



## SPEAKER BIOS



### **Mary Nichols**, Chair, California Air Resources Board

Mary D. Nichols is Chair of the California Air Resources Board, a post she has held since 2007. She also served as Chair of the Air Resources Board from 1979-1983.

Nichols has devoted her entire career in public and nonprofit service to advocating for the environment and public health. In addition to her work at the California Air Resources Board, she has served as Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Air and Radiation program under President Clinton, Secretary for California's Resources Agency from 1999 to 2003 and Director of the Institute of the Environment at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Environment at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Her priorities as Chair include moving ahead on the state's landmark climate change program (AB 32), steering the Board through numerous efforts to curb diesel pollution at ports and continuing to pass regulations aimed at providing cleaner air for Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley. She values innovation, partnerships and common-sense approaches to addressing the state's air issues.

The Board is supported by a professional staff of scientists, engineers, economists, lawyers and policy experts, with an annual operating budget of more than \$860 million.



### **Kate Gordon**, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Kate Gordon is a nationally recognized expert on the intersection of climate change, energy, and economic development. Gordon was appointed Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research by Governor Gavin Newsom on January 7, 2019. Prior to being appointed Director, Gordon was a Senior Advisor at the Paulson Institute, where she

oversaw the "Risky Business Project," focused on quantifying the economic impacts of climate change to the U.S. economy, and also provided strategic support to the Institute's U.S.- China CEO Council for Sustainable Urbanization. She was also a nonresident Fellow at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University, and an advisor to Duke University's Center for Energy, Development, and the Global Environment.

Earlier in her career Gordon served as Vice President for Climate and Energy at the Center for the Next Generation, Vice President of Energy and Environment at the Washington D.C.-based Center for American Progress, and Co-Executive Director at the national Apollo Alliance (now part of the Blue Green Alliance).

Gordon earned a law degree and a master's degree in city planning from the University of California-Berkeley, and an undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University.



**Darrell Steinberg**, Mayor of Sacramento and author of SB 375, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008

Darrell Steinberg is the Mayor of Sacramento and was the Senate President pro Tempore in the California Legislature. He is one of Sacramento's most accomplished public servants, serving the Sacramento community for over 20 years.

Steinberg represented California's capital city in the California Legislature from 1998 - 2014, and was the first Sacramentan to serve as President of the Senate in over 125 years. Steinberg earned a reputation for confronting seemingly intractable problems and delivering results for California through consensus-building.

Elected to the Senate in 2006, Steinberg became President pro Tempore in late 2008, at the deep end of the economic downturn when the state faced an unimaginable \$42 billion deficit. Two years later, he was honored with the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage award by the Kennedy Library Foundation in recognition of his leadership in bipartisan negotiations leading to the state's fiscal recovery.

Throughout his entire career, Steinberg led the Legislature on numerous complex issues, including the 2009 and 2014 state water agreements, criminal justice reform, and reinvesting over a billion dollars in career technical education. He led the common-sense pension reform eliminating flagrant abuses of the system. He authored legislation to expedite the legal process for large-scale environmentally sustainable projects. Steinberg also teamed up with Republican lawmakers to eradicate frivolous lawsuits and improve the Americans with Disabilities Act while motivating businesses to accommodate disabled customers.

Steinberg has been a relentless advocate for mental healthcare, calling it "the under-attended issue in our time and in our society." Heralded within the mental health community as the "most transformative figure mental health has ever seen," Steinberg authored Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act, creating a one billion-dollar system for dynamic mental healthcare in California. He continued his work by fighting to fund 2,000 new mental health crisis beds in the 2014-2015 state budget. He also passed legislation to mandate insurance companies to cover treatment of children with autism and related disorders.

At the local level, Steinberg played a key role in Sacramento's downtown revitalization, obtaining state funding for a new courthouse, which is expected to create 1,800 jobs for the city. Steinberg also fought for state monies for career pathways to connect high school students to 21st century jobs, delivering millions of dollars to Sacramento area schools in the first round of funding. Since assuming office in December 2016, Steinberg has made economic development, addressing homelessness and providing year-round paid internships to

Sacramento's high school students through a new initiative, Thousand Strong, the cornerstone of his administration.

In his short time in office, Steinberg has already positioned Sacramento as potentially the first 5G city in the nation through a new public-private partnership with Verizon. Additionally, he has utilized his state experience and relationships to secure \$64 million for homeless services and over \$2 million to support Thousand Strong. He is just getting started.

Steinberg graduated from University of California, Los Angeles, where he earned a BA in economics, then earned a Juris Doctorate from UC Davis Law School. He went on to serve as an employee rights attorney for the California State Employees Association for 10 years before his work as an Administrative Law Judge and mediator. Steinberg served on the Sacramento City Council from 1992 to 1998, and as an Assemblymember from 1999 to 2004.

