San Diego County
Local Agency Formation Commission
Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

7d

AGENDA REPORT
Business | Discussion

November 4, 2024

TO: Commissioners

FROM: Priscilla Mumpower, Assistant Executive Officer

SUBJECT: **Report on the 2024 CALAFCO Annual Conference**

SUMMARY

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will receive a report on overnight attendance at the California Association of LAFCOs' (CALAFCO) Annual Conference, held October 16th—18th in Fish Camp (Yosemite). The announced registration total was 320, with representation from 50 of the 58 LAFCOs. All San Diego staff attended along with Vice Chair Willis and Commissioner MacKenzie. Highlights are detailed.

BACKGROUND

CALAFCO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership association formed in 1971. All LAFCOs are eligible for CALAFCO membership with annual dues – which are progressive and increase based on county population tiers – representing nearly four-fifths of annual revenues. CALAFCO's primary service is to guide state-wide coordination, serves as a resource to the Legislature and other bodies, and offers a structure for sharing information among the various LAFCOs and other governmental agencies. CALAFCO's governance is divided into four regions for the purposes of filling a 16-member Board.

DISCUSSION

This item is for San Diego LAFCO to receive a report on overnight attendance at the recent CALAFCO Annual Conference held in October 16th – 18th in Fish Camp. Among other highlights:

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Dane White, City of Escondido
John McCann Alt., City of Chula Vista
Chair Stephen Whitburn, City of San Diego
Marni von Wilpert, Alt., City of San Diego
Vice Chair Barry Willis, Alpine Fire Protection
Jo MacKenzie, Vista Irrigation
David Drake, Alt., Rincon del Diablo
Harry Mathis, General Public
Brigette Browning, Alt., General Public

- **Attendance**
  Attendance was announced at approximately 320 with registration from 50 of the 58 LAFCOs. San Diego registration totaled 11 and headlined by Commissioner Willis and MacKenzie.[1] All Conference events were held at the Teyna Lodge.

- **Team Bonding**
  San Diego attendees participated in an all-day team bonding activity the day before the start of the Conference with a guided tour of Yosemite Park.

- **Spotlight on San Diego LAFCO Policy on Environmental Justice**
  One of the Conference general sessions featured a panel discussion on environmental justice and included coverage of San Diego LAFCO's policy (L-114) and practices.[2]

- **Board Elections for Southern Region**
  Elections to fill two of the four Board positions for the southern region were held involving the "city" and "public" seats with Steve Sanchez (Riverside) and Derek McGregor (Orange) winning, respectively.[3]

- **Business Meeting**
  CALAFCO's Annual Business Meeting was held on Thursday, October 17th, and headlined by an otherwise controversial amendment to the bylaws. The proposed amendment aimed to reduce the number of permissible consecutive absences for Board Directors from three to two. The controversy centered on whether to keep language granting the board discretion in classifying absences as excused or unexcused. Ultimately, the board opted to maintain the existing language in the bylaws—which provides for board discretion—but simply reduced the permissible absences to two.

ANALYSIS

None

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented to San Diego LAFCO for information and discussion only.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

None.

PROCEDURES

[1] Other attendees from San Diego were all eight employees and LAFCO Intergovernmental Relations Consultant Adam Wilson.
[2] Executive Officer Keene Simonds participated in the panel with assistance from Analyst Joelle Burila. Other panelists were Beth Altshuler Munoz, President and Founder of BAM Consulting, LLC, and Phoebe Seaton, Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability. The session was moderated by Supervisor Sylvia Arenas with the County of Santa Clara.
[3] The other two elected members from the southern region are Kimberly Cox (San Bernardino) and Yxstian Gutierrez (Riverside) as the respective "district" and "county" seat holders.

This item has been placed on San Diego LAFCO's agenda for discussion as part of the business calendar. The following procedures are recommended in the consideration of this item:

1) Receive verbal presentation from staff unless waived.
2) Invite comments from interested audience members, if any.
3) Discuss the item.

On behalf of the Executive Officer,



Priscilla Mumpower
Assistant Executive Officer

Attachment:

1) 2024 Annual Conference Program

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welcome

TO THE 2024 CALAFCO

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 16-18, 2024

Yosemite, California

CALAFCO.org

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY – OCTOBER 18	
7:00 a.m.	Registration Opens
7:15 a.m.	Mobile Workshop
10:00 a.m.	LAFCO 101
1:30 p.m.	Conference Opening
2:00 p.m.	GENERAL SESSION: In the Halls and Behind the Walls: When Legislation Turns Political
3:15 p.m.	Refreshment Break
3:30 p.m.	GENERAL SESSION: Equity in Action: LAFCO'S Role in Environmental Justice
5:30 p.m.	Welcome Reception
6:30 p.m.	Optional Dinner (Requires pre-purchased ticket) or Dinner on Your Own
THURSDAY – OCTOBER 17	
6:30 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet
8:00 a.m.	Registration Opens
8:00 a.m.	Regional Caucus Meetings and Elections
9:15 AM	CALAFCO Annual Business Meeting
10:30 AM	Refreshment Break
10:45 AM	Regional & Attorney Roundtables
12:00 PM	Networking Buffet Lunch
1:45 p.m.	**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
1) Connecting the Drops: Private Water Systems in California	
2) Consolidations: Beyond the LAFCO Process, the Commissioners' Role	
3:15 p.m.	Refreshment Break
3:30 p.m.	**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
1) What Would You Do?	
2) What Does that LAFCO Hat Look Like?	
5:15 p.m.	Pre-dinner Reception
6:15 p.m.	Dinner and Awards
FRIDAY – OCTOBER 18	
6:30 AM	Breakfast Buffet
7:30 a.m.	CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting
8:00 AM	Registration Opens
9:00 a.m.	GENERAL SESSION: Preparing for Future LAFCO Leaders, TODAY!
10:15 a.m.	Refreshment Break
10:30 a.m.	GENERAL SESSION: Empowering Water Policy Champions Through Education, Collaboration, and Inclusive Fellowship
12:00 p.m.	Conference Adjourns

WELCOME

TO THE 2024 CALAFCO CONFERENCE!



Welcome from the Chair of the Board

On behalf of the CALAFCO Board of Directors, I want to welcome you to our Annual Conference here amid the towering mountains and forests of Yosemite National Park. Thank you for joining us as we gather to merge ideas with solutions and seek to address the unique and complicated challenges of our great state. As we gather to discuss issues of importance to LAFCOs, I heartily encourage you to take advantage of your time here to expand your network, and to avail yourself of all of the resources available to you and your LAFCO.

Thank you for your leadership in shaping the future of LAFCO and I hope you enjoy the Conference!

