



**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)**

DAY 1

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7:00 – 8:30 AM

**Registration and Morning Networking**

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8:30 – 9:15 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

Moderator:

Christy Hunt, Product Marketing Manager, **Contruent**

Panelists:

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**

Patrick Burt, City Councilmember and former Mayor, **City of Palo Alto**

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

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9:15 – 10:00 AM

**Panel: Managing Billions: The New Rules of Capital Program Delivery**

Public agencies today aren't just delivering projects, they're stewarding billions of dollars across complex, multi-year capital programs that span infrastructure sectors. At this scale, the challenge isn't simply execution, it's control. Yet too many programs are still managed through fragmented systems, delayed reporting and disconnected data, creating blind spots that only emerge when risk has already turned into cost, schedule impact or public scrutiny. The old rules of program management weren't built for this level of complexity, and it's starting to show.

This panel brings together leaders from across the capital delivery ecosystem to explore the new rules required to manage capital programs at scale. From enterprise program controls platforms and real-time digital dashboards to proactive risk management and portfolio-level forecasting, we'll unpack what it actually takes to deliver with confidence in today's environment. Learn how to connect data, align stakeholders, and shift from reactive reporting to proactive decision-making.

Because when you're managing billions, success isn't about managing projects better, it's about managing the system that delivers them.

Moderator:

AJ Waters, Chief Evangelist, **Kahua**

Panelists:

Ishita Dave, Program Controls - Cost Controller III, PW-Consultant, **Harbour UCLA Replacement Program**

Jasmine Pomar, Chief of Staff, Department of Transportation, **City of Oakland**

Logan Garretson, Project Controls Analyst, **Clark Construction Group**

Matt Walsh, Senior Director, Program Management, **Los Angeles Metro**

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

Nicole Clancy, Project Controls Manager, **RailPros**

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10:00 – 10:40 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

Moderator:

Phillip Rizzo, Vice President, North America Public Sector Sales, **Oracle**

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**

Rhett Williams, Airport Manager, **City of Merced**

Sunny Zia, Senior Program Manager, **Port of Long Beach**

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10:40 – 11:10 AM

**Morning Break**

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11:10 – 11:40 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

Moderator:

Joe Cartin, Partner Advisor, Owner & Public Sector, **Trimble**

Panelists:

Bessie Marie Scott, City Manager, **City of Antioch**

Chandra Sekhar Chilmakuri, Assistant General Manager for Water Policy, **State Water Contractors**

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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11:40 – 12:20 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

Moderator:

Israel Simmons, Strategic Civil & Infrastructure Industry Specialist, **Procore Technologies**

Panelists:

Angelo Onevelo, Principal Manager, Grid Integration, **EVgo**

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

Brian Chen, Vice President, Project & Field Engineering, **Southern California Edison**

Erica Martin, Director of Project Development, **San Diego Gas & Electric**

Kimberly Huynh, Principal Electrical Engineer - Electric System Planning, **Pasadena Water & Power Department**

Sandeep Arora, SVP, Head of Transmission & Markets, **REV Renewables**

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12:20 – 12:40 PM

**Presentation: Customer Strategies to Meet Surging Electricity Demand**

Data centers and electrification are driving rapid, geographically clustered load growth—challenging the grid’s ability to keep pace. This presentation reframes the “customer” as a grid resource and outlines practical strategies—energy efficiency, beneficial electrification, and demand flexibility—that can reduce peak-driven upgrades, improve asset utilization, and de-risk infrastructure delivery while advancing the energy goals “trifecta”: reliability–affordability–decarbonization.

Presenter:

Alex Summe, R&D Director – Customer Energy Strategy, **Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)**

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12:40 – 1:50 PM

**Lunch**

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1:50 – 2:10 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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2:10 – 2:30 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

Panelists:

Alex Ricklefs, Program Manager, Community Solar, **Clean Power Alliance**

Edward Shelton IV, Vice President - Development (Solar and Storage), **Vesper Energy**

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2:30 – 3:10 PM

**Panel: Housing Delivery, Affordability & Infrastructure Alignment in California**

- Housing supply constraints and barriers to accelerating development
- Infrastructure capacity (water, power, transportation) enabling new housing
- Public-private partnerships and financing for affordable and workforce housing
- Aligning housing development with transit, jobs, and regional growth strategies

Moderator:

Scott Ledford, Senior Director, **ICF**

Panelists:

Anastacia Wyatt, Housing Manager, **City of Monterey**

Christian Artizada, Shelter Coordinator, **Long Beach Health and Human Services Department**

Dan Bronfman, Managing Director | Affordable Housing & Community Development Lending, **Banc of California**

Matt Benson, Senior Director - Multi-Housing Equity & Structured Finance, **JLL**

Peter Agarwal, Senior Vice President, **Citizens Business Bank**

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3:10 – 3:40 PM

**Afternoon Break**

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3:40 – 4:00 PM

**Presentation: Strong Opinions, Loosely Held: A Mindset for the Future of Construction**

In a fast-changing construction industry, holding tightly to outdated beliefs can be a silent killer of innovation. This session challenges attendees to reexamine what they “know” to be true and introduces the transformative mindset of “Strong Opinions, Loosely Held.” Through thought-provoking examples and real-world tech insights, Kahua’s AJ Waters dismantles common industry

myths, advocates for humility over hubris and proposes actionable strategies for navigating paradigm shifts.

Walk away with a fresh perspective and an actionable plan to foster adaptive leadership, question assumptions and model the mindset needed for tomorrow's challenges.

Presenter:

AJ Waters, Chief Evangelist, **Kahua**

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4:00 – 4:30 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:

Jeff Robertson, President, **Allerium**

Jonathan Buckle, SVP - Americas, **Mitel**

Luisa Calumpong, ITD - Broadband, Department of Information Technology, **City of Oakland**

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

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4:30 – 4:50 PM

**Presentation: Critical Infrastructure Security & Applied Defense-in-Depth Methodology**

Domestic terrorism, hostile nation states, geopolitical conflict, criminal networks, and common thieves. These dynamic threats pose an Industry wide challenge: how do you protect your critical infrastructure in today's evolving threat environment? By applying the principles of defense in depth, the presenter will demonstrate how to plan, prepare, and protect against a vast range of bad actors. The costs of complacency are too high, organizations must act now to safeguard their personnel, assets, and operations. Just as Ben Franklin once said, 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.'

Presenter:

Daniel Lucero, Executive Director of Security, **Los Angeles Department of Water & Power**

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4:50 – 5:20 PM

**Panel: Robotics & Automation in Infrastructure Delivery**

- Robotics supporting construction execution, inspection, and site monitoring
- Autonomous systems improving safety, productivity, and labor efficiency
- AI-driven field data collection, reality capture, and progress tracking
- Deploying robotics across transportation, water, energy, and industrial projects in California

Moderator:

Karolina Tyra, CE Global Account Manager, **Oracle**

Panelists:

Chris Chen, FF AI-Robotics Project Owner & Co-CEO, **Faraday Future**

Dhanesh Pamnani, Robotics Perception Researcher, **Nissan**

Joshua Rosser, Robotics Product Specialist, **Detroit Defense**

Marcos Barrera, Lead Robotics and AI Research Engineer, **Seafloor Systems**

Yatharth Ahuja, Applied Scientist, **General Motors**

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5:20 – 5:50 PM

**Panel: eVTOL, Advanced Air Mobility & Urban Airspace in California**

- Deployment of eVTOL aircraft for urban and regional mobility
- Airspace integration, FAA coordination, and vertiport infrastructure
- Power, charging, and grid requirements for electric aviation systems
- Regulatory pathways, safety considerations, and commercialization timelines

Panelists:

