

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



SEAN ADAMS, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF INNOVATION DESIGN, COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND, EXECUTIVE SPONSOR, Cal-IPGCA

Appointed in early 2019, Sean Adams assumed the Senior Vice President of Innovation Design for State Fund. He is a technology leader with ten years of experience directing software products and applications through the definition, delivery, integration, and maintenance phases. Responsibilities include influencing stakeholders, resource allocation, market analytics, budget compliance, cost analysis, scope definition, project and program planning, and risk-mitigation analysis.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



GEORGE AKIYAMA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, CIO, DOT

George Akiyama was appointed as the Chief Information Officer, for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). In this position, he leads and provides oversight for the full range of Information Technology functions throughout Caltrans. Prior to working at Caltrans, Mr. Akiyama started his State career in 1995 and has held various positions including Application Development Manager, Enterprise Architect, IT Project Manager, Strategic Planning Manager and Chief Information Officer of the Financial Information System for California (FI\$Cal) Project. Mr. Akiyama holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and a master of Business Administration from California State University, Sacramento.



COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



LIANA BAILEY-CRIMMINS, STATE CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY (CDT)

[Liana Bailey-Crimmins](#) was named state chief technology officer in the California Department of Technology (CDT). Bailey-Crimmins, an [award-winning veteran](#) of state service, most recently served as chief information security officer for the California Public Employees' Retirement System since 2019, where she had previously served as chief health director from 2017 to 2019 and chief information officer (CIO) from 2013 to 2017. She was CIO for California Correctional Health Care Services from 2010 to 2013, and before that she was deputy CIO from 2008 to 2010.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



ANGELA BARRANCO, UNDER SECRETARY, CNRA

Angela Barranco joined the California Natural Resources Agency in May 2019. As Undersecretary, Angela oversees an agency charged with protecting and managing California's diverse resources. This includes stewarding the state's forests and natural lands, rivers and waterways, coast and ocean, fish and wildlife, and energy development.

At the state, federal, and local levels, Angela has served as a non-profit executive, communications and outreach strategist, and Federal Presidential appointee. Before she was appointed Undersecretary, Angela was Chief Executive Officer at River LA, a non-profit focused on bringing together the Los Angeles region through the reimagining of the L.A. River as a multi-benefit urban infrastructure. As a Presidential Appointee, Barranco led public engagement for the Obama White House on environment, conservation, climate, and energy issues. She also served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, working on Detroit revitalization, Promise Zones, and climate-smart post-disaster rebuilding. Barranco managed and advised political campaigns across the country, including as National Western Regional Director for the Obama 2012 re-election campaign. Additionally, she has experience in communications and environmental policy work at the U.S. Congress, state, and municipal levels.

Angela received a bachelor's degree in Environmental Biology from Columbia College, Columbia University, with a focus on conservation. She is bilingual and fluent in Spanish.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



JOHN BENARD, AUTHOR, "GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS" – GUBERNATORIAL ADVISOR

John M. Bernard is a widely recognized authority on government performance transformation and Lean management systems and a columnist for GOVERNING. He's the author of the best-selling book *Business at the Speed of Now* (Wiley 2012) and the widely read *Government That Works, The Results Revolution in the States* (Results America 2015). *Government That Works* features forewords by two governors, Martin O'Malley (D) of Maryland and Rick Snyder (R) of Michigan, and endorsements by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper and Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber. John is host of the podcast *The New Bureaucrat* and creator of *The Results-Driven Manager*, his online Master Class for State Government.

John has been an advisor to four governors and served as the external advisor on the design and roll out of Governor Jay Inslee's highly respected Results Washington effort, Governor Doug Ducey's Arizona Management System, and Governor Rick Snyder's Good Government program.

John was a member of the team that led the first documented large-scale implementation of Lean in the U.S. at Omark Industries in 1981. John has pioneered the application of Lean to the work of management, driving a relentless focus on results through a management system that achieves high levels of employee engagement.



COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



WILLIAM A. BROWN JR., DEPUTY SECRETARY HUMAN RESOURCES, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AGENCY

William A. Brown Jr., 47, of Sacramento, has been appointed Deputy Secretary of Human Resources at the Government Operations Agency. Brown has been Chief Human Resources Officer for the Riverbank Unified School District since 2020. He served as Director of Human resources at the West Contra Costa Unified School District from 2017 to 2020. He was Principal at Davis High School in the Davis Joint Unified School District from 2013 to 2017.

Brown held several positions at Twin Rivers Unified School District from 1999 to 2013, including Principal at Foothill High School, Vice Principal at Rio Linda High School, Counselor at Norwood Middle School, Outreach Consultant at Rio Linda Junior High School and Football Coach at Grant High School. Brown earned a Master of Science degree in educational counseling from National University.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



DR. TONIA BURGESS, ED.D, MBA, (TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND CHANGE) SENIOR ADVISOR OF RACIAL EQUITY, Cal-IPGCA PROGRAM – COHORT 2022

Dr. Tonia Burgess is a native of Sacramento, California. She earned her Doctorate in Education, emphasizing in transformational leadership and change. Additionally, she holds an MBA with a concentration in organizational development. Dr. Burgess has worked for California state government for 33+years and currently serves as a direct support supervisor for outreach and engagement. She is a published author, her dissertation is about the [Phenomenological Lived Experience of Black Women in Positions of Leadership in California State Government](#), in addition to a personal book released in 2018 titled G7 under her pen name "Marie Powers." In 2021 Dr. Burgess completed a 16-week Equity Educator Intern Program with Sierra Community College in Roseville, CA in pursuit of becoming an adjunct professor. Moreover, she also had the opportunity to facilitate a mentoring circle on the topic of "Intersectionality at The Cross-Roads of Race, Gender, Class, Ability, Ethnicity and Other Dimensions of Diversity" at the *Diversity Woman Media 2021 Conference*.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



