

California Connections 2010 April 28-30



Naresha Amatya
Manager of Transportation Planning
Southern California Association of Governments

Los Angeles, CA

Naresha Amatya is the manager of transportation at the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). He is primarily responsible for the development and coordination of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), both of which are state and federally mandated programs that provide the vision and framework for the long term and near term investment in transportation infrastructure for the Southern California region. Prior to joining SCAG in 1998, Amatya worked in the private sector on a number of transportation system improvement projects, including re-alignment of Route 30. He also has extensive experience in Southern California in land planning and development. He was primarily responsible, as a project manager, for preparation and coordination of feasibility studies, specific plans, general plan amendment and zone changes. Amatya holds a master's degree in urban planning from UCLA, and a master's degree in civil engineering from California State University at Fullerton. Amatya is a registered civil engineer in the State of California.



Susan Barilich
President & CEO
Susan Barilich P.C.

Glendale, CA

Susan Barilich is an attorney and the owner of her law firm, Susan Barilich P.C. She has practiced law for 28 years and has extensive experience with litigation, trials and arbitrations involving commercial, real estate and construction disputes. Barilich received a B.A. in English from Indiana University, and her J.D. from the University of Houston Law School. Barilich was born and raised in the Midwest, in South Bend, Indiana, lived and practiced law in Texas for many years after that, and recently relocated to the Los Angeles area and lives in Glendale.



Justine Block
Deputy Legal Counsel
Southern California Association of Governments

West Hollywood, CA

Justine Block is deputy legal counsel for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). She regularly advises SCAG board members and staff on regional transportation planning and environmental laws, State open meeting laws and government contracts. Block was appointed by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California, to the Bar's Public Law Section Executive Committee, where she serves as an officer and editor of the section's *Public Law Journal*. She is also an active member of her community, most recently serving on the City of West Hollywood General Plan Advisory Committee and the City's Environmental Task Force.



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Michelle Brega
SVP-Senior Market Manager
Bank of America

San Francisco, CA

Michelle Brega is senior vice president-corporate social responsibility (CSR) senior market manager for Bank of America in the Bay Area, where she is responsible for the CSR strategy and business line integration of the San Francisco and East Bay markets. Brega spent two decades in San Diego where she received her degree in political science from the University of California, San Diego, and then moved into a career in public affairs. She was CSR market manager for Bank of America in San Diego prior to moving to the Bay Area. She and her husband Matt have three young sons.



Jerry Caligiuri
Legislative Staff
City of Long Beach

Long Beach, CA

Jerry Caligiuri works in the Office of Vice Mayor Val Lerch, City of Long Beach, as a member of legislative staff. He is a graduate of California State University Long Beach. He has volunteered in many community organizations including the Greater Long Beach YMCA., Leadership Long Beach, Honorary Firefighters and numerous other organizations. Caligiuri has served in Long Beach Uptown Lions Club, The Kiwanis of Bixby Knolls/ North Long Beach and The Long Beach Uptown Y's Men service club. Caligiuri has worked the office of the 8th District Council in the City of Long Beach as a member of staff and as a community liaison in the Public Affairs Office at Long Beach Airport.



Eric Catalan
Controller
United Care, Inc.

Los Angeles, CA

Eric Catalan is currently the controller of United Care, Inc. As controller, Catalan serves as a member of the executive management team, focusing on fiscal and strategic management. Prior to this, Catalan held various positions from diverse industries, domestic and international/global corporations, the United States and Philippine Governments, the World Health Organization and nonprofit/non-governmental organizations. His professional experience significantly focuses on financial/fiscal management, operations, strategic management/business development, and consultation. Catalan graduated cum laude with a B.S. in accountancy from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in 1985. He also graduated from both the Ventura County Community Foundation's Board Leadership Institute and the Center for Nonprofit Management's Nonprofit Leadership Development Program in 2009.



