

Webinar Presenter Bios:

June 29, 2017

“Community Choice Energy: What Is the Economic Impact of Local Renewable Power Purchasing?” A San Joaquin Valley Case Study including an overview of some of the key economic dynamics in the Central Valley.

Presenters:



Benjamin Foster

Ben Foster is the author of the [September 2016 economic analysis](#) of the impact of Community Choice Energy procurement of renewable energy with San Jose as a case study. Ben has now prepared a similar analysis for the San Joaquin Valley.

Ben is the principal of [Fosterra Clean Energy Consulting](#) and has 20 years of experience in managing complex projects to build reliable solutions to urgent business, regional, and environmental challenges. As an industry leader, Ben has led over a dozen collaborative efforts to improve best practices and deploy them across the United States and in China through federally funded projects, industry whitepapers, best practice guides, and market-oriented training. Ben was the creator of the Optony Solutions Group, Americas and Senior Vice President for six years of this leading international provider of independent lifecycle management services for commercial and governmental renewable energy projects. Ben has a Bachelor’s degree in Finance and Accounting from the University of Colorado, Boulder and an MBA in International Business from Old Dominion University. He is also a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) and Certified Financial Manager (CFM).



Ismael D. Herrera, Jr. is Associate Director of the Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State University. Through his grant writing and program management, he contributes to the development of university-led activities that align Fresno State's assets to regional initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life and economic competitiveness of the San Joaquin Valley. Ismael helped launch the nationally-recognized San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center in 2010 which serves as a "one-stop hub" for rural local governments, nonprofits, school districts, entrepreneurs and small businesses, and residents to access a wide range of technical assistance, training, specialized services, and resources to ensure their needs are met efficiently, effectively, and affordably. He currently represents rural western Fresno County on the Fresno County Board of Education. Ismael earned his Bachelor's degrees from the University of California, Irvine and his Master's degree from Harvard University.