**Secretary Speaker Series**

**Faster and Better - Improving How We Deliver Climate Change Projects in California**

**Thursday, May 15, 2025**

**Noon to 1 p.m.**

**CNRA 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>

**Governor Newsom unveils proposal to cut red tape and fast-track housing and development**

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/05/14/governor-newsom-unveils-proposal-to-cut-red-tape-and-fast-track-housing-and-development/>

**Governor Newsom’s budget calls for fast-track of critical water infrastructure project**

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/05/14/governor-newsoms-budget-calls-for-fast-track-of-critical-water-infrastructure-project/>

**Governor Newsom Infrastructure & Budget Legislation to Build More, Faster:** <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2023/07/10/governor-newsom-signs-infrastructure-budget-legislation-to-build-more-faster/>

**Building California:** [www.build.ca.gov/](http://www.build.ca.gov/)

**Celebrate AAPI Heritage Month with Us:** <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Equity-and-Environmental-Justice/Celebrating-Cultural-Diversity/Asian-American-and-Pacific-Islander-Heritage-Month>

**Yes In Our Back Yard by Bill McKibben:** <https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2023/04/yimby-nimby-progressives-clean-energy-infrastructure-housing-development-wind-solar-bill-mckibben/>

**Le-Quyen Nguyen, Deputy Secretary for Energy, California Natural Resources Agency**

Le-Quyen Nguyen bio: <https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Deputy-Secretary-for-Energy>

Le-Quyen Nguyen joined the California Natural Resources Agency in April 2022 as the Deputy Secretary for Energy. In this role, she guides the Agency’s energy policies and programs in support of California’s energy and decarbonization goals. Before her appointment, Le-Quyen worked at the California Energy Commission, where she held a variety of positions. This included Chief of Staff to the Chair, Manager of the Supply Analysis Office, and special advisor to a Commissioner. Le-Quyen earned a bachelor’s degree in Biological Sciences from the University of California, Riverside. When not at work, Le-Quyen enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, and gardening.

Transitioning to Clean Energy: <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Transitioning-to-Clean-Energy>

Cutting the Green Tape: <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Cutting-Green-Tape>

**Leuwam Tesfai, Deputy Executive Director for Energy and Climate Policy, California Public Utilities Commission**

Leuwam Tesfai Bio: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/about-cpuc/divisions/energy-division/deputy-executive-director-for-energy-and-climate-policy>

Leuwam Tesfai was named the CPUC’s Deputy Executive Director for Energy and Climate Policy, effective July 1, 2022. She previously served as Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma’s Chief of Staff and Legal Advisor, a position she held since 2019 when appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom. She has worked at the CPUC since 2011 in several roles including as an Advisor to former Commissioner Liane M. Randolph and in the CPUC’s Legal, Energy and Administrative Law Judge Divisions. Leuwam’s private sector experience includes renewable energy markets, siting and permitting generation facilities, and commercialization of clean energy technologies. She is a graduate of Emory University and the University of San Francisco School of Law.

California Public Utilities Commission: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/>

Consumer Programs and Services: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/consumer-support/consumer-programs-and-services>

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/trackingenergy>

**Chuck Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

California Department of Fish and Wildlife: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/>

Chuck Bonham’s Bio: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Director>

Charlton “Chuck” Bonham was appointed as Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, effective September 6, 2011. Prior to his appointment as Director of Fish and Wildlife, Mr. Bonham served in a number of roles for Trout Unlimited for over ten years, including since 2004 as the organization’s California director.

Chuck was responsible for developing, managing, and implementing TU's programs in California. These programs include the California Water Project, Sportsmen’s Conservation Project, and restoration and watershed projects in both northern and Southern California. In addition, Chuck was a senior attorney for the organization.

Chuck also served on the Board of Directors of the Delta Conservancy, whose mission is to conserve, sustain and enhance the cultural, agricultural, recreational, wildlife and natural habitat resources of the River Delta region, as well as develop and promote sustainable protection, management and stewardship programs through research and education.

Chuck received his J.D. and Environmental and Natural Resources Law Certificate from the Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College, in Portland, Oregon. Before Trout Unlimited, he was a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal, West Africa, and an instructor and guide at the Nantahala Outdoor Center, in Bryson City, N.C.

Cutting the Green Tape: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cutting-Green-Tape>

CDFW Grant Opportunities: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Grants>

CDFW Cutting the Green Tape Projects: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f2ff115a6add4732bcd128cc594009ca>

**Phil Crader, Deputy Director for the California State Water Board's Division of Water Quality**

Phil Crader Bio: <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/about-us/phil-crader.html>

Phil Crader is the Deputy Director for the State Water Board's Division of Water Quality and is responsible for statewide water quality planning, policy development and implementation, statewide permitting, and establishing consistency among the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards. Phil served as the Assistant Deputy Director of the Division of Water Quality's Surface Water Branch for 10 years. Prior to that, he managed the permitting and licensing section in the Division of Water Rights. Phil also spent his early Water Board career managing water quality monitoring in the San Joaquin Valley at the Central Valley Regional Water Board. Phil brings a wealth of experience in managing water quality and water rights programs working with a wide range of stakeholders, CalEPA and the board members.