Kimberly Freeman
Director of Community Relations
Sempra Energy

Los Angeles, CA

Kimberly Freeman is director of community relations for Southern California Gas Company, a Sempra Energy utility. In this position, she is responsible for charitable contributions and community outreach to nonprofit organizations throughout Southern California. Previously, Freeman held a variety of positions in sales and marketing, regulatory relations, environment and safety, and engineering within the Sempra family of companies. A native of Los Angeles, she served as vice Chair of the city's Quality and Productivity Commission. Currently Freeman is treasurer of the California African American Museum. Her community involvement includes serving as board chair for Southern California Leadership Network and president of the UCLA Anderson African American Alumni Association. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Freeman received an American Marshall Memorial Fellow in June 2003 and a Fellow had the opportunity to explore societies, institutions and people on the other side of the Atlantic, drawing upon her own professional interests. During her fellowship, she traveled to Belgium, The Netherlands, Spain, Poland and France. Freeman has also participated in programs such as Leadership California, Leadership Southern California, LEAD San Diego and the African American Leadership Institute at the UCLA Anderson School of Management. She is also a part-time professor in the School of Policy, Planning and Development at USC. Freeman earned an undergraduate degree in industrial engineering and operations research from UC Berkeley, a Master of Public Policy degree from USC, and an MBA from The Anderson School at UCLA.



Sam Garrison
Vice President of Public Policy
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Pasadena, CA

Samuel Garrison is the vice president of public policy for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. He oversees issue development for the Chamber, advises the CEO and Board of Directors on setting the organization's public policy priorities, as well as manages the Chamber's seven policy committees and L.A. Jobs Political Action Committee. Garrison has experience in both federal and local government. Prior to joining the Chamber in September 2005, he worked on Capitol Hill as Senator Dianne Feinstein's personal aide and later on the legislative staff for Congressman Adam B. Schiff (D-Pasadena). As Congressman Schiff's senior legislative aide, he focused on Social Security, Medicare, veterans' affairs, bioterrorism and labor-related issues. Garrison returned home to Los Angeles in 2003 to attend law school in the evening and work on local policy issues. From 2004 to 2005, he served as communications deputy and press secretary to former Los Angeles City Councilmember Martin Ludlow. Currently, Garrison leads a five-person government affairs team on issues ranging from aviation to water. He represents the Chamber on a number of regional steering committees and policy planning groups. He is a Ford Foundation Fellow for Regional Sustainable Development (2008); an alumnus of Leadership Southern California; and currently serves on the Board of Directors of Hillsides, a foster care home in Pasadena. A fifth generation Angeleno, Garrison is a graduate of Harvard-Westlake School, the University of Southern California, and Loyola Law School. He is an active member of the State Bar of California.



Colleen Haggerty
SVP, Media Relations
Bank of America

Pasadena, CA

Colleen Haggerty is senior vice president of Bank of America, managing media relations. Prior to joining Bank of America in 2007, she was the communications director at Fannie Mae for the western U.S., and has served as press secretary to U.S. Congresswoman Jane Harman and press deputy for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein in Washington, D.C. Haggerty is a 2010 American Marshall Memorial Fellow, through the German Marshall Fund of the United States, which works with European leaders to advance the transatlantic relationship. She is a native Angeleno who attended California State University, Long Beach, and currently lives in Pasadena with her husband Sean and her two chocolate labs.



Juan Hernandez
Agency Field Executive
State Farm Insurance Companies

Glendale, CA

As an agency field executive for State Farm Insurance Companies, Juan Hernandez leads the Glendale Agency Field Office and its 34 independent State Farm Agencies in the Glendale, Burbank and neighboring territories. During his 22-year tenure with State Farm, Hernandez has served in several capacities, including underwriting and operating his own State Farm Agency for more than 14 years up in Napa, California. Hernandez is a graduate of California State University, Sacramento with a B.S. in Business Administration with an emphasis in finance and insurance. He earned his Chartered Life Underwriter designation in 1994 and is currently pursuing the Chartered Financial Consultant designation at The American College. In his spare time, Hernandez enjoys family time with his lovely wife Priya and their two beautiful daughters, Isabella and Melina.