Steinberg and his wife, Julie, have two children – a daughter, Jordana, and a son, Ari.



### **Chet Hewitt**, President, Sierra Health Foundation

Chet P. Hewitt is President and CEO of Sierra Health Foundation and its nonprofit intermediary, The Center at Sierra Health Foundation. Since beginning his tenure at the Foundation, Chet has worked with his board of directors to develop and launch a bold collective impact strategy focused on promoting health equity and social justice in underserved communities to improve the well-being of children, youth and families. Recognized for his strategic thinking and his willingness to take thoughtful risk, Chet has received national attention for his emphasis on making the Foundation's partnerships with local communities and public and private funders the centerpiece of the organization's strategy for change.

Prior to joining Sierra Health Foundation, Chet held several senior positions including Director of Alameda County's Social Services Agency, Associate Director for the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, and Director of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in San Francisco.

Chet has received numerous awards for his service to children and families, including the 2017 Terrance Keenan Leadership in Health Philanthropy Award, the Grantland Johnson Intergovernmental Leadership Award, Congressman Robert T. Matsui Community Service Award, and the Sylvia Siegel Consumer Champion Award. Chet is an Annie E. Casey Children and Families Leadership Fellow, and serves on several boards including Roberts Enterprise Development Fund, Public Policy Institute of California, Advance Peace and CalNonprofits.



### **Anthony Rendon**, California State Assembly Speaker

Speaker Anthony Rendon represents the 63rd Assembly District in the California State Assembly. The district includes nine cities – Bell, Cudahy, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, Lynwood, Maywood, Paramount, South Gate and a northern portion of Long Beach.

Rendon was sworn-in as the 70th Speaker of the Assembly in March 2016.

In 2017, Rendon led the most progressive and productive legislative session in memory – a year in which the Assembly passed a landmark \$52 billion transportation funding plan, extension of California's cap-and-trade program, first-of-

its-kind clean air measure, and legislation to address the affordable housing crisis. The 2017 state budget included expansion of the earned income tax credit and child care eligibility, record investment in education, and reforms to the Board of Equalization and University of California.

In his first year as Speaker in 2016, the Assembly passed a series of landmark progressive legislation, including the nation's first \$15 minimum wage, extension of California's climate change reduction goals, overtime pay for farmworkers, and groundbreaking policies on gun and tobacco use.

The first state budget passed during Rendon's tenure continued California's recent history of on-time, balanced budgets. The budget doubled the state rainy day fund to an all-time high of \$6.7 billion and included a \$530 million infusion of funding to early childhood education, a key victory for Rendon and the Legislative Women's Caucus.

In 2015, Rendon passed Assembly Bill 530, a law that spurs much-needed revitalization of the lower portion of the Los Angeles River. As chair of the Utilities and Commerce Committee, he led ongoing efforts to ensure accountability at the California Public Utilities Commission.

Rendon authored Proposition 1, the \$7.5 billion state water bond, which voters passed by a 67% to 33% margin in the November 2014 election. During the bond development process, Rendon took input from residents over the course of 16 public hearings throughout the state, resulting in a measure with no earmarks or backroom deals.

Prior to serving in the Assembly, Rendon was an educator, non-profit executive director, and environmental activist. He led Plaza de la Raza Child Development Services, Inc. as Executive Director. "Plaza" provides comprehensive child development and social and medical services to over 2,300 children and families offered through Plaza's 35 child development centers located throughout Los Angeles County. Before working at Plaza, Rendon served as the Interim Executive Director of the California League of Conservation Voters from 2008 to 2009.

Rendon attended Cerritos Community College before earning his Bachelors and Masters of Arts degrees from California State University, Fullerton. As a recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, he earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside and completed post-doctoral work at Boston University. Rendon served as adjunct professor in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice at California State University, Fullerton from 2001 to 2008.

Rendon resides in Lakewood with his wife Annie.



### **Anya Lawler**, Western Center on Law and Poverty

Anya Lawler has over 15 years of experience working in policy at the state level, including a decade as a committee consultant in the Legislature. Her primary expertise is in housing and land use issues, including housing element law, housing finance, homelessness, and mobilehomes. She played a key role in shaping a number of the programs funded through Proposition 1C and helped ensure ongoing funding for affordable housing from cap and trade funds. She is particularly interested in sustainable development issues and ensuring that low-income communities benefit from state policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions through more compact development patterns.