REBEKAH CHRISTENSEN, CO-FOUNDER – CEO, ORA SYSTEMS, INC., CHAIR, Cal-IPGCA

The common denominator that unifies my career is my penchant to unleash and accelerate the human potential in each and every one of us. As founder and CEO of ORA Systems and Chair of the California Innovation Playbook for Government Change Agents (Cal-IPGCA: 2012-19), I employ this strategy. Cal-IPGCA, (formerly the Navigating Leadership Program), is under the Executive Sponsorship of the Government Operations Agency, the Franchise Tax Board (FTB), the Department of General Services (DGS) the Asian Pacific State Employees Association, (APSEA), and ORA Systems.

Across my career, I have designed systems that include life cycle approaches to areas such as site cleanup and tech transfer for the Department of Energy and Defense (DOE-DoD), guidance for the cultural integration of traditional Oriental medicine through the World Health Organization's International Classification of Traditional Medicine (ICTM) project, the design and enactment of amending language to Mello-Roos to manage funding risk in multi-million dollar site cleanup, and the design of a cooperative solution, with UCSB and CalPoly, that led to integrating competing economies to collaboratively promote tourism on the central coast of California.

Whether self-employed, working within corporate America or non-profit leadership, or as a government employee, I believe that success is the juncture when where who you are and what you do becomes one. From that moment forward, I believe that work isn't merely a job—it's a calling to serve!

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



WADE CROWFOOT, SECRETARY, CNRA

Wade Crowfoot was appointed California Secretary for Natural Resources by Governor Gavin Newsom in January 2019. As Secretary, Crowfoot oversees an agency of 19,000 employees charged with protecting and managing California's diverse resources. This includes stewarding the state's forests and natural lands, rivers and waterways, coast and ocean, fish and wildlife, and energy development. As a member of the Governor's cabinet, he advises the Governor on natural resources and environmental issues.

Crowfoot believes effective management of California's resources allows communities and natural places to thrive and the economy to grow. This includes strengthening the connection between Californians and natural resources by expanding access to parks and natural places. Crowfoot is also prioritizing building California's resilience to growing challenges from climate-driven threats, including drought, wildfire, flooding and sea-level rise.

Crowfoot brings over two decades of public policy and environmental leadership to the office, with expertise in water, fisheries, and climate and sustainability issues. He most recently served as chief executive officer of the Water Foundation, a nonprofit philanthropy that builds shared water solutions for communities, economy, and the environment across the American West. In that role, he developed innovative partnerships among a broad range of partners including agricultural leaders and environmental conservation groups.

Prior to joining the foundation, Crowfoot served in Governor Jerry Brown's Administration as deputy cabinet secretary and senior advisor to the Governor. In that role he led the administration's drought response efforts and spearheaded several of the Governor's priority initiatives to build California's resilience to climate change. He previously served as West Coast regional director for the Environmental Defense Fund and a senior environmental advisor to then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, where he helped to lead many of Mayor Newsom's nationally-recognized environmental initiatives. Crowfoot received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996 and earned a master's degree in public policy from the London School of Economics in 2004, where he graduated with honors.

A native of Michigan, Crowfoot grew up spending his summers outdoors. Upon moving to California in the mid-1990s, he became an avid hiker and backpacker and marks his first hike in the redwoods at Big Basin State Park as one of his defining California moments. Now, he spends his down time camping and hiking with his wife, Lisa, and their young daughter.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



PAUL DANCZYK, DIRECTOR OF EXECUTIVE EDUCATION, USC SOL PRICE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

Paul Danczyk, PhD, is the Director of Executive Education in Sacramento for the University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy and past-president of the American Society for Public Administration.

In his current capacity, Paul designs, coordinates, and presents in leadership and management programs – reaching national, state and local governmental and nonprofit organizations – and teaches master-level classes in California and, previously, Mexico. Over the last five years, he has expanded programmatic collaborations through a portfolio reaching over \$1M annually. He is an executive coach, working with over 600 public sector senior executives and administrators one-on-one and in teams, and co-founded and is the lead architect of www.LeadershipEnergizes.com and www.ElectedLeaders360.com.

A returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Paul earned his PhD from the University of Pittsburgh, focusing on Public and International Affairs; Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California; Bachelor of Science in education from the Pennsylvania State University; Professional Certified Coach through the International Coaching Federation, trained at the Hudson Institute for Coaching; and holds certifications from the Harvard University's Mediating Disputes Program and the Barrett's Values Centre.

An ongoing student of the arts and natural sciences, Paul enjoys landscaping, creating sculptures, painting, and bee keeping. He can be reached at danczyk@usc.edu.



COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



SARAH GESSLER, DIVISION CHIEF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, CalHR

Sarah Gessler has worked in the human resources field in both the public and private sectors for more than 20 years. She is the Chief of the Workforce Development Division at the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) and supports state departments with their workforce and succession planning, organizational development, and talent development and retention efforts so they can attract, develop, and retain a talented and diverse workforce.