Richard Keating
Managing Principal Architecture and Design
Jacobs

Los Angeles, CA

Richard Keating has more than 40 years of architecture design experience. His role at Jacobs is to lead the design excellence efforts of each office as well as directing specific design projects. His past work experience includes that of a senior design partner of SOM as well as his own practice in related high design work throughout the United States and Asia. Keating has designed and built more than 65 million square feet of office buildings and corporate headquarters. With much of his past work being with America's premier developers, his skills as a designer are nuanced by a deep knowledge of budgets, construction costs and values which brings forth a sensibility and design strategy that is invaluable to building owners. Keating's work has evolved to include a diverse range and scale of building types from ultra high-rise offices to performing arts facilities, high-rise condominiums and surgery centers. In each case, relatively simple forms and optimized building systems provide for his skills in finessed details and materials to achieve the resultant design excellence. He has been called an "architects architect" and has used his extensive knowledge of developer designs to apply to other building types with beneficial cost results while maintaining high design integrity.



Isaac Kos-Read
Senior Director of Government Affairs
Port of Los Angeles

San Pedro, CA

Isaac Kos-Read is the director of government affairs at the Port of Los Angeles, where he leads the Port's intergovernmental advocacy by increasing engagement with local, regional, state, federal, and even transnational and international levels of government. Prior to joining the Port, Kos-Read was a senior director with Townsend Public Affairs, Inc. where he served as the lead advocate for the City of Oakland and also the lead consultant with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's California Commission for Jobs & Economic Growth in the planning and development of the 2006 business delegation visit to Mexico. A Southern California native, he graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degrees in economics and Latin American studies and earned an M.B.A. from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Learning. Kos-Read maintains an active political and community life in Oakland and Los Angeles, and is an avid Cuban salsa dancer and instructor; and classical pianist.



Stephanie Lomibao
Assistant VP - National Project Manager
Bank of America

Los Angeles, CA

Stephanie Lomibao serves as assistant vice president, corporate social responsibility project manager for the Bank of America Charitable Foundation providing oversight and coordination on a number of initiatives under the health and human service philanthropic portfolio. In this capacity, Lomibao is responsible for the tactical development and delivery of a number of assignments related to safety net funding, international disaster relief, diversity and inclusion, and military support. Lomibao has lived and worked in California all of her life and brings professional experience from the nonprofit, private, and public sectors. Lomibao earned her dual bachelor's degree in business marketing and public administration from California State University, Fullerton, and her master's degree in public policy with an emphasis in philanthropy from the University of Southern California. She is currently a member of the Asian America Pacific Islanders In Philanthropy and Center Theatre Group's Young Professionals Network.



Rich Macias
Director of Regional & Comprehensive Planning
Southern California Association of Governments

Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Rich Macias is the Director of Transportation Planning for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in Los Angeles, the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization. Macias has worked as a professional planner for thirty years. During this time he has worked for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, the City of Los Angeles Redevelopment Agency, and for the past ten years at SCAG. Over the course of his career, Macias has developed his expertise in planning for large scale infrastructure projects. For the past fifteen years his main area of focus has been on transportation infrastructure development, including aviation, goods movement and logistics, and transportation policy development. Rich is a proud alumnus of the University of Southern California.



Wayne Moore
CFO
Southern California Association of Governments

Los Angeles, CA

Wayne Moore currently serves as the chief financial officer for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) where he directs accounting, treasury, budgeting, grants administration and procurement activities for a metropolitan planning organization with responsibility for transportation planning, air quality conformance and housing allocation for the six county Southern California region. Moore was recently appointed to the City of Los Angeles Board Fire and Police Pensions Board of Commissioners. Prior to joining SCAG, Moore was the assistant general manager, City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation. He also served as the director of public works (CFO/Strategic Planning) City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, and as the deputy executive officer of finance, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority. Moore holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business finance and a Master of Science degree in public administration from California State University, Los Angeles.



Leyton Morgan
Manager of Contracts
Southern California Association of Governments

Los Angeles, CA

Leyton Morgan is a seasoned contracts expert, with more than 25-years of contracting, auditing and analytical experience. Morgan earned his Masters in public administration from the University of Southern California, where he also obtained his Bachelor's degree. He also holds a professional certification in financial management. Morgan currently heads the procurement division as the manager of contracts for the nation's largest of nearly 700 Councils of Governments. Leyton is responsible for overseeing Southern California Association of Governments multi-million dollar contract and purchasing department, including managing the entire procurement process and preparing contracts. Morgan is a long time resident of Los Angeles, where he resides with his wife and two children.



