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Date of Event: **January 26, 2019**

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CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION'S 50TH YEAR DRAWS ENERGY EXPERTS TO BASIN FOR SUMMIT

MORONGO BASIN, CA – JANUARY 2, 2019: Keynote addresses from two nationally-recognized experts in renewable energy and public policy will open the Morongo Basin Conservation Association's (MBCA) 50th Anniversary Meeting & Energy Summit on Saturday, January 26 at the Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 Twentynine Palms Highway in Yucca Valley.

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Saturday's program, which is free and open to the public, begins at 10 a.m. with a look at renewable energy, strategy and activism led by internationally known 'eco-pioneer,' S. David Freeman, twice appointed by U.S. presidents to help guide national energy policy. Following Freeman's remarks, attendees will hear from attorney and nationally-recognized expert on renewable energy strategy and policy Angelina Galiteva. Galiteva serves on the Board of Governors for the California Independent System Operator and founded the Renewables 100 Policy Institute.

The meeting will launch a year of activism and events as MBCA celebrates its 50th year. MBCA advocates for a healthy desert environment that nurtures the region's rural character, cultural wealth, and economic well-being. Often working behind the scenes, the volunteer-run, non-profit organization is noted for a number of landmark victories that have contributed significantly to the preservation of much of the natural beauty that abounds in Morongo Basin today.

"Visions for the next 50 years" will be the overarching theme for a panel discussion among regional environmental leaders. Local conservation educator Cindy Zacks will introduce panelists Frazier Haney, Associate Southern California Director for the Conservation Lands Foundation; Vanessa Moreno, Program Assistant at the Council of Mexican Federations in North America; Jack Thompson, Desert Regional Director for The Wildlands Conservancy; and Marinna Wagner, award-winning landscape designer with a master's in landscape architecture.

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Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions of both morning speakers and the afternoon panelists. Saturday's event will conclude by 2 p.m.

In April the organization's half-century of grass roots activism and accomplishments will be commemorated with publication of a book chronicling MBCA's history. Publication will coincide with MBCA's annual Desert-Wise Landscape Tour set for Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28. Plans call for a free, digital edition to be available at MBCConservation.org.

"One of our aims this year is to inform the public about the many positive and significant influences MBCA has had in the Morongo Basin," said Sarah Kennington, MBCA's outgoing board president. "We are also eager to engage Morongo Basin residents who want to protect area wildlife and air quality, or who want to learn how commercial development can coexist with fragile desert ecosystems," added Kennington.

More information on MBCA, the 50th Anniversary Energy Summit, and the Desert-Wise Landscape Tour can be found at mbconservation.org.

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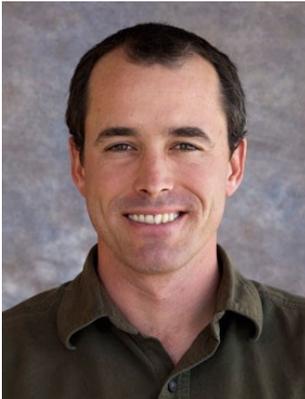
ATTACHMENTS:



The “Green Cowboy,” S. David Freeman, keynote speaker and internationally renowned expert on energy policy.



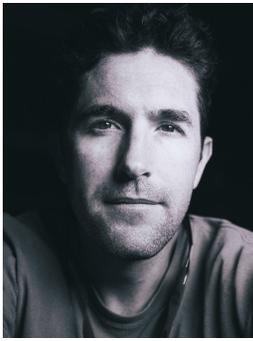
Angelina Galiteva, keynote speaker and member of the Board of Governors for California’s Independent System Operator.



Frazier Haney, Panelist and Associate Southern California Director for the Conservation Lands Foundation.



Vanessa Moreno, Panelist and Program Assistant at the Council of Mexican Federations in North America.



Jack Thompson, Panelist and Desert Regional Director and staff photographer at The Wildlands Conservancy.



Marinna Wagner, Panelist and landscape architect and environmental researcher.