

PRESS RELEASE



NCPA Chair and Healdsburg Council Member Receives National Public Power Award *Two other NCPA member utilities' staff recognized*

ORLANDO, Florida—June 22, 2021—Three representatives from NCPA member systems received awards during the American Public Power Association (APPA) National Conference: NCPA commission Chair and City of Healdsburg Council Member David Hagele, NCPA Alternate Commissioner and City of Roseville Electric Utility Director Michelle Bertolino, and Alameda Municipal Power Assistant General Manager of Energy Resources Planning Vidhi Chawla. APPA is the national trade association for public power utilities, representing more than 49 million Americans served by public power utilities through advocacy and advising on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations.

“This year’s APPA awards really highlight the depth of talent and commitment to public power that we know exists at each of our member utilities, at all levels,” said Randy S. Howard, NCPA General Manager. “We’re honored to work with David, Michelle, and Vidhi, and extend our congratulations on this well-deserved national recognition.”

NCPA Commission Chair Honored for Contributions to Advancing Public Power Goals

NCPA Commission Chair and City of Healdsburg Council Member David Hagele was awarded the Spence Vanderlinden Public Official Award, which recognizes elected or appointed local officials who have contributed to APPA’s goals. David was first elected to the Healdsburg city council in 2016, served as mayor in 2019, and was re-elected as a council member in 2020. He has served on the NCPA commission since 2017 and was appointed as the commission’s chair in December 2020. David also serves as the city’s representative for the Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA).

Throughout his tenure on the NCPA commission, David has regularly participated in grassroots advocacy with members of Congress and the State Legislature to advance public power priorities related to topics such as clean energy and infrastructure, wildfires and vegetation management, and transportation electrification. Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, David participated in more than 25 virtual advocacy meetings with top policymakers, raising key issues of importance for the City of Healdsburg and NCPA. David's active engagement through the NCPA commission has helped shape his local contributions to clean, sustainable energy and transportation. During his service on the NCPA commission, the city of Healdsburg adopted an electric bicycle rebate program to encourage residents to reduce emissions and also installed the nation’s largest floating solar array at the city’s wastewater treatment facility. The solar installation is designed to serve about 8% of the city’s electricity needs with a local renewable resource.

While serving as mayor, David successfully led the Healdsburg community through its first city-wide evacuation and recovery during the 2019 Kincadee Fire. In recent years, he has worked with both the city’s electric utility department and NCPA to ensure robust wildfire mitigation measures are in place, supporting the adoption of wildfire mitigation plans and subsequent upgrades to strengthen the resilience of utility infrastructure. He has been very influential in the development of statewide policy related to wildfire preparedness, prevention, and response, specifically calling for proactive communication to ensure communities are prepared to take action during periods of high fire risk.

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Roseville Electric Utility Director Recognized with Individual Achievement Award

Michelle Bertolino, Electric Utility Director for the City of Roseville, was awarded the James D. Donovan Individual Achievement Award. This award recognizes professionals who have made substantial contributions to the electric utility industry, with a special commitment to public power. Michelle is highly reputed in California's public power community and across the region, holding leadership roles with the California Municipal Utilities Association, Northwest Public Power Association, Balancing Area of Northern California, and Transmission Agency of Northern California. Under her leadership, the City of Roseville Electric Utility is consistently recognized for its high levels of reliability, low electricity rates, innovative customer programs, and strong financial position.

Alameda Municipal Power Assistant GM Receives Rising Star Award

Vidhi Chawla, Assistant General Manager of Energy Resources Planning at Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) was awarded the Robert E. Roundtree Rising Star Award. The Rising Star Award provides a scholarship for future leaders in public power. Vidhi joined Alameda Municipal Power in January 2018. She has contributed to the Alameda community in her efforts to maintain AMP's 100% clean energy mix into the future and launch a rate plan to encourage electric vehicle ownership. She is also planning AMP's large-scale solar project at the location of a former landfill.

"Vidhi's work has had a direct, positive impact on sustainability in Alameda," AMP General Manager Nicolas Procos said. "We are thrilled to see her receive this national recognition."

Recipients of the Rising Star Award receive a stipend to travel to an APPA conference or training program to advance their education and development in public power.

For more information on this year's awards and recipients, visit the APPA website at <https://www.publicpower.org/public-power/award-winners>.

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About NCPA: Headquartered in Roseville, California, NCPA is a nonprofit California joint powers agency established in 1968 to construct and operate renewable and low-emitting generating facilities and assist in meeting the wholesale energy needs of its 16 members: the Cities of Alameda, Biggs, Gridley, Healdsburg, Lodi, Lompoc, Palo Alto, Redding, Roseville, Santa Clara, Shasta Lake, and Ukiah, Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative, Port of Oakland, San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), and Truckee Donner Public Utility District—collectively serving nearly 700,000 electric consumers in Central and Northern California. NCPA was founded on the principle of environmental stewardship and is a recognized national leader in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable generation, and carbon reduction.

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