Margie Mohler, Commissioner, Napa LAFCO
Chair, *CALAFCO Board of Directors*



Welcome from the Conference Chair

On behalf of the CALAFCO Conference Committee, I am honored and delighted to welcome you to the 2024 CALAFCO Annual Conference. This conference offers a unique opportunity for LAFCOs from around the state to get together and talk about our roles as LAFCO Commissioners and Staff. I am confident the content-rich sessions will showcase how LAFCOs can merge innovative and creative ideas with solutions as we continue to face California's greatest challenges.

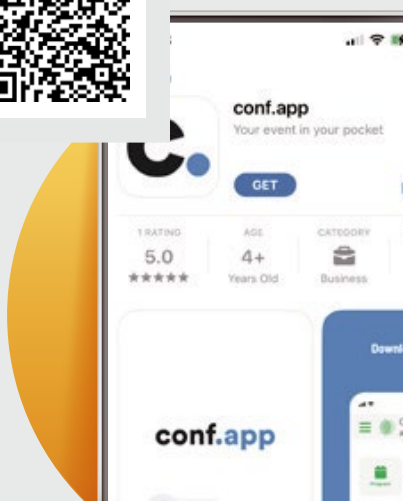
Thank you for taking the time to participate in this conference and welcome to Yosemite!

Acquanetta Warren
Commissioner, San Bernardino LAFCO,
Vice President of the CALAFCO Board of Directors

Wifi CREDENTIALS:
Network: Tenayalodge

Calafco Event App

1. Download **conf.app** from the App Store or Google Play
2. Scan the QR code (to the right) to load the event on the app, or type the event URL into your phone, https://agenda.conf.app/3b6b69ab-b433-4660-b93c-60e75a1ccfff
3. Press on it to access



BBK is honored to support CALAFCO's 2024 Annual Conference and the meaningful work of California's LAFCos.



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SCHEDULE

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	**Registration**
7:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	**Mobile Workshop: The Road to Glacier Point - Mariposa County & Yosemite National Park's Collaborative Service Provision**

Learn how Mariposa County and Yosemite National Park are collaborating on service provision through intergovernmental efforts and the engagement of local stakeholders.

Buses Load at 7:15 a.m. at the Port Cochere, and depart Promptly at 7:30 a.m.

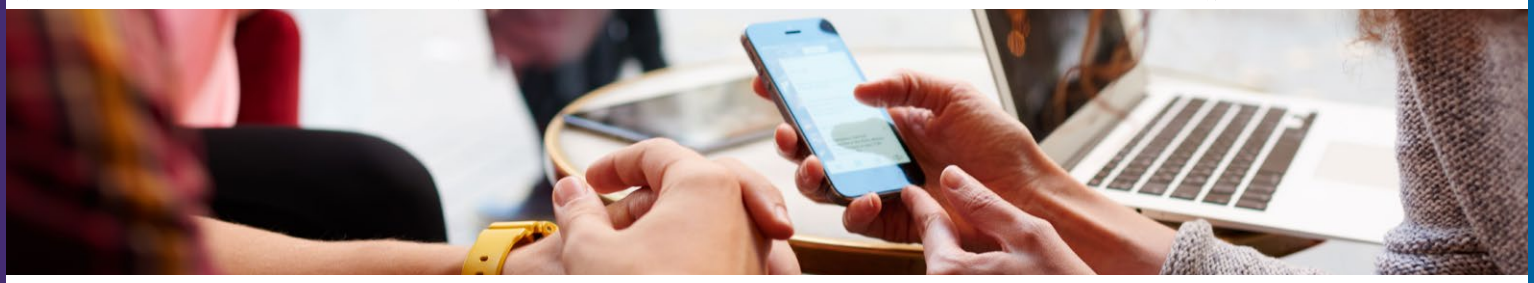
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	**LAFCO 101** *Location: Salon IV*

Government codes? Statutory requirements? Legal ramifications? If any of these have you scratching your head sometimes, fear not because this "LAFCO 101" session will not only give you an inside scope on becoming a LAFCO expert in these areas but will also be entertaining beyond belief.

Don't take our word for it and check this session out – you won't be disappointed.

Panelists: Joe Serrano, Executive Officer, Santa Cruz LAFCO; and Paula C. P. de Sousa, Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP's Special District Practice Group - Moderator: Joe Serrano

2.0 AICP CM credits



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	**Conference Opening** *Location: Salons I, II, & III*
2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	**GENERAL SESSION: In the Halls and Behind the Walls: When Legislation Turns Political** *Location: Salons I, II, & III*

What most of us know about the legislative process is a straight-forward two-house flow that we were taught during our high school civics classes. But what happens to that process when a bill turns political? Join us as veteran lobbyists share their war stories regarding a recent bill concerning the County Water Authority Act and learn what really occurs in the Capitol when competing interests scramble in an attempt to affect a bill's outcome.

Panelists: Kirk Kimmelshue, Partner, Fernández Jensen Kimmelshue Government Affairs - Moderator: Tom Kennedy, President, Kennedy Water Consulting

1.25 AICP CM credits

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	**Refreshment Break** *Location: Foyer*
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	**General Session: Equity in Action: LAFCO'S Role in Environmental Justice** *Location: Salons I, II, & III*

Join us for a dynamic session where we will explore how LAFCOs can champion environmental justice. Delve into the history and legislation that shape this crucial work and learn how LAFCOs can drive sustainable growth and foster inclusive decision-making to create healthier environments for everyone. Discover strategies for ensuring fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all communities in the planning and provision of public services. Come ready to share your ideas and collaborate on actionable solutions!

Panelists: Beth Altshuler Muñoz, President and Founder, BAM Consulting, Inc.; Phoebe Seaton, Co-founder and Co-Executive Director, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability; Keene Simonds, Executive Officer, San Diego LAFCO - Moderator: Sylvia Arenas, Vice Chair, Santa Clara LAFCO and Supervisor, County of Santa Clara

1.5 AICP CM credits

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	**Welcome Reception** *Location: Terrace*
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	**Optional Dinner Buffet (Requires pre-purchased ticket)** *Location: Pavilion*
7:00 p.m.	**Dinner on Your Own**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

SCHEDULE

6:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	**Breakfast Buffet** *Location: Foyer*
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	**Registration** *Location: Foyer*
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	**Regional Caucus Meetings and Elections** *Locations: Counties Room, Forest View Room, Salon IV, and Salons VII & VIII*
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	**CALAFCO Annual Business Meeting** *Location: Salons I, II, & III*
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	**Refreshment Break** *Location: Foyer*
10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	**Regional & Counsel Roundtables** *Locations: Counties, Forest View, Salon IV, Salon VI, and Salon VII & VIII*
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	**Networking Buffet Lunch** *Location: Foyer*
1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	**Breakout Sessions**

Connecting the Drops: Private Water Systems in California *Location: Forest View Room*

We all know LAFCOs have purview over cities and special districts, but what about private water systems? Gain a better understanding on how they operate and the challenges they face. Learn how LAFCOs can play a role in their future and hear a true story about how one private water system wasn't too big to fail.