In addition to her previous role as the Statewide Workforce Planning and Recruitment Manager at CalHR, she has eleven years of experience in recruitment, examinations, classification, performance management, and training with the California Public Employees' Retirement System. Sarah is a University of California at Davis graduate and her work experience prior to starting her human resources career includes wildlife education.



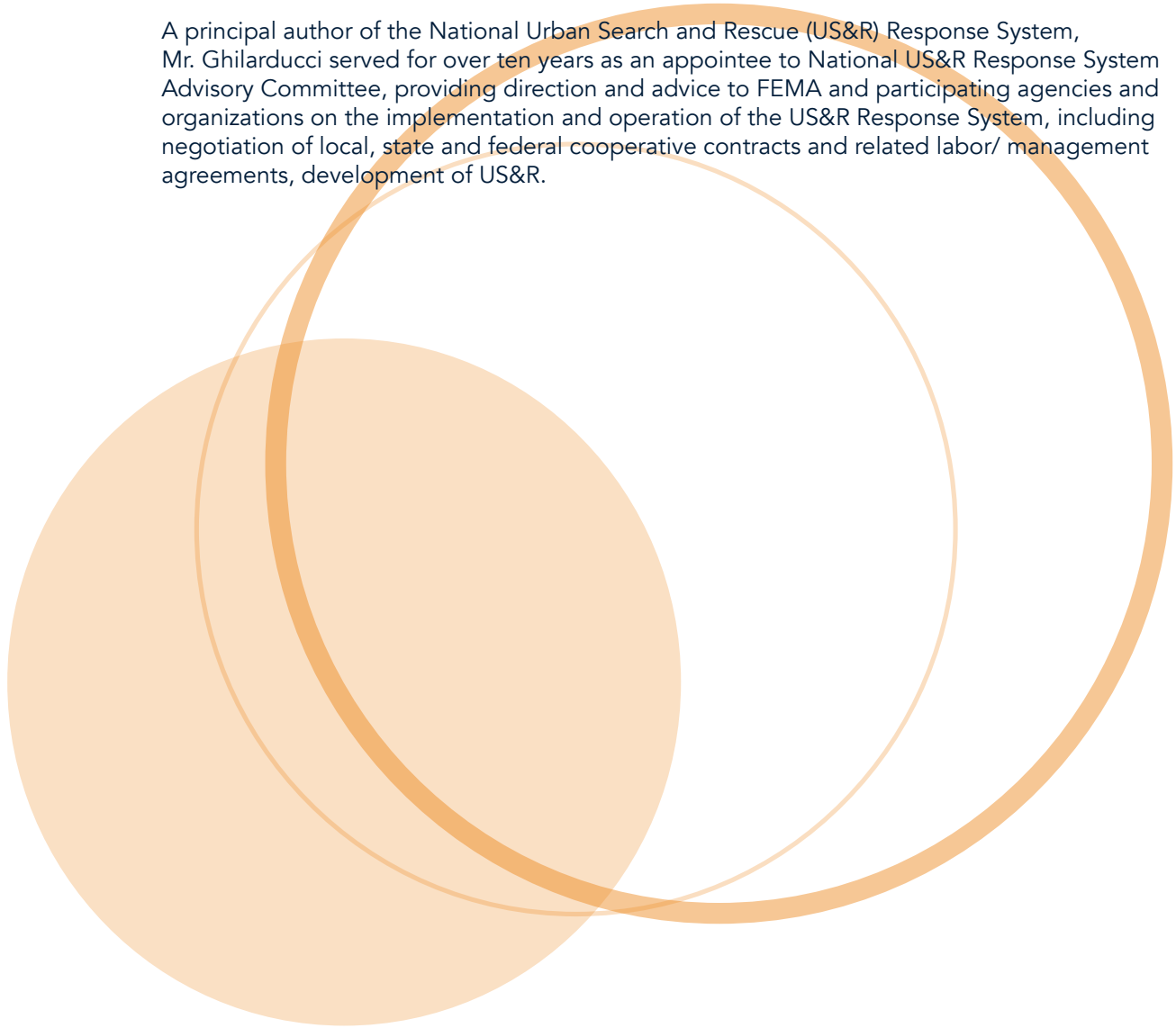
MARK S. GHILARDUCCI, DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Director Mark S. Ghilarducci was appointed to this position in the Office of Emergency Services in July 2013. He serves as the Governor's homeland security advisor (HSA) and oversees statewide public safety, emergency management, emergency communications, counter-terrorism efforts, and the State Threat Assessment System (STAS).

In 2000, Governor Gray Davis appointed Mr. Ghilarducci deputy director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), where he oversaw statewide emergency operations, planning, and training. He has also served as a federal coordinating officer with the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), where he directed and coordinated federal response and recovery operations following numerous presidentially declared disasters and emergencies.

For nine years, Mr. Ghilarducci was deputy fire chief and director of special operations in the Fire and Rescue Division within the Office of Emergency Services. Operationally, Mr. Ghilarducci has been involved in disaster and emergency response and recovery activities resulting from hundreds of major incidents within California, nationally, and internationally.

A principal author of the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System, Mr. Ghilarducci served for over ten years as an appointee to National US&R Response System Advisory Committee, providing direction and advice to FEMA and participating agencies and organizations on the implementation and operation of the US&R Response System, including negotiation of local, state and federal cooperative contracts and related labor/ management agreements, development of US&R.



COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



RICHARD GILLIHAN, COO, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Department of Finance in September, 2018. Previously Richard was the Director of CalHR where he was responsible for all issues related to labor relations and collective bargaining, employee salaries and benefits, job classifications, civil rights, training, exams, recruitment, and retention.

