

WELCOME!

66TH

ANNUAL MUNICIPAL SEMINAR

COMMUNITIES UNIDOS

POWERING CHANGE
THROUGH COLLABORATION





CODE OF CONDUCT

The California Contract Cities Association strives to provide cutting-edge education and networking opportunities for all our members in a safe and respectable environment at all times.

The California Contract Cities Association expects the following from all attendees and guests at our events:



Treat each other with dignity and respect at all times.

Respect the various political views and opinions of everyone in attendance.



Avoid disrupting speakers or presenters during sessions and meetings.

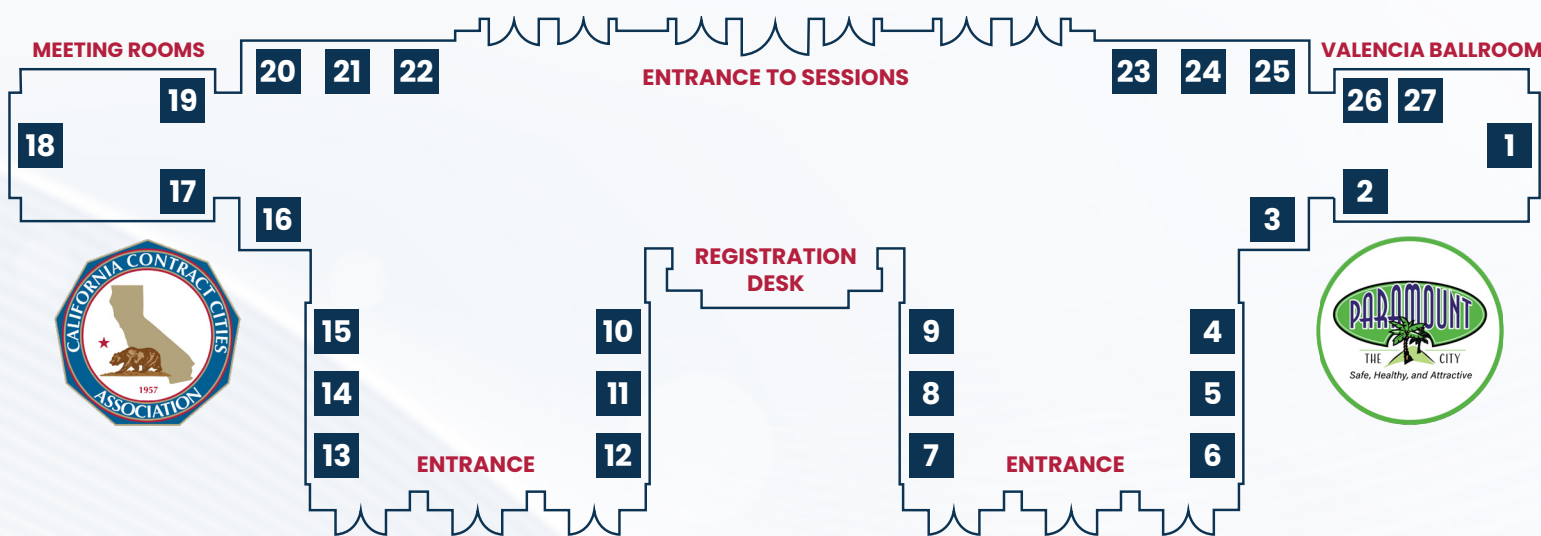
Refrain from engaging in activities or actions that would reflect poorly on CCCA.



We thank you in advance for your cooperation in ensuring the success of our conferences, meetings, and other events, making it enjoyable for all in attendance.



BALLROOM MAP



TABLES:

1	West Coast Arborists	15	SiteLogiq
2	Securitas	16	Transtech Engineers
3	TNT Fireworks	17	ALADS
4	Dapper, Rosenblit, & Litvak	18	ALADS
5	MNS Engineers	19	Bowman
6	County of Los Angeles Public Works	20	Nationwide Environmental
7	NLC Service Line Warranty Program by Homeserve	21	Water Replenishment District
8	California Department of Food and Agriculture	22	Southern California Gas Company
9	ISN Global Enterprises, Inc.	23	Tripepi Smith
10	Willdan	24	Southern California Edison
11	Republic Services	25	California JPIA
12	Learn4Life	26	Commercial Bank of California
13	Athens Services	27	The Kya Group
14	Meruelo Services		



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AGENDA

THURSDAY, MAY 15TH

Brenda’s Birdie Invitational - 2025 CCCA Annual Municipal Golf Tournament 7:00 - 4:00 PM

Indian Wells Golf Resort

Shotgun Start 8:00 AM

Indian Wells Golf Resort

Tournament Reception and Raffle 1:00 PM

Indian Wells Golf Resort

Registration Open 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Crystal Ballroom Foyer

Welcome Reception 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Cascade Landing

FRIDAY, MAY 16TH

Welcome Continental Breakfast..... 7:00 - 8:30 AM

Crystal Ballroom Foyer

Newly Elected Welcome Breakfast 7:00 - 8:30 AM

Cava Restaurant

Seminar Welcome/Business Session 8:30 - 9:00 AM

Crystal Ballroom

Speakers: Marcel Rodarte, Jennifer Perez, Bruce Whitman

Session 1/Keynote Speaker: It’s Not Just a Slogan. It’s a Lifestyle 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Crystal Ballroom

Speaker: Gian Paul Gonzalez

Break 10:00 - 10:10 AM

Session 2: Democracy, Diversity, and Dignity: A Roadmap for Local Leaders..... 10:10 - 11:10 AM

Crystal Ballroom

Moderator: Marcel Rodarte

Speakers: Stephan Tucker, Thaddeus McCormack, Shawna Lewis

Break 11:10 - 11:20 AM

Session 3: Building Resilient Communities. United for Disaster Readiness..... 11:20 - 12:20 PM

Crystal Ballroom

Speakers: Ricardo Lara, Frank Lopez, Donna Boston, Henry Wind

Session 4A (Lunch Session): SoCal United: Lessons in Collaborative Leadership..... 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Crystal Ballroom

Moderator: John Erickson,

Speakers: Janice Hahn, Lindsey Horvath

Session 4B (Lunch Session) SoCal United: Lessons in Collaborative Leadership. 12:30 pm - 2:00 PM
Crystal Ballroom

Moderator: Gustavo Camacho
Speakers: Hilda Solis, Karen Spiegel

President’s Reception2:00 - 3:15 PM
Crystal Foyer

AB 1234 Ethics Training.....2:15 - 4:15 PM
Valencia I-IV

Speaker: Nicholas Ghirelli, Roxanne Diaz

SATURDAY, MAY 17TH

Breakfast Buffet 8:00 - 9:30 AM

Session 5 (Breakfast Keynote): Justice and Safety: A Balanced Path Forward 9:00 - 10:00 AM
Crystal Ballroom
Speaker: Nathan Hochman

Break 10:00 - 10:10 AM

Session 6: Power in Partnership: How Lobbying Builds Better Cities..... 10:10 - 11:10 AM
Crystal Ballroom
Moderator: Jorge Morales
Speakers: Jayson Braude, Jason Gonsalves, Matt Knabe

Break 11:10 - 11:20 AM

Session 7: Shared Goals, Shared Growth: Aligning Cities, Schools, and Commerce 11:20 - 12:20 AM
Crystal Ballroom
Speakers: Brenda Olmos, Dr. David Verdugo, John Moreno, Peggy Lemons

Break 12:20 - 12:30 PM

**Session 8 (Lunch Session):
Battling Fires, Breaking Barriers: The Evolving Role of Public Safety 12:30 - 2:00 PM**
Crystal Ballroom

Moderator: Jennifer Perez
Speakers: Robert Luna, Tony Marrone, Bill Weiser

AB 1661 - Sexual Harrasment Training.....2:15 - 4:15 PM
Valencia I-IV

Speaker: Amy Greyson, Kathertine Read

Installation Dinner Reception6:00 - 6:30 PM
Crystal Foyer

Speakers: Jose Luis Solache, Robert Luna, Alexa Olmos, Janice Hahn, Blanca Pacheco

Installation Dinner.....6:30 - 8:00 PM
Crystal Ballroom

Fireworks Reception 8:15 - 9:00 PM
Rose Lawn

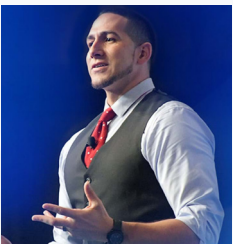
Special Entertainment..... 9:00 - 11:30 PM
Stir Lounge

SUNDAY, MAY 18TH

Brenda’s Big Bad Breakfast Buffet..... 8:00 - 10:30 AM
Mountain View Room



SPEAKERS



Gian Paul Gonzalez - Session 1 (Keynote)

Gian Paul is widely recognized for inspiring the New York Giants to their most recent Super Bowl victory with the phrase 'All In'. He has been featured on ESPN as well as had notable appearances on Fox News and CNN. His inspirational talks have made him an internationally renowned speaker for NBA, NFL, English Premiere League, MLS & Fortune 500 organizations. Gian Paul Gonzalez was a former NCAA First Team All-American forward from Montclair State University scoring nearly 1,400 points in his 3 year career. He played in the NBA Summer League and was offered professional basketball contracts, yet he turned them down in order to continue his work with at-risk youth. He is the founder & executive director of Hope & Future, an organization dedicated to using athletics & physical fitness to share a message of hope and striving for excellence in inner-city public schools and juvenile jails.



Marcel Rodarte - Session 2

Marcel became the third Executive Director of the California Contract Cities Association on July 1, 2016. The California Contract Cities Association is the second largest local government association in California and serves 76 member cities and more than 7.5 million residents in Los Angeles County and beyond. Previously, he served as Mayor and City Councilmember for the City of Norwalk from 2011 to 2016 when he voluntarily resigned to accept his current position. Marcel retired from the Air Force in 2011 after serving for 21 years. He previously worked for the U.S. federal government with the Air Force, Department of Defense, and Department of Homeland Security. He holds associate Degrees in Logistics and Electronics, a bachelor's degree in Business Management, and a master's degree in Leadership from the University of Southern California.



Stephan Tucker - Session 2

Stephan is a seasoned program management director and mechanical engineer with over 34 years of experience, including 20 years with the Los Angeles Department of Power and Water (LADWP) focusing on equity-related programs. He has held key managerial roles, including Assistant General Manager and Manager of the Project and Construction Management Section, where he was instrumental in developing the Corporate Program Management Office and overseeing major groundwater and infrastructure projects. Stephan holds degrees in Religion, Mechanical Engineering, and an M.B.A., and has completed leadership programs at UCLA and the Project Management Institute.



Thaddeus McCormack - Session 2

Thaddeus McCormack has served as Lakewood's city manager since September 2017. Thaddeus is a veteran of city government, having risen through the ranks over 19 years at the City of Santa Fe Springs, from an intern to a management analyst, assistant city manager and, from 2011 to 2017, as city manager. McCormack has held leadership roles in the Gateway region, including chairing the City Managers Committee of the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority and serving as treasurer of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments. He is also active in the Leagues of California Cities and the California Contract Cities Association. Thaddeus holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from California State University, Long Beach, and a master's degree from California State University, Fullerton. He believes public servants should prioritize enhancing community quality of life.



Shawna Lewis - Session 2

Shawna Lewis is the Section Manager for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, a role she has held since September 2023. Prior to this, she served as the Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer for the County of Los Angeles – Child Support Services Department. Shawna is courageously curious and dedicated to dismantling systemic racism to remove barriers to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Human Services, a Master of Public Administration in Public Sector Management and Leadership, and a Certification in Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion for HR from Cornell University. Outside of her professional life, Shawna is deeply committed to her faith and family, treasuring time spent with her three sons and husband of 22 years. A fitness and outdoor enthusiast, she believes that maintaining balance, health, and happiness is essential to both personal and professional success.



Ricardo Lara - Session 3

Raised in East Los Angeles by immigrant parents, Commissioner Ricardo Lara made history in 2018 by becoming the first openly gay person elected to statewide office in California's history. Commissioner Lara previously served in the California Legislature, representing Assembly District 50 from 2010 to 2012 and Senate District 33 from 2012 to 2018. Commissioner Lara earned a BA in Journalism and Spanish with a minor in Chicano Studies from San Diego State University.



Frank Lopez - Session 3

Frank Lopez is director of regional public affairs at SoCalGas where he oversees local government relations and public affairs, franchise agreements, and strategic initiatives across SoCalGas' service territory. Frank began his SoCalGas career as government affairs manager where he represented the utility before Los Angeles City and County. Prior to joining SoCalGas, Frank served as director of public policy for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. Lopez also served as a coordinator for an environmental justice non-profit organization in the San Francisco Bay Area. Lopez holds a bachelor's degree in business economics from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a master's degree in public policy from University of California at Los Angeles where he was a Bohnett Mayoral Public Service Fellow in the Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Economic Development. Frank serves on the boards of Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Central City Association, and USC's Executive Education Forum for Local Leaders Program.



Donna Boston - Session 3

Donna's career in Emergency Management is nearing three decades, with experience at the City and County levels of local government and she now serves in the private sector. Formerly with Orange County as the Director of Emergency Management, Donna has responded to numerous federally declared disasters, served as Operational Area Manager, and has led projects and programs her entire career. At Southern California Edison, Donna leads the Business Resiliency Emergency Planning, Business Continuity, Hazard Assessments & Mitigation, and Compliance groups, focusing on safety, program integration, continuous improvement, and resiliency growth. Donna served as a member of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Advisory Council for 6 years and has also served as a Board Member for the National Charity League, Saddleback Valley Chapter. Donna is a former Board Member of the Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Southern California Emergency Services Association. Donna is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) through the International Association of Emergency Management and a past President of the Orange County Emergency Management Organization. Donna holds a BA Degree from the University of California, Davis, an MPA Degree from the California State University of Long Beach and has completed the Harvard Kennedy School Leadership in Crisis, Notre Dame Executive Integral Leadership and Harvard National Preparedness Leadership Initiative.



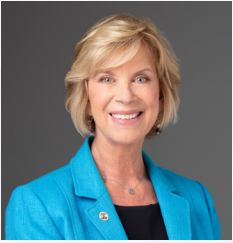
Henry Wind - Session 3

Henry Wind is the Director of Subsidiary Operations and Chief EOC/IC for California Water Service, the third-largest regulated water utility in the United States. In this capacity, he is responsible for oversight of the company's operations in its sister utilities in Hawaii, New Mexico, and Washington as well as emergency response and Emergency Operations Centers in California. Henry has more than 35 years of experience in the water industry, starting as a temporary laborer in Cal Water's East Los Angeles District in 1989 and serving in numerous roles with increasing responsibility over the decades, including leading multiple districts. He was instrumental in the formation of the company's Operations Rapid Response Team to support emergencies across the four utilities' service areas. In his current role, Henry leads the Wildfire Task Force and serves as the Incident Commander for wildfires and other emergency events affecting the company. Henry holds Water Distribution Grade Five and Water Treatment Grade Two certifications by the State Water Resources Control Board.



John Erickson - Session 4A

Councilmember John M. Erickson was elected to the West Hollywood City Council on November 3, 2020, with the commitment to uphold the city's founding vision for a forward-thinking, diverse, and tolerant community. Councilmember Erickson first planted roots in West Hollywood in 2010 when he was selected to intern for the West Hollywood City Council. The internship set him on a path that connected his work for social and economic justice with his passion for public service. He went on to become Council Deputy to former Mayor Abbe Land and then served as a staff member at West Hollywood City Hall working to advance policies, initiate programs, and increase awareness around LGBTQ+ rights, women's rights, the environment, and civic engagement.



Janice Hahn - Session 4A, Installation Dinner Reception

Supervisor Janice Hahn is a leader who has spent her career making government work better for people. As Los Angeles County Supervisor representing the two million people of the Fourth District, Janice Hahn has been a champion for workers, clean air and water, safer communities, and fulfilling the County's promise to be a safety net for people who reach the end of their ropes. Before joining the Board of Supervisors, she served in Congress and on the L.A. City Council—always focused on delivering results for her constituents. She's worked to make Metro safer, expand access to mental healthcare, get guns off our streets, invest in our parks and libraries, and help guide our region through some of its toughest challenges.



Lindsey Horvath - Session 4A

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath represents the Third District, stretching from the Ventura County line to West Hollywood and encompassing most of the San Fernando Valley. She is the first millennial and only renter currently serving on the Board, and in 2024 she served as the Board's youngest-ever Chair. For 2025, she is focused on leading the nation's fastest disaster response following the devastating Palisades Fire and overhauling the homeless services system. Since coming to the Board, she has led the County's homelessness emergency response, helping drive the first decrease in homelessness in nearly a decade. She has taken bold action on the climate by launching the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Climate Action & Fire-Safe Recovery and advanced the LA County Water Plan. She has also worked to protect reproductive freedom through the Abortion Safe Haven Program and centering the LGBTQ+ and marginalized communities in the work of the County. A reformer at her core, she championed Measure G to transform how LA County governs—expanding representation, strengthening ethics, and creating an elected County Executive. She previously served as Councilmember and the longest consecutively serving Mayor of West Hollywood.



Gustavo Camacho - Session 4B

Gustavo Camacho is honored to represent the City of Pico Rivera. Prior to being elected in 2009, Mr. Camacho served as a city planning commissioner. During his time on council, Mr. Camacho has served as the city's Mayor in 2020, 2018 and in 2013. He was reelected in 2022 and now serving as Mayor Pro-Tem. Through Mayor Pro-Tem Camacho's leadership, the city has seen economic growth, new investments in major public works projects, and elevated the city's financial and government stability. As a member of the City Council, he continues to prioritize Economic Development, Public Safety, Water Quality, Road Improvements, New Parks, and Housing, issues that are important and vital for residents and the business community. Mr. Camacho believes in improving local commerce by assisting small business owners and consistently advocating for new resources and investments. And always putting the community first, planning community fundraisers and activities to support families.



Hilda Solis - Session 4B

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis is a lifelong resident of the San Gabriel Valley. A graduate of Cal Poly Pomona and USC, Supervisor Solis has served on the Rio Hondo Community College Board, in the State Assembly and State Senate, and the House of Representatives. Before becoming Supervisor, she served as Secretary of Labor under President Obama, becoming the first Latina to ever serve in the Presidential Cabinet. Now on the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Solis represents the LA County's First District, which extends from East Hollywood to Pomona in the East San Gabriel Valley, driving bold change in environmental justice, housing and homelessness, equitable access to parks and open space, the arts, and quality-of-life challenges. Over the last decade as Supervisor, she has championed innovative approaches that prioritize youth empowerment, community-led solutions, and a vision of safety rooted in care and opportunity.



Karen Spiegel - Session 4B

Karen Spiegel was elected to represent the Second Supervisorial District on November 6, 2018 and was sworn into office on January 8, 2019. The Second District includes the unincorporated communities of Coronita, El Cerrito, Home Gardens and Highgrove, and the cities of Corona, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Norco, and the western half of the City of Riverside. Karen Spiegel began her political career as the elected City Treasurer for the City of Corona in 1996. After six years as Treasurer, she embraced the City Council elections in 2002 and served the City of Corona as Council Member for 16 years, serving as Mayor four terms. Her actions speak volumes and her unique passion for service truly sets her apart. She encourages community participation with City and County government and has introduced many new programs. Karen has been credited for her leadership in regional transportation issues, collaboration and regional partnerships.



Nicholas Ghirelli - AB 1234 Ethics Training

Nick is an experienced public agency attorney who advises on a wide range of transactional, land use, and compliance matters, with a special focus on NPDES permitting and stormwater compliance. Nick is the assistant chair of the Environmental Department and Public Law Department at Richards, Watson & Gershon. Nick serves as City Attorney for the cities of Rancho Cucamonga, Seal Beach, and Paramount. Nick has previously served as Interim City Attorney for the City of Laguna Niguel. In his capacity as City Attorney, Nick has negotiated development agreements for a variety of projects and advises on all types of CEQA documents. He serves as General Counsel for the Gateway Water Management Authority and Southeast Water Coalition, two Los Angeles-based joint powers authorities. Nick also provides legal counsel to the Contra Costa Clean Water Program, which administers a county-wide stormwater program on behalf of its member agencies.



Roxanne Diaz - AB 1234 Ethics Training

Roxanne advises public clients on public law and land use issues, CEQA, the Brown Act, conflicts of interest and ethics, and the Public Records Act. With more than twenty-five years of experience, Roxanne has established herself as one of the state's leading local government law experts. Roxanne is City Attorney for the Cities of Maywood and South Pasadena. She has also served as City Attorney for the Cities of Hidden Hills, Indio, Manhattan Beach, and Norwalk. Roxanne is widely respected by City Councilmembers, staff, and community leaders for her knowledge of municipal law, her commitment to transparency, and her calm, practical approach to solving problems. Roxanne assists the public agencies she represents on various legal issues that may range from drafting ordinances and contracts, land use matters and advising on conflict and governance. Roxanne is active in several professional organizations including the League of California Cities and previously served as Parliamentarian for its annual meeting.



Nathan Hochman - Session 5

On Dec. 3, 2024, Nathan J. Hochman was sworn in as the 44th District Attorney of Los Angeles County, vowing to improve public safety by pursuing appropriate sentences for violent and serious offenders, while offering counseling and rehabilitation to those whose crimes were motivated by addiction or mental illness. A lifelong Angeleno, DA Hochman served as Assistant U.S. Attorney General for the Tax Division of the Department of Justice in 2008. Prior to that, he was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California from 1990 to 1997, serving in the Criminal Division. He also had an extensive career in the private sector, as a partner of several nationwide law firms and as a leading expert in tax law, criminal defense and environmental law. DA Hochman previously served as President of the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission. He graduated magna cum laude from Brown University and earned his law degree from Stanford Law School.



Jorge Morales - Session 6

In addition to serving as a Founding Partner of Morales + Morales, Jorge Morales brings nearly 20 years of government affairs industry experience – including eight (8) years as Mayor and Council Member for the City of South Gate. His public sector career includes legislative work for California Assembly Majority Leader Marco Antonio Firebaugh and Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina. He also served as Chief of Staff to Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member Yolie Flores. Jorge joined the private sector in 2013 as Vice President of Business Development for the Meruelo Group, a Downey-based, minority owned and operated holding company. The Meruelo Group's portfolio includes the Arizona Coyotes, the Sahara Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV, the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, NV, and leading Los Angeles radio stations Power 106, KDAY, KLOS and Cali 93.9 FM. Previously, Jorge was a Senior Strategist at Ek, Sunkin & Bai, a full-service public affairs, strategic communication, and government advocacy firm. Most recently, Jorge was a Senior Vice President with Mercury Public Affairs, a global public and government affairs strategy firm.



Jayson Braude - Session 6

Jayson Braude is Chief Counsel at Kiley & Associates. As a Washington, DC based firm, Kiley & Associates delivers strategic federal advocacy and government relations to Special Districts, ensuring their priorities are represented at the Federal level. A native Californian, Jayson moved to Washington, D.C. early in his career to gain experience in the U.S. Senate working on legislative correspondence and constituent services within the offices of former United States Senator Kent Conrad of North Dakota and former Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio. Most recently, Jayson worked in the U.S. House of Representatives as District Director for California Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragan and Legislative Counsel to former California Congresswoman Janice Hahn. Not only does he bring a mix of experience in both the U.S. House and Senate with extensive ties to the California Congressional delegation, but he also clerked in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. Jayson has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he studied political science and history. He received his law degree from Southwestern Law School and is a member of the Washington Bar.



Jason Gonsalves - Session 6

Jason Gonsalves has been one of Sacramento's most trusted and influential legislative advocates in Sacramento for almost 3 decades. Jason joined Joe A. Gonsalves & Son in 1998, giving the firm the proud distinction of being the first to have 3 generations lobbying in Sacramento. With extensive expertise in a wide range of issue areas, Jason provides clients with strategy development, policy analysis, relationship-building, campaign consulting, and unparalleled advocacy. His reach extends into numerous sectors, including redevelopment dissolution, local government finance, utilities and commerce, public employees' retirement, workers compensation, telecommunications, and conflict of interest issues. Since joining the firm in 1998, Jason has secured passage of numerous client-sponsored bills, as well as successfully advocated for millions of dollars in state funding, through the State budget, for his clients' priority projects. Throughout the years, Jason has been at the center of the State's largest policy and funding deliberations impacting local governments. It is a privilege and honor for Joe A. Gonsalves & Son to represent our clients before the State Legislature, our clients are our family, we are beyond grateful for the personal and professional relationships we share.



Matt Knabe - Session 6

Matt is one of the founding partners at Englander Knabe & Allen specializing in political consulting, government relations, policy issues and communications strategy. Matt's relationships in Los Angeles County and the eighty-eight cities within the county are deep. From his beginnings running political campaigns at the local level to his work over eight years at the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Matt created an impressive network of political relationships. Matt has continued to expand his associations and contacts through his active involvement in both Contract Cities and the Independent Cities Associations. It is hard to find someone with better access to local city managers, staff and elected officials than Matt. He is known for his sound advice in the shifting political landscape and working client issues the right way from beginning to end. In addition to his work, Matt is very involved in the community and has served on numerous charitable boards across Southern California in his career. Matt graduated from Pepperdine University where he majored in Political Science, and was also a four-year member of the Men's Golf Team.



Brenda Olmos - Session 7

Born and raised in Paramount, Brenda Olmos was appointed to the City Council in July 2019 to fill an unscheduled vacancy and was subsequently elected to serve on the City Council in March 2020. She is currently serving her first term as Mayor. Olmos served on the City's Public Safety Commission for 14 years and has been involved in the community in a variety of ways: Board Member for Paramount Girls Softball and Paramount Junior Pirates Football; Past President of Paramount Pathways Hospice; member of the Paramount Rotary Club; President of the Paramount Chamber of Commerce; Chair of the Paramount Heritage Parade Committee; founder of the "Healthy Paramount" initiative; and member of the American Red Cross Community Advisory Committee – Long Beach Chapter.



Dr. David Verdugo - Session 7

Dr. David Verdugo served as superintendent of schools for the Paramount Unified School District (17,000 ADA) in Los Angeles County for 9 years. Dr. Verdugo also served as the assistant superintendent of the Placentia-Yorba Unified School District (25,000 ADA). He has held positions of assistant superintendent, director of secondary education, principal at both elementary and high school levels, as well as teacher and coach. Dr. Verdugo has served a total of 43 years in the field of education, spanning grades K-12. Dr. Verdugo earned his bachelor's degree from Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington and his master's degree from the University of La Verne, and his doctoral degree in educational administration from USC.



John Moreno - Session 7

Paramount's city manager is John Moreno, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in History from UCLA and holds a master's in Public Administration from USC. He joined the City as a Management Analyst in 1993 and worked his way upward in a variety of positions, serving as Assistant Public Works Director, Assistant Public Safety Director, Public Safety Director, Community Development Director, Administrative Services Director, and Assistant City Manager. As Community Development Director, he focused on economic development and attracting new businesses to the City. This work culminated in 2017 with the large-scale redesign of Paramount's downtown district. This re-invigoration has resulted in aesthetic changes that have been instrumental in the opening of a variety of new retail and dining establishments in the City.



Peggy Lemons - Session 7

Throughout her tenure on the Paramount City Council since 1997, Lemons has been a catalyst for impactful programs. She initiated the Paramount Education Partnership (PEP), a collaborative effort between the City, School District, Chamber of Commerce, and faith-based community. Furthermore, her creation of the Pennies for PEP Scholarship Program inspired a grassroots community effort that has raised over a million dollars for student scholarships, greatly benefiting the youth of Paramount. Lemons also introduced the Boulevard of Scholars program, which honors student achievements by displaying their photos and educational affiliations on main thoroughfares.



Jennifer Perez - Session 8

Vice Mayor Jennifer Perez has spent her entire life in Norwalk, serving the community that has helped to shape her values and ideals. She attended St. John of God Elementary, St. Paul High School and graduated from Cerritos College. Vice Mayor Perez was elected in March 2017. She served as Mayor from March 2018 to March 2019 and again from March 2020 to December 2021. Jennifer and her husband Michael raised their two children in the City and have been active members of various community organizations. The entire Perez family attends St. Linus Catholic Church and are also actively involved with their parish community.



Bill Weiser - Session 8

Chief Weiser has more than 39 years of experience in the fire service, including more than 34 years in Riverside County. Over the years, Chief Weiser has filled several key positions in the CALFIRE/Riverside Unit, including as the training captain at Ben Clark Training Center and battalion chief for the Perris Battalion. His most recent position was division chief overseeing operations in Bautista Camp, Hemet Ryan Air Base, the San Jacinto and Mountain Battalions as well as the hazardous materials emergency response program.



Robert Luna - Session 8, Installation Dinner Reception

Robert G. Luna was elected as the 34th Los Angeles County Sheriff on November 8, 2022. Sheriff Luna commands the largest Sheriff's Department in the United States, with nearly 18,000 budgeted sworn and professional staff. In 2021, Sheriff Luna completed his service as Long Beach Chief of Police, capping a 36-year career at the Long Beach Police Department, the county's second largest police department. Growing up in unincorporated East Los Angeles, Sheriff Luna's neighborhood was patrolled by the Sheriff's Department. He saw examples of both good and bad policing, which inspired him to become a peace officer and shaped his philosophy on relationship-based policing, specifically in communities of color. Sheriff Luna started as a Long Beach Police Department reserve officer in 1985 and was promoted within every rank of the Police Department. He was appointed Chief of Police in 2014. During his time as Chief of Police, he served on the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) executive board and Homeland Security Committee, and on the Police Executive Leadership Institute (PELI) mentorship program. He also received various awards from organizations in Long Beach for his civic leadership and community engagement.



Tony Marrone - Session 8

The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors appointed Anthony C. Marrone to serve as the tenth Fire Chief of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, effective Tuesday, February 28, 2023. After serving as the Interim Fire Chief for more than 11 months, Chief Marrone steps into the permanent role. With more than 37 years of experience, his well-established career combines broad experience in both emergency and business operations with an extensive list of accomplishments and assignments, including supervising and managing the Leadership and Professional Standards Bureau, Special Services Bureau, Emergency Medical Services Bureau, East Regional Operations Bureau, and Central Regional Operations Bureau, in addition to managing special projects and Business Operations. Chief Marrone has also directly managed routine and complex wildland fires and other significant all-risk incidents.



Amy Greyson - AB 1661 - Sexual Harrasment Training

Amy is a senior attorney in the Public Law Department and Labor and Employment Department of RWG, with more than 40 years of experience representing public entities on advisory and litigation matters. Amy's primary areas of focus include land use, zoning and CEQA matters, mobile home park rent control and regulation, labor and employment, accommodating individuals with disabilities in employment and in the provision of governmental programs, services and activities under the Americans With Disabilities Act and California disability access laws, and all other aspects of municipal governance, including the interpretation and application of the Brown Act, Public Records Act, and Political Reform Act. Amy serves as the Assistant City Attorney for the City of Seal Beach and also advises a wide range of departments for other firm clients including the Cities of Calimesa, San Bruno, Highland, Indio, Covina, Rancho Cucamonga, Monrovia, Palm Desert, and Redondo Beach. She also serves as a hearing officer for the City of Santa Clarita Manufactured Home Space Rent Adjustment program. Amy previously served as Assistant City Attorney for the Cities of Yucaipa and Laguna Niguel.



Kathertine Read - AB 1661 - Sexual Harrasment Training

Katherine is an associate in the Public Law and Labor and Employment Departments at Richards, Watson & Gershon. She advises local governments and other public agencies on a variety of government law issues. Her practice includes advising clients on first amendment issues, labor and employment, conducting investigations, public records issues, agency formation (including nonprofits), conflicts of interest, land use and other legal issues facing public agencies. She also assists staff with drafting and reviewing ordinances, resolutions, contracts, and staff reports. Katherine provides mandatory sexual harassment training to supervisory and non-supervisory employees. Prior to joining RWG, Katherine served as an associate advising school districts throughout California. As an education associate, Katherine advised school districts on various labor and employment, and facilities and business issues. She conducted internal investigations regarding discrimination claims within departments in Los Angeles County. Additionally, she represented school districts on issues including employment discrimination litigation, layoffs, DIR claims, COVID-19 related issues, drafting and implementing personnel policies (including step increases, transgender policies), discrimination and harassment prevention, reasonable accommodation and the interactive process, discipline and termination.



Jose Luis Solache - Installation Dinner Reception

Assemblymember José Luis Solache, Jr. was first elected to the California State Assembly in November 2024 representing the cities and communities of Lakewood, Lynwood, Maywood, Paramount, South Gate, Huntington Park, Bellflower and Walnut Park. Solache has served as a Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem and Councilmember in the city of Lynwood since 2013. In this role, he's worked to recruit new job-creating employers to the city, build new parks, make City Hall more transparent and expand youth programs. Prior to his service in city government, José served for three terms on the Lynwood Unified School District's Board of Education. The district educates over 15,000 local students and José served as Board President three times. His election to the school board at the age of 23 made him one of the youngest elected leaders in L.A. County.



Blanca Pacheco - Installation Dinner Reception

California Assemblywoman Blanca Pacheco was elected in 2022 to represent District 64, encompassing parts of southeastern Los Angeles County and northern Orange County. Blanca chairs the Assembly Rules Committee and serves on the Judiciary, Appropriations, Governmental Organization and Local Government committees. Before coming to the Assembly, Blanca served two terms as the Mayor of Downey, the largest city in her district, becoming the first Latina to be elected to that position. She was elected to the Downey City Council in 2016 and became Mayor in 2020. Blanca also served as President of the League of California Cities Los Angeles Division, where she chaired the Housing, Community, and Economic Development Policy Committee and was an at-large director on the League of California Cities' State Board.



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