

Edwin “Thorpe” Romero, Tribal Chairman, Barona Band of Mission Indians

Mindful of the past and with an eye toward the future, Chairman Edwin “Thorpe” Romero is leading the way toward innovative and expanded opportunities for self-reliance for the sovereign nation of the Barona Band of Mission Indians. He is passionately committed to fostering Barona’s core traditional values by sustaining the Tribe’s sovereignty and preserving its culture for future generations.

A lifelong resident of the Barona Indian Reservation, Chairman Romero took office on January 1, 2017. He follows in the footsteps of his mother, Josephine “Sister” Romero, a former Chairwoman, Councilwoman, and Barona Gaming Commissioner, who is the oldest Elder of the Tribe.

In many ways, Chairman Romero has spent much of his life preparing for Tribal leadership. As a teenager, he attended an all-Indian boarding school in Arizona, where he experienced the cultures and traditions of the many tribal nations represented in the student population. During his college years at San Diego State University, he dedicated time to organizing Native American programs on campus. Soon after, he served as the Barona Tribal Business Manager, interacting with the governing board and its business enterprises. Most importantly, he continually learned from Tribal leaders and Elders at Barona and the surrounding Tribal governments.

Prior to this election, Chairman Romero completed three terms as a Tribal Councilmember, from 1983-1987 and again from 2001-2008, before serving as Chairman from 2009-2012. During his tenures, the Barona people have proudly strengthened their independence and self-reliance with building programs and improvements such as the Barona Mission, Barona Indian Charter School, fire station, gas station, community center, Tribal Government services building, cultural museum, and the Barona Resort & Casino.

Furthermore, then-Councilman Romero helped expand Barona’s philanthropic profile, further enhancing the Tribe’s deep-rooted tradition of sharing. Over the years, Barona has contributed millions of dollars to nearly 1,000 charitable organizations throughout San Diego County that support senior citizen programs, at-risk youth, fire safety, environment, healthcare, medical research, and education.

In addition to leading his Tribe, Chairman Romero is President of the Board of Trustees for the Barona Indian Charter School, serving alongside Barona Councilmember Melissa Donayre and Lakeside School District Superintendent David Lorden.

Additionally, Chairman Romero has been active on the Board of Directors of the Southern Indian Health Council and is Barona's representative to the SANDAG Tribal Transportation Technical Working Group. These organizations have been fundamental to the general welfare of the Tribes in San Diego County.

Chairman Romero's dedication to his Tribe is demonstrated through his efforts to preserve the Barona culture and seek social and economic opportunities. His involvement in these organizations allows him to develop and maintain strong partnerships with all levels of government and business leaders. He continually advocates keeping open lines of communication for the benefit of all.

Chairman Romero has received the Top Influential Leader Award in the Health, Education, and Hospitality category. This award is given to people who sustain San Diego County's growth and prosperity.

Chairman Romero resides on the Barona Indian Reservation where he enjoys family time with his wife, Sandra, and 23-year-old daughter, Wynter. He spends his leisure time pursuing his interests in golf, Harley Davidson motorcycles, and learning his native language, 'lipay Aa.

Chris Cramer, CEO & Co-Founder, Karl Strauss Brewing Company



Chris was related to Karl M. Strauss, the company's original Master Brewer. Chris helped launch Karl Strauss Brewing Company in 1989. For the last 28 years, Chris has held a variety of leadership roles in the company including serving as the company's President from its founding in 1988 until 2004. He currently serves as CEO and is focused on defining long-term strategies for growth and identifying growth opportunities and resources for the company. In addition to his work with Karl Strauss, Chris sits on the board for the California Craft Brewers Association. Chris is a community activist and he personally championed many business and legislative reforms that helped pave the way for San Diego to become the world's capital for craft beer. Chris has a Bachelor's degree in History from Stanford University with distinction and an MBA from the Stanford Business School.

