Edwin “Thorpe” Romero
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 council member, 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 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 tens of 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 Council Member Tawnya Phoenix.

Chairman Romero also is a member of the Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association (SCTCA) and serves as the SCTCA advisory member to the SANDAG Borders Committee. In addition, he is Barona’s representative to the SANDAG Tribal Transportation Technical Working Group. Furthermore, Chairman Romero has been active on the Board of Directors of the Southern Indian Health Council. 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 resides on the Barona Indian Reservation where he enjoys family time with his wife, Sandra, and 25-year-old daughter, Wynter. He spends his leisure time pursuing his interests in golf, Harley-Davidson motorcycles, and learning his native language, ‘Iipay Aa.
Michael Beck
_San Diego Director, Endangered Habitats League_

Endangered Habitats League and Endangered Habitats Conservancy have been working on landscape-level ecosystem and species protection since 1991 through land use, applied science, and progressive public policy. Michael is a member of the SANDAG Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group.

Nicole Capretz
_Executive Director, Climate Action Campaign_

Nicole was the primary author of the City of San Diego’s groundbreaking, legally binding 100% clean energy Climate Action Plan adopted in late 2015. Nicole has since played a pivotal role in helping other cities in the region adopt similar 100% clean energy climate plans and is a prominent advocate for Community Choice Energy in Southern California.

Nicole was appointed to the California Strategic Growth Council effective August 22, 2018.

She was named a New York Times Top 10 Californian of 2016.

She is a board member of Trees 100 and Mid-City Community Advocacy Network and a member of the Sierra Club. Ms. Capretz received a Bachelor of Arts in in Law and Society from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Master of Arts in Environmental Law and a Juris Doctorate from Vermont Law School. She currently resides in City Heights.

Previously, Nicole served as the Associate Director for Green Energy/Green Jobs at Environmental Health Coalition, an environmental equity and justice organization in National City. She also has worked as an environmental and energy policy advisor for the San Diego City Council. Nicole’s duties as Founder and Executive Director of Climate Action Campaign include overall strategic and operational responsibility for the organization’s staff, programs, expansion and execution of its mission.
Diane Takvorian
Executive Director, Environmental Health Coalition

Diane Takvorian has led the struggle for social and environmental justice for over 30 years. She is the Executive Director and cofounder of Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), an environmental justice organization based in the San Diego/Tijuana region. Founded in 1980, EHC works to protect public health and the environment threatened by toxic pollution through efforts that create a just society.

EHC’s community organizing and policy advocacy work with disenfranchised communities have eliminated many health risks and enabled thousands of residents to develop into community leaders. Diane has served on international, national, state, and regional advisory boards. In 2016, California Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins appointed Diane to the California Air Resources Board. In 2009, President Obama appointed her to the Joint Public Advisory Committee for the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. In 2018, Diane was named the KPBS Community Hero for environmental justice and sustainability. Diane also is a cofounder of the California Environmental Justice Alliance.

Diane holds a master’s degree in Social Work with an emphasis on public policy and community organizing.

Randy Torres-Van Vleck
Transportation and Planning Program Manager, City Heights Community Development Corporation

Randy Torres-Van Vleck facilitates participatory planning, connects residents to decision-making opportunities, and advocates for policies and projects that achieve transportation justice in San Diego. As Senior Manager of the Transportation & Planning Program at the City Heights Community Development Corporation, he’s played a leadership role in securing $188 million in transit and active transportation projects in the Mid-City area.

Randy recently co-led a campaign to change the planned State Route 94 freeway expansion in a way that will now include transit-priority alternatives and close to $100 million in transit investments, including a bus-on-shoulder pilot and a new Centerline station.

Randy founded and co-organizes Los Cruzadores, which has been leading transnational bike rides from San Diego to Tijuana since 2006. He’s a founder of San Diego’s “Open Streets” event, CicloSDias, is an elected member of the City Heights Area Planning Committee, and volunteers as a Policy Advisor to National City Councilmember and MTS Vice Chair Mona Rios. Randy graduated with Honors from UC San Diego with a BA in Sociology and a Minor in Urban Studies & Planning. He was recently accepted into the UC Berkeley Master of Public Affairs program. Randy grew up in the Castle Park neighborhood of Chula Vista, near the U.S./Mexico Border.
John La Raia  
_Vice President of Government and Community Strategy, H.G. Fenton Company_

John leads H.G. Fenton Company’s corporate political strategy, government relations, and community outreach efforts. John values the growth opportunities H.G. Fenton offers, having started his career here focused on development entitlements, then leading the Little Italy and BLVD projects before further utilizing his skills to expand into his current role. His most rewarding moments have been those spent walking through a site before construction, conceptualizing all that it could be, and then watching that site transform from a blank slate into his team’s vision. Likewise, he also enjoys navigating the process and finding new solutions to help H.G. Fenton more effectively and efficiently provide people with quality places to live and work in San Diego County.

