



Aspen Expands Renewable Energy Capacity

Aspen continues to play a leading role in environmental analysis for the expanding realm of renewable energy. Aspen is currently assisting state agencies, including the California Energy Commission, and various local and federal agencies that are responsible for reviewing and permitting solar and wind power projects across California. For example, Aspen was recently awarded contracts to analyze solar and wind projects in Kern and San Luis Obispo Counties, further demonstrating Aspen's position as a leader in the analysis of renewable energy projects for local, state, and federal agencies.

As a result of the large footprint required for development of utility-scale wind and solar projects, effects on biological resources have emerged as critical issues in permitting these projects. In response, Aspen has increased the size and capacity of our biology team with the recent addition of Scott White, Jared Varonin, and Justin Wood, who add over 30 years of combined botany and wildlife experience. We have also extended our geographic presence by establishing a new office in the Inland Empire.

Federal and state agencies have focused on implementing mandates for the development of renewable energy projects in response to the challenges posed by climate change and the need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. Key issues associated with the timely and planned development of renewable resources are best addressed through an approach that emphasizes integrated planning and analysis of energy policies and programs.

Aspen's Integrated Energy Planning and Analysis team was formed to address resource planning, policy analysis, and economic issues associated with the evolving requirements for energy production and delivery systems. The group has evaluated permitting barriers that hinder achievement of renewable portfolio standards, developed innovative planning methods to ascertain risk, and prepared comprehensive technology cost estimates. To enhance these efforts, Aspen's Energy Planning and Analysis team welcomes Senior Energy Analyst and natural gas expert Catherine Elder, and Energy Analyst Eric Nguyen.

Meet Our Newest Staff Members

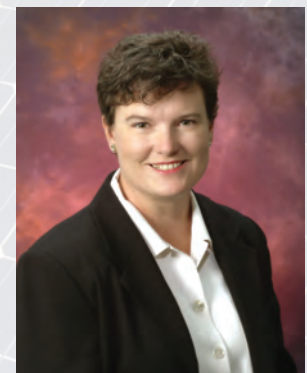
Catherine Elder, MPP, Senior Energy Analyst

Ms. Catherine Elder has joined us as a Senior Analyst in the area of Integrated Energy Planning and Analysis and brings impressive credentials in the natural gas and carbon regulation areas. She will be located in our Sacramento office, in close proximity to the offices of many of Aspen's energy clients.

Catherine's resume includes a Masters degree from Harvard's Kennedy School and more than 20 years of work experience. She also has a BA in the Political Economy of Industrial Societies (with Honors) from UC, Berkeley.

She provides focused interdisciplinary analysis and insight concerning energy markets, striving to help decision makers understand the technical and policy issues and take actions to address them. She has worked extensively with the California Energy Commissioners on natural gas policy issues and her natural gas industry expertise is valued by clients ranging from financial institutions to public power companies to governmental organizations.

Her work has addressed energy and climate policies; resource planning; rates; regulatory strategy; harmonization of gas procurement strategies with hedging strategies; power market prices and price forecasting; the presence and mitigation of market power; and interactions between the natural gas and electricity industries. For instance, she recently completed an important piece of climate policy work for the Northern California Power Agency. Catherine is a race car driver with impressive accomplishments on the track and will be a terrific asset to Aspen.



Announcing New Staff



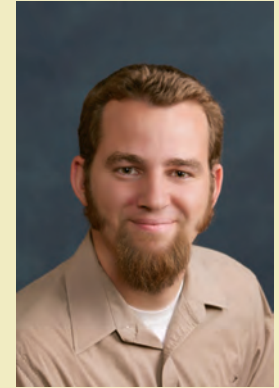
Scott D. White, MA, Senior Biologist

Mr. White joins Aspen's environmental assessment team as a Senior Biologist. He holds a Masters in Biology from Humboldt State University. Scott will be working on NEPA/CEQA assessments for energy and infrastructure projects, including Aspen's growing renewable energy project portfolio. He is based in our new Inland Empire office, located near a number of our renewable energy projects (including wind and solar farms). He has over 20 years of expertise as a specialist in southern California floristics and vegetation, including wetlands,

coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and forests. He is highly experienced with the regional flora, including rare, threatened, and endangered species. Scott coauthored The Vascular Plants of Western Riverside County (Roberts et al. 2004). He continues to research regional floristics and has a number of publications in professional journals. Scott performs wetland delineations and has served on California Native Plant Society's Vegetation Committee, participating in production and review of the Manual of California Vegetation (Sawyer & Keeler-Wolf 1995). He served on the Board of Directors of Southern California Botanists with two as President. He has a wealth of experience with interagency planning efforts for long-term land use and conservation planning on public and private lands. His local, state, and federal agency work includes flood control districts, CDFG, BLM, US Forest Service, and USFWS. Scott spends weekends developing his new yard and plays a little guitar in his spare time.

Justin M. Wood, Biologist

Mr. Wood holds a Bachelors degree in biology from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and is currently completing his Masters thesis there. He has joined our Inland Empire office. His focus is freshwater stream succession, macroinvertebrates, and fishes of southern California. Justin's interests include aquatic life, upland



wildlife species, and vascular plants. Justin has extensive experience with construction monitoring and monitoring of brown-headed cowbird traps. He also has experience conducting general and focused wildlife surveys for reptiles, amphibians, fish, mammals, and birds. He specializes in botanical surveys, especially the floras of San Bernardino and Riverside counties including rare, threatened, and endangered species. He has special training in desert tortoise surveying and handling and is an active member of the California Native Plant Society. He loves the great outdoors including camping and snowboarding and is a classic car fanatic.



Jared Varonin, Biologist

Mr. Varonin recently joined our Agoura Hills office as a biologist/ecologist. He has over 7 years of experience and will be supporting and managing CEQA/NEPA projects. He has a degree in Ecology and Systematic Biology from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and has excellent experience working with the sensitive biological resources occurring throughout California. Jared has a thorough knowledge of permitting processes through local, state, and federal agencies. He develops strategies for Streambed Alteration Agreements, 404 permits and other regulatory requirements.

He performs assessment techniques such as collection and analysis of water samples, microscopic identification of larval marine life, in-field plant identification and fisheries restoration. He has worked on biological resource assessment, wetland/jurisdictional waters delineations, rare plant and endangered species surveys, wildlife surveys, species relocation and habitat mitigation and monitoring plans. In his spare time, Jared rides his mountain bike and attends to his 50-plant collection of Plumeria.



Eric Nguyen, MS, Energy Analyst

Mr. Nguyen joined Aspen as an Energy Analyst in the area of Integrated Energy Planning and Analysis and works from both our Sacramento and Davis offices. Eric completed his Masters in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford. He has a strong interest in energy efficiency, emerging technologies and sustainability planning, and comes to us with

strong programming and quantitative skills needed for planning projects. With internships as a Civil Engineer in London and Tokyo, Eric loves travel and rock climbing. He is also a LEED AP.



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