Annie Nam
Manager
Southern California Association of Governments

Los Angeles, CA

Annie Nam currently manages the transportation financial planning, goods movement, and aviation division for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). She oversees numerous regional planning studies and researches financial and policy initiatives related to transportation investments. Prior to joining SCAG, Nam worked for the City of New York, where she developed financial forecasting models, analyzed capital project financing transactions and economic policy initiatives related to the City's infrastructure investment decisions. Nam holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia College at Columbia University. She also received her master's from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.



Dave Porges
Pacific Southwest and US Regional Operations Leader Community Involvement
Deloitte

Pasadena, CA

David Porges is the Pacific Southwest and U.S. regional operations leader for community involvement for Deloitte LLP. In his region, he is responsible for the firm's commitment to corporate responsibility expressed through community leadership, strategic philanthropy, volunteerism, board service, pro bono service, and other community programs that support the firm's talent, client and CSR strategies. Porges is also responsible for benchmarking and improving the performance of these programs in firm's six other U.S. regions. He established Deloitte's Community Involvement office in L.A. in 1998.



Mike Psomas
President
Audit Prep Services LLC

Los Angeles, CA

Michael T. Psomas, CPA is the founder and president of Audit Prep Services, LLC., which provides experienced financial audit management services to public and private companies. Psomas has more than 20 years of financial and accounting experience, including positions at PricewaterhouseCoopers and Deloitte. He has also been chief financial officer for an entertainment company and an international aerospace company. He sits on the Board of Advisors for a regional ambulance company and advises numerous entrepreneurs on the financial aspects of business. Psomas is an alumnus of the Southern California Leadership Network, class of 2008.



Dennis Quirin
Coalitions Director
California Forward

San Francisco, CA

Dennis Quirin is the coalitions director at California Forward. Through this position, Quirin has been working with a team of people to identify the landscape of people and organizations who can work through a unifying strategy to reform California's governance systems. From 2006-2008, Quirin was a fellow in the Social Justice Program at The San Francisco Foundation. At the Foundation, he worked to disperse \$2 million in grants per year to hundreds of nonprofits working for social justice in the San Francisco Bay Area. Also during this time, Quirin led the Foundation's Get Out the Vote program, designed to boost voter engagement and turnout throughout the Bay Area. Prior to working at The San Francisco Foundation, Quirin was development and administrative director at Californians for Justice, a statewide civil rights organization working to promote racial justice and quality education in California's public schools. In addition, Quirin has worked for more than 10 years to reform social policy and improve quality of life conditions for California's underserved populations at organizations including Strategic Concepts in Organizing, Policy, and Education, AIDS Healthcare Foundation and Public Allies Los Angeles. Quirin has a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Carleton College. He grew up in Nashville and Minneapolis. He and his wife Vivian are the proud parents of two great kids.



Aaron Rios
Senior Manager Public Affairs & Government Relations
Walmart

Loma Linda, CA

Aaron Rios has been with Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. since 1993, and has focused on operations, merchandising, public affairs, civic outreach and philanthropic causes. Prior to joining Wal-Mart's public affairs in 2007 he was a market manger in the Inland Empire and is currently responsible for public affairs and government relations activities in the Southern California Region. Rios is involved with social and nonprofit organizations that benefit the greater good of California communities. He has worked with the California YMCA Youth & Government Model Legislature and Court Program since 1991 where he helps educate high school young adults on the process of the three branches of government. Aaron serves as a community advisory member for the Social Action Community Health System Clinics associated with Loma Linda Medical Center and the Southern California Army Advisory Board. Finally, he is a member of the Board of Directors for California YMCA Youth & Government, Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, Nevada Retailers Association and the Nevada Tax Payers Association. Aaron lives in Southern California with his family and has an eight-year-old son and four-year-old daughter.



