

## PM 2: Zero Emissions California: Paving the Way for U.S. Magic Kingdom 2

### MODERATOR



**Danielle Borja**

*President / CEO, Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce and Board Member, Mobility 21*

Danielle Borja is the President/CEO for the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce, Conejo Valley Tourism Improvement District, and the Greater Conejo Valley Community Foundation.

She leads one of largest Chambers in the state of California with over 700 business members and oversees the tourism efforts of Visit Conejo Valley that promotes overnight stays in the cities of Thousand Oaks and Agoura Hills.

Danielle serves on the Board of Directors for Mobility 21, Tri-County Chamber Alliance, Conejo/Las Virgenes Future Foundation and is a member of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Global Land Use and Economic Council. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing Communications and a Master of Business Administration both from California Lutheran University and currently resides in Thousand Oaks with her husband and three daughters.

### PANELISTS



**Erin Brooks**

*Director of Customer Energy Solutions, SoCalGas*

Erin Brooks is the Director of Customer Energy Solutions for Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas). In this role, she manages the relationships with large Commercial and Industrial (C&I) business customers, supports customer adoption of clean transportation, clean fuels and new technologies, and collaborates with hard-to-decarbonize C&I customers to develop a path to net-zero in support of SoCalGas' ASPIRE 2045 and California's climate goals. Prior to coming to SoCalGas in 2016, Erin worked as a management consultant with Kenny & Company and an energy consultant at Navigant. She is passionate about developing and promoting clean energy solutions for our changing world, and promoting policies to support and enable innovation and growth in the clean energy marketplace. Erin holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research from the University of California, Berkeley.

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### **Jesus Montes**

*Senior Executive Officer, Vehicle Acquisition Vehicle Engineering & Acquisition, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority*

Jess is currently responsible for overseeing Metro's Bus and Rail Vehicle capital projects, including Metro's transition of its CNG bus operations to Zero Emissions by 2030. He also oversees Transit Vehicle Engineering, and the Bus & Rail Warranty groups.

Prior to joining Metro in 2011, for 18+ years Jess worked as a Consultant for LTK Engineering Services. In that capacity he supported the commissioning and delivery of Metro's P2550, P2000, P2020 and A650 option order fleets; Metrolink's commissioning and delivery of its Bombardier commuter cars and GM-EMD locomotives; and Amtrak's testing of its High Speed Trainsets and High Horsepower locomotives.

He is blessed with a wonderful wife and two teenage boys.



### **Chanel Parson**

*Director of Electrification, Southern California Edison*

Chanel Parson is responsible for progressing SCE's vision for a Clean Energy Future through the electrification of vehicles and buildings. Her portfolio includes over \$1 billion in programs that address key barriers to electrification – availability, affordability, and awareness. Her portfolio also includes strategy, program development, business development and partnerships, and codes and standards.

Prior to this role, Chanel was the executive responsible for SCE's Advanced Energy Solutions portfolio of programs and its 5 million customer accounts for customer solar, battery storage, energy efficiency, and demand response programs.

With over 17 years of utility experience, Chanel has led teams in training, transmission and distribution operations, project management, regulatory, safety, and customer service.

Chanel has earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from UCLA, a Master of Arts in Organizational Behavior and Program Evaluation from Claremont Graduate University, and a Master of Business Administration from UCLA Anderson School of Management.



### **Carrie Schindler**

*Deputy Executive Director, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority*

Carrie Schindler is an energetic force at the heart of transportation innovation. As the Deputy Executive Director for the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA), she's one of the key architects of visionary public transportation strategies serving the region. Her role

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involves collaborating closely with the Executive Director to orchestrate leadership that translates into tangible results.

Carrie's legacy is defined by her role as Director of Transit and Rail at SBCTA, where she steered the long awaited launch of Arrow service with completion of the Redlands Rail Project, and spearheaded project development for the first-ever FRA approved zero-emission hydrogen-powered passenger rail vehicle; highlighting her commitment to sustainable transport solutions.

Her journey also saw her excel as Chief of Fund Administration, harnessing state and federal funding to propel the realization of ambitious projects. With an accomplished background as Chief of Transportation Planning for the County of San Bernardino, as well as a Resident Engineer for significant flood control endeavors, Carrie's expertise radiates across a spectrum of transportation domains.

Carrie holds a degree in Civil Engineering from San Diego State University and is a registered Professional Engineer in California. Beyond her professional endeavors, she embraces the joys of life, embarking on captivating road trips with her family and seizing moments to reconnect with her roots by visiting her parents in Baja.



**Cliff Thorne**

*Director of Maintenance, Orange County Transportation Authority*

Cliff works with the Executive Team at OCTA to strategically plan and maintain company assets for the purpose of providing transportation services in Orange County. With over 24 years of experience in the public transit industry, Cliff oversees the management of all OCTA-owned facilities and rolling stock from procurements to maintenance operations. Cliff is also responsible for the development and implementation of OCTA's zero emission bus (ZEB) program, which includes creating safe and sustainable solutions for zero emission technologies. Currently, Cliff is leading the effort to pilot both hydrogen fuel-cell and battery-electric bus technologies to gain direct experience with ZEB operational effectiveness, maintenance, and cost. To date, Cliff has deployed ten hydrogen fuel cell electric buses and a hydrogen fueling station, and ten battery electric buses and charging stations.

Cliff started his transit career at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority where he served in a variety of positions within Operations including serving as a single manager over Maintenance and Bus Operations. Cliff is a member of the California Transit Association and is the immediate past chair of the Maintenance Committee.

Cliff has a passion for making process improvements utilizing advanced technologies with a common-sense approach. He believes that one must remain in a state of continuous growth to be the most effective and relevant.