John has received accolades for his work, including the H.G. Fenton Innovate Award in 2016 and the BIA Industry Professional of the Year award in 2015. He has a bachelor’s degree from Denison University and a Certificate in Real Estate Development from the University of San Diego. His passion for supporting communities extends to his personal life, where he and his family are actively engaged in their local church community. John also enjoys open water swimming and snowboarding with his family. His goal is to one day swim the English Channel.

Jared Basler, AIA  
Accessory Dwelling Unit Chair, American Institute of Architects, San Diego

Jared Basler established his firm, Basis Studio, in late 2016 to respond to the state legislation that removed many of the barriers preventing homeowners from building accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Jared has carved out a niche in the ADU market as the go-to expert not only in design, but also in local and statewide policy development that promotes the development of ADUs and is consistent with the letter and intent of state law. Working as the Subject Matter Expert for the ADU Coalition, Jared is assisting multiple jurisdictions in the creation of evidence based ADU policies and processes that can be replicated across the state. Since the beginning of 2017, Basis Studio has assisted more than 1,400 San Diego County homeowners interested in building ADUs. Jared has 19 ADU projects in the office currently and was recently awarded the 2018 Young Architect of the Year Award by AIA San Diego for his work on ADU policy and advocacy. Jared is a Licensed Architect in Georgia, National Council of Architectural Registration Board certified, and currently working toward reciprocity here in California.
Sylvia Martínez  
*Senior Project Manager, Community HousingWorks*

Sylvia Martínez joined Community HousingWorks (CHW) in 2011 with more than twenty years of experience in housing and community development throughout California. She has directed the development of more than 1,000 affordable units. Her developments have achieved national recognition in sustainable affordable housing, such as U.S. Green Building Council LEED Project of the Year and Affordable Housing Finance Project of the Year. At CHW, Ms. Martínez completed Avocado Court for disabled veterans and families in Escondido, the LEED Platinum Kalos Apartments in San Diego, and brought her finance and green credentials to revitalize three older existing affordable properties. She managed the development of the 76-unit North Park Senior Apartments, an LGBT-affirming, transit-oriented development in San Diego. She also represents CHW on the Board of the San Diego Housing Federation.

Sylvia Martínez received her bachelor’s degree from Stanford University and holds a Master’s in Public Policy and Urban & Regional Planning from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. She also is a LEED Associated Professional.

Stephen Russell  
*Executive Director, San Diego Housing Federation*

A 2010 graduate of the NewSchool of Architecture & Design, Stephen has a 23-year history working in community and economic development in the Mid-City region of San Diego. He served as Executive Director of the El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement District, where he was responsible for implementing an economic development strategy for an aging commercial district. He later served as an advisor to then–San Diego City Council member Toni Atkins on issues related to redevelopment, infrastructure financing, small business support, and the City’s General Plan (the “City of Villages”). Since then, he has served as volunteer board member and President of the City Heights Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing affordable housing, employment opportunities, and quality neighborhoods in the community of City Heights from 2005 to 2015. Stephen has served on the NewSchool Foundation Board since 2009, and currently is a Board Member of Civic San Diego, Housing California, and the California Housing Finance Agency. Prior to joining the Federation as its Executive Director, Stephen was a member of the firm Platt / Whitelaw Architects, Inc., a full-service architecture firm specializing in sustainable design.
Kelvin Barrios  
*Director of Government Affairs and Political Director, Laborers International Union of North America, Laborers Local 89*

Kelvin Barrios serves as the Director of Government Affairs and Political Director for Laborers International Union of North America Local 89, representing more than 3,000 construction workers in San Diego County. Before joining the team at Local 89, he served as a Transportation Policy Advisor to the San Diego City Council President. Kelvin also currently serves as the Chair Pro Tempore of the San Diego County Democratic Party. In addition to his political activism and work with Labor, he has served as Vice President of the City Heights Town Council and as a Board Member of the City Heights Area Planning Committee. Over the years, Kelvin has volunteered for numerous nonprofit organizations focusing on issues ranging from homelessness to housing affordability.