Since 2002, Gillihan held several positions at the California Department of Finance, including program budget manager, assistant program budget manager, chief of information technology operations, and consulting and assistant chief and data processing manager at the Office of Technology Review, Oversight and Security.

From 1994 to 2002, Gillihan served in several positions at the California Department of the Youth Authority, including data processing manager in the Information Technology Office, associate programmer analyst at the N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility, Programmer II at the Preston Youth Correctional Facility and Programmer I in the Training Services Division. Gillihan was an independent information technology consultant from 1991 to 1994.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



STEVE GORDON, DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Steve Gordon is a versatile leader with more than 30 years of experience building, integrating, debugging and operating high-profile businesses for market leaders in high-tech and life sciences using vision, strategy and execution with passion for Fortune 500 clients. Steve has spent most of the last three decades leading various global services businesses at Cisco Systems and, most recently, global business services at Becton, Dickinson and Company. At BD, Steve ran service operations for the GBS organization and led the transformation to take advantage of modern tools and technologies, including robotics, to scale BD's shared services organization.

COHORT 2022

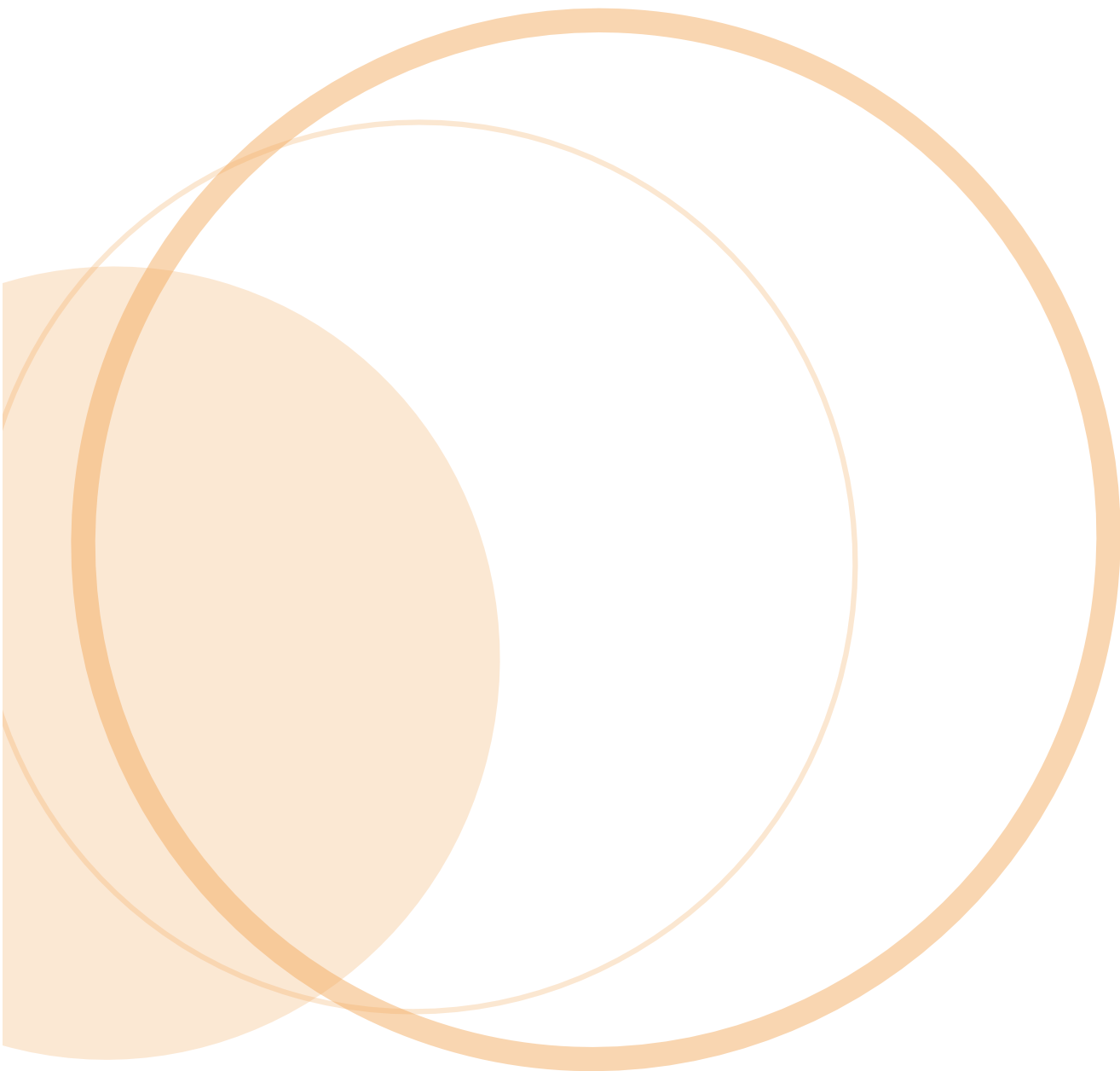
STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



SCOTT GREGORY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TECHNOLOGY, CAL FIRE

Scott Gregory was appointed Deputy Director of Technology at CAL FIRE in July 2020. Before joining CAL FIRE, Scott was the Deputy Director of the Office of Digital Innovation at the California Department of Technology, where he has served as the state geographic information officer since 2011.