Panelists: JM Brown, Analyst, County of Santa Cruz; Nicolas L. Jaber, Attorney, Serviam by Wright LLP; and Lydia Rossiter, Senior Utility Consultant, Moonshot Missions - Moderator: Joe Serrano, Executive Officer, Santa Cruz LAFCO

1.5 AICP CM credits

Consolidations: Beyond the LAFCO Process, the Commissioners' Role *Location: Salon V*

Consolidations on the horizon? This session will go beyond the staff processing of an application and focus on the role commissioners can take to promote and support consolidations/reorganizations and further LAFCO's goal to promote the efficient provision of services.

Jim Holmes, Placer LAFCO and Supervisor, County of Plumas; and Lou Ann Texeira, Executive Officer, Contra Costa LAFCO - Moderator: Samuel Martinez, Executive Officer, San Bernardino LAFCO

1.5 AICP CM credits

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	**Refreshment Break** *Location: Foyer*
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	**Breakout Sessions**

What Would You Do? *Location: Forest View Room*

This fun and interactive session will present situations that came before LAFCO Boards and presented unusual challenges and issues. The panelists will present an overview of a situation faced by their commissioners and allow for discussion of the conflicting LAFCO goals, what the commission decided and the results of the decision.

Panelists: John Benoit, Executive Officer, Calaveras LAFCO; David Braun, Executive Officer, Madera LAFCO; Crystal Craig, Assistant Executive Officer, Riverside LAFCO - Moderator: Adriana Romo, Deputy Executive Officer, Los Angeles LAFCO

1.5 AICP CM credits

What Does that LAFCO Hat Look Like? *Location: Salon V*

As we all know, the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act directs commissioners to make decisions on behalf of the public as a whole and not for their home agency when they serve on LAFCO. But what does it mean for commissioners to be "independent"? Hear from seasoned commissioners on how they interpret that general direction in statute and share how they approach proposals while they wear their "LAFCO hat."

Panelists: Gay Jones, Special District Member Commissioner, Sacramento LAFCO, and CALAFCO Board Member; Blake Inscore, City Member Commissioner, Del Norte LAFCO, and CALAFCO Board Member; Yxstian Gutierrez, County Member Commissioner, Riverside LAFCO, and CALAFCO Board Member; and John Withers, Partner with California Strategies, LLC, and Irvine Ranch Water District Board of Directors - Moderator: Paula C.P. de Sousa, Partner, Best Best & Krieger

1.5 AICP CM credits

5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	**Pre-dinner Reception** *Location: Foyer*
6:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	**Dinner Banquet and Awards Ceremony** *Location: Salons I, II, and III*

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

6:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	**Breakfast Buffet** *Location: Foyer*
7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	**CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting** *Location: Forest View Room*
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	**Registration**
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	**GENERAL SESSION: Preparing for Future LAFCO Leaders, TODAY!** *Location: Salons I, II, & III*

A LAFCO career is such a lucrative profession if you think about it – once you discover or stumble upon it of course. In fact, most employees end their careers with LAFCO after 10, 20, 30+ years under their belts. But how do you replace someone with that much experience? How do you find the right candidate to pass the torch to? This session goes over succession planning and how to gain/retain LAFCO talent.

Panelists: Brendon Freeman, Executive Officer, Napa LAFCO; Larkyn Feiler, Contract Executive Officer, Lake and Colusa LAFCOs; Rachel Jones, Executive Officer, Alameda LAFCO - Moderator: Joe Serrano, Executive Officer, Santa Cruz LAFCO

1.25 AICP CM credits

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	**Refreshment Break** *Location: Foyer*
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	**GENERAL SESSION: Empowering Water Policy Champions Through Education, Collaboration, and Inclusive Fellowship** *Location: Salons I, II, & III*

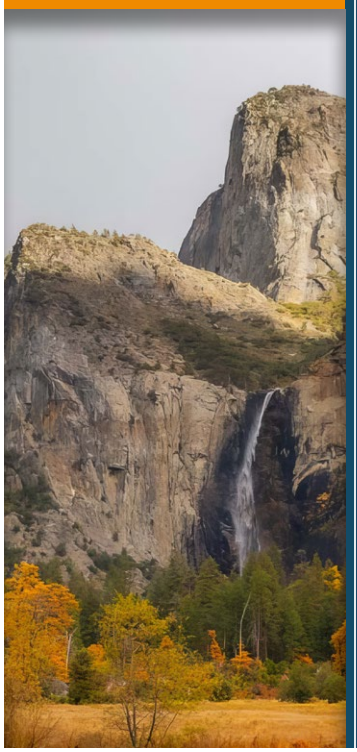
Hear from water experts and elected officials to expand your knowledge about California water policy to promote timely and equitable actions that serve to develop a robust economy, healthy communities, and a resilient environment for all Californians.

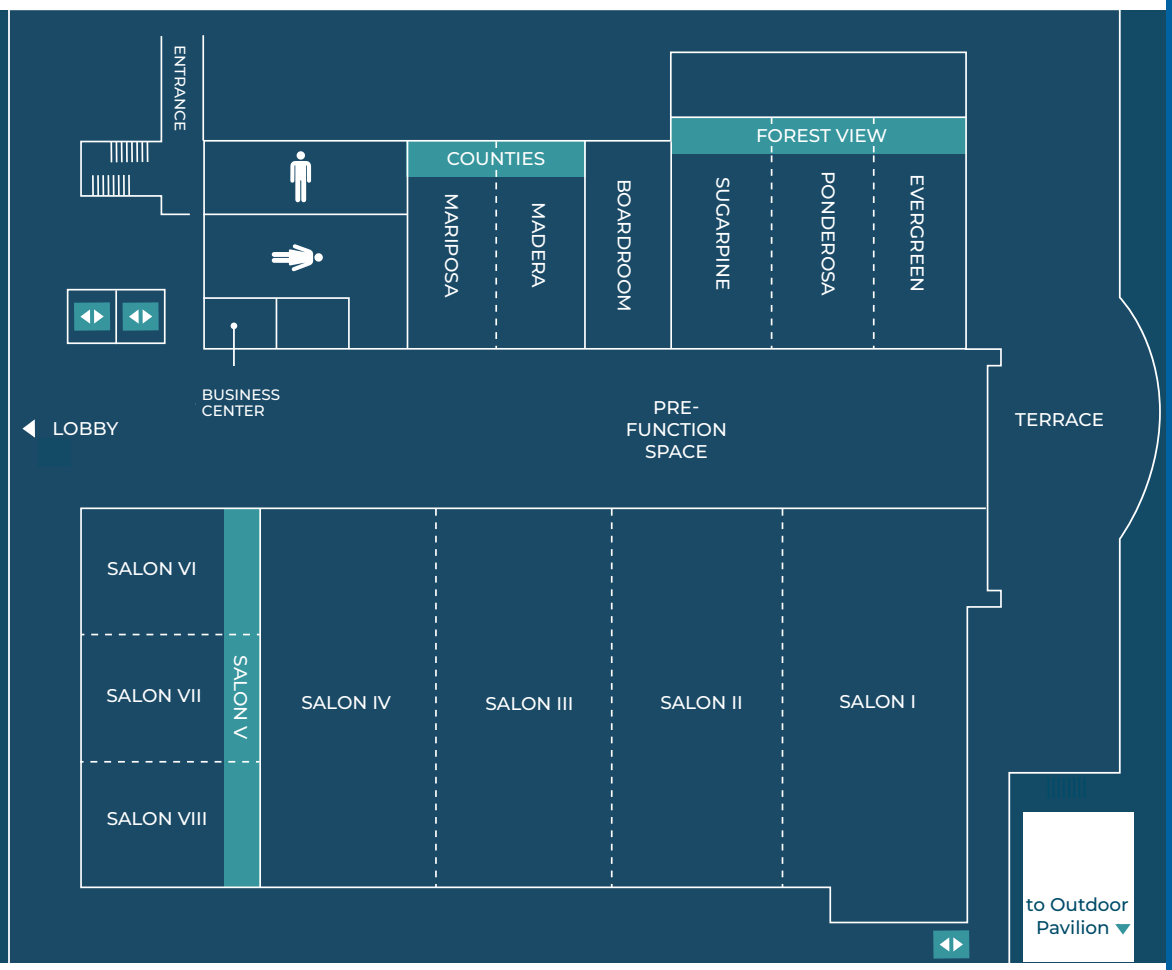
Panelists: Kristin Dobbin, UC Cooperative Extension Specialist, UC Berkeley; Rey Leon, Mayor, City of Huron and WELL UnTapped Fellowship Graduate; Destiny Rodriguez, Trustee, State Center Community College District and WELL UnTapped Fellowship Graduate; and Eddie Valero, Supervisor, County of Tulare and WELL UnTapped Fellowship Graduate – Moderator: Brendon Freeman, Executive Officer, Napa LAFCO

1.5 AICP CM credits

12:00 p.m.	**Conference Adjourns**

TENAYA LODGE MAP





CALAFCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Margie Mohler, *Chair*
Acquanetta Warren, *Vice Chair*

Gay Jones, *Treasurer*
Blake Inscore, *Secretary*

NORTHERN REGION	SOUTHERN REGION	CENTRAL REGION	COASTAL REGION
Bill Connelly *Butte LAFCO*	**Kimberly Cox** *San Bernardino LAFCO*	**Gay Jones** *Sacramento LAFCO*	**Kenneth Leary** *Napa LAFCO*
Blake Inscore *Del Northern LAFCO*	**Yxstian Gutierrez** *Riverside LAFCO*	**Rodrigo Espinosa** *Merced LAFCO*	**Michael McGill** *Contra Costa LAFCO*
Gordon Mangel *Nevada LAFCO*	**Derek McGregor** *Orange LAFCO*	**Anita Paque** *Calaveras LAFCO*	**Margie Mohler** *Napa LAFCO*
Josh Susman *Nevada LAFCO*	**Acquanetta Warren** *San Bernardino LAFCO*	**Tamara Wallace** *El Dorado LAFCO*	**Wendy Root Askew** *Monterey LAFCO*

CALAFCO STAFF

René LaRoche, *Executive Director*
Clark Alsop, *Legal Counsel*
Brandon Dante, *Accountant*

Stephen Lucas, *Executive Officer*
José Henriquez, *Deputy Executive Officer*
Dawn Mittleman, *Deputy Executive Officer*
Gary Thompson, *Deputy Executive Officer*

CALAFCO CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

BOARD MEMBERS

Acquanetta Warren, *Chair, San Bernardino LAFCO*
Kenneth Leary, *Napa LAFCO*
Gordon Mangel, *Nevada LAFCO*
Anita Paque, *Calaveras LAFCO*

MOBILE WORKSHOP

Rosemarie Smallcombe, *Mariposa LAFCO Chair*
Miles Menetrey, *Mariposa County Board of Supervisors Chair*
Laura Young, *Madera LAFCO*
Steve Engfer, *Mariposa LAFCO Executive Officer*

OTHER MEMBERS

José Henriquez, *Co-Chair, Sacramento LAFCO*
Paula C.P. de Sousa, *Best, Best & Krieger*
Brendon Freeman, *Napa LAFCO*
Uma Hinman, *Mendocino LAFCO*
René LaRoche, *CALAFCO*
Carolanne Ieromnimon, *RSG*
Neelima Palacherla, *Santa Clara LAFCO*
Stephanie Pratt, *Napa LAFCO*
Adriana Romo, *Los Angeles LAFCO*
Erica Sanchez, *El Dorado LAFCO*
Joe Serrano, *Santa Cruz LAFCO*
Jim Simon, *RSG*
Laura Young, *Madera LAFCO*

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ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Beth Altshuler Muñoz - President and Founder, BAM Consulting, Inc.

Beth works with public agencies, foundations, Community–Based Organizations (CBO), and residents to apply a Health (and Equity) in All Policies lens to the challenges and opportunities in their communities. She loves combining her skills in data analysis, community engagement and facilitation, and policy writing so places can better incorporate public health, racial equity, and environmental justice into their land use and urban policy decisions. At the forefront of the healthy communities' discipline for 20 years, Beth is committed to creating livable places, reducing health and racial inequities, and engaging residents in the future of their communities. After over a decade working at larger consulting firms, she established an independent practice in March of 2020 to work on projects that support and expand the capacity of CBOs and public agencies to engage in equitable planning and policy work.

Sylvia Arenas - Vice Chair, Santa Clara LAFCO; and Supervisor, County of Santa Clara

Sylvia represents San Jose and South Santa Clara County on the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors and has been a tireless champion for families, women, children, and racial equity. For over twenty years, she has worked on public policy that addresses community issues; and approaches her job as an opportunity to change the rules to make our community and society more equitable. Arenas serves as the Chair of the Housing, Land Use, Environment, and Transportation Committee and Vice-Chair of the Children, Seniors, and Families Committee of the County of Santa Clara. She serves as the Vice Chair of Santa Clara LAFCO.