State Water Resources Control Board: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/>

Water Quality Monitoring Council: <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/index.html>

**Fish Passage Project:**

* <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/biology/fish-passage>
* <https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctc-media/documents/ctc-meetings/2024/2024-03/pinks-presentations/fish-passage-a11y.pdf>

**Lisa Lien-Mager, Deputy Secretary for Forest and Wildfire Resilience, California Natural Resources Agency**

Lisa Lien-Mager Bio: <https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Deputy-Secretary-for-Forest-and-Wildfire-Resilience>

Lisa Lien-Mager serves as Deputy Secretary for Forest and Wildfire Resilience, leading the Agency’s initiatives to improve the health of California’s forests and landscapes while building resilience to wildfire. She also serves as the Agency’s lead in implementing California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and aligning policies, programs and investments to help achieve the Action Plan’s goals. Prior to being appointed to the role in September 2023, Lisa served as Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications at the Agency from 2021 to 2023 and as Deputy Secretary for Communications from 2017 to 2021. Before joining the Agency, Lisa served as Director of Communications for the Association of California Water Agencies for five years and held various other positions at that organization. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and Spanish from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and started her career as a reporter for the Milwaukee Sentinel.

California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan: <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/the-plan/>

California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force: <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/>

Restoring and Maintaining Forest Ecosystem Health and Wildfire Resilience: <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Forest-Stewardship>

California Wildfire and Landscape Interagency Treatment Dashboard: [Interagency Treatment Dashboard Data Shows Progress Toward Resilience - California Wildfire & Forest Resilience](https://wildfiretaskforce.org/treatment-dashboard/)

**New webpage at:** <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/requests-to-suspend-state-statutes-and-regulations/>

**Angela Avery Executive Officer, Sierra Nevada Conservancy**

**Avery Bio:** <https://sierranevada.ca.gov/about-us/executive-officer-angela-avery/>

Angela leads the Sierra Nevada Conservancy by providing strategic direction and oversight to the Agency’s region-wide staff. As Executive Officer, she is committed to restoring the health and resilience of California’s Sierra Nevada-Cascade region. She believes that by working with SNC’s partners to implement the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program, we can ensure that the region thrives for future generations and continues to provide California clean air, clean water, recreational opportunities, and spiritual respite.

Angela joined the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in 2007 and became the Policy and Outreach Division Chief in 2015 where she focused on the development of sound, science-based policy and the necessary outreach programs and strategic partnerships that support the region. Previously, Angela worked as a parks, recreation, and conservation planning consultant and managed forested land on the north coast of California.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy: <https://sierranevada.ca.gov/>

Early support from SNC leads to critical federal funding for North Yuba: [https://sierranevada.ca.gov/early-support-from-snc-leads-to-critical-federal-funding-for-north-yuba/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsierranevada.ca.gov%2Fearly-support-from-snc-leads-to-critical-federal-funding-for-north-yuba%2F&data=05%7C02%7CBailey.MkNelly%40resources.ca.gov%7C0a8cd79248c140c7b1eb08dd93072600%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638828381665910054%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ffBJg7St%2FlMTriO9SlMxCdQaPcmW9auP5vp8BTnUOjQ%3D&reserved=0)

Landscape grant pilot update: HELP at work in Crystal Basin; other areas ready for funding: [https://sierranevada.ca.gov/landscape-grant-pilot-update-help-at-work-in-crystal-basin-other-areas-ready-for-funding/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsierranevada.ca.gov%2Flandscape-grant-pilot-update-help-at-work-in-crystal-basin-other-areas-ready-for-funding%2F&data=05%7C02%7CBailey.MkNelly%40resources.ca.gov%7C0a8cd79248c140c7b1eb08dd93072600%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638828381665922758%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PupN4yL5%2FXknknGu3jt11BG9M20qDUnBGDuH%2BkeMzeo%3D&reserved=0)

Landscape-scale project restoring forests and protecting Mammoth Lakes: [https://sierranevada.ca.gov/landscape-scale-project-restoring-forests-and-protecting-mammoth-lakes/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsierranevada.ca.gov%2Flandscape-scale-project-restoring-forests-and-protecting-mammoth-lakes%2F&data=05%7C02%7CBailey.MkNelly%40resources.ca.gov%7C0a8cd79248c140c7b1eb08dd93072600%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638828381665934831%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4G%2FWtT21Q6W19qSQ93xEk5tZld09FfH1AeLnSaQclVo%3D&reserved=0)

Who’s ready? Scaling forest restoration requires strong partnerships: [https://sierranevada.ca.gov/whos-ready-scaling-forest-restoration-requires-strong-partnerships/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsierranevada.ca.gov%2Fwhos-ready-scaling-forest-restoration-requires-strong-partnerships%2F&data=05%7C02%7CBailey.MkNelly%40resources.ca.gov%7C0a8cd79248c140c7b1eb08dd93072600%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638828381665947622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sP0wJt6IXVjacYTCt3%2Bv0T9a4fwESUtQzFdgQZu3f1Q%3D&reserved=0)

SNC to pilot wildfire resilience landscape investment strategy: [https://sierranevada.ca.gov/snc-to-pilot-wildfire-resilience-landscape-investment-strategy/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsierranevada.ca.gov%2Fsnc-to-pilot-wildfire-resilience-landscape-investment-strategy%2F&data=05%7C02%7CBailey.MkNelly%40resources.ca.gov%7C0a8cd79248c140c7b1eb08dd93072600%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638828381665959528%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FEtu457qJ0iDmJCGdFomSz7agz4bnkk7Uc72SXXZThQ%3D&reserved=0)