He was a public safety manager at the Environmental Systems Research Institute from 2005 to 2010, geographic information systems manager at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District from 2001 to 2005 and a programmer analyst at Anteon Corporation from 1999 to 2001. Gregory was a geographic information systems specialist for the County of Sacramento from 1997 to 1999. He earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Regis University.



COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



KAMYAR GUIVETCHI, DIRECTOR, INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION, Cal-IPGCA ASSOCIATION

Kamyar Guivetchi was appointed a division manager at the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in 2008. During his 42 years with DWR, Kamyar worked on technical and planning studies and projects with Statewide Integrated Water Management, North-Central Region Office, Division of Planning, Bay-Delta Office, and Division of Environmental Services managing the Suisun Marsh Program.

From 2000 Kamyar managed staff work and coordinated the collaboration of numerous government agencies, Native American Tribes, stakeholders, and public to prepare the California Water Plan Updates 2005, 2009, 2013, and 2018. He chairs the 30-member State Agency Steering Committee and is the State Co-chair of the California Biodiversity Council's Executive Committee. Kamyar has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering; completed post graduate work in Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Davis; and is a California registered Civil Engineer.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



AJAY GUPTA, CHIEF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OFFICER, DMV

Ajay Gupta was appointed Chief Digital Transformation Officer in February 2020. The CDTO leads technological efforts to enable the DMV to become a modern enterprise. Gupta has served as a special advisor to the DMV Director since 2019.

Before joining state service, Gupta worked as a managing director at KPMG, where he led the delivery of legacy transformation, technology innovation, and managed services for State departments nationally. Gupta brings more than 23 years of public sector experience to the DMV. He served state departments in California, Texas and Hawaii while working for CGI Inc., Visionary Integration Professional Inc., Deloitte LLP, and Tata Consulting Services.

Gupta has a B.E. in Electrical Engineering from Delhi College of Engineering and an MBA in Marketing and Information Technology from UC Davis. Gupta is also certified as a PMP, CSPO, Cloud Practitioner, and Enterprise Architect.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



HENRY JONES, PRESIDENT, CalPERS BOARD

Henry Jones is serving his fourth term on the CalPERS Board of Administration and his second one-year term as president. Prior to being elected president, he served three years as vice president of the board.

He retired in 1998 from the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)—the second largest in the nation. As chief financial officer, he oversaw LAUSD's \$7 billion annual budget. He also headed their Annuity Reserve Fund Board overseeing the pension fund for 7,000 schoolteachers and administrators.

Henry currently serves as a personnel commissioner for the Los Angeles Community College District. He is a member of the governing board of the Robert Toigo Foundation, a nonprofit organization that encourages minorities and women to pursue careers in finance. He also serves on the board of the Pacific Pension & Investment Institute, an educational organization that assists pension funds, corporations, financial institutions, and endowments worldwide with their fiduciary responsibilities, particularly in Asia and the Pacific region.

Previously, Henry represented CalPERS on the Advisory Council of California All, a nonprofit organization focused on closing the achievement gap from preschool to professional careers in law, financial services, and technology. He has served on the board of directors for Community Partners, a nonprofit organization that works with social entrepreneurs, grant makers, and civic leaders to design solutions, foster, launch, and sustain initiatives for change.



COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



DAVID KILGORE, DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

David Kilgore was appointed Director of California Department of Child Support Services in June 2018. Mr. Kilgore has extensive experience working in the Child Support Program and has held many key positions at child support agencies statewide.

Mr. Kilgore served as the director of the Riverside County Department of Child Support Services from 2015 until his appointment in 2018. He previously served as the chief deputy director of the Los Angeles County Department of Child Support Services, where he was deputy director of operations from 2008 to 2013. He was deputy director of operations at the San Bernardino County Department of Child Support Services from 2006 to 2008 and held several positions at the Tulare County Department of Child Support Services from 2002 to 2006, including program manager and staff services analyst.

Mr. Kilgore earned a Master of Public Administration degree from California State University, Northridge.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



JOHN LAIRD, SENATOR, DISTRICT 17 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

John Laird was elected to the State Senate on November 3, 2020, carrying all four counties in the district with a combined margin of over 145,000 votes, and was sworn in to represent Senate District 17 on December 7, 2020. In the State Senate, Laird chairs and serves on a broad array of committees: Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #1 (Education), Vice Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee, Member, Appropriations Committee, Member, Budget & Fiscal Review Committee, Member, Joint Legislative Committee on Budget, Member, Judiciary Committee, Member, Labor, Public Employment & Retirement, Member, Natural Resources & Water Committee, Member, Rules Committee, Member, Joint Legislative Committee on Rules.

Prior to his Senate service, Laird served as Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency under Governor Jerry Brown from January 5, 2011 until January 7, 2019. Laird also served as a member of the State Integrated Waste Management Board from 2008 to 2009. In 2002, he was elected to the State Assembly to represent the 27th District, which included portions of Monterey, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties, and was reelected in 2004 and 2006. While serving the maximum three terms in the Assembly, Laird authored 82 bills that were signed into law.

Prior to serving in the State Assembly, Laird was elected as a member of the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees from 1994 to 2002. In 1981, Laird was elected to the Santa Cruz City Council, and served nine years until term limits ended his council service in 1990. He was a two-term mayor from 1983 to 1984 and from 1987 to 1988, making him one of the first openly gay mayors to serve in the United States.

Laird has also served as executive director of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project, taught environmental policy at the University of California Santa Cruz, hosted a news talk program on KUSP public radio, and held analyst positions in budgeting and human resources for the County of Santa Cruz.

The son of teachers and raised in Vallejo, Laird graduated with honors in politics from the University of California – Santa Cruz in 1972. He has been a long-time resident of Santa Cruz with his spouse John Flores. He has traveled extensively, is fluent in Spanish, enjoys conducting family history research, and is a life-long Chicago Cubs fan.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



STEPHENSON LOVESON, CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, CalPERS, PRESIDENT, APSEA EXECUTIVE SPONSOR, Cal-IPGCA

Stephenson Loveson serves as Chief Technology Officer of CalPERS, one of the largest, most complex data centers in the state. His responsibilities include managing policies, standards, processes and modernizing the CalPERS Data Center infrastructure by advancing cloud technologies and automation frameworks. Stephenson has extensive experience in technology strategic planning, improving, and implementing large scale, cross-functional, and complex IT solutions, project management, policy, governance and change management. Stephenson believes in utilizing technology to advance business outcomes and serve the people of California.

Stephenson is a graduate of the Information Technology Leadership Academy, a program focused on developing leadership skills among State IT professionals. Stephenson has a Master of Business Administration degree specializing in Information Technology Management and Finance as well as a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



LISA MANGAT, CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR POLICY & ADMINISTRATION Cal-OES

Lisa Mangat, is Chief Deputy Director of Policy and Administration at the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Mangat served as Director at the California Department of Parks and Recreation since 2015, where she held several positions since 2013, including Acting Director and Special Advisor to the Director. She was Program Budget Manager at the California Department of Finance from 2008 to 2013.

Mangat was Principal Fiscal Consultant at the California State Assembly Republican Fiscal Office from 2005 to 2008. She was Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst at the Legislative Analyst's Office from 2002 to 2005. Mangat was Staff Budget Analyst at the California Department of Finance from 1999 to 2002. Mangat earned a Master of Business Administration degree from California State University, Sacramento.



COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



KARLA NEMETH, DIRECTOR, DWR

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 oversees the Department and its mission to manage and protect California's water resources, working with other agencies in order to benefit the State's people and to protect, restore and enhance the natural and human environments.

Nemeth worked at the California Natural Resources Agency as Governor Brown's deputy secretary and senior advisor for water policy since 2014. She was Bay Delta Conservation Plan project manager from 2009 to 2014.

Nemeth was environmental and public affairs director for the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District from 2005 to 2009. She was community affairs manager at Jones and Stokes from 2003 to 2005. She has a Master's degree in public administration from the University of Washington.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



TOKS OMISHAKIN, DIRECTOR, DOT

Toks Omishakin was appointed the 33rd Director of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) by Governor Gavin Newsom and sworn in October 2019. As Director, he manages a \$15 billion budget and nearly 21,000 employees who oversee 50,000 lane miles of highways, maintain 13,000 bridges, provide permitting of more than 400 public-use airports, fund three of Amtrak's busiest intercity rail services and provide transit support to more than 200 local and regional transit agencies.

Omishakin's transportation vision for California features a safe, sustainable and multimodal transportation system that builds on strong local partnerships. Transformative innovation will also be needed to achieve zero traffic-related deaths and reduce GHGs by 40% by 2030. All local communities must be heard and share in the benefits of Caltrans projects, and he encourages a Caltrans culture of innovation and taking intelligent risks.

He came to Caltrans following eight years with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). There, he successfully established environmental, multimodal and planning policies to make TDOT one of the best DOTs in the country. As Deputy Commissioner for Environment and Planning, Director Omishakin was responsible for an administrative and project budget of more than \$300 million annually. He also led the activities of the divisions of Environmental Services, Long-Range Planning, Multimodal Transportation Resources, and the Freight and Logistics Division. Prior to that, he served as Director of Healthy Living Initiatives in the Nashville Mayor's Office. In that capacity, he led development of Metro Nashville's Complete Streets Policy and helped establish a more balanced approach to transportation planning and design. This included spearheading creation of two bicycle sharing programs.



COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



THOM PORTER, DIRECTOR, CAL FIRE

Director Porter was appointed Director by Governor Gavin Newsom on January 8, 2019. Director Porter was designated Acting Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on December 14, 2018.

He has been serving as Chief of Strategic Planning in CAL FIRE Sacramento Headquarters since January 1, 2018. Previously, he served as the Southern Region Chief, Assistant Region Chief, and San Diego Unit Fire Chief.

Director Porter's depth of fire department management expertise is balanced by his forestry background. He is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) in California with a Bachelor of Forestry Degree from the University of California Berkeley.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



AMANDA RAY, COMMISSIONER, CHP

On November 17, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Amanda L. Ray as the 16th Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol (CHP); the first woman to lead the Department of more than 11,000 members. Prior to her appointment to Commissioner, she served as the Deputy Commissioner and was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the CHP.

Commissioner Ray is a 30-year veteran of the CHP and has earned numerous awards and commendations in her personal life and during her professional career with the Department. Commissioner Ray has been a pioneer for women in law enforcement as the first African American female in the CHP's 91-year history to hold the position of Deputy Commissioner for the nation's largest state police agency.

Commissioner Ray served an integral role as the Department's first female to be assigned as the Special Response Team Tactical Commander during Super Bowl 50 held at Levi Stadium in Santa Clara, CA. Her vast field experience has allowed her to effectively serve as incident commander during a variety of other high-profile events including the Department's response to COVID-19, civil unrest, and wildfires.

