

TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE COMMUNITIES

Lessons Learned & Best Practices

Public Agenda

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The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committee on “*Accelerating Decarbonization in the United States: Technology, Policy, and Societal Dimensions*” has been tasked to assess a wide spectrum of technological, policy, and social dimensions of decarbonizing the U.S. economy. California's Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) present a unique opportunity for California neighborhoods to bring diverse stakeholders together to work collaboratively on a blueprint for capacity-building while identifying Greenhouse Gas mitigation projects that have multiple public, economic, and health co-benefits. This open session seeks to hear from various TCC stakeholders about the program's benefits.

Additional details on the full study can be found here:

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/accelerating-decarbonization-in-the-united-states-technology-policy-and-societal-dimensions>

2:00 PM ET¹ Welcome and Purpose

2:05 PM Opening Remarks

Louise Bedsworth, Berkeley Law's Center for Law, Energy, and the Environment

2:25 PM Remarks from Transform Fresno Stakeholders

Panel:

- Miguel Arias, District 3 City Councilmember
- J. R. DeShazo, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs
- Randall Winston, O'Melveny & Myers
- Ivanka Saunders, Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability

3:05 PM Committee Question & Answer Session

Moderator: *Michael Mendez, Committee Member*

4:00 PM Adjourn

¹ All times are in Eastern Time

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Speaker Biographies

Miguel Arias, Fresno City Councilmember – District 3

Fresno City Councilmember President Miguel Arias represents District 3, including the Tower, West Fresno, Central and Downtown neighborhoods. He is a native of Mendota, a rural agricultural community in western Fresno County where he and his family labored in the fields as farmworkers. While at CSU Fresno, he accepted a position with the U.S. House of Representatives where he worked as a district representative and legislative assistant to Congressman Calvin Dooley in both the Fresno and Washington D.C. offices. During his time in Washington D.C., Mr. Arias established an immigration education program and staffed the bipartisan House Taskforce on Immigration Reform. Since completing his tenure in Washington D.C. with Congressman Dooley, Mr. Arias has served in various senior roles within Fresno Unified School District including Chief Information Officer, Executive Director of the Office of Constituent Services and Community and Family Services. Fresno Unified School District is the fourth largest school district in the State of California and the largest employer in the San Joaquin Valley. Most recently, Mr. Arias served on the State Center Community College Board of Trustees from November of 2014, to November of 2018, representing Area 5. Council President Arias currently lives in Downtown with his family.

Louise Bedsworth, Berkeley Law's Center for Law, Energy, and the Environment

Dr. Louise Bedsworth is Executive Director at the Center for Law, Energy, and the Environment where she also serves as a Senior Advisor to the California-China Climate Institute. Before joining CLEE, Dr. Bedsworth spent nearly a decade working for the State of California, most recently as the Executive Director of the Strategic Growth Council, a Cabinet-level State institution that brings together multiple agencies and departments to support sustainable communities emphasizing strong economies, social equity, and environmental stewardship. Prior to joining SGC, she was the Deputy Director of the Office of Planning and Research in Governor Jerry Brown's office. At OPR, she led work on several collaborative research initiatives and climate change adaptation and resilience, including development of the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program and implementation of the State's \$70 million grant awarded under the National Disaster Resilience Competition. Before joining OPR, Dr. Bedsworth was a research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, where her work focused on climate change adaptation, local government action on climate change, and transportation. She has also held positions at the Union of Concerned Scientists, Redefining Progress, and the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis.

J. R. DeShazo, University of Texas at Austin's Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs

Dr. J. R. DeShazo is the dean of the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Before being named dean, he led both the Department of Public Policy and the Lusk Center for Innovation as its founding

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director for more than a decade. Under his leadership, the LCI has impacted policies on climate, renewable energy, environmental equity, zero-emission transportation, urban greening and sustainable water systems through its research, evaluation, advice, and assistance. It was recognized by President Obama's Climate Data Initiative and has earned eight awards from the American Planning Association — three national and five at the state level. He was awarded Professor of the Year, Master's Program in Public Policy, UCLA in 2001, 2005, and 2007. He received the Center for American Politics and Public Policy Fellowship at UCLA in 1999. He was a faculty associate at the Harvard Institute for International Development (1997-2000), where he was the Commencement Marshal at Harvard University in 1997, received the Harvard University Fellowship in 1992-1995, and was a Marshall Scholar Nominee in 1989. Dr. DeShazo has published over 40 articles and has over 800 citations in Google Scholar. He holds a Ph.D. in Urban Planning from Harvard University and a M.Sc. in Economics from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

Ivanka Saunders, Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability

Ms. Ivanka Saunders is a Policy Advocate for the Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability, based out of the Fresno office. The Leadership Counsel works alongside the most impacted communities to advocate for sound policy and eradicate injustice through community organizing, research, legal representation, and policy advocacy. With a bachelor's degree in Spanish and Government from St. Mary's College of California, and an extensive history of community organizing and policy advocacy around health equity, Ms. Saunders continues to work on holistic approaches to health and racial equity focusing on the City of Fresno.

Randall Winston, O'Melveny & Myers

Randall Winston is an attorney at O'Melveny & Myers whose career spans law, architecture, and public service. Randall previously served as Executive Director of the California Strategic Growth Council, a state agency integrating efforts to achieve the state's sustainable community goals. Under his leadership, SGC invested over \$1.3 billion in transit-oriented affordable housing and land conservation throughout the state. Mr. Winston also served as a climate policy advisor to Governor Jerry Brown, working across state agencies to advance programs targeting disadvantaged communities, implementing Executive Orders on green buildings and electric vehicles, and developing international environmental agreements with China and Mexico. Before serving in the Brown administration, he worked for Pritzker Prize-winning architect Norman Foster, collaborating with interdisciplinary teams on design, urban planning, and infrastructure projects throughout the world. He also spent two years working for urban development and architecture firms in Beijing, China. Mr. Winston is a Policy Fellow at Elemental Excelsior, a nonprofit venture fund and incubator for clean technology entrepreneurs. He is also Vice Chair of California Environmental Voters and serves on the boards of Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability and U.C. Berkeley's Center for Law, Energy & the Environment. Randall Winston received a Juris Doctorate degree from the U.C. Berkeley School of Law, a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Virginia, and a B.A. in Government from Harvard University.