Government Change Agents (Cal-IPGCA: 2012-19), I employ this strategy. Cal-IPGCA, (formerly the Navigating Leadership Program), is under the Executive Sponsorship of the Government Operations Agency, the Franchise Tax Board (FTB), the Department of General Services (DGS) the Asian Pacific State Employees Association, (APSEA), and ORA Systems. Across my career, I have designed systems that include lifecycle approaches to areas such as site cleanup and tech transfer for the Department of Energy and Defense (DOE-DoD), guidance for the cultural integration of traditional Oriental medicine through the World Health Organization’s International Classification of Traditional Medicine (ICTM) project, the design and enactment of amending language to Mello-Roos to manage funding risk in multi-million dollar site cleanup, and the design of a cooperative solution, with



UCSB and CalPoly, that led to integrating competing economies to collaboratively promote tourism on the central coast of California. Whether self-employed, working within corporate America or non-profit leadership, or as a government employee, I believe that success is the juncture when where you are and what you do becomes one. From that moment forward, I believe that work isn't merely a job—it's a calling to serve!

**KOFFI KOUASSI, ENTERPRISE BUREAU CHIEF, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, CAL-IPGCA BOARD OF ADVISORS**

Koffi Kouassi leads the Enterprise Bureau at the California Department of Social Services. He started his career in 2013 as an Executive Fellow placed at the California Department of Finance. After the Fellowship, in 2014, he joined the Department of Finance as a Finance Budget Analyst. After four years serving in this position, he joined the Department of Social Services' Director's Office to lead the newly created Enterprise Bureau as its Chief. Koffi has built a team from the ground up with the vision to be the Department's in-house consultants and status quo challengers. His team's motto is "we make people's job easier." Over the past three years, the Bureau has successfully undertaken a few department-wide, administrative and IT process reengineering projects, including a pool hiring project and a redesign of the Department's intranet and online employee resources. His office also completed a few form automation projects. When he is home, Koffi loves to spend time with his three children or spend time on his newfound hobby: landscaping (pouring concrete slabs and installing pavers). His career goal is to make government work for the most vulnerable and disenfranchised Californians through questioning the status quo and doing his part for government to be more people/client- rather than process- centered.

**KAMYAR GUIVETCHI, DIRECTOR, INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION, Cal-IPGCA ASSOCIATION**

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**ALICIA WONG, SENIOR VP, ENTERPRISE PROJECT SERVICES STATE COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND; PAST PRESIDENT, APSEA**

Alicia is a results-driven leader with expertise in multiple aspects of information technology and administrative programs, project management, state IT policies, strategic planning, and government operations. Proven ability to bring cross-functional teams together to achieve

desired results. Self-motivated and energetic with a successful track record of implementing solutions that have resulting in cost savings to the State of California, yielded greater efficiencies to departments and increased customer satisfaction for the public. Alicia's tenure with Cal-IPGCA dates back to 2012 as an originating executive sponsor of the program. Her vision remains a driving force for the program. She serves as a leadership and innovation liaison between Cal-IPGCA and the Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA).

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