John Benoit – Executive Officer, Calaveras LAFCO

John has a professional background in LAFCO, land use planning, project management, environmental, and community and economic development. He is the Calaveras Executive Officer, and was formerly the contract Executive Officer for Lake, Colusa, Modoc, Yuba, Sutter, Plumas, Glenn and Lassen counties. As LAFCO contract staff to rural commissions, John plans and organizes LAFCO activities, processes applications, establishes policies and programs, and provides general administration, budget management, and environmental review services. He has been a lecturer in geography and French at three community colleges in Northern California and holds a Master's degree in geography. John is also the recipient of the 2019 CALAFCO Lifetime Achievement Award.

David Braun – Executive Officer, Madera LAFCO

Dave has served as the Executive Officer of Madera LAFCO since November 2013. He previously was employed as an Associate Planner for the City of Fresno for over 25 years. For much of that time he processed all the Annexations Applications for the City of Fresno. He also worked in the current planning section and processed a variety of development entitlements.

Dave holds a bachelor's degree in Geography and a Masters of City and Regional Planning from California State University Fresno.

J.M. Brown – Analyst for Supervisor Bruce McPherson, Santa Cruz Board of Supervisorso

J.M. acts as the primary point of contact with Supervisor McPherson for residents and organizations in the rural and mountainous San Lorenzo Valley. He oversees the Office's involvement in natural resource issues, including recovery from the 2020 CZU Fire that destroyed more than 450 residences in the District. He also serves as a liaison with state and federal agencies and elected offices. J.M. previously worked as a reporter for the Santa Cruz Sentinel and chaired the City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Commission.

Crystal Craig – Assistant Executive Officer, Riverside LAFCO

Crystal began her service as the Assistant Executive Officer in 2020, after previously serving as a Local Government Analyst I,II,III beginning in 2002. Her principal duties include supervising staff, assisting in the preparation of the yearly budget and audit, processing reorganizations, annexations (particularly water & wastewater projects), consolidation studies, technical boundary clean-ups, incorporations, island annexations, manages municipal service review projects and preparation of Municipal Service Reviews (MSR) reports, Sphere of Influence (SOI) studies, and communicates statutory requirements on boundary changes.

Crystal implemented Geographic Information Systems (GIS) at Riverside LAFCO and works on maintaining City & Special District GIS layers. She was the recipient of the CALAFCO Achievement Award for "Outstanding LAFCO Professional" on October 7, 2021, and on June 27, 2024, was the recipient of the Inland Empire American Society for Public Administration, public service award for "Outstanding Rising Administrator".

Prior to LAFCO, her experiences have always been in public service that include political internships at the White House under the Clinton Administration, the California State Assembly, and at KABC Channel 7 Los Angeles Eyewitness News and as a Campaign Manager for Riverside Unified School District to pass a School Bond Measure. Crystal holds a B.A. degree in Political Science and Administrative Studies from the University of California, Riverside and is certified in GIS and Watershed Management.

Outside of work, Crystal is an aviation enthusiast, world traveler, and enjoys outdoor adventures with her toy poodle Gigi.

Cary Curtis – Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District Board Director, Plumas County

Cary enjoyed a 40-year career as Vice President of a major financial services company leading diverse teams charged with developing and implementing strategic initiatives, programs and products for the retail sector. She moved to Plumas County in 2008 where she has been involved with special districts for 12 years. Cary served 10 years with Gold Mountain Community Services District, and as Board President steered the district to long term financial stability. She served as Vice Chair for the Local Emergency Services Study Group tasked with identifying and implementing a solution to under-funded and inconsistent fire services in Eastern Plumas County, and in 2023 she led the successful drive for a new parcel tax to support the newly formed Beckwourth Peak FPD. In her free time, Cary has a passion for the outdoors and traveling.

Paula C.P. de Sousa – Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP's Special District Practice Group

Paula joined BBK upon graduating from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. She practices out of the firm's San Diego office in most areas of public agency representation, including the Cortese–Knox–Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization (CKH) Act. Paula serves as legal counsel to San Bernardino LAFCO, assistant legal counsel to Orange LAFCO, and serves as general counsel to a number of special districts in San Diego County (agencies providing sewer and water services).

She advises CALAFCO as assistant general counsel, assists in drafting legislation on CALAFCO's behalf, and regularly advises other public agency clients with respect to LAFCO-related issues. She is the primary author of several "white papers" utilized by LAFCOs and public agencies throughout the state on changes in law impacting changes of organization and reorganizations.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Kristin Dobbin – Water Justice Policy and Planning Specialist, UC Davis Cooperative Extension, Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management

Kristin's research and extension work focuses on the implementation of California's Human Right to Water Policy (AB 685). Prior to coming to UC Berkeley, Kristin was a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the Luskin Center for Innovation at the University of California at Los Angeles. She received her PhD in the Graduate Group in Ecology at the University of California Davis in 2021.

Larkyn Feiler – Executive Officer, Lake and Colusa LAFCOs

Larkyn is the new contract Executive Officer for Lake and Colusa LAFCOs. In addition, she is continuing eight plus years as the contract Analyst for Mendocino LAFCO. Larkyn has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science from the University of Redlands, and a specialty in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Prior to LAFCO, she spent nearly ten years in the Nevada County Planning Department and served as the subject matter expert in recreation planning.

Brendon Freeman – Executive Officer, Napa LAFCO

Brendon has been the Napa Executive Officer since July 2015 when he was promoted from Napa LAFCO Staff Analyst, a position that he held since June 2008. Brendon previously served four years on the City of Napa Community Development Block Grant Citizens' Advisory Committee, three years on the Napa Valley Support Services Board of Directors, and is currently a proud member of the Napa Sunrise Rotary service club. Brendon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics with a minor in Statistics from the University of California, Davis.

Yxstian Gutierrez– Riverside LAFCO; and Supervisor, County of Riverside

Dr. Yxstian Gutierrez is the Riverside County Supervisor for District 5. He served as a three-term Mayor of the City of Moreno Valley and was the city's first-ever directly elected Mayor. He has served as a Councilmember for the City of Moreno Valley since 2013. On December 5, 2022, he was sworn in officially by the Clerk of the Board as a County Supervisor. In addition, he has served as a full-time university professor, an educational leader, and an executive director of curriculum and instruction.