Dorota Skrzypek, Aviation Properties, Development, Advisory, **Cushman & Wakefield**

Kathryn Wright, President, **Heliplanners**

Meenakshi Nieto, Principal | Aviation | Global Lead, **Arcadis**

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6:00 – 8:00 PM

**Reception: Prank Bar (Open Bar and Buffet Dinner)**

**1100 South Hope Street**

**Sponsored by:**



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DAY 2

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7:00 – 8:30 AM

**Registration and Morning Networking**

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8:30 – 9:00 AM

**Panel: Capital Stack for Infrastructure — Public Funding, Private Investment & Federal Programs**

- How institutional capital, public funding, and federal programs combine to finance infrastructure
- Capital allocation trends across transportation, energy, water, and digital infrastructure
- Structuring deals across municipal finance, grants, P3s, and project finance
- Aligning federal, state, and local funding with long-term infrastructure pipelines

Moderator:

Kenneth Powers, Enterprise Account Executive, **Aurigo**

Panelists:

Charlie Smith, City Treasurer, **City of San Clemente** (invited)

Jyoti Sharma, Senior Climate Finance Specialist, **Climate Policy Initiative**

Tim Karcz, Senior Risk Manager, **California Joint Powers Insurance Authority**

Todd Yoder, EVP & Chief Financial Officer, **Shimmick**

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9:00 – 9:45 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

Moderator:

Kristin DeSha, Global Product Strategy Director, **Oracle**

Panelists:

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

Calley Bilgram, Program Lead, Los Angeles Wildfire Recovery Program, **Global Emergency Relief, Recovery and Reconstruction (GER3)**

Shaun Fairbanks, Deputy Chief, Utility Wildfire Mitigation, **CAL FIRE**

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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9:45 – 10:05 AM

**Presentation: AI in Capital Projects - Real examples, Real value**

Join Josh Kanner, Senior Director, Analytics & AI, Oracle Construction and Engineering, as we explore the transformative power of artificial intelligence in capital projects. Drawing on 20+ years of industry experience and hands-on development of AI-powered systems, Josh will showcase how Oracle integrates AI into products across the project lifecycle—from scheduling to payments. Hear how over 600 AI-powered agents in Oracle Fusion ERP are driving efficiency, accuracy, and value for leading organizations. This session blends practical demos with proven outcomes, equipping attendees with a clear, actionable understanding of AI's tangible impact in the field.

Presenter:

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

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10:05 – 10:35 AM

Morning Break

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10:35 – 11:15 AM

**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

Moderator:

Joe Cartin, Partner Advisor, Owner & Public Sector, **Trimble**

Panelists:

Anna Harvey, Northern California Area Manager, **STV**

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

Desiree Gibson, Program Manager, Major Projects, **Pacific Gas and Electric Company**

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**

Tim Blood, Preconstruction Director (West Coast), **Turner Construction Company**

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11:15 – 11:35 PM

**Presentation: Beyond the Hard Hat: Leveraging a system of intelligence to Steward the Next Generation of California's Infrastructure**

As agencies steward billions across multi-year portfolios, the focus has shifted from executing single projects to controlling massive capital programs. Fragmented legacy systems simply cannot handle this scale.

While Procore famously champions builders, our owner platform isn't repurposed contractor software. This session explores how our dedicated R&D delivers a purpose-built Program Management Information System (PMIS) tailored to the unique financial realities of owners.

Discover how Capital Planning and Funding Source Management align financial strategy directly with field execution, seamlessly connecting jobsites to oversight hubs to eliminate blind spots. Finally, see how Procore is evolving beyond a mere system of record into a system of intelligence. By leveraging state-of-the-art AI for predictive foresight, we empower you to unify the asset lifecycle and become the ultimate steward of California's built environment.

