



# L&R Committee Meeting

April 22, 2025  
Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Committee



# Federal Policy Conference Event and Issue Briefing

# Agenda

- Federal policy conference program overview
- NCPA policy issues briefing
- Review of congressional/agency meetings

**Note: This meeting is being recorded.**



# Federal Policy Conference Program

## Speakers Tailored to CA/PNW Issues and Interests

### Speakers

- The Honorable Greg Walden
- Scott Corwin, APPA President/CEO
- Jim Robb, NERC President/CEO
- Sushan Demirjian, Office of the US Trade Representative – member engagement on tariff impacts
- Panel Sessions
  - Mark Warren/John Godfrey
  - Key congressional staff talking about energy and wildfire policies

### Banquet Keynote: Monday Night

**Douglas Brinkley**  
Presidential Historian



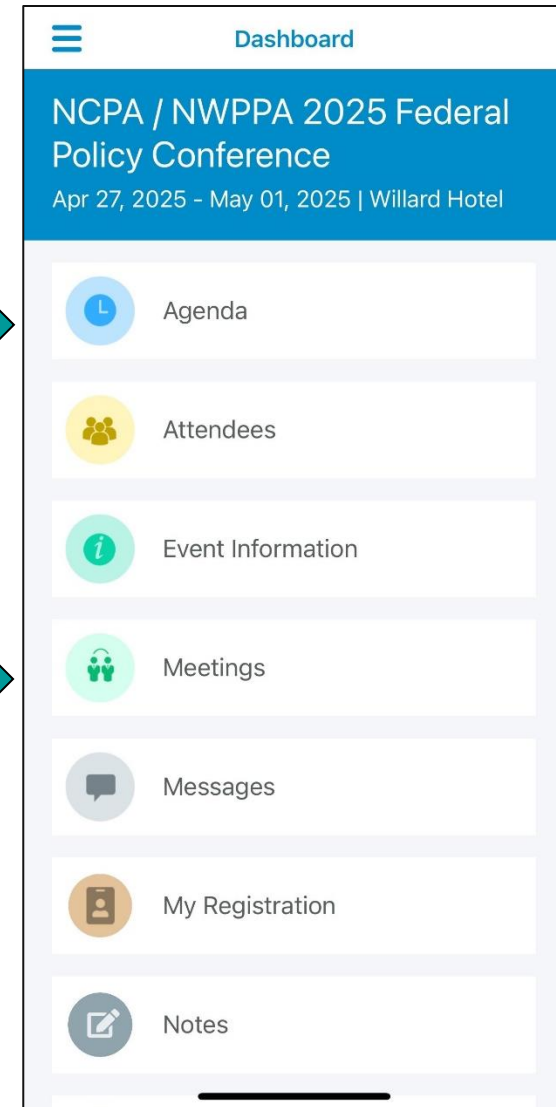
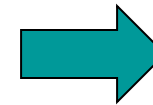
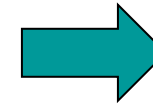
## In Your Packet

- Full Program Agenda
- Issue Briefs
- Schedule at a Glance
  - Phone Numbers
  - Talking Points
  - Meeting Events/Times/ Locations
- Full Capitol Hill, Agency, and Stakeholder Meeting Schedule
- Attendee List
- Map of Capitol Hill Buildings



# Policy Conference App

- 2025 Federal policy conference program will be available on your smartphone
- All the information you need:
  - Complete policy conference program
  - Speaker information
  - Capitol Hill and agency meeting schedules
  - List of attendees



Search for "Eventleaf" and Download  
"Eventleaf Guide" App

# Schedule at a Glance

## 4/27: Sunday

6 pm - Welcome reception and dinner  
Fig & Olive (Provence Room)

## 4/28: Monday

All Day - Federal Policy Conference and banquet

4 pm – WAPA/BPA meeting

6 pm - Reception and dinner  
Willard Hotel, (Willard Room)  
Keynote Address: Presidential Historian  
Douglas Brinkley

