

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM
Cabinet Affairs
(916) 557-5438

Cabinet Team

Issue Areas

Ann Patterson

Cabinet Secretary
Assistant – Nicole Arnaiz

Gina Da Silva

Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary I Senior
Advisor for Immigration
Assistant– Andrea Escobar

Immigration; Immigrant Integration

Team Manager for: Government; Health & Human Services; Education; Labor; Innovation; the Economy

Rhys Williams

Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary I Senior
Advisor on Emergency Management
Assistant – Ian Ordonez

Emergency Preparedness and Management; Homeland Security; Military and the National Guard

Team Manager for: Justice & Public Safety; Climate & Environment; Infrastructure

Ben Chida

Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Assistant – Nisha Dharmaraj

TK-12 Education; Longitudinal Data System; Higher Education; Future of Work; CDE; SBE; California Volunteers; State Library; and Arts Council

Emiko Burchill

Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Assistant – Ian Ordonez

Water Resilience; Drinking Water; Conveyance; Ground Water Management; Flood Protection; Water Conservation, Efficiency, Recycling and Storage; Habitat and Species Protection (water supply related)

Elena Chavez Quezada

Senior Advisor on Social Innovation
Assistant– Andrea Escobar

Philanthropy; Innovative Public-Private Partnerships

Richard Fijeroa

Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Assistant – Nisha Dharmaraj

Early Childhood Development; Childcare; Health and Human Services; Health Insurance; Public Health; Social Services; CalVET; COVID-19

James Hacker

Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Assistant – Nisha Dharmaraj

Housing; Homelessness; Transportation; Infrastructure; High Speed Rail; DMV; Autonomous Vehicles; Broadband

Christine Hironaka

Senior Advisor for Energy
Assistant – Raquel Ramirez

Energy and Utility Policy; Utility Safety; Energy Efficiency Standards; Building Decarbonization; Energy Planning and Procurement; Reliability; Energy Transition; Clean Energy Technologies

Hafsa Kaka

Senior Advisor on Homelessness
Assistant – Raquel Ramirez

Housing; Homelessness

Kevin Matulich

Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Assistant – Raquel Ramirez

Labor and Workforce Development; Business & Economic Development; International Affairs; Civil Rights; Commission on Status of Women and Girls; Elections/FPCC; Gambling; Lottery; Horseracing

Kim McCoy Wade

Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability and Alzheimer's
Assistant – Ian Ordonez

Aging; Disability; Alzheimer's; Strategic Alignment

Loretta Miranda

Deputy Tribal Affairs Secretary and Special Counsel
Assistant – Michael Park

Tribal Affairs

Dwight Payne

Assistant Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Assists with Immigration; Emergency Preparedness and Management; Homeland Security; Military and the National Guard

Hinnaneh Qazi

Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Assistant – Andrea Escobar

Government Operations; CalHR; Revenue and Taxation; Pensions/CalPERS/CalSTRS; Information Technology; State Contracting; Consumer Services; Boards and Commissions; Privacy; Financial Institutions; Alcoholic Beverage Control; Fairs; Cannabis

Maricela Rodriguez

Senior Advisor for Civic Engagement and Strategic Partnerships
Assistant – Nisha Dharmaraj

Public Education and Community Engagement for Climate Justice Drought Response / Water Conservation and Extreme Heat; COVID-19 Vaccines; Harm Reduction

Lauren Sanchez

Senior Advisor for Climate
Assistant – Andrea Escobar

Climate Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience; Air Pollution; Conservation and Biodiversity

Joe Shea

Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Assistant – Andrea Escobar

Outdoor Recreation and Accessibility; Agriculture; Wildlife and Natural Resources; Pest Management, Toxics and Chemical Safety; Recycling

Christina Snider

Tribal Affairs Secretary
Assistant – Michael Park

Tribal Affairs

Vicky Waters

Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Assistant – Raquel Ramirez

Corrections; Board of Parole Hearings; Board of State and Community Corrections; Department of Justice; Policing and Local Law Enforcement; Peace Officer Standards and Training; Juvenile Justice; Penal Code Revision Committee; Reparations Task Force; Firearms

Katie Wheeler Mathews

Senior Advisor on Federal Affairs
Assistant – Ian Ordonez

Washington DC Office Director; NGA; WGA; DGA; Appropriations; FEMA; Defense; Homeland Security; Immigration; HHS; USDOL; USDOJ; Department of Education; State Department; USDOT

Michael Wiafe

Education Policy Associate

TK-12 Education; Longitudinal Data System; Higher Education; Future of Work; CDE; SBE

Nicole Arnaiz

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Assistant to Ann Patterson

Nisha Dharmaraj
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Assistant to Ben Chida, Richard Figueroa, James Hacker,
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Assistant to Gina Da Silva, Elena Chavez Quesada,
Hinnaneh Qazi, Lauren Sanchez, and Joe Shea

Ian Ordonez
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Assistant to Rhys Williams, Emiko Burchill, Kim McCoy
Wade, and Katie Wheeler Mathews

Michael Park
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Assistant to Christina Snider and Loretta Miranda

Raquel Ramirez
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Assistant to Christine Hironaka, Hafsa Kaka, Kevin
Matulich, and Vicky Waters

