

Board of Directors

Maria Echaveste Board Member

Maria Echaveste is an independent director elected to the Board in June 2019. Ms. Echaveste is Chair of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and a member of the Equity, Sustainability & Environmental Justice Committee.

Ms. Echaveste has a distinguished career working as a community leader, public policy advisor, lecturer, senior White House official, and attorney. She is presently President and CEO of the Opportunity Institute, a California-based non-profit working to increase economic and social mobility focused on equity for the most vulnerable students and communities, and also serves on the board of directors of the Leadership Council of Tipping Point (philanthropic organization focused on eliminating poverty in the Bay Area) Mi Familia Vota (increasing Latino civic participation) and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals. Director Echaveste has held various roles at University of California at Berkeley, including as a lecturer and policy director of the Law School's Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy. Previously, Director Echaveste served as Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff for President Bill Clinton focused on issues relating to immigration, civil rights, education, finance, Mexico and Latin America, and as a special representative to Bolivia for Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Director Echaveste also served as vice-chair of the California International Trade and Investment Advisory Committee, an appointment by Governor Brown.



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Director Echaveste added about the new ESEJ Committee: "To achieve a more equitable society we must increase opportunities so that all have access to the basic needs of society, including clean water, safe infrastructure, and adequate housing. Immigrant communities suffer disproportionately when drought, fire or other systemic crises occur, which are increasing dramatically. I am pleased to be a member of Cadiz's efforts to be part of the solution to the State's resource challenges with equity front and center."