**Cutting Through the Noise**

**Federal Impacts on California and What We Are Doing About It**

**Panelist Links**

**July 10, 2025**

**California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot**

<https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Secretary-for-Natural-Resources>

**Secretary Speaker Series:** <https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Secretary-Speaker-Series>

**Sara Aminzadeh, Deputy Secretary for External Affairs, California Natural Resources Agency**

<https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Deputy-Secretary-for-External-Affairs>

Sara Aminzadeh joined the California Natural Resources Agency in March 2023. As the Deputy Secretary of External Affairs, she leads federal relations with California’s Congressional Delegation and federal partners on the Agency’s behalf. Sara will be working to advance federal policies and investments that combat climate change, expand outdoor access and protect biodiversity. Before joining Governor Newsom’s administration, Sara spent fifteen years working at the intersection of environmental policy and politics, on behalf of advocacy and philanthropic organizations, and the private sector.

**Patrick Wright, Director, California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force** <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/>

Bio: Patrick Wright serves as the Director of the California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force. This task force was established by Governor Gavin Newsom to address the critical challenge of preventing catastrophic wildfires. It brings together a coalition of resources to create healthier, more sustainable natural environments and enhance forest health. Wright has been actively involved in forest management and conservation, having previously served as the Acting Director of the Forest Management Task Force at the California Natural Resources Agency and as the Executive Director at the Tahoe Conservancy since 2006.

**Karla Nemeth, Director, Department of Water Resources**

<https://water.ca.gov/>

<https://water.ca.gov/Executive-Bios-Director>

Karla Nemeth was appointed Director of the California Department of Water Resources by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on January 10, 2018 and was reappointed by Governor Gavin Newsom on June 28, 2019.

DWR operates and maintains the California State Water Project, manages floodwaters, monitors dam safety, conducts habitat restoration, and provides technical assistance and funding for projects for local water needs. Nemeth will oversee the Department and its mission to manage and protect California’s water resources, working with other agencies in order to benefit the State’speople and to protect, restore and enhance the natural and human environments.

**Armando Quintero, Director, California State Parks**

<https://www.parks.ca.gov/>

<https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27972>

Armando Quintero was named director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation on Aug. 18, 2020.

An experienced parks professional with expertise in park operations, outdoor education, equity and access, and hiring and retention, Quintero has a degree in environmental science and biology. He was executive director of the Sierra Nevada Research Institute at the University of California (UC), Merced, from 2014 to 2020, and served as director of development at UC Merced from 2008 to 2014. He was an elected member of the Marin Municipal Water District from 2008 to 2020. In 2014 he was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown as a member of the California Water Commission and served as chair of that Commission from 2015 to 2020.

**Danna Stroud, Associate Deputy Director, Regional Economic Development Initiative,** California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)

<https://business.ca.gov/>

<https://business.ca.gov/about/go-biz-team/>

Danna has built a 30+ year diverse career in economic development, with leadership roles in the tourism and outdoor recreation industries in California. A resident of Paso Robles, she joined the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) in October 2021 and is currently the Associate Deputy Director, Regional Engagement.

She serves on the Board of Trustees for Cuesta College and is a board member of the REC Foundation in Paso Robles. She has previously served as a board member for the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association and Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals. Prior to joining GO-Biz, she was with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy as the Eastern Sierra Regional Representative and was the Tourism and Recreation Director for the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

California Jobs First:  [https://jobsfirst.ca.gov/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fjobsfirst.ca.gov%2F&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Ccb7fc1ad66b54938f89e08ddbfce5b6e%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638877615666060396%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YGSHcTNJiJgyVEuHr19rGJhmzYYAEXr86CS3FvFcwNw%3D&reserved=0)

**Jenn Eckerle, Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Policy, California Natural Resources Agency and Executive Director, Ocean Protection Council** <https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Deputy-Secretary-for-Oceans-and-Coastal-Policy-and-Director-of-the-Ocean-Protection-Council>

California Ocean Protection Council: <https://opc.ca.gov/>

Jenn Eckerle is the Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Policy for Natural Resources and Executive Director of the Ocean Protection Council (OPC). Jenn serves as a key advisor to the Governor and the Secretary for Natural Resources and directs policy, scientific research, and critical partnerships to increase protection of California’s coast and ocean. Jenn served as OPC’s Deputy Director from December 2016 to October 2022.