Michael Rubio
Supervisor - Fifth District
County of Kern Board of Supervisors

Bakersfield, CA

Supervisor Michael Rubio currently serves as vice chairman of the Kern County Board of Supervisors and is chairman of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council. In March 2004, Supervisor Michael Rubio was elected as the youngest elected supervisor to represent the Fifth District in Kern County. Supervisor Rubio led the Kern County Renewable Energy initiative and has worked to facilitate the development of some of the largest solar and wind projects in California. Supervisor Rubio also spearheaded the development of the largest infrastructure project in Kern County history, bringing curb, gutter, sidewalk and paving to rural areas of the county. Within his first term in office, Supervisor Rubio has worked diligently to combat gang violence within Kern County with the Gang Violence Strategic Plan—which led to the tripling of the Sheriff's Gang Unit, created mentoring and after-school programs and steered children away from gangs. Supervisor Rubio was recently appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to the Climate Adaptation Advisory Panel. He was also awarded the prestigious John F. Kennedy Jr. Leadership Award from the California Democratic Party and the German Marshall Memorial Fellowship from the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Supervisor Rubio currently makes his home in East Bakersfield with his wife, Dora, their daughter, Iliana, and their chocolate lab, Levi.



Bruce Russell
Regional Sales Manager
Jacobs

Los Angeles, CA

Bruce Russell is Southwest regional sales manager with Jacobs, a Pasadena-based global engineering and architecture company. Located in Los Angeles, he is responsible to direct the business development activities for infrastructure projects within California and Arizona. He has held a variety of positions during his 23 years with the firm including senior posts on high-profile transportation programs. Russell has 28 years of experience in the planning, design and construction of highways, toll roads, light rail transit, commuter rail, and freight rail projects for both public and private owners. During the last 10 years, Russell has served as the project manager or project director for more than 40 highway, transit, and railroad planning and design projects. As a result, he has a thorough understanding of all aspects of transportation planning, design, and project delivery. A registered professional civil engineer in California and seven other states, Russell is a member of the American Council of Engineering Companies, American Society of Civil Engineers, Chi Epsilon, the National Society of Professional Engineers and the Women's Transportation Seminar. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Chamber's Transportation and Goods Movement Committee, is a member of Mobility 21, and is a graduate of Leadership L.A. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Dallas.



Gary Toebben
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Pasadena, CA

Gary L. Toebben is president & CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the largest business association in Los Angeles County representing more than 1,600 member companies and serving the interests of more than 235,000 businesses across the Los Angeles region. Since taking the helm of the L.A. Area Chamber in July 2006, Toebben has been a tireless advocate for the business community. Toebben has served on the Mayor's L.A. Economy & Jobs Committee, the L.A. County Health Care Options Task Force and the City Council's Business Retention & Attraction Task Force. He has championed local and state ballot initiatives on transportation and economic development and represented the Chamber as one of four co-sponsors of Proposition 11 to create a citizen commission to redistrict California after each census. He is highly involved in statewide business groups including the CalChamber and a coalition of regional economic development associations spanning the entire state. Each year, Toebben co-leads the region's largest consensus advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. Toebben holds a Bachelor of Science in mathematics from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He and his wife Janice, who is a vice president with US Bank, have four children ages 30-35 years old.



Margie Wheeler
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Executive Strategist

La Verne, CA

Margie J. Wheeler is an executive strategist for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. She currently assists the assistant general manager/chief administrative officer with strategic planning efforts and the support of Metropolitan's 37-member board of directors. An employee of Metropolitan for nearly 16 years, she has held various positions in water planning, public affairs and the executive office. She also owned a resource management consulting company responsible for the development and implementation of award winning education programs. Wheeler served as an adjunct professor at Mt. San Antonio Community College for more than 12 years. Born in Pomona and raised in Claremont, California, she earned a bachelor's degree in park administration from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. She earned Master of Business Administration degree from the University of La Verne and is currently attending the Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management at the Claremont Graduate University. Wheeler is a graduate of Leadership L.A. (2008) and Leadership Southern California (2007) and currently serves on the Board of Southern California Leadership Network.

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California needs more exemplary and diverse leaders from the State's business, government and community sectors, who can address the critical challenges facing the State. SCLN has launched California Connections to expand opportunities and leadership development for a new generation of stewards of California's future. California Connections will expand the reach of SCLN to bring together current Fellows with other leaders from throughout California.

The mission of the Southern California Leadership Network is to develop a productive network of exemplary and diverse leaders in the business, government and community sectors who are capable of addressing the critical challenges facing the Southern California region.