## 4/29: Tuesday

Full day of meetings with congressional delegation and agencies

6 pm - Reception and Dinner  
RARE Steakhouse & Tavern



## Schedule at a Glance

### 4/30: Wednesday

Full day of meetings with congressional delegation and agencies

### 5/1: Thursday

Half day of meetings with congressional delegation and agencies

### 4/30: Wednesday

#### Baltimore Orioles vs New York Yankees Orioles Park at Camden Yards (7:05 pm Game Time)

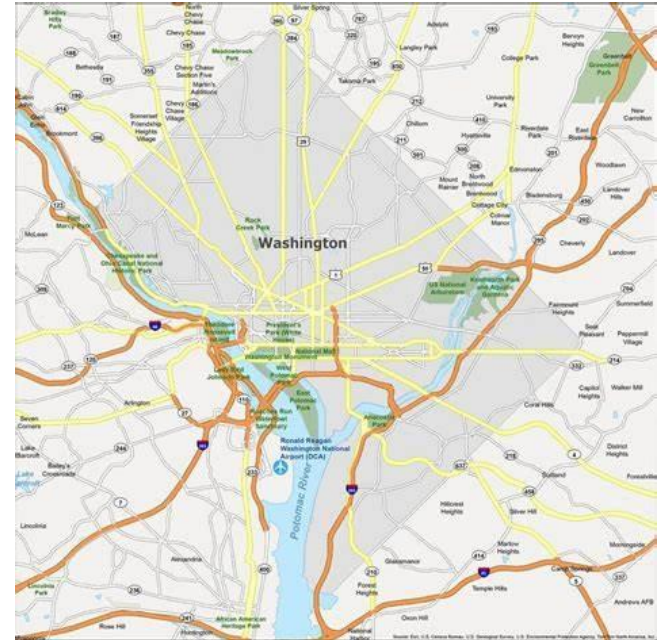
- Bus departs Willard Hotel at 4:15 pm
- Food vouchers included with ticket





# Other Logistics

- Airport transportation
- DC transportation to meetings



## D.C. Environment

- Republican 'Trifecta' with narrow majorities, new panel leaders reboot agendas
- President Trump, administrative appointees plot new course
- Budget reconciliation major tool
- DOGE Cuts
- Executive Orders



## Executive Orders of Note

- January 2025
  - Unleashing American Energy
  - Declaring National Energy Emergency
  
- April 2025
  - Strengthening the Reliability & Security of the U.S. Electrical Grid
  - Zero-based Regulatory Budgeting to Unleash American Energy
  - Protecting American Energy From State Overreach



## The Value and Mode of Advocacy

- Both chambers are in session following a two-week recess, mixture of Member and staff meetings
- Robust schedule, many topics
- Three new Member offices
- Opportunities to share perspective, pick up intelligence



# The Key to Robust Advocacy: Come Prepared

- Try to be conversational, with local examples
- We prioritize different issues in different offices –and don't be disappointed if not all issues are covered
- We have a few new offices, which will focus more on background
- Ensure some time is spent listening to guidance/insights from Members of Congress and/or staff
- Wear business attire, bring business cards and driver's license
- Be prompt, respectful of time, and flexible



## Key Policy Issues

- LEC/Hydrogen Hub and 45V
- Fire Safe Electrical Corridors and Wildfire Liability
- Sediment Relocation
- Elective Pay and Municipal Bonds
- Protection of PMAs and Addressing Staffing Challenges
- CVPIA Completion



## Hydrogen Hub and 45V

- The Lodi Energy Center is a crucial component of California's ARCHES Hydrogen Hub application
- The Department of Energy has already distributed Phase I funding to California. However, a recommendation to eliminate the ARCHES hub has been made within the Department of Energy.
- April 7: 48 of 53 California members sent a letter to DOE Secretary Wright advocating DOE to implement the hub program in accordance with statute.





# Fire Safe Electrical Corridors and Wildfire Liability

- Fire Safe Electrical Corridors introduced in both chambers:
  - H.R. 2492 (Carbajal, Valadao, Costa, Fitzpatrick)
  - S. 349 (Padilla, Daines)
  - Help reduce the threat of wildfires
  - Support bipartisan legislation to expedite USFS and BLM approval processes for the removal of wood waste resulting from utility fire mitigation practices.
- Liability & Insurance Challenges:
  - Some state legislatures have addressed consumer-owned utilities' concerns with legislation requiring a review of mitigation plans.





