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## NEWS RELEASE

### For immediate release

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## ASIAN AMERICAN ENERGY LEADERS TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE ENERGY SECTORS

### *Asians in Energy recognizes Anne Shen Smith, Ali Chowdhury, Patrick Lee and Sun Engineering during Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month*

The complex and technical energy sectors are quickly evolving with development of advanced energy that constitute the best available technologies for meeting energy needs today and tomorrow, including a broad range of products and services in energy efficiency, demand response, energy storage, natural gas electric generation, solar, wind, hydro, nuclear, electric vehicles, biofuels, and smart grid. Asians in Energy, a nonprofit founded in 2017, is a national association that educates and engages Asian Pacific Americans and its many subcultures and languages on clean energy technologies and policies.

The 21 million Asian Pacific Americans in the United States are now the fastest-growing ethnic group in the nation. "With the largest population of Asians in California—6.5 million—and, in a state that leads the nation on advanced energy technologies, it's vital to highlight the Asian American energy leaders that are taking on leadership roles to make the energy system more secure, clean, and affordable in all communities, including Asian American communities," said Susie Wong, president and CEO of Asians in Energy. "For Asian Americans to engage and participate in the development and implementation of future energy policies, information needs to be communicated in different ethnic Asian languages," she added.

During May, we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, honoring the accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans in the energy industry transforming the future of energy generation and delivery to Asian American communities, residents and businesses.

### Asians in Energy Leaders – Game Changers

#### • ANNE SHEN SMITH

Since 2015, Anne Shen Smith has served on PG&E Corporation's Board of Directors and on the Board of Directors of its subsidiary, Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Smith recently retired as the chairman and chief executive officer of Southern California Gas Company, a subsidiary of Sempra Energy, after a 36-year career with that company. Smith serves on the Nuclear, Operations, and Safety Committee and the Public Policy Committee of the PG&E Corporation Board of Directors. utility that is also owned by Sempra Energy.

Prior to her retirement in March 2014, Smith served as chairman and chief executive officer of SoCalGas, the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, providing service to over 21 million consumers in more than 500 communities in Central and Southern California. Previously, Smith held a number of executive positions at SoCalGas, including president, chief operating officer, senior vice president – customer services, and vice president of environment and safety. She started her career with SoCalGas in 1977 and held leadership positions in marketing, public affairs, strategic planning, regulatory affairs, customer care, and operations. For approximately seven years, Smith also served as the senior vice president – customer services for San Diego Gas & Electric Company, an energy utility that is also owned by Sempra Energy.

- **ALI A. CHOWDHURY, Ph.D., MBA**

Dr. Ali Chowdhury currently is vice president of transmission and generation interconnection planning at 8minutenergy Renewables in Folsom, CA, the largest independent solar power developer in the United States. He manages a portfolio of 2,000+ MW of solar PV projects. Chowdhury has approved more than \$15 billion worth of extra high and high voltage transmission lines and substations for interconnecting renewable and conventional generators as well as for interconnection of large industrial and commercial loads. In addition, he has approved about \$5 billion worth of transmission elements for maintaining system reliability and security in meeting increasing load growth. 8minutenergy Renewables developed the world's largest solar farm in California and is expanding their efforts into India and Latin America.

Prior to joining 8minutenergy Renewables, Chowdhury was the director of Regional Transmission South at the California Independent System Operator, also known as California ISO, in Folsom, CA, where he had oversight of system reliability, economic and renewable energy transmission planning for California ISO grid infrastructure development, and transmission system operations engineering.

Chowdhury co-authored "Power Distribution System Reliability: Practical Methods and Applications," published in 2009 by John Wiley & Sons. In addition, he has authored or co-authored more than 150 technical papers published in peer reviewed national and international journals. He lectures nationally and internationally on theory and applications of power system reliability and value-based planning.

- **PATRICK T. LEE**

Patrick T. Lee is vice president of infrastructure and technology of Sempra Infrastructure, a business unit of Sempra Energy, a San Diego-based Fortune 500 energy services holding company.

In this current role, he founded and leads the Sempra Energy investment in PXiSE Energy Solutions, LLC, a patented, high speed advanced grid control technology to meet the evolving needs of the modern energy ecosystem.

Previously, Lee was vice president of major project controls, where he supported the Sempra Energy family of companies, providing oversight and governance for large construction projects, including standardizing processes, controls and reporting. Prior to that, Lee was senior vice president of customer services, innovation and business strategy for SoCalGas.

- **SUN ENGINEERING SERVICES, INC.**

Representing the best of entrepreneurship, Sun Engineering Services, Inc. of Westminster, CA, founded by president Eddy Duong, was last year selected as the “Supplier of the Year Award” by the Southern California Minority Supplier Development Council. Sun Engineering has completed more than 1,800 diversified projects in the Western United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. The company provides comprehensive multi-discipline engineering, design and systems integration services for the energy industry, such as oil, gas and petrochemical, in addition to renewable and clean energy, like solar, biofuel, ethanol, and CNG. The company also provides services in water, wastewater and industrial facilities.

Sun Engineering was founded in 1988 and was selected from an area that covers 13 counties from Fresno to San Diego with over 200 corporate members. The certified small business firm was selected for its demonstrated competitive business growth and development, employment and job creation, consistent high quality operations and business performance, and products and services.

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