Maureen A. Stapleton, General Manager, San Diego County Water Authority



Maureen A. Stapleton is the General Manager of the San Diego County Water Authority, the regional water agency that provides up to 90 percent of all the water used in San Diego County, supporting a \$222 billion economy and the quality of life for over 3.3 million residents. Stapleton assumed her duties in January 1996. As General Manager, Stapleton oversees a dynamic agency that is aggressively pursuing a comprehensive array of water supply and infrastructure programs designed to diversify and improve the reliability of San Diego County's water supply. She successfully negotiated the landmark 2003 Colorado River Quantification Settlement Agreement which included the Imperial Irrigation District Water Transfer and the lining of the All American and Coachella canals that together will provide up to 21.4 million acre-feet of water to San Diego County over

110 years. She also is responsible for the implementation of a \$2.8 billion Capital Improvement Program, including the Emergency Storage Project, a system of new and expanded reservoirs, interconnected pipelines and pumping stations designed to make water available to the San Diego region during an emergency. In addition, the Water Authority is aggressively implementing the addition of desalinated seawater to the region's water supply, strongly promoting water conservation through incentives, assistance programs and outreach, and supporting recycling and reuse projects by its member agencies to further diversify the region's water supply sources.

Peter A. Peyser, Principal, Peyser Associates



Peter A. Peyser is an innovative strategist who designs solutions to the financial and procedural challenges to implementing projects and programs. He employs his network of contacts in the federal government, in statehouses and city halls, in the financial sector and in industry to help clients in each of these areas interact successfully with one another to achieve mutual goals.

Peter began his professional career as a staff member to three Members of the U.S. House of Representatives: Peter H. Kostmayer (D-PA), James J. Delaney (D-NY) and Geraldine A. Ferraro (D-NY). (He later reunited professionally with Ms. Ferraro when he recruited her to join him at Blank Rome Government Relations in 2006.)

Following his service on Capitol Hill, Peter served in the Office of the Mayor of the City of New York under Mayor Edward I. Koch (D). He was the Assistant Director of the city's Washington office and was the city's lead lobbyist on transportation, housing, and economic development issues.

In 1982, Peter formed the public affairs and lobbying firm Peyser Associates, Inc. From that platform, he and his colleagues represented numerous public and private sector clients in their relationships with each other and the federal government. Clients he served at Peyser Associates, Inc. included state and local governments, regional transportation agencies, non-profits and clients in the transportation and financial industries.

In 2005, Peyser Associates Inc. merged into Blank Rome Government Relations LLC, a subsidiary of the law firm Blank Rome LLP. Peter joined the firm as a Senior Principal and was made Practice Group Leader in 2006 and Managing Principal in 2009. In his positions at Blank Rome, he led a group of up to 26 professionals with both a domestic and international government relations practice.

Seeking opportunities to expand his practice into more innovative approaches to financing and developing major initiatives, Peter opened Peyser Associates LLC in June 2012.

Peter is married to Lisa Jared Daniels and is the father of Kim Peyser. He serves as Chairman Emeritus of the U.S. Fellows of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (<http://www.theRSA.org>), a UK-based non-profit.

Peter received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Williams College and a Master of Arts in Legislative Affairs from The George Washington University.

Brooks Ellison, Managing Partner, Ellison Wilson Advocacy, LLC



Brooks Ellison is the Managing Partner of Ellison Wilson Advocacy, LLC and recognized as one of Sacramento's most respected, effective lobbyists. Mr. Ellison has been playing a significant role in California's political arena for over 30 years.

Mr. Ellison is an accomplished attorney as well as a highly experienced legislative advocate. As a member of the State Bar for over 30 years, his legal experience truly gives him a unique insight into the California legislative process and distinct advantage when advocating for his clients at the Capitol.

The years that Mr. Ellison has spent developing significant relationships combined with his complete knowledge of the legislative process has created an unparalleled track record of success. Mr. Ellison has extensive expertise in a broad range of issue areas including transportation, health care, local government, education, environmental, and public safety. Mr. Ellison provides clients with individualized strategy development, policy analysis, and direct advocating services.

Mr. Ellison received his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the California State University at Chico.

Mr. Ellison has been with the firm since 1986.

