



**CALIFORNIA ENERGY
RESEARCH CENTER**
CSU BAKERSFIELD™



CALIFORNIA ENERGY RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Powering California's Future from the Heart of Its Energy Capital



APRIL 9, 2026



CONFERENCE PROGRAM



CALIFORNIA ENERGY
RESEARCH CENTER
CSU BAKERSFIELD™

WELCOME



Wifi access: **CSUB-Events** | Event code: **CERC2026**

Welcome to the California Energy Research Conference at California State University, Bakersfield.

As I have stepped into the role of CERC Director in July of 2025, it has truly been a pleasure to be part of the CSUB community and to work alongside students, faculty, staff and policymakers to address the energy challenges and critical research questions impacting Kern County, California, the nation, and the world.

The annual conference reflects the mission of the California Energy Research Center through creating a space to convene and share insights to explore the evolving landscape of energy research and development. We are grateful for your participation and look forward to a dynamic and engaging event.

As you participate in today's sessions, I encourage you to reflect on what makes CERC and Kern County so unique. In my personal reflections, I am often in awe about the special locality of Kern County. The region serves as a living laboratory for applied energy research, where diverse energy resources and infrastructure create opportunities for innovation. From conventional energy production to emerging technologies in carbon management, power systems, and beyond, our region supports research that is not only forward-looking, but immediately relevant and impactful. I am so very impressed by the innovation of the region and whilst Kern County has faced its share of challenges, those challenges have driven the innovation and resilience that allowed for science and discovery.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to our previous Director, Dr. Tony Rathburn, for his leadership in establishing this important annual conference. I am honored by the opportunity and excited to build upon the strong foundation he created—especially as someone who has valued this event as a participant. I also want to thank the many CSUB colleagues, CERC board members, and sponsors whose dedication makes this conference possible.

I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to advance CERC's mission and shape its next chapter of growth and innovation.

KATY LARSON
Director, California Energy Research Center



GENERAL AGENDA

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Doré Theatre (Power and Energy Track) and
Dezember Reading Room (Subsurface Track)



- 8:00 AM Check-In and Continental Breakfast – *Doré Theatre Patio and Albertson Room*
- 8:30 AM Welcome and Opening Remarks – *Doré Theatre*
- 8:50 AM [Keynote Speaker](#) – *Doré Theatre*
- 9:20 AM [Kern County Spotlight: Energy, Sustainability, and Data Centers](#) – *Doré Theatre*
- 10:05 AM Break
- 10:25 AM Theme 1 – *Doré Theatre or Dezember Reading Room*
- 11:25 AM Lunch – *Stockdale Room inside Runner Café*
- 1:00 PM Theme 2 – *Doré Theatre or Dezember Reading Room*
- 2:00 PM Break
- 2:10 PM Theme 3 – *Doré Theatre or Dezember Reading Room*
- 3:10 PM Break
- 3:30 PM [Energy Innovation Presentation](#) – *Doré Theatre*
- 4:00 PM Closing Remarks – *Doré Theatre*
- 4:10 PM Refreshments – *Doré Theatre Patio and Albertson Room*
- 5:00 PM Event Conclusion

CONFERENCE TRACKS



• SUBSURFACE •

Critical Minerals, Carbon Storage,
and Petroleum and Well Management.

[CLICK HERE →](#)



• POWER AND ENERGY •

Grid Resiliency and Security,
Microgrids and Infrastructure.

[CLICK HERE →](#)

GOLD TIER



SILVER TIER



BRONZE TIER



SOCIETY OF EXPLORATION
— GEOPHYSICISTS —





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California's energy industry supports 148,000 jobs and plays a critical role in keeping our economy moving.

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Together We Power Kern County

California Resources Corporation (CRC) is an independent energy and carbon management company committed to energy transition. CRC is committed to environmental stewardship while safely providing local, responsibly produced energy. CRC is proud to support California State University, Bakersfield and the California Energy Research Conference.



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ABOUT CERC



CALIFORNIA ENERGY
RESEARCH CENTER
CSU BAKERSFIELD

The California Energy Research Center (CERC) at California State University, Bakersfield brings together academic researchers, industry leaders and public agencies to advance California's energy future. Located in Kern County—the state's energy capital—CERC focuses on sustainable, affordable and innovative energy solutions. CERC serves as a hub for collaboration, research and education supporting California's clean energy transition with expertise spanning renewables, energy efficiency, data and security, carbon management and policy.



CERC page

CERC AT A GLANCE

25+

Best In-Class Subject
Matter Experts

\$83,000,000*

Budget Allocation from the State

#1

Energy Capital of CA

STRATEGICALLY LOCATED IN KERN COUNTY

#1

CA Oil & Renewable
Energy Provider

#1

Largest Windfarm in
the Nation

#1

Largest BESS Project in
the World

#13

Oil Producing County
in the Nation

OUR NATIONAL LAB PARTNERS



Livermore Lab
FOUNDATION

Founded in 1952, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is an applied science and technology laboratory providing bold and innovative solutions to a wide variety of national security missions and the most significant challenges facing the world today. The Lab is managed by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration.

The Livermore Lab Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization supporting the fundamental science and research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. It serves as a key philanthropic partner to the Laboratory, providing mechanisms for public and private investments and grants and philanthropic gifts that support research, student fellows, STEM outreach, education and community initiatives.