Jim Holmes – Placer LAFCO; and Supervisor, County of Placer

Jim has served as a Placer County Supervisor since 2005 and as a LAFCO Commissioner since 2007. An Auburn native with 29 years of experience as a business owner, Jim serves on multiple boards and commissions including the Auburn Union Elementary School District Board, the Placer Consolidated Fire Protection District Board, the Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Boys & Girls Club of Auburn. He is also a founding member of both the North Auburn Municipal Advisory Council and the Highway 49 Business Association.

Blake Inscore - City Member Commissioner, Del Norte LAFCO, CALAFCO Board Member

Blake is currently a member of the Del Norte LAFCO and has served as its Chair on three occasions over his tenure on the commission. He is also a CALAFCO Board Member and holds the Officer position of Secretary. Blake is also a Member of the Crescent City Council and serves as Mayor. Prior to his election to the City Council, Blake was a member of the Crescent City Planning Commission for more than four years and was Chair during the last two years of his appointment. Blake also sits on the Del Norte Local Area Transportation Commission, on the Crescent City Chamber of Commerce Board, on the Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority, for which he is the Chair, and a variety of other committees.

Blake is a minister by vocation having served Churches in Oregon, Arizona, and California over the past 36 years. He and his wife Lenea moved to Crescent City in 2008 and quickly became involved in the community.

Nicolas L. Jaber – Attorney at Serviam by Wright LLP

Nic represents cities and counties across the State of California. He focuses his practice on municipal defense litigation and civil and criminal prosecution. Nic also oversees Serviam's active court receivership appointments over various distressed residential and agricultural parcels of real property and a failing, privately held drinking and wastewater system.

Nic earned his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the University of California, Berkeley; and his Juris Doctor from the Chapman University Dale E. Fowler School of Law.

Nic and his wife Alexia reside in Orange County, California.

Gay Jones - Special District Member Commissioner, Sacramento LAFCO

Gay has represented special districts on CALAFCO since 2006 and Sacramento LAFCO since 2004, Gay has served as a Director for Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District since its inception in 2000. Commissioner Jones is a retired Captain with the Sacramento Fire Department, 1981-2006. From her days as a Peace Corps Volunteer to today, she continues to serve her community on many local levels. Gay received an undergraduate degree in philosophy and a Master's degree in health and human services. Gay looks forward to continued discussion for achieving LAFCO goals to improve all our communities.

Rachel Jones - Executive Officer, Alameda LAFCO

Rachel has been with the Alameda LAFCO since June of 2018. Prior to her current position, she served as the Interim Executive Officer and Analyst at Marin LAFCO for over two years where she administered their Municipal Service Review program. She also previously served as the Donor Stewardship Associate and Board Liaison for SPUR, an urban planning think-tank in the Bay Area.

Rachel holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Planning from Cornell University and is a graduate of Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland.

SR received a degree in History from the University of California at San Diego, and currently resides near Nevada City.

Tom Kennedy – President, Kennedy Water Consulting

Tom is the President of Kennedy Water Consulting, LLC, which he formed when he retired from over 30 years in the public sector, culminating as General Manager of Rainbow Municipal Water District. Tom holds a degree in Aerospace Engineering from San Diego State and a Masters in Public Administration from Cal State Fullerton.

Tom's area of expertise includes all aspects of water/wastewater agency management but he also has deep experience in LAFCO matters having served on the San Diego LAFCO Special District Advisory Committee for 8 years. Tom has been involved in numerous, and sometimes contentious reorganization processes through San Diego LAFCO, and currently is helping a software company to develop customized application tracking software specifically designed for LAFCOs.



ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Kirk Kimmelshue – Partner, Fernández Jensen Kimmelshue Government Affairs

Kirk has more than a decade of lobbying and consulting experience for a wide variety of corporate interests in addition to direct legislative experience inside the State Capitol. Prior to his current role, he was the Region Vice President of State Government Affairs for Anheuser-Busch, Inc. where he advanced the company's legislative agenda in California, Nevada, Arizona, and Hawaii. Kirk also acted as the State Government Affairs Representative for Chevron USA, and prior to that served as Chief of Staff in the Assembly where he forged strong relationships with legislative leaders and staff on both sides of the aisle.

Kirk has become a trusted resource for legislators and staff in the Capitol and is known for his positive outlook and belief that no challenge is too large to overcome and that no two sides are too far apart to sit down and find a pathway forward.

Kirk holds a Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Communications, with an Emphasis in Public Policy, from Oklahoma State University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Business, Concentration in Marketing and Policy, from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo.

Rey Leon – Mayor, City of Huron, and WELL UnTapped Fellowship Graduate, Class of 2019

Rey is the Mayor of the City of Huron, California as well as the founder and executive director of The LEAP Institute (Latino Equity Advocacy & Policy), a valley-based Latino nonprofit organization where he leads innovation for equity. He was born in Fresno and raised in the Huron area. Based in Fresno County, with a focus on economic, environmental and climate justice while empowering renewable technologies, clean energy, green jobs, and community development. He has been working to ensure that environmental justice principles are advanced in the region's institutions and culture. He is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley where he obtained a Bachelor's degree in Chicano studies with an emphasis in public health.

Samuel Martinez – Executive Officer, San Bernadino LAFCO

Sam joined San Bernardino LAFCO as an Analyst in 2003, moved up to Senior Analyst in 2008, promoted to Assistant Executive Officer in 2011, and was appointed Executive Officer in 2018. Prior to joining LAFCO, he was a planner for the County of San Bernardino.

Destiny Rodriguez – Trustee, State Center Community College District, and WELL UnTapped Fellowship Graduate, Class of 2024

Destiny has worked on air quality, health, and environmental issues in the Central Valley for over fifteen years. She currently serves as the Executive Director at MOVE the Valley, a multi-racial and multigenerational coalition focusing on integrated voter engagement, voter education, and get-out-the-vote (GOTV) efforts within historically marginalized and excluded communities. Destiny is also a graduate of the Gamaliel National Leadership Training and Emerge California Political Candidate Training Program 2020.

Destiny has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mass Communications Journalism with emphasis on Public Relations, and Chicano Latin American Studies from California State University, Fresno. She continues to be an advocate to provide safeguards for our community.

Adriana Romo – Deputy Executive Officer, Los Angeles LAFCO

Adriana has been the Deputy Executive Officer for Los Angeles (LA) LAFCO since 2017. In this position, she assists with the administration of the local office, managing office finances, including the annual budget development, facilitating annual audits, and is the human resources specialist.

Also, as a former LAFCO Analyst, she offers her experience and knowledge to support LA LAFCO analysts. Prior to LA LAFCO, Adriana served as an Analyst to Riverside LAFCO for 15 years where she developed a specialty in water resources.