Terry Martin, Construction Manager, Mid-Coast Transit Constructors



Terry Martin serves as the construction manager for Mid-Coast Transit Constructors, the SANDAG construction manager/general contractor building the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project. He has been in the construction industry for 37 years. He joined Stacy and Witbeck in 2007 and is a vice president for the firm. Terry has managed major heavy/highway and rail transit construction projects to completion in multiple states, including California, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona. He specializes in coordinating safe construction in urban environments with heavy vehicular, pedestrian, and mass transit traffic. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in construction engineering and management from Stanford University. Terry is married – 32 years continuous – and has two adult children.

Doug Gibson, Executive Director & Principal Scientist, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy



Doug Gibson is a wetland ecologist. For 20 years, he has directed the science-based and community conservation programs for San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy. He completed the first experimental phase of the inlet opening at San Elijo Lagoon in the mid-1990s. At that time, the lagoon's water quality was so poor that few fishes and invertebrates could survive. Proposed developments adjacent to the lagoon further threatened the vitality of one of San Diego's largest coastal wetlands.

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to protecting and enhancing San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. Securing funding for an endowment, and building member and donor support to carry on the mission of the Conservancy became key priorities.

Gibson blends his extensive knowledge of Southern California coastal wetlands policy with scientific literacy, and fundraising outreach experience to his role as executive director and principal scientist. He came to San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy from Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego, where he directed field efforts for the Navy Homeporting Sand Replenishment Project. Prior to the Conservancy, his consulting firm, Gibson Monitoring, coordinated scientific monitoring for various agencies and nonprofit organizations. Spanning 14 years, Gibson participated in the planning of large restoration projects in seven north San Diego County watersheds, including Buena Vista Lagoon, San Dieguito Lagoon, San Elijo Lagoon, and Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit.

Under Gibson's vision for the Conservancy, awareness and support have soared, and more than 60 additional acres have been acquired for the reserve. Gibson is responsible for raising more than \$15 million for projects at San Elijo Lagoon and the Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit in the last decade. Forty miles of streams have been restored by the Conservancy's efforts in controlling invasive plants. His work in raising endowment funds to maintain the annual breaching of the inlet, and for science and educational outreach activities, has led to more consistent funding. Conservancy school programs incorporate state standards and conservation (action-oriented) curricula, which increases visitation of the lagoon by our youngest future stewards.

Gibson's leadership focus extends beyond the reserve's borders into his civic and scientific advisory roles. He is chair of San Diego County Wetlands Task Force, and chair of five coastal counties for Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project. He is also a member of Carlsbad Watershed Network, Escondido Creek Watershed Alliance, and Regional Advisory Committee for Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan.

A native of Boise, Idaho, Gibson received his B.S. in Wetlands Ecology from San Diego State University (SDSU), with concentrated work in SDSU's Pacific Estuarine Research Lab.

Jim Laslavic, Sports Director, NBC 7 San Diego



Jim Laslavic has been a part of the San Diego Sports scene since 1978; first, as a linebacker for the San Diego Chargers, and for the last 27 years as a sports anchor and reporter.

Since 1989 "Laz" has been NBC 7 San Diego's Sports Director, with sports reports Sunday through Thursday at 6 and 11 p.m. He also hosts Jerome's Furniture SportsWrap following NBC 7 News at 11 p.m. every Sunday. Come fall he hosts Football Night in San Diego following Sunday Night Football on NBC.

Laz has reported from Super Bowls, the World Series, and the Olympics.

Jim's interest in sports started as a youngster near Pittsburgh. A graduate of Etna High School, Laz is a member of the inaugural class of Shaler Area High School Sports Hall of Fame. His jersey #33 was retired.

He's a graduate of Penn State University and played for legendary coach Joe Paterno. Laz is also a member of the Western Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.

Roger Berg, Vice President, Wireless Technologies, North America Research and Development Laboratories



Roger Berg is vice president of Wireless Technologies at DENSO's North American Research and Development Laboratories, overseeing vehicle communication technology. He is responsible for DENSO's research and development of vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2X) technology, for the United States Department of Transportation's (U.S. DOT) Connected Vehicle program.

