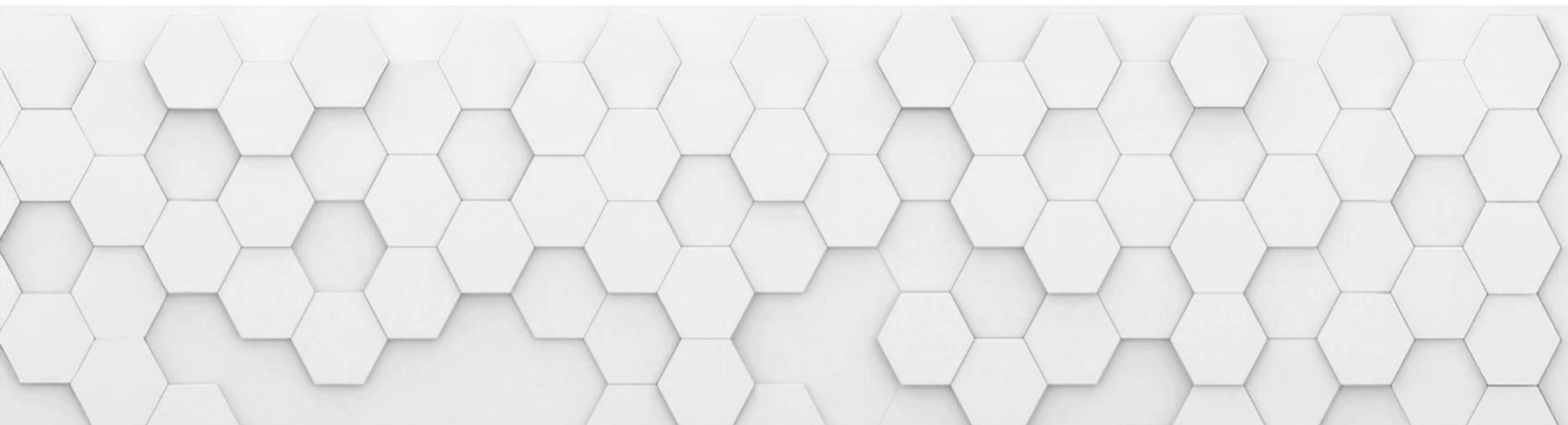


# **7th Infraday California April 23, 2025**

**Hotel Indigo Los Angeles Downtown  
899 Francisco St, Los Angeles, CA 90017**



## Last Update – 3-13 (Subject to Change)

### Speakers currently include:

- Amir Zavichi, Senior Construction Manager, Construction Division, **Port of Los Angeles**
- Andrew Quinn, Assistant Deputy Director, Roadway Pricing, **California Department of Transportation**
- Arash Saidi, Power Engineering Manager of Distributed Resource Development & Programs, **Los Angeles Department of Water & Power**
- Christine Antoine, Senior Policy Administrator, **Port of San Diego**
- Christy Hunt, Marketing Director, **Avicado Construction Technology Services, LLC**
- Don Day, Director, Project & Facilities Management Department, **San Bernardino County**
- Elizabeth Crosson, Chief Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation Officer, **Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**
- Elizabeth Hellier, Zero Emissions Project Manager II - Planning and Partnerships, **CALSTART**
- Eric Lopez, Public Works Director, **City of Long Beach**
- Eric Ritter, Energy Research and Development Division, **California Energy Commission**
- Erin Wimberly, Lead Project Manager, Community and Industry Relations, Clean Fuels & Infrastructure, **CALSTART**
- Evan Johnson, Electrification Program Manager, **City of Pasadena**
- Grant Sharp, Manager, South OC Watershed Management Area, **County of Orange**
- Jonathon Martin, Claims Director, Claims Office, **Los Angeles Department of Water & Power**
- Julie Owen, Senior Executive Officer, Project Management Oversight, **Los Angeles Metro**
- Julio Rodriguez, Senior Manager, Project Control, ZEB Infrastructure, **Los Angeles Metro**
- Kevin Uy, Manager, Energy Supply Branch, **California Energy Commission**
- Michelle Quinn, Executive Officer – Program Management, **LA Metro**
- Monica Benavides, Chief Deputy District Director, **California Department of Transportation, District 7**
- Monica Coria, Senior Manager, Railroad Services and Real Estate Services, **Metrolink**
- Murali Kadambala, Deputy Executive Officer, Enterprise Info. Mgmt., Information Technology Department, **LA Metro**
- Patrick Astredo, Executive Officer, Enterprise Information Management, **LA Metro**
- Rachelle Andrews, Senior Manager, Systemwide Design, **LA Metro**
- Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager/Chief Sustainability Officer, **City of Riverside**
- Sam Sargent, Director, Strategy and Policy, **Caltrain**
- Tara Tisopulos, Deputy Director of Sustainability, **County of Orange, OC Waste & Recycling**
- Yash Srivastava, Transportation Planner Systemwide Design, **LA Metro**