In 2007, Adriana was selected from amongst 20 other young California professionals to participate in the Water Education Foundation Water Leaders program, where she was immersed in the Sacramento Bay-Delta history, ecosystem, and politics. Through the years, she has co-processed multiple changes of organization and reorganizations including an incorporation, a couple of dissolutions, a consolidation, several requests for proposals, and various Municipal Service Reviews.

Adriana holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California Riverside, and a 2005 Master's in Public Administration with a Concentration in Water Resources Management from the California State University, San Bernardino.

Lydia Rossiter – Senior Utility Consultant with Moonshot Missions

Lydia has spent the last 20+ years in state and local government and has held various titles including but not limited to board of director for the Municipal Management Association of Northern California. She holds certifications in water treatment, water distribution, and wastewater treatment and earned her bachelor's degree from Stanford University and her master's degree from Golden Gate University. Lydia is committed to thoughtful analysis and collaboration leading to successful solutions.

Phoebe Seaton – Co-founder and Co-Executive Director, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Phoebe, a native Californian, attended the University of California, Berkeley, where she received her B.A. She then spent time in Guatemala, working to address human rights violations, and went on to complete her J.D. at the University of California, Los Angeles. Phoebe joined CRLA, Inc. following law school and worked at the organization's Delano office prior to launching the Community Equity Initiative, a program designed to address critical infrastructure and service deficits in low income, unincorporated communities in California.

In 2013, Phoebe co-founded Leadership Counsel with Veronica Garibay. Phoebe is based in Sacramento and leads Leadership Counsel's state-level policy work.

Joe Serrano – Executive Officer, Santa Cruz LAFCO

Joe began his LAFCO career as an intern for Orange LAFCO in 2008 and was their analyst until 2013 before he started expanding his LAFCO knowledge with other LAFCOs, including San Bernardino, San Diego, and Monterey. Today, he is the Executive Officer of Santa Cruz LAFCO.

Joe earned a double major in Finance & Accounting from Cal State University, Fullerton and has over 16 years of LAFCO experience.

Keene Simonds — Executive Officer, San Diego LAFCO

Keene was appointed LAFCO Executive Officer in September 2017, and is responsible for overseeing the agency's regulatory and planning responsibilities consistent with Commission policies. He previously served as LAFCO Executive Officer in the San Francisco Bay Area (Marin and Napa Counties) along with holding different positions with a private consulting firm in Beverly Hills California and non-profit organization in Philadelphia Pennsylvania. Keene holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Pepperdine University and University of Southern California, respectively. Previous activities also include serving as a Board member for Marin Space and the California Urban Forest Council. Keene and his family live in Old Escondido.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Lou Ann Texeira – Executive Officer, Contra Costa LAFCO

Lou Ann has served as the Executive Officer for Contra Costa LAFCO since 2005. Prior to that she served as Executive Officer for Alameda LAFCO, Analyst/Legislative Coordinator for the County of Alameda, and Assistant City Manager with the City of Dublin and the City of Walnut Creek. Additionally, Lou Ann has been active in CALAFCO, serving as both Executive Officer and Deputy Executive Officer, as well as on the Legislative Committee.

Eddie Valero – Supervisor, County of Tulare, and WELL UnTapped Fellowship Graduate, Class of 2022

Supervisor Valero was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2018, and serves as Tulare County Supervisor representing District 4. A longtime resident of the Central Valley, he left his hometown to obtain an Ivy League education and returned with the goal of prosperity for Tulare County residents.

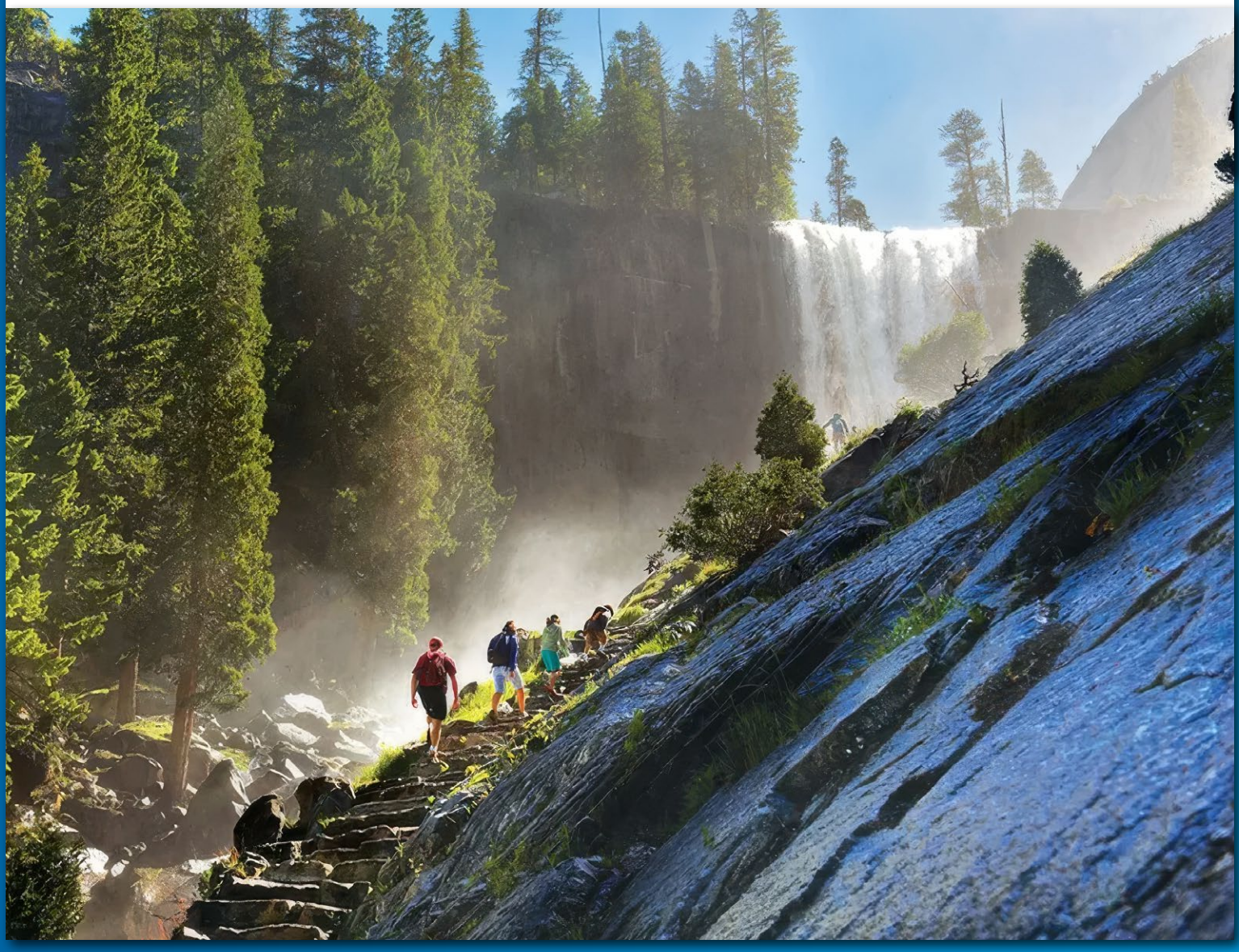
He has been working with the greater North County to positively impact at-risk youth, particularly fatherless young men, throughout the Central Valley. Supervisor Valero's education in City and Regional Planning along with public service experiences over the years have prepared him to serve District 4. He is a servant leader who believes in community voice and collaboration while valuing ideas and interests.