In 2020, Commissioner Ray was selected to attend the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Executive Institute executive training program where she enhanced her knowledge in national and international political, economic, and social trends affecting law enforcement. As a leader in law enforcement, Commissioner Ray holds firm to the values set forth by the CHP's Public Trust Initiative to serve and safeguard our communities with compassion and understanding.

Throughout her career, Commissioner Ray has actively engaged with the communities she serves, seeking every opportunity to participate in outreach events, and active involvement in departmental programs to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security to the people of California.

Commissioner Ray holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from the University of California, Berkeley and she is the first female in the history of the CHP to hold the rank of Commissioner

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



GENE ROMAGNA, DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS Cal-IPGCA ASSOCIATION

Gene currently serves as an AGPA (analyst) with the CA Dept. of Motor Vehicles, working on special projects in their Executive Division at the Sacramento HQ. He is a graduate of the 2019 Cal-IPGCA Cohort and serves as the current Communications Director for its Board. Prior to coming to the DMV, Gene worked for major US companies such as IBM and AT&T in various technical and marketing capacities both in the United states and Europe, before moving from his home state of NJ to FL, where he became a serial entrepreneur starting several businesses and acting as a turn-round CEO back in Orlando, FL. He is a published business author and firm believer in collaboration and innovation at every level. As he says, he prefers "chaos rather than cobwebs" and values kindness to everyone.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



JOHN SANBORN, CHIEF LEARNING OFFICER, CaIHR

A dynamic, accomplished Chief Learning Officer highly regarded for orchestrating superior programs for the reform and development of employee and organizational excellence.

Known as an expert at synthesizing personnel, management and operations decisions to meet requirements and align goals with values and visions. Proud US Navy veteran and an extremely creative leader with outstanding work ethic. Out-of-the-box, strategic thinker who constantly promotes excellence, builds superb talent development solutions and motivates employees toward top-level performance.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



MICHELLE SCHMITT, MASTER INNOVATION FACILITATOR Cal-IPGCA PROGRAM

Michelle Schmitt has 29 years of experience in California State Government service specializing in organizational capacity building, leadership development, succession planning, workforce management and successful new program development & implementation collaborating across diverse stakeholder groups. She is the Master Facilitator for the Cohort Moonshot Training Teams under the Cal-IPGCA Program.

Michelle's key attributes and skills include:

- Experienced advisor, consultant, coach and partner to Executive Leadership with understanding of how to navigate sensitive political landscapes
- Skilled facilitator of collaborative meetings that forge positive relationships and outcomes for possibilities and results
- Leader of agency-wide and department-wide teams and initiatives without benefit of formal reporting relationships to achieve positive outcomes
- Dynamic learning facilitator and designer creating and leading complex learning programs for managers and executives
- Creative Program developer and manager bringing large scale change initiatives to successful fruition
- Organizational Performance consultant who gains trust quickly to identify and resolve internal obstacles to achieving missions



SELVI STANISLAUS, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FRANCHISE TAX BOARD

Selvi Stanislaus was appointed Executive Officer of the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) on January 11, 2006. Selvi is FTB's fourth executive officer and is the first woman to hold the post. Selvi oversees the second largest tax department in the nation, with more than 6,000 employees in California and its three out-of-state offices.

After graduation from the Sri Lanka Law College as an attorney at law, Selvi worked in the private sector, and thereafter in the Chambers of Sri Lanka's President's Counsel. After establishing herself in Sri Lanka, Selvi and her husband chose to pursue the vast opportunities in the United States. They immigrated to California in 1986, where Selvi returned to law school, completing a J.D. degree with Honors and an LLM degree in tax law. After another period in the private sector, she joined the State Board of Equalization's legal staff in 1996, to pursue her passion in tax law. In April 2005, Selvi was appointed the Acting Assistant Chief Counsel of the Tax and Fee Programs Division of the Legal Department, formulating legal policies affecting every tax and fee program in California administered by the Board, which collects nearly \$53 billion annually in taxes and fees.

In her spare time, Selvi is actively involved in doing pro bono work in Northern California's large East Asian community. She is also a part-time professor at a local law school where she teaches tax law.



STEPHANIE TOM, CHIEF CONSULTANT, ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY

Stephanie Tom is the Chief Consultant, Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, California State Assembly. Prior to this appointment in 2021, Stephanie Tom as the Deputy Director for Broadband and Digital Literacy at the California Department of Technology (CDT), where she responsible for running the California Broadband Council focused on providing broadband access in rural areas of the state.

Prior to joining the state, Stephanie was the Director of Sales Programs for the North America Technology Division at Oracle Corporation. She was selected as a core team member for Oracle's new cloud solution engineering group driving a customer first, service oriented culture shift at the company. Stephanie joined Oracle in 1999 as a Partner Marketing Manager in the Alliance and Channels division. During her 19 years at Oracle, Stephanie's responsibilities expanded into more challenging and complex roles as the lead in sales and marketing teams and included the inaugural Executive Engagement team where she was responsible for managing and executing customer engagement strategies for Oracle's corporate executives.

Prior to joining Oracle, Stephanie led Business Development for the International Sales division at CyberCash, Inc. driving the establishment of CyberCash GmbH and CyberCash K.K. Other work experience includes: Aerotek and IBM. Leveraging her sales and marketing background focused on the high technology industry, in 2015 Stephanie founded 2S Technology Services—a small business providing technical support to private residences and small businesses.