## Infraday California 2025 – Conference Agenda

**Date:** April 23, 2025

**Location:** Hotel Indigo Los Angeles Downtown

---

### 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM | Registration & Networking Breakfast

Kick off the day by connecting with **California's top infrastructure leaders** over coffee and breakfast.

---

## 8:00 AM – 8:10 AM | Opening Remarks

A welcome address outlining **California's infrastructure challenges and opportunities**, the conference themes, and key takeaways to watch for.

---

## 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM | Panel: AI & Infrastructure: Transforming California's Built Environment

- How AI is revolutionizing infrastructure planning, design, and execution across transportation, energy, and water sectors.
- The role of AI in predictive maintenance, project efficiency, and sustainability.
- Challenges and opportunities in integrating AI-driven technologies into existing infrastructure.
- Insights into regulatory frameworks, funding initiatives, and private-sector partnerships shaping AI adoption.

Panelists:

Amir Zavichi, Senior Construction Manager, Construction Division, **Port of Los Angeles**

---

## 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM | Panel: California's Transportation Future: Expanding Transit, Reducing Congestion

- What's next for public transit expansion? Updates on LA Metro, BART extensions, and high-speed rail.
- Tackling congestion through highway modernization, smart traffic management, and tolling strategies.
- The role of micromobility and emerging tech in shaping the future of urban transportation.
- Public vs. private investments – how collaboration can unlock better mobility solutions.

Panelists:

Andrew Quinn, Assistant Deputy Director, Roadway Pricing, **California Department of Transportation**

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

Sam Sargent, Director, Strategy and Policy, **Caltrain**

Monica Benavides, Chief Deputy District Director, **California Department of Transportation, District 7**

---

## 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM | Panel: Funding in the New Administration – Unlocking Public & Private Investments

- Assessing the impact of the new administration’s policies on infrastructure funding, including changes to federal grant programs and discretionary funding.
  - Navigating evolving state and federal funding opportunities, including updates to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and other key programs.
  - Public-Private Partnerships (P3s): Examining how new policies may influence collaboration between the public and private sectors.
  - Exploring alternative financing models such as congestion pricing, tax credits, and green bonds in the context of shifting federal priorities.
  - Identifying key barriers to infrastructure investment under the new administration and strategies to address them.
- 

**9:30 AM – 9:50 AM | Presentation: Cultivating the Future: Advancing Climate-Smart Agriculture at the Northside Ag Innovation Center**

The Northside Ag Innovation Center installation of approximately 50,000 square feet of solar photovoltaic greenhouses, 14,000 square feet of agrivoltaics, 14,000 square feet of a solar PV pole barn, a 30-plot community garden, outdoor farmer training facilities, 450 trees and more.