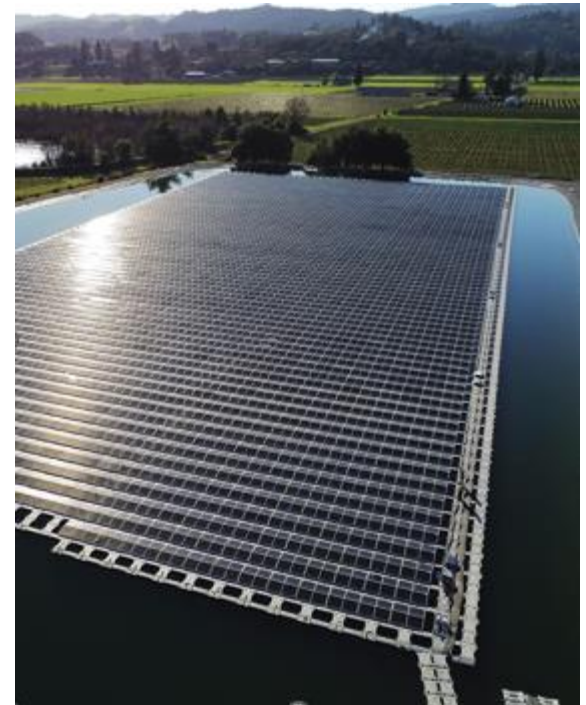
# Sediment Relocation

- Extreme weather events have led to a dramatically greater risk of erosion and accelerated building of sediment
- Sediment buildup reduces needed generation and water supply, and poses risks
- Accelerated buildup of sediment from USFS land into the Stanislaus River and the McKay's Point Reservoir has diminished the capacity for water storage
- Relocation onto USFS lands is the economic and environmentally preferred option, but USFS process is flawed and needs an expedited process
- Support appropriations rider to facilitate issuance of Special Use Permits for this purpose
- Support legislation that could help address problem:
  - Watershed Protection & Forest Recovery Act



## Elective Pay & Municipal Bonds

- The IRA significantly expanded the scope and value of energy tax incentives, particularly for non-emitting energy sources.
- Municipal Bonds are another vital tool that allow NCPA and its members to access low-cost financing for essential public services and capital projects.
- As Congress considers a year-end tax package, it is important that direct pay and tax-exempt municipal bonds are protected.



## Department of Energy and WAPA Topics

- Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and Department of Energy (DOE)
  - Exemption from future reductions in force, and hiring freeze
  - Budget limitations for the Central Valley Project (CVP)
    - Advanced customer funding limited by the ability to credit
    - Potential to impact reliability long-term
    - Increased funding authority



## Department of Interior and Reclamation Topics

- Bureau of Reclamation and Department of Interior (DOI)
  - Exemption from future reductions in force, and hiring freeze
  - Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA)
    - Cost allocation practices
    - Potential declaration of completion
  - Budget limitations for the CVP
    - Similar to WAPA/DOE
    - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
    - Internal DOI funding availability?



## FERC/NERC Topics

- FERC
  - Mark Christie officially named Chair on January 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Implications for FERC policy agenda
    - Consumer costs
    - Reliability
    - Grow state/federal partnerships
  - Focused leadership during uncertain times
- NERC
  - Reliability risks continue to grow
  - Key policy issues
    - Inverter-based resource impacts on power grid (solar/wind)
    - Large loads
    - Cyber/physical security, supply chain



# Key DOI and DOE Meetings

- DOE Acting Undersecretary for Infrastructure
- DOE Grid Deployment Office
- WAPA Senior VP and Assistant Administrator for Corporate Liaison
- DOI Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
- Acting Commissioner for Bureau of Reclamation



## Other Noteworthy Meetings

- National Hydropower Association
- Energy Dominance Council
- ClearPath
- Chief, U.S. Forest Service
- Senate Energy & Natural Resources
- House Natural Resources
- Congressional Meetings – Members & Staff



## FERC/NERC Meetings

- Meetings scheduled with FERC Commissioners, FERC Office of Electric Reliability, and NERC E-ISAC
- Key Topic Areas
  - NCPA meet-and-greet for three new FERC Commissioners
  - Pathways initiative update
  - Grid reliability
  - Improvements in standards development process and compliance monitoring
  - Cyber and physical security
  - Value of E-ISAC to public power utilities



**NERC**  
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

A DIVISION OF NERC  
 **E-ISAC**  
ELECTRICITY  
INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS CENTER