Stephanie is passionate about leveraging her corporate experience to give back to the community. She was the Chairperson and Co-Founder of Oracle's first Asian employee resource group, Oracle Professional Asian Leadership (OPAL) and served on the Board of Directors for the California Asian Chamber of Commerce. Currently, Stephanie is a member of the Board of Directors for Asian Resources Inc. (ARI) and Ascend's Northern California Division. Stephanie is the Co-chairperson for Ascend's "Inspiring Across Generations" (IAG) professional development program providing private sector middle management Asian Pacific Islanders (APIs) critical skills for advancement. She is a Strategic Advisor for My Sisters House, a nonprofit dedicated to serving women and children impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, where she launched the first "Fashion for A Cause" fundraiser. Stephanie is a member of the Asian Pacific Islander Public Affairs (APAPA) Steering Committee for its Annual Statewide Voters Education and Candidates Forum, and the Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA).

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



KATHLEEN WEBB, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (COO) STATE CONTROLLERS OFFICE - Cal-IPGCA EXECUTIVE SPONSOR

Ms. Webb was appointed to the position of Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the State Controller's Office in October, 2021.

In July 2019, Kathleen Webb was appointed Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Ms. Webb served as the Acting Director of DMV.

Previously, she was Director of Performance Improvement, Eureka Institute, a part of the Government Operations Agency Innovation and Accountability portfolio. Prior to joining the Government Operations Agency in January 2015, Ms. Webb's public service experience included Chief Risk and Compliance Officer for CalPERS from 2012 to 2014, Director of Policy and Risk Management for Correctional Health Care Services from 2010 to 2012, Deputy Director at the Department of General Services from 2008 to 2009 and Director for the Governor's Office of the Insurance Advisor from 2006 to 2008.

Ms. Webb also held multiple positions with State Farm Insurance from 1986 to 2006, including agency, claims management and legislative affairs. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Women's Studies from UC Berkeley and a Charter Property & Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) professional designation.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



MEREDITH WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL, CalEPA

Meredith Williams is the Director of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. She was appointed to the position by Governor Gavin Newsom on December 19, 2019.

Meredith joined DTSC in 2013 as Deputy Director of the Department's Safer Consumer Products Program to lead the implementation of California's groundbreaking effort to reduce toxic chemicals in consumer products. She has expertise in research and development, product management, and operations for Fortune 500 companies in the technology, consumer product, and chemical sectors, including 3M and Applied Materials, a leading semiconductor manufacturer.

Following her work in the private sector, Meredith held a number of leadership positions at the nonprofit San Francisco Estuary Institute, a nationally recognized center for science in support of aquatic resource management.

Meredith strives for collaborative solutions to complex problems and has a track record of championing interdisciplinary project management approaches. She holds a B.A. degree from Yale University and a doctorate in physics from North Carolina State University.



COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



JOE XAVIER, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION

Director Joe Xavier was a small business owner for over 14 years before he began his career in public administration in 1998. For almost 30 years, Joe has been actively involved in community and advocacy organizations, including the Association of California State Employees with Disabilities and the Asian Pacific State Employees Association.

He has served as a gubernatorial appointee at the Department of Rehabilitation since 2008. Director Xavier's current career highlights include service as project director for a \$50 million cross-organizational project aimed at reducing reliance on public benefits among families of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients ages 14 to 16 as well as a multi-state \$866 million proposal to provide food services to United States Marine Corp bases in California and Arizona.

In addition to managing these high-profile projects, Director Xavier led the successful transition of the Traumatic Brain Injury program into the Department of Rehabilitation and initiated the realignment funding for the Older Individuals Who are Blind program. Through the University of Southern California's School of Public Policy, Director Xavier is a fellow of the Sierra Health Foundation Leadership Institute and a graduate of San Diego State University's National Rehabilitation Leadership Institute. He has also completed the California Health and Human Services Agency Leadership Academy program.

COHORT 2022

STRATEGIC ADVISORS LEADERS FORUM EXECUTIVE TRAINING TEAM



BETTY YEE, CONTROLLER, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

State Controller Betty T. Yee was elected in November 2014, following two terms of service on the California Board of Equalization. As Controller, she continues to serve the Board as its fifth voting member. Reelected for a second term as Controller in 2018, Ms. Yee is only the tenth woman in California history to be elected to statewide office.

As the state's chief fiscal officer, Ms. Yee chairs the Franchise Tax Board and serves as a member of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) Boards. These two boards have a combined portfolio of more than \$570 billion. Ms. Yee also serves on the **Ceres Board of Directors**, a nonprofit organization working to mobilize many of the world's largest investors to advance global sustainability and take stronger action on climate change.

Ms. Yee serves on dozens of boards and commissions with authority ranging from land management to crime victim compensation. As a member of the State Lands Commission (and chairperson in even-numbered years), she helps provide stewardship of public-trust lands, waterways, industrial wharves, marine terminals, pipelines, and resources through economic development, protection, preservation, and restoration consistent with the state's environmental needs.

Through other financing authorities, Ms. Yee is dedicated to creating incentives to increase the number of affordable housing units, spur economic development, support pollution-control innovations, and strengthen health and educational facilities.

Ms. Yee has more than 35 years of experience in public service, specializing in state and local finance and tax policy. Ms. Yee previously served as Chief Deputy Director for Budget with the California Department of Finance where she led the development of the Governor's Budget, negotiations with the Legislature and key budget stakeholders, and fiscal analyses of legislation. Prior to this, she served in senior staff positions for several fiscal and policy committees in both houses of the California State Legislature. She also co-founded the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project, which exposes California high school youth to the public service, public policy, and political arenas.

A native of San Francisco, Ms. Yee received her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, and she holds a master's degree in public administration.