



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of Economic  
Impact and Diversity



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## Renewable Energy and Emerging Technology Sessions

38<sup>th</sup> Annual Minority Business Opportunity Expo

Cohosted by the Western Region Minority Supplier Development Council,  
Department of Energy and California Public Utilities Commission

South San Francisco Conference Center – Baden Room  
255 South Airport Blvd, South San Francisco, CA 94080

**August 16, 2016**

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9:30 – 9:40 am

### Welcome Messages

Cecil Plummer, Western Region Minority Supplier Development Council

The Honorable LaDoris G. Harris, Department of Energy, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity

Bezawit Dilgassa, California Public Utilities Commission, Executive Division

9:45 – 10:15 am

### Building the Clean Energy Pipeline through Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Learn how Lawrence Livermore Laboratory supports the clean energy innovation pipeline by accelerating the transfer of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies into the marketplace. The Laboratory helps connect emerging clean energy businesses with the financial community, lab technical expertise and facilities, and the broader clean energy ecosystem in the Bay Area.

Roger Werne, Deputy Director, Industrial Partnering Office, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

*Dr. Werne is currently responsible for licensing laboratory developed intellectual property to the private sector and overseeing Cooperative Research and Development Agreements with industry. He also works with the Bay Area entrepreneurial community to find a match between market needs and LLNL technology.*

10:20 – 10:50 am

### **Growing Clean Energy Entrepreneurs**

Launching clean-energy startups is risky, entrepreneurs face volatile market conditions, economic setbacks, stiff competition, and energy policy uncertainty. Hear how one entrepreneur successfully built and grew her clean energy company and what lessons she learned along the way.

Beverly Bailey, President/CEO of Stronghold Engineering

*Beverly Bailey embraced her entrepreneurial spirit and founded Stronghold Engineering, a company with over 200 employees and over \$1 billion in construction, utility and renewable energy projects.*

10:55 – 11:25 am

### **Promoting Workforce Diversity**

The U.S. energy landscape is changing rapidly and the growth of clean energy markets is creating unprecedented opportunities for thousands of good paying jobs. Waves of baby-boomers are retiring and the demographics of the United States are becoming more diverse. These are challenges and opportunities for the industry, so hear how one company is building an energy workforce for the future.

Sean Washington, Head of Diversity & Inclusion, Veteran and College Programs at SolarCity

*SolarCity makes affordable clean energy available to homeowners, businesses, schools, nonprofits and government organizations. Before joining SolarCity as Head of Diversity & Inclusion, Mr. Washington served 20 years in the US Marine Corps and then worked for Google on Global Diversity and Talent Inclusion. He received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Colorado Tech University.*

11:30 – 11:55 am

### **Networking Lunch**

Box lunches will be provided onsite.

12:00 – 1:00 pm

### **Innovation in the California Energy Landscape**

California has one of the nation's most aggressive goals for the production of renewable energy. Learn how utilities and energy technology companies are working together to mitigate climate change and drive innovation and where business opportunities are projected to exist in the coming years.

### **Moderator**

Marie Fontenot – Renewable Transactions Principal Energy Policy and Procurement, PG&E

*Marie's work is primarily focused on ensuring PG&E meets California's 50% Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) by negotiating offtake agreements with RPS-eligible projects. Recently, Marie played a key role in the organization's 2014 Energy Storage Solicitation, leading negotiations on one of the five energy storage devices awarded a contract through this first of its kind request for offer for PG&E.*

### **Panelists**

Wei-Tai Kwok – COO, Amber Kinetics

*Wei-Tai Kwok's background includes leadership roles at NRG Energy and SunTech Power. He brings his operations expertise to Amber Kinetics to help this Bay Area-based energy storage developer accelerate the global adoption of energy storage by commercializing advanced technology to provide alternatives to chemical batteries.*

Noah Proser – Customer Care Program Manager, Energy Efficiency at Pacific Gas and Electric

*Noah Proser manages PG&E's On-Bill Financing Program, which provides 0% financing for energy efficiency projects to PG&E's business and government customers. Prior to PG&E, Noah worked for the California State Treasurer's Office developing energy efficiency financing programs.*

Rajdeep (Raj) Roy – Principal Advisor, Special Projects at Southern California Edison Energy Contracts Management Organization

*Raj leads teams that are tackling strategic projects pertaining to SCE's wholesale power procurement function. Prior to this position, Raj was the Strategic Planning Manager for CAISO Market Implementation, and prior to that, Raj held various positions across SCE's power procurement function.*

Laura Renger – Principal Manager of Air & Climate for Southern California Edison's Regulatory Affairs organization

*Laura leads a team responsible for the utility's regulatory and legislative policy concerning air quality, climate change, as well as transportation electrification. Prior to this position, Laura was a Senior Attorney in the SCE Law Department, primarily focusing on air quality, climate, and transmission project licensing.*

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## Breaking Ground through Diversity