Keith Maddox  
*Executive Secretary Treasurer, San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council*

Keith Maddox is a native Southerner, growing up in Alabama. He has spent his life fighting for the rights of workers across the United States. He followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather by becoming a third-generation member of the Machinist Union (IAM). He joined the IAM in 1979 while working at the Miller Brewery in Albany, Georgia. Keith retired from the National American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization (AFL-CIO) in June 2017 as the Director of Affiliate and Federation Outreach. He has served in a number of positions while at the AFL-CIO, including National Field Director. These positions included oversight and program coordination of the AFL-CIO’s State Federations, along with the 500 Local Labor Councils. Keith was elected Executive Secretary Treasurer of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council in June 2018 after serving as the Trustee from May 2017–June 2018. In this capacity, he runs the day-to-day operations of an organization with 135 Affiliated Unions representing more than 200,000 working families in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Over the past 31 years, Keith also has worked on the staff of four National Unions: SEIU – Southern Regional Director; Teamsters – National Organizer; IAM – District Organizer; and the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department – Regional Organizing Coordinator. Keith currently serves as the Chief Officer and chairs the 35-member Executive Board of the Labor Council. He serves on the Board of Directors at the United Way of San Diego and at LEAD San Diego. He also serves as a member of the Inclusionary Housing subcommittee chaired by San Diego Council President Georgette Gomez.
Gretchen Newsom
Political Director/Organizer, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 569

Gretchen Newsom is an accomplished and talented political strategist, community leader, and advocate of working families. Gretchen works as the Political Director for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 569 and organizes efforts to invest in local good-paying, green-collar jobs, workforce development, civic engagement, and alternative energy. Additionally, she serves on the California Employment Training Panel.

She served for four terms as President of the Ocean Beach Town Council, and worked toward preserving and improving community resources, advocating for a sustainable local economy, enhancing community dialogue and civic engagement, increasing neighborhood safety, and maintaining the unique “vibe” of Ocean Beach. Ms. Newsom chaired the famous nighttime Ocean Beach Holiday Parade and is a member of the Ocean Beach Historical Society, Friends of the Ocean Beach Library, and Run Women Run. She also served as an executive board member of the Point Loma Democratic Club.

She was previously employed by a social innovation firm that assists clients with creating physically, socially, and economically sustainable communities. In her role as Principal and Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Gretchen conducted research and analysis of policy initiatives and tracked legislation connected to community development, environmental policies, affordable housing, homelessness, federal and state budgets, and new funding opportunities.

From 2009 to 2011, Gretchen served as Special Assistant to Chairman Phil Angelides of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission (FCIC), a bipartisan body charged with conducting the nation’s official inquiry into the causes of the financial and economic crisis and reporting its findings to the President, Congress, and the American people.

In that role, she was instrumental in managing the FCIC’s start-up, operational infrastructure, external relations, and day-to-day operations. She was centrally involved in producing the Commission’s final report, which became a New York Times and Washington Post bestseller – it was hailed as “the most comprehensive indictment of the American financial failure that has yet been made” and “the definitive history of this period.” After the release of the report, Gretchen organized and executed an international book tour and interfaced with the European Parliament on the presentation of this U.S. report.

Gretchen previously worked for Phil Angelides in a variety of roles for over seven years. This included working on a partnership with Magic Johnson and Canyon Partners on the creation of affordable rental housing in urban areas and starting a real estate investment firm focused on urban in-fill, smart growth developments, and clean energy projects. She also served as a Deputy Policy Director on a gubernatorial campaign and conducted corporate research and drafted legislation while working at the California State Treasurer’s office.