**Robert Chun, Chief of Staff - Chair David Hochschild, California Energy Commission**

California Energy Commission: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/>

Robert Chun is a policy advisor and attorney focused on accelerating a clean, equitable, and affordable energy transition. He serves as Chief of Staff to Chair David Hochschild at the California Energy Commission, a 900-person agency leading California to a 100% clean energy future for all. He previously served as a fellow in the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, where he advised on climate, energy, and housing policy. Before entering public service, Robert invested in clean energy infrastructure at Energy Impact Partners and helped lead strategy and finance for early-stage technology projects at Google X. He has also served as a consultant to nonprofits, impact investors, and philanthropists. He holds a BA, JD, and MBA from Stanford University, where he was a Knight-Hennessy Scholar.

**Supreme Court decision on reduction in force:**

USA Today: With new power, Trump will move immediately to lay off federal workers

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/with-new-power-trump-will-move-immediately-to-lay-off-federal-workers/ar-AA1Ihv06?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

EE News/Greenwire

Interior staff braces for impending layoffs

<https://www.eenews.net/articles/interior-staff-braces-for-impending-layoffs/>

**Wildfire Safety**

US Forest Service cuts: 10% all staff, 25% of non-firefighters.

AP News

Forest and park service worker cuts leave wildland firefighting crews short-staffed

<https://apnews.com/article/washington-oregon-wildland-wildfire-firefighting-forest-trump-df90c3da2dae47ecd3f0d3eb319394b4>

POLITICO:

Forest Service cuts leave states scrambling to prepare for summer wildfire season -

<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/04/23/crazy-forest-service-cuts-ignite-fear-fury-over-wildfire-risks-00301499>

Here’s how Trump’s illegal military deployment weakens firefighting resources – already strained by his dangerous U.S. Forest Service cuts

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/06/13/heres-how-trumps-illegal-military-deployment-weakens-firefighting-resources-already-strained-by-his-dangerous-u-s-forest-service-cuts/>

At the Forest Service, Turmoil Upends Seasonal Research Plans

<https://undark.org/2025/06/02/forest-service-research-turmoil/>

California’s National Guard fire crews are operating at 40% capacity due to Trump’s deployment

<https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2025-06-26/newsom-california-national-guard-fire-crews-operating-at-40-percent-capacity>

**WATER**

Los Angeles Times

Major staff cuts at federal water agency spark worries in California - <https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2025-03-03/trump-doge-staff-cuts-reclamation-california>

CNN Politics - Democrats sound alarm as Trump cuts flood prevention projects in blue states | <https://www.cnn.com/2025/05/21/politics/blue-state-flood-prevention-cuts>

Proposed federal cuts jeopardize Pacific salmon habitat restoration, tribal rights <https://www.opb.org/article/2025/04/12/federal-cuts-pacific-salmon-tribal-rights/>

More on WaterSMART: <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>

E&E NEWS

Push to close dam safety center spurs backlash

 <https://www.eenews.net/articles/push-to-close-dam-safety-center-spurs-backlash/>

MIT Technology Review:

How US research cuts are threatening crucial climate data

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2025/05/15/1116485/climate-data/>

**Outdoor Recreation and Conservation**

NPS:

SF Gate: A staggering number of national parks workers have now departed

<https://www.sfgate.com/national-parks/article/national-park-service-staffing-decline-20421710.php>

CNN

Trump layoffs and cuts are squeezing National Park Service in peak season

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/07/03/climate/trump-national-park-staff-cuts>

National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) [data showing 24% decline in workforce](https://www.npca.org/articles/9551-staffing-crisis-at-national-parks-reaches-breaking-point-new-data-shows-24). The NCPA release highlights that every building at Yosemite National Park’s Pioneer History Center was forced to close after several artifacts were stolen, a consequence of dangerously low staffing.