Berg currently is working on the federal Connected Vehicle program with several North American carmakers and an automotive research and development consortium called the Crash Avoidance Metrics Partnership. He also works with the U.S. DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Federal Highway Administration, National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, and DENSO's V2X research and product groups in Japan, Germany, and China.

Berg joined DENSO in 2000, as vice president of Wireless Communications, where he was responsible for the design and development of cellular handset and telematics technology. In 2003, his group began to shift toward wireless technology research and development with an extensive focus on V2X imminent crash avoidance technology. Berg is the inventor or co-inventor on eight U.S. and international patents.

Before joining DENSO, he worked for consumer electronic companies such as Sony and Motorola, where he managed the design and development of cellular handsets for markets in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Berg earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana, and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

Berg is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers, Dedicated Short Range Communication Technical Committee, On-Road Automated Vehicle Standards Committee, Safety Testing Working Group, U.S. DOT's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Program Advisory Committee, and is Chair of the ITS America Connected Vehicle Task Force.

Paul Brubaker, President and CEO, Alliance for Transportation Innovation (ATI21)



Paul Brubaker is the President and CEO of ATI21 and has over three decades of senior level government policy and private sector management experience focused on deploying innovative technologies across government and industries. He served as the second Administrator of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration at the U.S. DOT and was Chairman of the Virginia Center for Innovative Technology. Paul also served as staff director of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Oversight; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense; and CEO of Washington DC-area technology firms Aquilent, Procentrix, and Synteractive. He serves on a number

of industry and non-profit boards and is an active trustee of the Churchill Centre.

Brandon Nixon, Chairman and CEO, Lytx Inc.



Developed from a foundation of independence and driven by an intense desire to compete, Lytx Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Brandon Nixon is leading the company to seize every opportunity for growth, just as he has done in his private life.

Nixon was born in Eugene, Oregon and moved to Phoenix, Arizona while still in elementary school. The premature death of his mother when he was just 13 resulted in learning self-reliance and fostering his independence.

While he excelled in sports, receiving state-wide honors in football, basketball, and track, Nixon was equally adept in academics, graduating among the top of his class. Assuming his on-the-field achievements would get the recognition of college scouts, Nixon learned the tough lesson that nothing falls in your lap. It took a year of playing basketball at local junior college to get a call that a spot had opened for a guard position at the University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego). He took his bike, his basketball, and the two boxes carrying his worldly possessions to the West Coast, 5½ hours and a million miles away from Phoenix.

Having a lifelong passion and aptitude for math, Nixon began his time at UC San Diego as a math major, changing mid-stream to computer engineering, and went to work full-time at SAIC, coding embedded software between classes. He used that time to observe – and judge – the business decisions he saw being made, eager to understand the rationale. Once he graduated in 1987, he continued in the business world and took a job in Dallas at Texas Instruments in the marketing department. He soon switched to sales, where the counter on his achievements was clearer and he could better understand what it takes to get someone to say “yes.” But Nixon, who was used to

being the team captain, wanted to find his place at the helm of an organization, so it was on to business school.

In 1989, he married his long-time sweetheart, Janine Marks, and together they selected the Graduate School of Business at Stanford for his graduate studies. At Stanford, he was immediately impressed by and immersed in an environment of like-minded people: smart, curious and most important, challenge junkies.

In between years and into his second year at Stanford, Nixon worked in the software organization at Hewlett-Packard where he experienced the gratifying feeling of being in a company with a higher purpose. Not pursuing the more scripted career paths available to Stanford graduates, Nixon took advantage of writing his own script. He decided that his love of competition and his desire to exercise his leadership muscles would best be suited in a smaller operating company. In this environment, he concluded, he could be best judged for his achievements.

Upon graduating in 1992, Nixon joined PCSI, a spin-off of M/A-COM-Linkabit, to lead the brand new wireless infrastructure business. His earliest task was to deeply understand recurring revenue economics and the goals and perspectives of the cellular carriers. Nixon ultimately grew that division to \$60 million of revenue with \$7 million in profits before it was sold. Nixon decided to take his knowledge of telecom and recurring revenue to build a portfolio of companies on a broader scale.

