

## **Speaker Bios for Fresno's Advanced CEQA Workshop**

**Shannon Chaffin** is a Senior Associate in the Central Valley office of Aleshire & Wynder, LLP., handling a wide variety of legal issues including land use, environmental, municipal law, and litigation. Mr. Chaffin currently serves as District Counsel for the Del Rey Community Services District, Assistant City Attorney for the Cities of Arvin and Suisun City, and as a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Morro Bay. Mr. Chaffin previously served as a Senior Deputy City Attorney for the City of Fresno, where for 10 years he worked in the Advisory and Litigation Units. Mr. Chaffin sat as the advisor to the City of Fresno Planning Commission during its meetings, and was the principal advisor to a number of other boards and commissions, including the Historic Preservation Commission. He was the primary legal counsel for a comprehensive General Plan update, including advising on a complete revision of the zoning ordinance, modifications of over 20 community and specific plans and preparation of the Master Environmental Impact Report for the General Plan update. Mr. Chaffin also has experience in numerous litigation proceedings involving a wide variety of matters such as land use approvals and CEQA challenges. Graduating with honors from the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University, Mr. Chaffin was also member of the Board of Advocates. Mr. Chaffin has a Bachelor of Arts, with honors, from Hillsdale College, Michigan, where he majored in Political Economics and History.

**Sydney Coatsworth** is a Principal with Ascent Environmental and is a geographer and environmental planner with over 25 years of experience in environmental compliance, planning, environmental analysis, and public outreach programs for a wide variety of projects. Her practice runs the gamut, including water resources, wastewater treatment facilities, floodplain management, renewable energy facilities, affordable housing, urban development, natural resources management, and environmental policy and regulation. She is an expert and educator in environmental compliance pursuant to CEQA, NEPA, and TRPA laws and regulations. Sydney specializes in managing large-scale and complex environmental compliance projects and has overseen the preparation of hundreds of environmental documents. Outside of the office, Sydney serves on the Board of the Sacramento Tree Foundation, helping the region maintain and enhance its urban forest.

**Bryan Jones, PE, AICP, LCI** is a Principal with Alta Planning + Design overseeing complete streets planning, engineering and implementation in California. His expertise is leading multi-disciplinary teams along with community stakeholders to transform the built environment to better move and connect people so communities can thrive. Many of his projects involve repurposing roadways to improve safety and revitalize corridors for economic development. He has both private and public sector experience and has held leadership positions with the California cities of Carlsbad, Fresno, and Fremont Public Works Departments. Bryan's complete street project experience spans policy, training, planning, concept design, program development, engineered plans, funding, and implementation. He also serves as a voting member of the California Traffic Control Devices Committee appointed by the State of California DOT (Caltrans) to represent people who walk, bike, and use transit statewide related to standards, guidelines and policies in the California Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices. He received his civil engineering degree from UC Davis and his MPA from Norwich University.

**Neal Kaptain** is a Cultural Resources Manager at the Point Richmond office of LSA Associates, Inc., one of nine offices in California. He has an M.A. in Archaeology and Heritage from the University of Leicester, England, and 16 years of experience in survey, excavation, historical research, report writing, site mapping, and artifact illustration. He conducts Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) photography and routinely prepares National and California register cultural resource evaluations.

**Talia Kolluri** is a Senior Deputy City Attorney with the City of Fresno, where she advises city staff on land use and planning matters as well as compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. She spent two years as the legal adviser to the City of Fresno Planning Commission and currently focuses on long range planning projects. Before joining the City of Fresno, she was a prosecutor and a civil litigator. She received her B.A. from UCSB and her J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School.

**Honey Walters**, one of Ascent's founding partners, leads the firm's air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) practice areas. She is an expert in air quality impact assessments, regulatory compliance, GHG analysis, and climate action planning. Honey's professional experience of over 15 years in the private and public sectors includes extensive computer modeling coupled with a strong educational background in air pollution chemistry and climate change science. She has managed and prepared hundreds of technical studies associated with environmental requirements and GHG guidance documents (e.g., thresholds of significance, analytical methods, mitigation strategies) in California, Washington, and Massachusetts. Honey's experience includes an all-encompassing set of skills for assessing program-, plan-, and project-level impacts ranging from complex concentration based dispersion modeling (e.g., health risk assessments for mobile source air toxics) to mass emission estimates (e.g., conformity and GHG analyses, carbon sequestration). Her experience includes Bay Area Air Quality Management District's CEQA thresholds of significance and guidance updates, California Air Pollution Control Officers Association's landmark CEQA and Climate Change guide, California Air Resources Board's (ARB) Staff-Recommended Approaches for Setting GHG Significance Thresholds, and climate action planning with California communities (e.g., Cities of Albany, Piedmont, and Sacramento; Counties of Butte, San Joaquin, Yuba, Shasta, and Yolo; and the Lake Tahoe Basin). She is currently working with ARB on the environmental documentation for the Scoping Plan Update, Cap-and-Trade/Clean Power Plan, Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Strategy, Advanced Clean Transit, Oil and Gas, and Senate Bill 375 Updates; along with climate action planning and GHG threshold development with the Counties of Napa, Ventura, and San Diego and the Cities of Millbrae, Folsom and San Diego, along with the Port of San Diego and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments.