

David Pegos began his professional career working for an elected California State Assemblymember from California's Central Valley as Capitol and Legislative Director. He then worked for an elected California State Senator from Northern California. Always focused on agriculture, natural resources, water, and transportation issues. Followed by an appointment by Governor-Elect Schwarzenegger to his transition team. David was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to several different positions within the Schwarzenegger Administration, concluding with an appointment as Deputy Secretary for the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Following the Schwarzenegger Administration, David transitioned into his current position as Special Assistant for CDFA developing policies and procedures for eradication and control programs focusing on external communications and collaboration with stakeholders. David was also the Native American liaison for CDFA for over a decade collaborating and partnering with Tribes throughout the state to help protect our shared natural resources.

David is a founding member of the California Firewood Taskforce working with several federal, state, and non-governmental organizations focused on mitigating firewood as a pathway to move invasive species. Additionally, David saw an opportunity to communicate and collaborate with sister agencies on invasive species issues and in 2009 was able to develop the Invasive Species Council of California and related California Invasive Species Advisory Committee. David currently serves as Executive Director of the Invasive Species Council of California (Council). The Council and related Advisory Committee has been instrumental in funding Invasive Shot Hole Borer activities such as trapping and research. The Council recently received \$5 million in state funding and identified a number of important invasive species projects across taxonomical groups and geographically distributed throughout California.

Finally, David was appointed by Governor Brown to the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities fighting for the advancement of our special needs community.