Gretchen graduated magna cum laude from Humboldt State University with a degree in Government and Politics and was awarded with the “Woman of the Year” honor. Gretchen also is a graduate of the prestigious California State Executive Fellowship Program.
Monique I. Rodriguez  
Senior Director, Government Affairs, QUALCOMM Incorporated

Monique Rodriguez is Senior Director of Government Affairs for QUALCOMM Incorporated. In this capacity, she manages part of QUALCOMM’s international public policy agenda on a range of issues, including international trade, technology policy, competition and innovation, and intellectual property. In addition to maintaining and strengthening QUALCOMM’s relationships with branches of the United States and foreign governments, she often represents the company before industry associations and multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations and World Trade Organization.

Ms. Rodriguez also manages all legislative matters at the local and state level, including political fundraising and acting as the QUALCOMM liaison to local and state government in all 50 states. In this capacity, Ms. Rodriguez is responsible for creating and executing corporate strategy in areas ranging from quality of life, technology neutrality, environmental stewardship, and taxation.

Ms. Rodriguez serves on the boards of the National Center for Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation, National Foreign Trade Council, and the New Children’s Museum. She also serves as a member of the San Diego & Imperial District Export Council.

Ms. Rodriguez graduated from UC San Diego in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. She also received a Master’s in Business Administration from the Rady School of Management at UC San Diego in 2008.

QUALCOMM invents breakthrough technologies that transform how the world connects and communicates. When we connected the phone to the internet, the mobile revolution was born. Today, our inventions are the foundation for life-changing products, experiences, and industries. As we lead the world to 5G, we envision this next big change in cellular technology spurring a new era of intelligent, connected devices and enabling new opportunities in connected cars, remote delivery of health care services, and the Internet of Things—including smart cities, smart homes, and wearables.
Jerry Sanders began his lifelong career in public service when he joined the San Diego Police Department at the age of 22, fulfilling his dream of becoming a police officer. He ascended the police department ranks, serving as the SWAT Team commander before becoming one of the youngest police chiefs in the city’s history.

In 1999, Sanders retired as Chief of Police and became Chief Executive Officer of the United Way of San Diego, where he reduced the organization’s costs and increased fundraising by 20 percent. Three years later, he chaired the board of the local chapter of the American Red Cross. He increased financial transparency at the chapter and helped restore the nonprofit’s credibility.

In 2005, with his reputation as a successful turn-around executive, civic leaders urged Sanders to run for mayor. After winning in a special election, Mayor Sanders immediately launched a top-to-bottom review and streamlining of city operations.

Under Mayor Sanders, city financial staff completed six years’ worth of backlogged audits, allowing the city to return to the public bond markets in January 2009—helping to fund the mayor’s commitment to repair San Diego’s long-neglected water, sewer, and transportation infrastructure. Sanders also introduced Managed Competition, which allows private companies to compete for the right to provide a variety of municipal services, to city government.

In addition to his broad reform agenda, Sanders placed a high priority on economic growth and job creation during his time in office. Specifically, he championed the region’s promising clean technology industry – including solar energy, biofuels, and other environmentally friendly products.

Sanders completed his second and final term as Mayor in December 2012, and currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. At the Chamber, Sanders leads the organization’s efforts to make San Diego a place where business can succeed and grow while creating jobs, supporting infrastructure, and enriching neighborhoods.
Oliver Ratzesberger is President and Chief Executive Officer of Teradata Corporation and a member of the company’s board of directors. Mr. Ratzesberger has extensive experience in executive management roles, as well as 20+ years of experience in analytics, large data processing, and software engineering.

Oliver’s journey started with Teradata as a customer, driving innovation on its scalable technology base. His vision of how the technology could be applied to solve complex business problems led to him joining the company. At Teradata, he has been the architect of the strategy and roadmap, aimed at transformation. Under Oliver’s leadership, the company has challenged itself to become a cloud-enabled, subscription business with a new flagship product. Teradata’s integrated analytical platform is the fastest-growing product in its history, achieving record adoption.

During Oliver’s tenure at Teradata, he has held the roles of Chief Operating Officer and Chief Product Officer, overseeing various business units, including go-to-market, product, services, and marketing. Prior to Teradata, Oliver worked for both Fortune 500 and early-stage companies, holding positions of increasing responsibility in technology and software development, including leading the expansion of analytics during the early days of eBay.

A pragmatic visionary, Oliver frequently speaks and writes about leveraging data and analytics to improve business outcomes. His book with coauthor Professor Mohanbir Sawhney, The Sentient Enterprise: The Evolution of Decision Making, was published in 2017 and was named to the Wall Street Journal Best Seller List. Oliver’s vision of the Sentient Enterprise is recognized by customers, analysts, and partners as a leading model for bringing agility and analytic power to enterprises operating in a digital world.

Oliver is a graduate of Harvard Business School’s Advanced Management Program and earned his engineering degree in Electronics and Telecommunications from HTL Steyr in Austria.

He lives in San Diego with his wife and two daughters.
Dr. John Izzo  
*Bestselling Author | Business Visionary*

Dr John Izzo is the bestselling author of seven books, including the international bestsellers *Awakening Corporate Soul*, *Values Shift*, *The Five Secrets You Must Discover Before You Die*, *The Five Thieves of Happiness*, and *Stepping Up*.


Over the last twenty years, he has spoken to more than one million people, taught at three major universities, advised more than 500 organizations, and is frequently featured in the media by the likes of *Fast Company*, PBS, CBC, the *Wall Street Journal*, CNN, and *INC Magazine*. He has advised some of the best companies in the world on activating purpose, including DuPont, TELUS, Manulife, McDonald’s, SAPA, RBC, Lockheed Martin, Qantas Airlines, Humana, Microsoft, and the Mayo Clinic.

John was a pioneer in the Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability movements and is an adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia, where he is a cofounder of The Men’s Initiative, which is dedicated to creating a more “equitable, compassionate, and sustainable world through enhancing the wellbeing and integrity of men.” John also serves on the Advisory Board of Sustainable Brands.

Loree Goffigon  
*Managing Partner, Performance Works*

With a background in strategic planning, organizational behavior, workforce management, and design and communications, Loree brings a multidisciplinary set of skills to the increasingly complex challenges of organizational performance. She applies a practical, results-oriented approach to her specialty areas: organizational culture, work process, business strategy, and the work environment. Her keen ability to question assumptions and identify a problem’s root cause has enabled Loree to deliver cost-savings, process innovation, and improved employee effectiveness to public- and private-sector clients.

In addition, Loree leads Community Works, an educational nonprofit organization building the next generation of creative thinkers and leaders, and as such, marries social enterprise with advocacy, research, and program delivery, working with local government, cultural institutions, and community-based organizations in cities across the country.

Reza E. Ahmadi, PhD  
*Principal, Performance Works*

Reza has twenty years’ experience working with organizations and leaders to develop impactful business strategies, design effective organizations and processes, create high-performance cultures, and lead complex change. With an academic background as an Organizational Psychologist, he brings a rich systems perspective that allows him to accurately assess performance inhibitors and enablers and identify actions to allow organizations to deliver on their strategic objectives.
Dawn Barry
Co-founder and President, LunaDNA

Dawn Barry is the president and cofounder of public benefit corporation, LunaPBC, which launched LunaDNA in December 2018 following SEC qualification. LunaDNA is a community-owned health data–sharing platform where members are included in the value created through its data for share ownership model.

Prior to LunaDNA, Dawn served as the Vice President of Applied Genomics at Illumina, Inc. Dawn joined Illumina in 2005 as their first market development specialist and grew to hold leadership roles in business units, sales, and marketing for the company.

Dawn was named San Diego Business Journal’s 2017 Business Woman of the Year, was a speaker at TEDxSanDiego 2016, and is a Board Chair of the Alzheimer’s Association San Diego/Imperial Chapter. She holds a BS in biology from the University of Vermont and an MBA from the University of Connecticut School of Business.

Greg Rodriguez
Attorney, Best Best & Krieger

Based out of Washington, D.C., Greg provides policy, regulatory, and legislative analysis, advocacy, and legal assistance around the safe and effective incorporation of emerging transportation technologies into communities across the country, including on-demand mobility, autonomous and connected vehicles, dockless micromobility, and drones. Greg has filed comments to the United States Department of Transportation on regulatory issues associated with autonomous vehicles and believes new innovations should complement existing public transportation systems. He is a member of the Transportation Research Board’s Transit and Intermodal Transportation Law Committee and has authored various articles and spoken at a wide variety of conferences on legal and policy issues associated with innovation, including data-sharing, privacy, and intelligent transportation systems. Greg has worked both on Capitol Hill for a United States Senator and as in-house counsel for a regional transportation planning agency, where he worked on capital improvement projects receiving federal funding, including the $2 billion Mid-Coast Corridor Trolley extension project. In his free time, he enjoys discussing all things mobility as cohost of the Mobility Podcast and can be found on Twitter at @smartertranspo.
Megan Prichard  
*West General Manager, JUMP Scooters*

Megan Prichard is a business leader who is passionate about innovation in the transportation space and beyond. Megan is currently General Manager for JUMP Scooter’s West region. Previously, Megan led Uber rideshare operations in Southern California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and Hawaii. Megan also heads UberELEVATE’s local Los Angeles city operations team that is building towards a 2020 urban air taxi pilot in Los Angeles. Prior to joining Uber, Megan spent five years as a consultant with McKinsey and Company in Brazil and Silicon Valley focusing on digital strategy. Megan holds a BA in economics from Yale and a JD from the University of Southern California. Megan is a guest lecturer at INSEAD, USC Marshall School of Business, and UCLA Anderson School of Management in disruptive technologies. She serves as a mentor for start-ups at TechStars LA and Amplify.LA.

Jake Sion  
*Chief Operating Officer, Transit App*

Jake Sion is the Chief Operating Officer of Transit, the most popular public transport app in North America. He manages the business and marketing teams, which are responsible for developing partnerships with public transit agencies and shared mobility providers. Prior to joining Transit in 2014, Jake worked on customer-facing technology projects for Transdev, including leading mobile ticketing deployments for New York’s NICE Bus and the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority. Jake has also worked for Boston’s transit agency, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, where he was part of the small innovation team that launched the first mobile ticketing solution in the United States in 2012. Jake holds a BA from Cornell University in Urban Studies and International Relations.
Katie Stevens
Senior Director of Government Relations – West, Lime

Katie works with cities, legislators, and community organizations across the western U.S. in support of affordable, accessible, and sustainable mobility. Working at various levels of government before leading state and local government relations for eBay Inc. in the west (proudly maintaining her 100% Feedback Score), Katie knows well the importance of collaboration and partnership in policy development. Prior to eBay, Katie led policy development on Capitol Hill for Congressman Dooley and Congressman Baird, the Governor’s California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, and her hometown Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin. Her policy work has largely focused on public transportation and access, renewable energy, and smart growth. She holds a BA from the University of Southern California and an MPA from CSUF.

Josh Raycroft
Director of Business Strategy, Virgin Hyperloop One

Josh Raycroft leads the Business Strategy team responsible for Virgin Hyperloop One’s business model, project economics, and fundraising strategy. He feels privileged to have helped build the best team he’s worked with to develop the commercialization model for a highly complex system. Josh joined the company in 2015 after completing his first year of Duke University’s MBA program where he focused on transportation and renewable energy. Prior to business school, Josh spent six years in engineering at GE Aviation, primarily designing components of the engine that powers the 737 MAX and A320neo. Josh has a BS in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Notre Dame and an MS in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Cincinnati.

Outside of work, Josh is an avid cyclist, enjoys traveling and not owning a car in LA, and is working on his first renewable energy project.
Mark Rosekind, PhD
Chief Safety Innovation Officer, Zoox

In April 2017, Dr. Rosekind joined the executive team at Zoox as the Chief Safety Innovation Officer. He leads efforts to safely develop, test, and deploy autonomous vehicles. Prior to Zoox, Dr. Rosekind was appointed by President Obama to be the 15th Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Serving from 2014 to 2017, Dr. Rosekind led significant transformation, instilling a proactive safety culture while driving both the Agency and automobile industry to be future-oriented. His initiatives included the development and issuance of the first-ever Federal Automated Vehicles Policy, the founding of the Road to Zero coalition to develop a 30-year plan to eliminate traffic fatalities, and aggressive oversight of safety in the automobile industry, including leading the Agency through the nation’s largest product safety recall in U.S. history. Before becoming NHTSA Administrator, Dr. Rosekind was appointed by President Obama and served as the 40th member of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) from 2010 to 2014. He was the on-scene board member for seven major transportation accidents and participated in almost 50 accident Board Meetings along with numerous NTSB public events on diverse safety topics. Dr. Rosekind advanced the agency’s advocacy goals on substance-impaired driving, fatigue, fire safety, and rail mass transit. Prior to his appointment to the NTSB, Dr. Rosekind founded Alertness Solutions, a scientific consulting firm that specialized in fatigue management, and served as the company’s first president and chief scientist. He previously directed the Fatigue Countermeasures Program at NASA’s Ames Research Center and was chief of the Aviation Operations Branch in the Flight Management and Human Factors Division. He launched his professional career as the director of the Center for Human Sleep Research at the Stanford University Sleep Disorders and Research Center. Dr. Rosekind is an internationally recognized expert on human fatigue, credited with leading the field in innovative research and implementing programs in all modes of transportation. His work has been widely published, and his awards include the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Sleep Foundation; NASA’s Exceptional Service Medal and six other NASA group/team awards; the Mark O. Hatfield Award for Public Policy from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine; two Flight Safety Foundation honors; and Fellow of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Dr. Rosekind earned his BA with honors from Stanford University, his MS, MPhil, and PhD from Yale University, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Brown University Medical School.
Logan Jenkins
Retired Columnist, San Diego Union-Tribune

Logan Jenkins, a retired San Diego Union-Tribune news columnist and fourth-generation San Diegan, grew up in Coronado. He attended Francis Parker School in Mission Hills through eighth grade, graduating from Coronado High School in 1965. After earning a doctoral degree in English literature from the University of British Columbia, he taught for several years at San Diego State University, where he’d studied as an undergraduate. In the early ‘80s, Jenkins left the classroom for the newsroom, serving as editor of the La Jolla Light and holding a variety of editing positions at the Times Advocate in Escondido. In 1996, he joined the Union-Tribune as a columnist based in North County. Jenkins lives in Bird Rock with his wife, Renee, a retired Francis Parker teacher. His son, Lee, is a former senior writer at Sports Illustrated and is now an executive with the Los Angeles Clippers.

Kimberly J. Becker
President and Chief Executive Officer, San Diego County Regional Airport Authority

Kimberly J. Becker was appointed President/Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority on May 1, 2017. She brings with her nearly 30 years of experience in the aviation industry.

As President/Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Becker is responsible for management oversight of the Airport Authority and San Diego International Airport (SAN). This includes the Airport Authority’s annual operating budget and five-year capital budget. According to the most recent economic impact study, SAN generates $11.9 billion annually in economic impact for the region.

Ms. Becker served as Director of Aviation for Mineta San Jose International Airport from 2013–2017 and held increasingly responsible positions at that airport since 1995, including Chief Operating Officer and Assistant Director of Aviation. Her career in aviation and airport management also has included operations and environmental positions at Lockheed Air Terminal in Burbank, California and Teterboro Airport in New Jersey.

Ms. Becker currently serves on the Boards of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, and the San Diego Tourism Authority.

Ms. Becker has served as President of the California Airports Council, representing 33 commercial service airports across the state, and previously served on the Board of Directors for the SW Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives. She previously served on the Board of Directors of the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, Joint Venture Silicon Valley, and on the Advisory Board for San Jose State University’s Aviation Program.

Ms. Becker holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a master’s degree in business administration/aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida.
Cory Binns
Director, California Department of Transportation, District 11

Cory Binns was named Caltrans District 11 Director in July 2018. He served as Acting District 11 Director from October 2017 through March 2018.

A 19-year veteran of the Department, Binns previously served as the District 11 Chief Deputy District Director and District 11 Division Chief for Maintenance.

Binns joined Caltrans as a Range D Engineer in 1999. During his Caltrans career, he has held positions in the divisions of Design, Environmental Engineering, Construction, Maintenance, and Traffic Operations before promoting to the position of District Chief Deputy in 2012. In 2016, Cory served a special assignment in Sacramento as the Interim Deputy Division Chief for the Division of Engineering Services.

Among his honors, Binns is the 2017 recipient of the Honorable Ray LaHood Award from the San Diego Chapter of the WTS. The award is designed to recognize a man who is not only a leader in transportation, but also a male who has actively led by example in seeking opportunities to advance women and minorities. In addition, in 2018 Cory received the Outstanding Engineering Service Award, Dr. Thomas Avolt Kanneman, from the San Diego County Engineering Council for outstanding professional and/or public service for the advancement of the engineering profession in Southern California.

