



**8th Infraday CA  
April 22-23**

***Designing the Future of  
Infrastructure in  
California***

**Hudson Loft  
1200 S Hope Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90015**

**[www.infraday.com/california](http://www.infraday.com/california)**

**Subject to change – Last updated 3/12/2026 7:16 PM EST**

Speakers include:

AJ Waters, Chief Evangelist, **Kahua**

Anthony Rainey, Port Commissioner, **Ventura Port District**

Arianna Barrios, Councilmember, District 1, **City of Orange, California**

Bhaskar Ray, VP & Head of Transmission, Interconnection & Performance Engineering, **Hanwha Renewables**

Brian D'Amour, Public Works Director, **City of Santa Barbara**

Christian Lofton, Cyber Threat Intelligence Analyst-Contractor, Technology & Innovation | Bureau, **City of Long Beach**

David Renfrew, Vice President, Water Resources, **NV5**

Dina Aryan-Zahlan, Deputy Executive Director Development, **Port of Los Angeles**

Donal Kennedy, CTE and Career Pathway Coordinator, Grants Administrator, **Los Angeles Unified School District**

Eric Ritter, Renewable Integration Research Manager, **California Energy Commission**

Esther Lofton, Urban Watershed Resilience Advisor, **University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources**

Josh Kanner, Sr. Director of Product and Strategy | Analytics & AI, **Oracle**

Josue Vaglienty, Sr. Project Manager, Capital Project Delivery, **Orange County Transportation Authority**

Julie Owen, Senior Executive Officer, Project Management Oversight, Countywide Planning, **Los Angeles Metro**

Lisa Wymer, Executive Officer, IT Operations & Service Delivery, **Los Angeles Metro**

Michael Christensen, Assistant General Manager – Chief Airport Development Officer, **Los Angeles World Airports**

Monica Palta, Cooperative Extension Specialist in Urban Water Quality, Health, and Justice, **University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources**

Nadia Fahoum, Associate Engineer | Public Works, **City of Malibu**

Nathaniel Peterson, Director, Program & Project Management, **Gafcon PM-CM LLC**

Paul Chung, Chief Safety Officer & Division Chief (acting), HQ Division of Safety Programs, **California Department of Transportation**

Paul Van Dyk, City Traffic Engineer, **City of Long Beach**

Richard Quodomine, Senior Manager Special Project, **Los Angeles Metro**

Scott Christman, Deputy Director, Project Management Division, **County of San Diego**

Tim Mellin, Senior Project Manager, **City of Santa Maria, IT Division**

Yamen Nanne, Palisades Rebuild Program Manager, Power System, Unified Utilities Rebuild Operations Center @ PIPSC, **Los Angeles Department of Water and Power**

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DAY 1

Physical Infrastructure Systems: Transportation, Utilities, Water, Energy & Digital Load Growth

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8:30 – 8:45 AM

**Opening Remarks: Infrastructure Delivery in California's Next Investment Cycle**

California's infrastructure systems must support economic growth, electrification, climate resilience, and expanding digital connectivity. Transportation networks, water systems, energy grids, and

communications infrastructure are all experiencing simultaneous demand for capital investment. New pressures from AI computing facilities, data centers, and industrial electrification are accelerating demand across the state's infrastructure systems.

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8:45 – 9:05 AM

**Panel: Leadership Dialogue: California Transportation at Scale**

- Long-term outlook for California's transportation investment pipeline
  - High-Speed Rail, metro expansion, and highway modernization programs
  - Coordinating transportation infrastructure with housing and economic growth
  - Perspective from a senior statewide transportation leader
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9:05 – 9:35 AM

**Panel: California Mobility Systems — Rail, Transit & Highway Investment**

- High-Speed Rail construction and statewide rail expansion programs
- LA Metro subway expansion, BRT corridors, and Olympic mobility infrastructure
- Alternative delivery models including design-build and CM/GC
- Perspectives from transportation agencies, engineering firms, and contractors

Panelists:

Richard Quodomine, Senior Manager Special Project, **Los Angeles Metro**

Josue Vaglienty, Sr. Project Manager, Capital Project Delivery, **Orange County Transportation Authority**

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9:35 – 10:05 AM

**Panel: Enterprise Capital Program Management Across Public Agencies**

- Managing multi-billion-dollar capital portfolios across infrastructure sectors
- Program controls platforms, digital dashboards, and delivery transparency
- Risk management and forecasting across large infrastructure pipelines
- Perspectives from owners, program managers, and infrastructure technology providers

Panelists:

Nathaniel Peterson, Director, Program & Project Management, **Gafcon PM-CM LLC**

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10:05 – 10:35 AM

**Panel: Ports, Airports, Freight & Olympic Infrastructure**

- Cargo terminal expansion and port electrification programs
- Airport modernization and runway capacity investments
- Freight rail infrastructure supporting global supply chains
- Infrastructure systems supporting the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics

Panelists:

Anthony Rainey, Port Commissioner, **Ventura Port District**

Dina Aryan-Zahlan, Deputy Executive Director Development, **Port of Los Angeles**

Michael Christensen, Assistant General Manager – Chief Airport Development Officer, **Los Angeles World Airports**

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10:35 – 11:05 AM  
Morning Break

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11:05 – 11:35 AM

**Panel: Water Supply, Wastewater & Industrial Cooling Demand**

- Drought resilience and groundwater management programs
- Wastewater treatment expansion across growing communities
- Stormwater infrastructure and flood protection planning
- Industrial water demand from energy projects and data centers

Panelists:

David Renfrew, Vice President, Water Resources, **NV5**

Esther Lofton, Urban Watershed Resilience Advisor, **University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources**

Monica Palta, Cooperative Extension Specialist in Urban Water Quality, Health, and Justice, **University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources**

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11:35 – 12:05 PM

**Panel: Grid Infrastructure, Electrification & AI-Driven Power Demand**

- Transmission expansion and substation modernization
- Electrification of transportation, buildings, and industry
- Electricity demand from AI data centers and digital infrastructure
- Utility planning strategies to maintain grid reliability

Panelists:

Bhaskar Ray, VP & Head of Transmission, Interconnection & Performance Engineering, **Hanwha Renewables**

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12:05 – 12:25 PM

**Presentation: Accelerating EV Charging Infrastructure with DERs and Flexible Service Agreements**

California needs significantly more charging infrastructure to support the state's growing fleet of electric vehicles, but long energization timelines and costly distribution upgrades remain barriers. The California Energy Commission is funding a portfolio of demonstration projects exploring how distributed energy resources and utility flexible service agreements can help overcome these challenges. This presentation will discuss how these approaches can accelerate electrification while maximizing the value of existing grid infrastructure, reducing upgrade costs, and supporting more reliable and affordable electricity systems as electric transportation demand grows.

Presenter:

Eric Ritter, Renewable Integration Research Manager, **California Energy Commission**

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12:45 – 1:45 PM

Lunch

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1:45 – 2:15 PM

**Panel: Renewable Energy, Solar Expansion & Grid Storage**

- Utility-scale solar development across California
- Battery storage systems supporting grid reliability
- Transmission infrastructure connecting renewable generation
- Renewable power procurement from utilities and large energy users

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2:15 – 2:45 PM

**Panel: Workforce & Contractor Capacity Across Infrastructure Sectors**

- Skilled labor shortages affecting infrastructure delivery
- Workforce pipelines across engineering and construction trades
- Apprenticeship programs and contractor capacity expansion
- Labor demand driven by transit, utilities, and energy projects

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2:45 – 3:15 PM

Afternoon Break

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3:15 – 3:45 PM

**Panel: Broadband Expansion & Digital Infrastructure**

- Statewide middle-mile fiber infrastructure expansion
- Last-mile broadband deployment across rural communities
- Telecommunications networks integrated with transportation corridors
- Digital infrastructure supporting economic development

Panelists:

Tim Mellin, Senior Project Manager, **City of Santa Maria, IT Division**

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3:45 – 4:15 PM

**Mega Project Spotlight: California's Largest Infrastructure Programs**

- California High-Speed Rail construction progress
- LA Metro capital program and regional transit expansion
- Airport modernization and port infrastructure megaprojects
- Lessons from delivering multi-billion-dollar infrastructure programs

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4:15 – 4:45 PM

**Panel: CEQA, Permitting & the Real Barriers to Infrastructure Delivery**

- Environmental review timelines affecting infrastructure programs
- Litigation risk and permitting delays
- Legislative reforms aimed at accelerating project delivery
- Balancing environmental protection with infrastructure investment

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4:45 – 5:15 PM

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**Panel: Grid Capacity vs AI & Industrial Power Demand**

- Electricity demand growth from AI data centers and electrification
  - Transmission and substation capacity constraints
  - Utility planning for hyperscale energy users
  - Implications for reliability and economic competitiveness
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5:15 – 5:45 PM

**Panel: Can California Still Build Mega Infrastructure?**

- Cost escalation and schedule risk across megaprojects
  - Procurement models for delivering complex infrastructure
  - Investor confidence in California infrastructure investment
  - Lessons from recent transportation, energy, and water projects
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DAY 2

Infrastructure Delivery, Utilities & Digital Systems

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8:30 – 9:00 AM

**Panel: Institutional Capital in Infrastructure Investment**

- Investment trends across transportation, utilities, and energy infrastructure
  - Infrastructure funds allocating capital to digital infrastructure and power systems
  - Regulatory stability and investment pipelines
  - Perspectives from infrastructure investors and project developers
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9:00 – 9:30 AM