Staffing Crisis at National Parks Reaches Breaking Point, New Data Shows 24% Decline in Permanent Workforce · National Parks Conservation Association: <https://www.npca.org/articles/9551-staffing-crisis-at-national-parks-reaches-breaking-point-new-data-shows-24>

New York Times

Park Service is Left Short-Staffed in Peak Travel Season

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/03/us/politics/park-service-staffing.html>

Government Budget and Staffing Cuts Could Close Facilities in California’s National Forests, Memo Says The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/05/climate/california-forest-staff-cuts.html>

New York Times

A G.O.P. Plan to Sell Public Land Is Back. This Time, It’s Millions of Acres.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/12/climate/senate-gop-public-land-sale.html>

Trump administration to kill roadless forest protections

<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2025/06/23/trump-administration-to-kill-roadless-forest-protections-00419317>

Mass Firings of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Employees Threaten National Wildlife Refuge System & Conservation

<https://www.refugeassociation.org/news/2025/2/14/eodwispvhseybqgjow291z3k5wxerh>

Impacts to Morale of Federal Workers <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/07/09/trump-mass-firings-federal-workers-supreme-court/>

**Coast and Ocean**

Federal News Network

NOAA seeks 17% cut to workforce next year, after firing hundreds of probationary employees

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/workforce/2025/06/noaa-seeks-17-cut-to-workforce-next-year-after-firing-hundreds-of-probationary-employees/>

NPR

Major budget cuts proposed for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

<https://www.npr.org/2025/04/11/nx-s1-5361366/major-budget-cuts-proposed-for-the-national-oceanic-and-atmospheric-administration>

NPR

The White House took down the nation's top climate report.

<https://www.npr.org/2025/07/01/nx-s1-5453501/national-climate-assessment-nca5-archive-report>

New York Times:

White House Plan Calls for NOAA Research Programs to be Dismantled

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/11/climate/noaa-research-budget-cuts.html>

Green Wire

White House details proposed NOAA research, science cuts

<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2025/07/03/white-house-details-proposed-noaa-research-science-cuts-00435082>

The Hill:

Budget cuts hit FEMA and NOAA ahead of wildfire season

<https://thehill.com/policy/equilibrium-sustainability/5349811-wildfire-season-trump-federal-emergency-funding-fema-noaa-nws-california/>

**Energy and Transportation:**

Budget Reconciliation eliminates tax credits for clean energy projects not in place by 2027.

NPR

Federal tax credits for solar energy could be eliminated, what are the impacts?

<https://www.npr.org/2025/06/01/nx-s1-5416789/federal-tax-credits-for-solar-energy-could-be-eliminated-what-are-the-impacts>

Politico:

GOP senators offer amendment to ease solar and wind tax credit phaseouts

<https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2025/06/30/congress/murkowski-plans-amendment-to-ease-solar-wind-tax-credit-phaseouts-00432508>

Associated Press

The Energy Department identifies thousands of nonessential positions at risk of DOGE cuts

<https://apnews.com/article/energy-federal-employees-layoffs-rif-doge-db7b6446928095c26bfe79c608e1e8e7>

Washington Post

Trump’s crackdown on renewable energy has just begun:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2025/07/09/trump-crackdown-renewable-tax-credits/>

NPR

Energy efficiency advocates decry Trump plan to cut appliance regulations

<https://www.npr.org/2025/05/13/nx-s1-5396885/energy-efficiency-advocates-decry-trump-plan-to-cut-appliance-regulations>

Sierra Club

What Will Happen if Republicans Revoke California’s Clean Air Act Waiver?

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/what-will-happen-if-republicans-revoke-california-s-clean-air-act-waiver>

‘Assault on California continues’: Governor Newsom sues Trump over illegal attempt to revoke state’s clean air policies

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/06/12/assault-on-california-continues-governor-newsom-sues-trump-over-illegal-attempt-to-revoke-states-clean-air-policies/>

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