John Withers - Irvine Ranch Water District Board of Directors, and California Strategies, LLC, Partner

John serves on the Irvine Ranch Water District Board of Directors and is a partner with California Strategies, LLC, in Irvine, a statewide, strategic government-relations firm. He is a past chair and commissioner on Orange LAFCO, a member and past chairman of the Orange County Sanitation District Board of Directors (where he has served since 2009), and a National Water Research Institute board member.

He has also served on the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. In past positions, John has served as vice president of community development for Lewis Operating Corporation, and as director of water resources for Psomas & Associates, a civil engineering and planning firm. He was also the director of governmental affairs for the Building Industry Association Orange County Chapter, and a legislative advocate for Crocker Bank.

A native Southern Californian, John attended Los Angeles city schools and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and urban studies from UCLA. He was one of the few selected to be a Coro Foundation Fellow and earned a Master of Arts degree in urban studies from Occidental College. John lives in Northwood with his wife, Katie. They have three grown children, Carolyn, Gordon and Peter.




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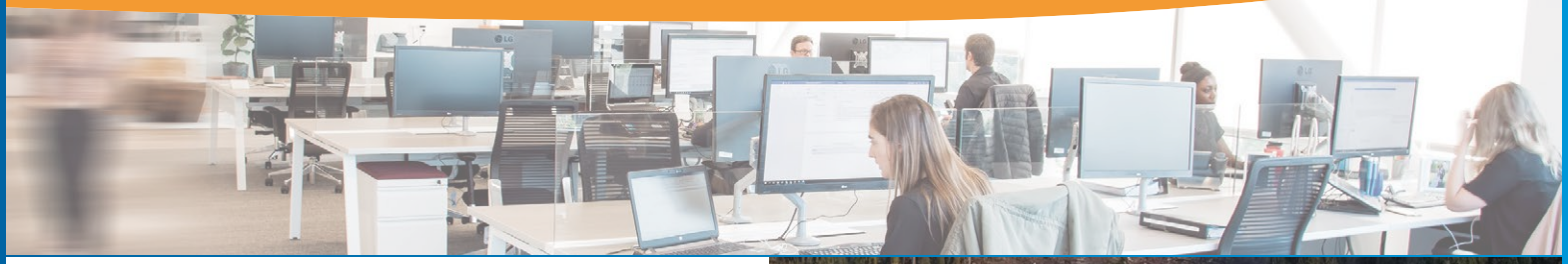
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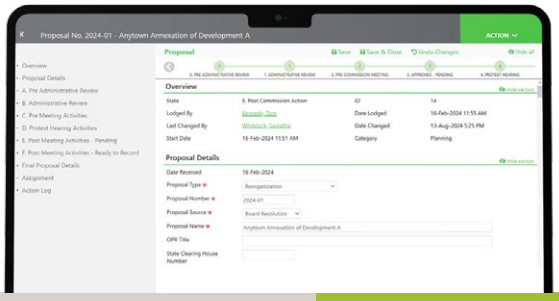
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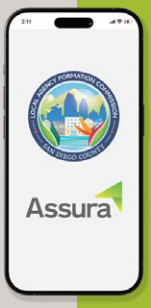
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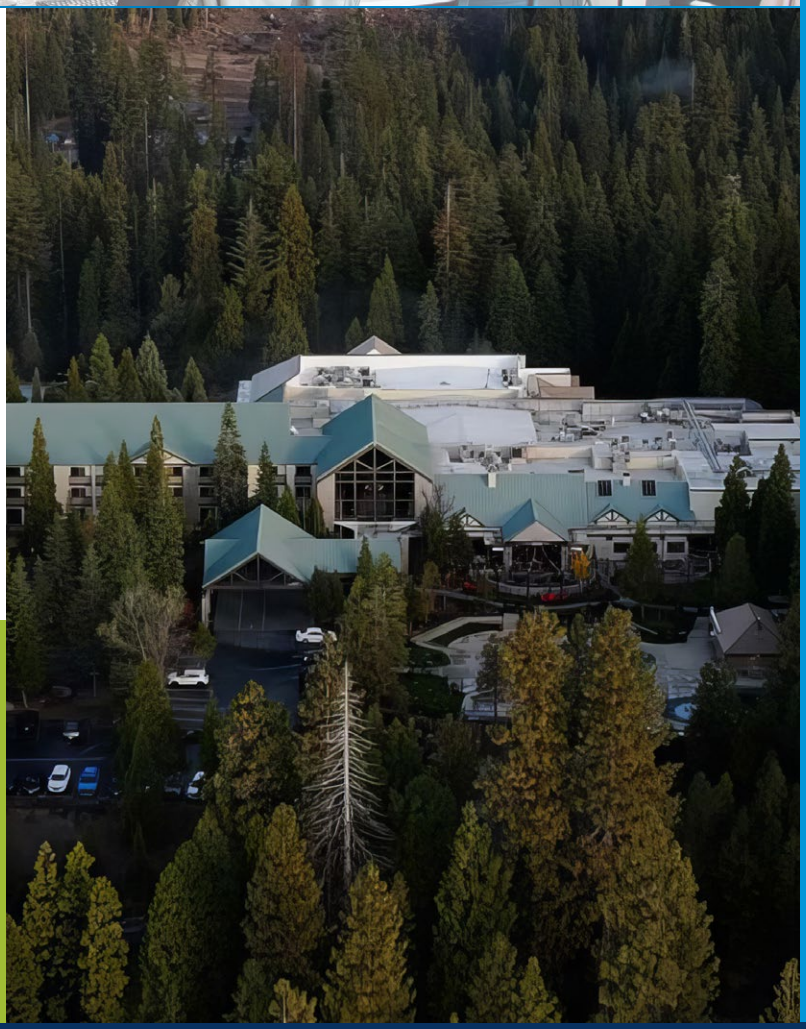
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