In 1998, Nixon joined two Stanford classmates at the private equity firm Housatonic Partners, founding the datacom/telecom practice as general partner. He carried the business over four years until he decided to become chairman and CEO of a portfolio company, Enerdyne Technologies, a video compression technology provider. In 2006, Enerdyne was sold to ViaSat, and Nixon assumed the general manager position of ViaSat's Commercial Products Division.

That same year, Nixon's wife was in serious car accident, t-boned by a driver who ran a red light, distracted by texting. In 2008, Nixon was approached by DriveCam investors to serve as its CEO. After building and selling several businesses, he was eager to have a sustained leadership role in a company with a technology edge and a huge addressable market, not to mention a higher purpose that could help prevent accidents like the one his wife suffered the previous year. DriveCam established the category of video safety in commercial transportation and helps companies make their good drivers better and safer.

Since then, Nixon has grown DriveCam – now called Lytx, as in analytics – 15x (40 percent CAGR), with 2/3 market share and more than half a million drivers protected by its technology. The company was acquired by private equity firm GTCR in February 2016 for over \$500 million.

Nixon splits his time between San Diego's urban Little Italy area and Rancho Santa Fe. He and Janine have two children, Cameron, 23, a graduate of University of Washington, currently working for a Seattle-based software company, and his daughter Corinne, 19, currently studying business at Boston University.

Nixon is an avid runner and reader, and continues to play basketball any chance he gets, but has learned that golf is easier on his body.

Jesse Manning, Vice President of Business Development, Rhythm Engineering



Jesse Manning is the Vice President of Business Development for Rhythm Engineering and has been working with government agencies on the local, state and federal levels for his entire career. For nearly a decade, he assisted agencies on the public relations and information technology sides to better communicate both internally and with constituents. In 2014, he joined Rhythm Engineering and has been immersed in the world of traffic ever since. Aside from serving as Rhythm Engineering's chief evangelist, Jesse works with both corporate partners and federal government representatives to spread awareness of Intelligent Transportation System technologies, benefits, and the need for increased adoption of smart-infrastructure solutions. A graduate of Kansas State University with degrees in history and political

science, Jesse wishes that he had taken advantage of the school's engineering classes when he had a chance. He lives in Kansas City and frequently enjoys the world's best BBQ, which is likely the reason for his recent prescription for cholesterol medication.

Jim Misener, Director, Technical Standards, Qualcomm



Jim Misener leads automotive standards activities for Qualcomm. He is responsible for automotive-related strategic standards development, and the central resource for automotive product development compliance to standards across all international standards fora. As an integral part of the across-the-board automotive standards activities, Jim provides internal consultation and support with automotive and transportation matters to corporate research and development, automotive business unit and Smart Cities groups on emerging technologies, standards, deployment and spectrum issues.

Jim is the immediate past Chair and current Vice Chair of the Society of Automotive Engineers Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) Technical Committee, which establishes message sets and performance standards for DSRC-enabled communication. He is a U.S. Expert in ISO telecommunications standards (TC204) Technical Advisory Group

Working Groups 16 (Communications Access for Land Mobiles), 17 (Nomadic Devices in ITS Systems), and 18 (Cooperative ITS). He is a member of IEEE 1609 (DSRC message protocols and security services) Working Group. He also is an Institute of Transportation Engineers representative as a core member to the multi-association and Federal Highway Administration Vehicle-to-Infrastructure Deployment Coalition, serving on the Standards Technical Working Group.

Jim is an advisory Board member of Prospect Silicon Valley, a 501(c)(3) corporation established by the City of San Jose to promote innovation in the region. He is an Advisory Council member to the Carnegie Mellon University Transportation Center, Technologies for Safe and Efficient Transportation. He is an Executive Committee member of the Transportation Safety Advancement Group, comprised of public sector organizations focused on transportation and communications needs for emergency responders.