**Panel: Public Finance for Infrastructure Programs**

- Municipal bond markets financing infrastructure investment
  - State and local capital planning strategies
  - Infrastructure financing tools supporting public projects
  - Fiscal sustainability across long-term capital programs
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9:30 – 10:00 AM

**Panel: Federal Infrastructure Funding & Statewide Investment Programs**

- Federal funding supporting transportation and water infrastructure
  - Broadband and energy infrastructure grants
  - Coordinating federal, state, and local funding streams
  - Long-term federal investment shaping California infrastructure programs
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10:00 – 10:30 AM

Morning Break

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10:30 – 11:00 AM

**Panel: Construction Economics & Infrastructure Supply Chains**

- Commodity volatility affecting infrastructure construction
  - Supply chain challenges impacting project timelines
  - Procurement strategies to mitigate material shortages
  - Infrastructure demand driving manufacturing investment
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11:00 – 11:30 AM

**Panel: Grid Reliability, Wildfire Mitigation & Utility Infrastructure Investment**

- Utility programs to harden transmission and distribution systems
- Wildfire mitigation strategies across California utilities
- Undergrounding and grid modernization initiatives
- Long-term capital investment pipelines across utilities

Panelists:

Yamen Nanne, Palisades Rebuild Program Manager, Power System, Unified Utilities Rebuild Operations Center @ PIPSC, **Los Angeles Department of Water and Power**

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11:30 – 12:00 PM

**Panel: Alternative Delivery & Mega Project Procurement**

- Design-build and progressive delivery models
- CM/GC and public-private partnership structures
- Risk allocation between owners and contractors
- Procurement strategies for large infrastructure programs

Panelists:

Brian D'Amour, Public Works Director, **City of Santa Barbara**

Paul Chung, Chief Safety Officer & Division Chief (acting), HQ Division of Safety Programs, **California Department of Transportation**

Scott Christman, Deputy Director, Project Management Division, **County of San Diego**

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12:00 – 1:00 PM

Lunch

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12:15 – 12:35 PM

**Leadership Dialogue: The Future of Infrastructure Investment**

- Long-term infrastructure investment trends in North America
  - Private capital shaping transportation, energy, and digital infrastructure
  - Infrastructure investment outlook for the next decade
  - Opportunities for public-private collaboration
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1:00 – 1:30 PM

**Panel: Digital Delivery — Managing California's Largest Infrastructure Programs**

- Digital project delivery platforms and program controls
- Asset management systems across utilities and transportation agencies

- Digital twins and infrastructure lifecycle management
  - Technology improving project transparency and cost control
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1:30 – 2:00 PM

**Panel: Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure**

- Cyber risks facing utilities, transportation systems, and infrastructure networks
- Protecting operational technology and industrial control systems
- Infrastructure resilience against digital threats
- Coordinating cybersecurity across public and private operators

Panelists:

Christian Lofton, Cyber Threat Intelligence Analyst-Contractor, Technology & Innovation | Bureau, **City of Long Beach**

Lisa Wymer, Executive Officer, IT Operations & Service Delivery, **Los Angeles Metro**

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2:00 – 2:30 PM

**Panel: Artificial Intelligence in Infrastructure Operations**

- AI-driven traffic management and transportation analytics
  - Predictive maintenance for utilities and infrastructure assets
  - Grid monitoring and energy system optimization
  - Practical applications of AI in infrastructure operations
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2:30 – 3:00 PM

Afternoon Break

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3:00 – 3:30 PM

**Panel: Data Centers, Utilities & Infrastructure Capacity**

- Electricity demand from hyperscale data centers
  - Water use and cooling infrastructure requirements
  - Fiber connectivity and digital infrastructure siting
  - Utility planning for large industrial power users
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3:30 – 4:00 PM

**Panel: Transit-Oriented Development & Infrastructure Capacity**

- Housing development around transit stations
- Coordinating transportation and housing infrastructure
- Infrastructure capacity supporting population growth
- Lessons from BART and urban transit redevelopment projects

Panelists:

Arianna Barrios, Councilmember, District 1, **City of Orange, California**

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4:00 – 4:30 PM

**Panel: California's Infrastructure Funding Gap**

- Statewide infrastructure investment needs across sectors
  - Long-term capital planning challenges for agencies
  - Public-private financing opportunities
  - Funding strategies for large infrastructure programs
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4:30 – 5:00 PM

**Panel: Regulation vs Investment — Is California Losing Infrastructure Capital?**

- Regulatory timelines affecting infrastructure development
  - CEQA impacts on investment and project delivery
  - Comparing California with competing infrastructure markets
  - Policy reforms shaping future investment
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5:00 – 5:30 PM

**Panel: California Infrastructure to 2040**

- Population growth and infrastructure demand projections
  - Energy transition and electrification impacts
  - Digital infrastructure and AI-driven economic growth
  - Long-term infrastructure planning for California's future
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