

Contra Costa County & the Inflation Reduction Act Conference (5/18/23)
Transcribed notes from open mic segment

- **Arthur Bart-Williams, abartwilliams@gridalternatives.org, Exec. Dir., Grid Alternatives:** administer several programs; one focuses on single-family homes — a state-funded incentive program to install solar for folks who meet qualifications geographically and financially at no cost to them; with NEM 3.0 change, we're trying to get storage as a part of that; also do incentive programs for multi-family affordable housing; also community solar — looking forward to state- and IRA-funded programs — excited to talk with Alexandra and scale our work; an open invitation to contact Arthur
- **Laura Nakamura, LMNakamura610@gmail.com, Concord City Council member:** plug for increased use of public transit; vehicle electrification is not enough
- **Steve Ongerth, greensyndicalist@gmail.com, union member: Bay Area IWW, Bay Area IBU (ILWU affiliate), Sunflower Alliance:** 5/24/23, 10:00 am webinar involving U.C. Labor Center (What a World Beyond Fossil Fuels Will Mean for Workers, Families, and Communities)
- **Adam Klaus, adam@quitcarbon.com, Quit Carbon:** helping homeowners and contractors across the Bay Area align interests to accomplish home electrification; free planning process for homeowners, then connect them to contractors to get the work finished; there's a lot of great education driving interest in home electrification, but we need a hands-on process to get these projects over the finish line; eager to partner directly with homeowners, also with utilities, CCAs, and communities to apply our process to do that
- **Devyn Rainwater, devyn.rainwater@cclr.org, Center for Creative Land Recycling, Program Associate (joined by Sheila McElroy, Downtown Revitalization Consultant):** partner closely with municipalities and communities on land renewal and revitalization; help establish community vision and processes, and to find funding for what the community would deem beneficial use of local brownfields (could be a park, open space, electric vehicle charging, transportation, bike paths); establish anti-displacement measures to be sure that revitalization benefits the existing community; looking to connect with land reuse funding from EPA; we are the Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities for US EPA Regions 9 and 10, also, Brownfields Technical Assistance Provider for the Department of Toxic Substances Control, which has a grant out right now, the Equitable Community Revitalization Grant; a lot of funding available right now, would like to partner with you to get you access to that
- **(Marti:** note that brownfields funding can overlap with IRA funding)
- **Alyson Greenlee, alyson.greenlee@dcd.cccounty.us, Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development, Economic Development Manager:**

looking forward to being part of U.C. Labor Center's webinar on 5/24; Just Transition/Economic Planning grant awarded to the County — if anyone would like to get more information, please reach out; will be presenting to the Sustainability Commission on 6/26, and Sustainability Committee on 6/29

- **Patience Ofodu, patience@eastbayeda.org, East Bay Economic Development Alliance, Head of Community Relations & Strategic Partnerships:** series of “Meet the Innovators” events coming up, including 6/20 DVC San Ramon breakfast meeting — let us know if you know of innovators in this area to participate in the panel; events in Richmond in July and Hayward in August; MCE as one of our sponsors for the Richmond event

- **Tim Frank, Board member, Construction Trades Workforce Initiative** (note: did not see Tim's info entered in the roster of attendees): operate in Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, and Solano Counties; mission is to provide access to sustaining careers for women, residents of low-income communities who are justice-impacted, and veterans; access to rigorous, 3-5-year apprenticeship programs for all different crafts and construction trades; many have specific training around green building; green building work done at DVC and Contra Costa College by skilled workers; Contra Costa College has Project Labor Agreement — ensuring that work is done right and on time, by people treated and paid well, including people who are “targeted hires” from the populations that CTWI is working to give opportunities to; would love to partner with other agencies like MCE — Virtual Power Plant is an aggregated project — perfect opportunity to engage union contractors, providing true family-sustaining jobs — excited to be a partner with whoever wants to work with us — all who represent labor — we're your allies, talk to us

- **Rafael Menis, rmenis@ci.pinole.ca.us, Vice Chair, Pinole Planning Commission:** we'll be discussing our Environmental Justice Element in early June or July; reaching out if you have ideas about making sure that we reach underserved communities in Pinole and tie that to our Sustainability Element; we would appreciate your feedback; also want to congratulate city of Hercules for starting their process of integrating with MCE

- **Mark Van Landuyt, hepjazz@yahoo.com, Bay Area Green New Deal Alliance** (co-sponsored by Contra Costa County Climate Leaders): want to tell you about fantastic victory due to Eduardo Martinez, Mayor of Richmond. . .

- **Eduardo Martinez, eduardo_martinez@ci.richmond.ca.us, Mayor of Richmond:** Green/Blue New Deal Workforce Development planned for the city of Richmond; 5/20, 10:00 to 12:00, in-person workshop at Recreation Center in Richmond, and on Wednesday, a virtual workshop to see how we can all work together to make this happen (Ogie: i.e. 5/24 labor-focused webinar?); also, we have been talking to developers to find out how the Port of Richmond can be a center for this Green/Blue New Deal for the construction of the offshore windmills. Also, at the last City Council meeting, we approved a contract with Raven, who makes hydrogen out of green waste, so the

hydrogen that we make will have practically no pollution. It will be taking methane from the Republic waste and converting it to hydrogen, and they recycle the CO2 to do the process. I was lucky enough to appoint B. K. White, Vice President of Steelworkers Local 5. He was a former employee at Chevron, so he has a vast understanding of the process, and so he's helping my office figure out what's real and what's not real, what's right and what's wrong.

- **Brendan Havenar-Daughton, brendan.havenar-daughton@PW.CCCounty.us, Contra Costa County, Energy Manager:** I'm serving in Public Works; most of my scope of work involves distributed energy resources for the county buildings, facilities, assets, and operations. My current priority is EV charging infrastructure for our fleet and helping our fleet services electrify. We're also seeking federal funding for DC fast charging at our county libraries. We're coordinating a monthly meeting around transportation electrification activities in the County. It is an informal group, but many cities and local jurisdictions join. It's a place to learn together about the topic of transportation electrification, and to share opportunities for funding, and where we can collaborate to win funding collectively across the county. (Please contact Brendan if you'd like to join the group.)

- **Cecily Knepprath, cecily@sustainablecoco.org, Sustainable Contra Costa:** upcoming events: Party for the Planet, Grey Water Installation Workshop, Hands-on Lawn-to-Garden Workshop, and the Pittsburg Green Footprint Festival; details at: <https://sustainablecoco.ning.com/events>

- **Katherine Chen, kchen@4cd.edu, Contra Costa Community College District, Utility and Sustainability Specialist:** just piloted a brand new internship program with our students this past year; just 2 internship positions that we were piloting; applications from over 30 students across 10 majors; since we're at DVC, wanted to give quick plugs for our students, excited to learn about how they can get involved with climate action with their local community-based organizations and government. If any of you come across sustainability volunteer, internship, or fellowship opportunities, please send them over to our Career and Transfer Services (offices at all 3 community colleges in the District). Please remember our students as you are building out your programs.

- **Lynda Deschambault, info@cccclimateleaders.org, Contra Costa County Climate Leaders, Executive Director:** we track local policies, Civic Spark Fellows, who's passing electrification. We have teamed up with Drawdown Bay Area; we're going to be expanding it from Contra Costa County to 4 other counties. We're looking at doing scorecards, tracking, mapping