A 1991 graduate of UC Irvine, Binns holds a BS in Civil Engineering. After graduating, he worked for eight years in both the public and private sector and proudly served as an officer in the United States Navy Reserves Civil Engineer Corps.
Aimee Faucett
Chief of Staff to Mayor Kevin Faulconer, City of San Diego

Aimee Faucett has served the communities of San Diego over 23 years while working in the legislative and executive branches of the City of San Diego and voluntarily serves on several nonprofit boards. Today, Aimee holds the position of Chief of Staff for City of San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer. In this role, Aimee works with Mayor Faulconer to get the expansion of the Convention Center across the finish line, tackle the homeless crisis, make housing more affordable, grow San Diego’s economy, and deliver excellent city services to every community.

Prior to joining the Mayor’s team, Aimee was Chief Operating Officer of San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. She was the Deputy Chief of Staff to former Mayor Jerry Sanders and served as Chief of Staff to former San Diego City Councilmembers Kevin L. Faulconer and Jim Madaffer, where she oversaw the day-to-day operations and was responsible for community representation, policy, communications, office management, and legislative relations. Her first position with the City of San Diego was a community liaison for former Councilmember Judy McCarty.


Aimee is a graduate of San Diego State University and holds a bachelor’s degree in Public Administration. In 2004, she was selected by San Diego Metropolitan for their “Forty Under Forty Honor Roll”; in 2014, she was selected by the San Diego Business Journal for “Women Who Mean Business.”

Paul Jablonski
Chief Executive Officer, San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

Paul Jablonski has been Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) since October 2003. During his tenure, he has thoroughly transformed the agency. He has consolidated Bus and Rail operations under one Board of Directors, consolidated several bus operations, implemented a new brand identity, developed a market-driven network of services, brought low-floor rail cars to the entire system, tackled pension reform and labor agreements, restored reliability to bus operations and led a major State of Good Repair initiative.

Mr. Jablonski was previously CEO and General Manager of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He is a current Board member and Finance Committee member of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), and previous Chair of the Rail CEO’s and Rail Transit Committees. He is a member of the Executive Committee and past Chair of the California Transit Association.
Randa J. Coniglio  
*President and Chief Executive Officer, Port of San Diego*

Randa Coniglio was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Port of San Diego on June 11, 2015. She formerly served as Executive Vice President, Operations, providing corporate oversight over the Real Estate, Environmental & Land Use Management, Government & Civic Relations, Maritime, and Marketing & Communications departments. She has been with the Port since April 2000, starting out in the Port’s Real Estate Operations Department. Prior to the Port, she spent eight years handling a local portfolio of commercial investment properties for a Japanese firm and five years in retail leasing and development. Coniglio holds a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from UC San Diego.

Matthew Tucker  
*Executive Director, North County Transit District*

The North County Transit District (NCTD) Board of Directors appointed Matthew Tucker as the agency’s Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer in December 2008. In his role at NCTD, Mr. Tucker provides the strategic direction and oversight necessary to deliver transit service within the agency’s 1,020-square-mile service area. NCTD’s family of transit services includes COASTER commuter rail, SPRINTER light rail, the BREEZE bus system, FLEX specialized transportation, and LIFT ADA paratransit services. NCTD has operational responsibility and control over the San Diego Northern Railway and hosts Amtrak, Metrolink, BNSF, and PAC Sun Railroad operators. NCTD has an operating budget of approximately $110 million for FY 2019. Transit ridership across all modes is projected at approximately 10.5 million passengers for FY 2019.

Prior to coming to NCTD, Mr. Tucker served as the Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), a position appointed by the Governor of Virginia. As the director of DRPT, he managed an annual budget of over $624 million that leveraged an overall program of $1.55 billion in rail and transit initiatives. DRPT supports public transit agencies, human service transportation providers, and transportation demand management agencies and collaborates with privately owned railroad companies to support increased passenger, freight, and rail.

Prior to his role at DRPT, Mr. Tucker was the Chief Operating Officer for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority in San Jose, California. As Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Tucker was responsible for six functional units, including bus operations, rail operations, protective services, service and operations planning, operations support services, and operations engineering. Mr. Tucker also was the Assistant General Manager at the Greater Richmond Transit Company in Richmond, Virginia and served as the Deputy Public Transit Director for the City of Phoenix.

Mr. Tucker holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a minor in Military Science, and a master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning — both from Virginia Commonwealth University. Mr. Tucker serves on the APTA Board of Directors as the Commuter Rail Committee representative.