

**Senate Select Committee on California's Energy Independence
Informational Hearing – Salton Sea: Renewable Energy and Resources
June 27, 2013**

PANELISTS BIOGRAPHIES

Karen Douglas, Commissioner, California Energy Commission

Karen Douglas was originally appointed to the California Energy Commission by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in February 2008 and re-appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in December 2012. She served as Chair from February 2009 to February 2011. She fills the Attorney position on the five-member Commission where four of the five members by law are required to have professional training in specific areas - engineering or physical science, environmental protection, economics, and law. Commissioner Douglas is the lead commissioner on power plant siting (including the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan) and federal stimulus programs.

From 2005 to 2008, Ms. Douglas served as Director of the California Climate Initiative at the Environmental Defense Fund. Prior to going to the Environmental Defense Fund, Ms. Douglas spent four years at the Planning and Conservation League as the Natural Resources Director, General Counsel, and most recently, acting Executive Director.

Commissioner Douglas is a 2001 graduate of the Stanford Law School and holds a Master's Degree in public policy from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Kevin Kelley, General Manager, Imperial Irrigation District

Kevin Kelley is a native of Brawley, California and a lifelong resident of the Imperial Valley. A 1984 graduate of the University of Southern California, where he majored in communications arts and sciences, Kelley's background in media consulting, marketing communications and public affairs is wide-ranging and extensive.

He is the former editor and publisher of Valley Grower Magazine, an agricultural trade publication that was acquired by the Imperial Valley Press in 2003. As a freelance writer, his work has appeared in most major metropolitan newspapers in the West. From 2005-2006, he served as editororial page editor of the Imperial Valley Press.

Recruited to the Imperial Irrigation District in June 2006 to lead IID's public affairs and communications efforts, Kelley was named general manager in May 2011.

Neil Millar, Executive Director of Infrastructure Development, California Independent System Operation (CAISO)

Neil Millar, the Executive Director of Infrastructure Development for the California ISO, is a professional engineer registered in Alberta, Canada. Prior to joining the ISO in November of 2010, he was the Executive Director of Regulatory Affairs for Alberta's Utilities Consumer Advocate.

Previously he was with TransAlta Utilities, a vertically-integrated utility, for almost 19 years. He also spent 7 years with the Alberta Electric System Operator, including 5 of those years as Vice President of Transmission.

Mr. Millar obtained his engineering degree at the University of Saskatchewan.

V. John White, Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT)

V. John White has been a writer, commentator, advocate, and leader of the green energy movement in California for 35 years. He is executive director of CEERT, the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies in Sacramento, and principal of the environmental and energy lobbying practice, V. John White Associates, representing public interest environmental and local government organizations, and new energy technology companies.

White's career has been devoted to air quality improvement and clean energy development. As chief consultant to the California Assembly Subcommittee on Air Quality, he became the leading legislative expert on air quality technology and regulation, helping to draft the California Clean Air Act and subsequent clean air and energy statutes.

In 1990 he co-founded CEERT, which has become the premier energy advocacy voice for key environmental public interest groups and clean energy technology companies. He played a central role in the passage of the Pavley Clean Car bill, AB 32, and many of California's renewable energy incentive and regulatory programs.

He serves on a number of nonprofit boards and organizations.

John is a graduate of U.C. Riverside – Political Science

Vincent Signorotti, Vice President, Energy Source

Offering more than 30 years of expertise, Vince Signorotti is the vice president of resource and real estate assets for EnergySource. In this capacity, he is directly responsible for the management of land portfolios through the West Coast, in addition to overseeing internal departments for project financing, development, permitting and construction of geothermal power generating facilities at Salton Sea.

Prior to EnergySource, Signorotti served as vice president for Terra-Gen Power and was directly responsible for the acquisition of over 127,000 acres of greenfield geothermal development property in Nevada. He was also instrumental in the acquisition of the ALTA Wind Energy Center, one of the largest wind energy centers in the world. He received an Emmy Award for his contribution to a renewable energy documentary produced in 2008.

Earlier in his career, Signorotti was a landman for the Union Oil Company. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from California State University, Sacramento.

Stephen Mayfield, Director, California Center for Algae Biotechnology, UCSD

Stephen Mayfield obtained bachelor of science degrees in Biochemistry and in Plant Biology from California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo in 1979, and a Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1984. From 1984 to 1987 Steve was an NIH post-doctoral fellow at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. In 1987 he joined the Scripps Research Institute and become a professor and associate dean of the graduate school before leaving to join UCSD in 2009.

Kealii Bright, Deputy Secretary for Legislation, California Natural Resources Agency

Appointed by Governor Brown in 2011, Keali'i Bright currently serves as the Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs for Secretary John Laird at the Natural Resources Agency. In his capacity, he works with the agency on statewide and regional resource conservation and infrastructure legislation and program implementation.

Prior to this, since 2001 Keali'i served as a Principal Consultant for the Assembly Budget Committee during which his primary policy assignments were natural resources, environmental protection and transportation. As a base to his professional experience, Keali'i graduated from the University of California Santa Cruz with a degree in Latin American and Latino Studies in 1998 and followed a traditional post liberal studies graduation path of traveling, living in Latin America, teaching in California K-12 schools, working in various non-profits and other vocations.

Phil Rosentrater, Deputy Director, Economic Development Agency of Riverside County, Salton Sea Authority

Phil Rosentrater serves as Deputy Director for the Economic Development Agency of Riverside County. Chief among his responsibilities is building consensus among diverse stakeholders to secure a multitude of resources needed to drive environmental and economic restoration of the Salton Sea. Emerging opportunities in renewable energy and water resource development provide a promising future for a stable sea that will sustain wildlife and a healthy economy.

Prior to accepting the challenge to help save California's largest inland sea, Phil spent nearly a decade at Western Municipal Water District. In his role as External Affairs Director, he helped orchestrate strategies to counter threats and maximize opportunities affecting public resources and major water infrastructure projects. He earned a BA in Communications from Goshen College with minors in Political Science and Chemistry from Messiah College.

Phil is committed to a life of service above self. He enjoys contributing to community betterment, civic involvement and spending time with his family.

Barry Wallerstein, Executive Officer, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)

A longtime Southern California resident, Barry R. Wallerstein holds a doctorate in environmental science and engineering from the University of California at Los Angeles - School of Public Health, and M.S. and B.S. degrees in biological science from the University of Southern California. He has two decades of experience in urban planning and environmental studies, with an emphasis in air pollution control and public policy development. He has been AQMD's Executive Officer since 1997, having served the agency in increasingly responsible positions since 1984.

Previously in his career, Barry held positions as an Environmental Control Administrator at Northrop and as a member of rule development staff at the California Air Resources Board.

As executive officer, he serves as chief of staff to implement environmental protection policies as approved by the agency's 13-member Governing Board, working proactively with state and federal regulatory officials, local governments, regulated businesses, and community stakeholders.

Andy Horne, Deputy CEO, County of Imperial

Andy Horne was born and raised in the Imperial Valley, attended local schools, then received a B.A. in History from the University of California at Riverside. After completing his education, he returned to El Centro and worked for over 25 years in the real estate business with his father's firm. In 1998, Horne was elected to the Board of Directors of the Imperial Irrigation District, a water and energy utility. He served at IID for eight years including two years as board president.

In June, 2007, Horne began work with the County of Imperial in the field of Natural Resources Development. In that capacity, Horne works on facilitating the development of renewable energy projects seeking to locate within the County.

Horne has also served as Chair of the Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation and also as president of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce, the El Centro Rotary Club, the Imperial Valley Board of Realtors, the McCabe Union School District Board of Trustees, Co-Chair of the Imperial County Centennial Celebration Committee.

He lives in rural El Centro with his wife Alexa, a kindergarten teacher, and has three grown children.

Kim Delfino, California Program Director, Defenders of Wildlife

Kim oversees the work of Defenders' six-person California program team in protecting and restoring California's imperiled wildlife and the places in which they live. Since joining Defenders in 2000, Kim co-authored the revision of the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act and helped create the Salton Sea Coalition and Defenders' California desert program. She was also one of the key leaders in establishing the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition. Core California program issues include restoration of the Salton Sea; promoting wildlife conservation on agricultural and ranch lands, particularly in the Central Valley; protecting California's desert; promoting regional conservation planning; and protecting California's coastal waters. Kim was a co-author of the 2008 report, 'Economic Oasis: Revealing the True Value of the Mojave Desert'.

Before joining Defenders of Wildlife, Kim worked for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group as a staff attorney and for CALPIRG as Legislative Director. She began her career as an associate attorney in Washington, D.C. with the public interest law firm of Meyer & Glitzenstein, where she specialized in cases involving the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and other environmental laws including NEPA.

Kim Delfino holds a B.A. in Political Science, Public Service (Environmental Policy Emphasis) from the University of California-Davis and a J.D., cum laude, from McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific.