



BIO

Michael Peterson

Michael Peterson is currently the inaugural Deputy Commissioner of the Climate and Sustainability Branch for Commissioner Ricardo Lara at the California Department of Insurance. In this role, Peterson is leading multiple initiatives to reduce climate risk and strengthen resilience, including work on the California Climate Insurance Working Group, which focuses on resiliency through closing protection gaps and employing nature-based solutions.

Peterson also leads a partnership with the United Nations Principles for Sustainable Insurance to develop the California Sustainable Insurance Roadmap. This is the first time the United Nations has partnered with a US state to create a sustainable insurance strategy and action plan. Prior to his current position, Peterson was a policy consultant in the California State Senate, focusing on climate change, natural resources, air quality, and energy policy.

Peterson has a background researching biology and physiology, earning a PhD in Environmental Science, Policy and Management from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Masters degree at Western Washington University.