The Center will address the current challenges affecting our food systems, such as extreme weather, heat, and water availability as a result from climate change impacts. The project creates a much-needed facility to foster regional opportunities to proactively adapt to more climate-smart agriculture practices by demonstrating how controlled environment and high-tech agriculture can secure our food production systems.

The Northside Agriculture Innovation Center also will train the next generation of farmers to be better prepared for the challenges that lie ahead.

Presenter:

Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager/Chief Sustainability Officer, **City of Riverside**

---

**9:50 AM – 10:10 AM | Presentation: Strategic Alignment: Delivering Customer-Centric Projects**

- Bringing the group’s commonality together, we all have many “bosses” and many more customers!
- Conflict between managing a budget vs conflicting customer expectation, finding the “path to yes”
- Risks of “going into the hole” with scoping and design as a construction entity, product not meeting the ultimate need/requirement

- Ideas to keep energy alive on projects, especially those lengthy multiple-year undertakings put in correct format

Presenter:

Don Day, Director, Project & Facilities Management Department, **San Bernardino County**

---

### **10:10 AM – 10:40 AM | Morning Networking Break**

---

### **10:40 AM – 11:10 AM | Panel: Water Infrastructure: Ensuring Resilience Amidst Climate Challenges**

- California's ongoing water crisis – what solutions are working?
- Investing in desalination, stormwater capture, and wastewater recycling.
- Infrastructure upgrades for aging water systems to prevent failures and contamination.
- Regulatory and funding challenges in securing long-term water resilience.

Panelists:

Grant Sharp, Manager, South OC Watershed Management Area, **County of Orange**

Elizabeth Crosson, Chief Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation Officer, **Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**

---

### **11:10 AM – 11:30 AM | Presentation: The Art of Possibilities: The Role of AI and Data in Infrastructure Decision-Making for Transit Agencies**

The presentation will talk about the “art of possibilities” in the role of AI and Data in Infra decision making primarily for Transit agencies.

The presentation will showcase some examples on:

- How AI can assist in efficient asset management and how it can help predict infra wear and tear.
- How AI can play a crucial role in tracking crime and recommend safety, and security measures to ensure passenger safety.
- How AI can assist in demand planning of infrastructure taking into considerations like population growth, traffic flows, commuter trends and environmental factors.

Presenters:

Murali Kadambala, Deputy Executive Officer, Enterprise Info. Mgmt., Information Technology Department, **LA Metro**  
Patrick Astredo, Executive Officer, Enterprise Information Management, **LA Metro**

---

**11:30 AM – 12:00 AM | Panel: Resilient Infrastructure: Preparing for Wildfires, Earthquakes & Extreme Weather**

- Lessons learned from recent disasters and infrastructure failures.
- Innovations in fire-resistant materials and earthquake-proof designs.
- Funding and regulatory challenges in enhancing resilience.
- Collaboration across state, local, and federal agencies for disaster response.

Panelists:

Jonathon Martin, Claims Director, Claims Office, **Los Angeles Department of Water & Power**

---

**12:00 PM – 12:20 PM | Presentation: Fleet Charging with Solar Microgrids**

The California Energy Commission, through the EPIC research grant program, is currently funding five projects that are demonstrating the use of solar microgrids to support charging infrastructure for medium and heavy-duty electric trucks and buses. The projects are demonstrating multiple use cases including two public access truck stops, one distribution warehouse, one public transit authority, and one school bus depot. This presentation will describe the research goals of the projects and share some early findings for the benefit of policymakers and industry stakeholders.

Presenter:

Eric Ritter, Energy Research and Development Division, **California Energy Commission**

---

**12:00 PM – 12:30 PM | Panel: The Future of Grid Resilience – V2G, DERs, and Demand Response**

- The impact of V2G technology, DERs, and demand response on grid stability and efficiency.
- How utilities, policymakers, and private sector leaders are integrating these technologies
- Real-world applications, regulatory challenges, and barriers to adoption.
- The evolving role of utilities in managing a decentralized and resilient energy grid.