Presenter:

Israel Simmons, Strategic Civil & Infrastructure Industry Specialist, **Procore Technologies**

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11:35 – 12:05 PM

**Panel: Power, Water & Wire: The Infrastructure Crisis Behind the Data Center Boom**

The explosive growth of hyperscale data centers is no longer just tech hype, it is infrastructure overload. Power, water and connectivity are emerging as the new bottlenecks of the digital economy, placing unprecedented strain on systems that were never designed for this level of demand. As AI accelerates compute needs and data centers scale at record pace, utilities, municipalities and developers are confronting a hard truth: the physical world is struggling to keep up with the digital one.

Bringing together leaders at the intersection of this crisis, we'll dive into how organizations are navigating these pressures in real time. From rethinking utility planning for large industrial power users to shifting site selection strategies based on available capacity, we will examine how the industry is adapting to a new set of constraints. Now more than ever we need to realize the importance of planning, partnering and prioritizing utilities in a world where power, water and wire have become the critical path to digital growth.

Moderator:

AJ Waters, Chief Evangelist, **Kahua**

Panelists:

Jeremy Sloss, AI Account Executive, **Cisco**

Katerina Milovanoska, Director, Program Management - Data Center Design and Construction, **Accenture**

Shawn Davidson, Strategic Solutions Manager, **OnIndus**

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12:05 – 1:00 PM

Lunch

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1:00 – 1:20 PM

**Presentation: The Only Constant is Change: Insights from VTA on Organizational Excellence and Project Delivery**

While the global pandemic is behind us, political and economic uncertainty continues to be at the top of many transit agency's minds. The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), serving San Jose and Silicon Valley, is embracing that uncertainty and finding innovative ways to manage change and remain outcome focused. VTA is delivering the \$12.2 billion BART to Silicon Valley Phase II project and the \$650 million Eastridge to BART Regional Connector light rail project, while also developing a local investment plan for a November 2026 regional sales tax measure for transit capital and operations. Managing these critical capital projects while also pursuing an enterprise-wide, employee-led culture change program requires creativity and care. The new Office of Change Management (OCM) within the executive office is doing just that. Hear from VTA senior leadership about the progress so far, opportunities for partnership, and the need for all organizations to build a sense of community, customer, and employee ownership. Transformation isn't easy, but it is happening at VTA.

Presenter:

Sam Sargent, Director, Strategy and Transformation, **VTA**

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1:20 – 2:10 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**

Jeremy Lumsden, Information Technology, **City of Beaumont**

Judd Morse, Cybersecurity Researcher, Global Security/E-Program/Cyber & Infrastructure  
Resiliency, **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory**

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

Matthew Sage, Deputy Commander of Intel/Analysis for the State Threat Assessment Center,  
**California Governor's Office of Emergency Services**

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2:10 – 2:50 PM

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

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

Panelists:

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

Bill Wells, Mayor, **El Cajon**

Celina Jimenez, Director of Economic Development, **City of Coachella**

Kevin Shin, City Council Member | District 2, **City of Carlsbad**

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2:50 – 3:20 PM

**Afternoon Break**

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3:20 – 4:00 PM

**Panel: Agriculture Infrastructure, Water Scarcity & the Future of California's Food System**

- Irrigation systems, groundwater management, and SGMA implementation
- Water allocation conflicts between agriculture, cities, and industry
- Infrastructure needed to sustain Central Valley production under climate pressure
- Technology, storage, and conveyance strategies to stabilize long-term supply

Panelists:

Christian Mora, Agronomy Specialist - Irrigation Lead, **Corteva Agriscience**

Jennifer Petersen, SVP/Chief Science Officer, **Sun World International, LLC**

John Duarte, Congressman fm., **Steve Hilton for Governor, Natural Resources Secretary  
designee**, Fourth Generation CA Farmer

Kathleen Glass, VP of Marketing, **AquaSpy**

Laljeet Sangha, Assistant Cooperative Extension, Community Water Systems Advisor, **University of  
California Agriculture and Natural Resources**

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