

ANNUAL CONFERENCE prop.65clearinghouse

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026

JULIA MORGAN BALLROOM

Opening Addresses

Plenary Session

9:00 to 9:15

Welcome to Conference

Fiona Smith, Writer, Prop. 65 Clearinghouse

9:15 to 10:00

Opening Address

Kris Thayer, Director of OEHHA and Conference Chair *with*
Gabriel Allen, Chief Counsel, OEHHA

Bios

Fiona Smith

Writer, Prop. 65 Clearinghouse

Fiona is a writer for Prop. 65 Clearinghouse and California Environmental Insider.

Previously, she was a staff writer at the Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal for more than eight years covering environmental and energy law. Fiona has also worked as a reporter for the Associated Press in Bolivia and Mexico and was a staff writer for the Whittier Daily News.

Fiona holds a dual Master's degree in Journalism and Latin American Studies from UC Berkeley and a BA in English, with honors, from UC Berkeley.

Kris Thayer

Director, OEHHA

Kris Thayer has served as OEHHA's Director since May 2025. Prior to her current role, Kris was at the US EPA, serving as Director of the Chemical and Pollution Assessment Division and Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Program. Before EPA, Kris held several positions at the National Toxicology Program within the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences leading chemical assessment programs.

Gabriel Allen
Chief Counsel, OEHHA

Gabriel Allen has served since January 2026 as OEHHA's Chief Counsel. In this role, he provides legal advice to the Director on the implementation of OEHHA programs and policies.

Prior to joining OEHHA, Gabe was a Senior Attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Environmental Enforcement Section. There, he litigated and settled cases under the statutes that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies administer. He supervised cases arising under the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, CERCLA, and Safe Drinking Water Act throughout the United States, with most of his cases arising in California. In that capacity, he worked alongside the California Attorney General's Office, CARB, DTSC, the state and regional water boards, and other partners protecting Californians' health and the environment.

Gabe received his J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law and a B.A. in International Affairs from the University of Georgia.