Panelists:

Arash Saidi, Power Engineering Manager of Distributed Resource Development & Programs, **Los Angeles Department of Water & Power**

---

**12:30 PM – 1:00 PM | Panel: TBA**

---

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Networking Lunch**

---

**2:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Panel: California High-Speed Rail: The Road Ahead**

- Progress updates and key milestones for the nation’s most ambitious rail project.
  - Funding challenges and public perception – what’s next for HSR?
  - Lessons from international high-speed rail networks that California can adopt.
  - Potential for private-sector investment in expanding the system.
- 

**2:30 PM – 3:00 PM | Panel: The LA 2028 Olympics: Infrastructure, Mobility & Legacy**

- Major transportation and infrastructure projects in the lead-up to the Games.
  - How Los Angeles is preparing to handle the influx of visitors while ensuring long-term urban benefits.
  - Funding, policy challenges, and lessons from past Olympic host cities.
  - The role of technology, sustainability, and private-sector partnerships in delivering a world-class event.
- 

**3:00 PM – 3:20 PM | Presentation: Future-Ready Transit Infrastructure: LA Metro’s Innovative Station Design**

LA Metro is transforming transit station public areas through its Systemwide Station Design Standards. The presentation will explore how high-performance materials, modular standardized design elements, and integrated design solutions enhance durability, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness. By leveraging a kit-of-parts approach, optimizing station layouts, and continually refining its design standards, Metro ensures adaptability, accessibility, and seamless urban integration. These innovations help ensure a resilient, future-ready transit network that improves safety and the rider experience.

Presenters:

Rachelle Andrews, Senior Manager, Systemwide Design, **LA Metro**  
Yash Srivastava, Transportation Planner Systemwide Design, **LA Metro**

---

**3:20 PM – 3:50 PM | Afternoon Networking Break**

---

**3:50 PM – 4:20 PM | Panel: Charging & Electrification: Scaling for the Next Decade**

- Statewide EV charging rollout – where do we stand?
- Expanding fast-charging networks to meet rising demand.
- Grid readiness for mass EV adoption and the role of battery storage.
- Public-private partnerships in funding and deploying EV infrastructure.

Panelists:

Evan Johnson, Electrification Program Manager, **City of Pasadena**

Julio Rodriguez, Senior Manager, Project Control, ZEB Infrastructure, **Los Angeles Metro**

Michelle Quinn, Executive Officer – Program Management, **LA Metro**

Tara Tisopulos, Deputy Director of Sustainability, **County of Orange, OC Waste & Recycling**

---

**4:20 PM – 4:50 PM | Panel: Port Infrastructure & Supply Chain Resilience**

- Modernizing California’s ports to handle increasing global trade demands.
- Supply chain disruptions: lessons learned from recent challenges.
- Sustainable port infrastructure: electrification, automation, and emissions reduction.
- Technology’s role in port efficiency and logistics optimization.

Panelists:

Christine Antoine, Senior Policy Administrator, **Port of San Diego**

---

**4:50 PM – 5:10 PM | Stand-Alone Presentation #5**

**Future-Proofing California’s Infrastructure Workforce**

- **Addressing the labor shortage** in construction and engineering.
  - **Training and apprenticeship programs** that are making an impact.
  - **The role of AI and automation** in workforce development.
- 

**5:10 PM – 5:40 PM | Panel: Infrastructure Policy & Regulation: What’s Next for California?**



- Upcoming legislation and funding priorities.
  - Streamlining environmental permitting for faster project approvals.
  - Infrastructure priorities in the next gubernatorial administration.
- 

#### **5:40 PM – 5:50 PM | Closing Remarks**

Key takeaways and insights from the day's discussions.

---

#### **6:00 PM – 7:30 PM | Networking Reception**

Join speakers, panelists, and industry leaders for an **evening of high-impact networking**.