## **Joaquin Esquivel**, State Water Resources Control Board

E. Joaquin Esquivel was appointed to the State Water Resources Control Board by Governor Jerry Brown in March 2017. Previously, he served as Assistant Secretary for federal water policy at the California Natural Resources Agency in the Governor's Washington, D.C. office, where he facilitated the development of policy priorities between the agency, the Governor's Office, the California Congressional delegation, and federal stakeholder agencies.

For more than eight years prior to that he worked for U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, most recently as her legislative assistant covering the agriculture, Native American, water, oceans, and nutrition portfolios, in addition to being the director of information and technology. He was born and raised in California's Coachella Valley. He holds a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara in English.



## **Daniel Sperling**, UC Davis, Institute for Transportation Studies

Daniel Sperling is Professor of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science and Policy, and founding Director of the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis (ITS-Davis). Dr. Sperling has led ITS-Davis to international prominence by building strong partnerships with industry, government, and the environmental community, integrating interdisciplinary research and education programs, and connecting research with public outreach and education.

Dr. Sperling is recognized as a leading international expert on transportation technology assessment, energy and environmental aspects of transportation, and transportation policy. He was the 2013 chair of the California Fuel Cell Partnership and is 2015 Chair of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies. He received the 2013 Blue Planet Prize for being "a pioneer in opening up new fields of study to create more efficient, low-carbon, and environmentally beneficial transportation systems" and 2010 Heinz Award for his "achievements in the research of alternative transportation fuels and his responsibility for the adoption of cleaner transportation policies in California and across the United States." He is author or editor of over 200 technical articles and 12 books, including *Two Billion Cars* (Oxford University Press, 2009), and has testified 7 times to the U.S. Congress on alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technology.

He earned his Ph.D. in Transportation Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley (with minors in Economics and Energy & Resources) and his B.S. in Environmental Engineering and Urban Planning from Cornell University. Professor Sperling worked two years as an environmental planner for the US Environmental Protection Agency and two years as an urban planner in the Peace Corps in Honduras.



**Dr. Manuel Pastor**, Director of the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) at USC

Dr. Manuel Pastor is Professor of Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. He currently directs the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) at USC and USC's Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII). Pastor holds an economics Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and is the inaugural holder of the Turpanjian Chair in Civil Society and Social

Change at USC.

Pastor's research has generally focused on issues of the economic, environmental and social conditions facing low-income urban communities – and the social movements seeking to change those realities. His current research culminates in the release of his forthcoming book, *State of Resistance: What California's Dizzying Descent and Remarkable Resurgence Means for America's Future*, in April 2018.

Pastor was the founding director of the Center for Justice, Tolerance, and Community at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He has received fellowships from the Danforth, Guggenheim, and Kellogg foundations, and grants from the Irvine Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the W.T. Grant Foundation, The California Endowment, the California Air Resources Board, and many others. Pastor speaks frequently on issues of demographic change, economic inequality, and community empowerment and has contributed opinion pieces to such outlets including the Los Angeles Times, the San Jose Mercury News, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Sacramento Bee, the Huffington Post, among many others.

In January 2002, he was awarded a Civic Entrepreneur of the Year award from the California Center for Regional Leadership. He has previously served as a Public Member of the Strategic Growth Council in California, as a member of the Commission on Regions appointed by California's Speaker of the State Assembly, and as a member of the Regional Targets Advisory Committee for the California Air Resources Board. Pastor received the Liberty Hill Foundation's Wally Marks Changemaker of the Year Award for social justice research partnerships in 2012. In 2017, he received the Champion for Equity Award from the Advancement Project for his work with community-based organizations fighting for social change.



**James Corless**, Sacramento Area Council of Governments

On April 3, 2017, James Corless began his appointment as Chief Executive Officer for the Sacramento Area Council of Governments. At its September 2016 meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously selected him to lead the agency into its next phase.

James Corless is the founding director of Transportation for America, where he built an impressive national network of civic, elected, and business leaders who understand that strategic investments in infrastructure are crucial for attracting economic development.

During his tenure, Corless implemented a series of Transportation Leadership Academies for local leaders across the nation, helped launch the national Smart Cities Collaborative for municipalities looking to use technology to improve mobility options, and has worked with dozens of regional planning agencies across the United States to implement data-driven decision making.

Under his leadership for the past eight years, Transportation for America has advocated for state and federal transportation funding and policies that focus on local knowledge to drive investments and maximize local economic development. Corless also led advocacy efforts and developed place-based programs and policies to help employers expand access to workers, attract new talent, and ensure that workers of all wage levels reach their jobs at the lowest possible cost and stress level.

Susan Rohan, SACOG's Board Member and Roseville Mayor said, "James is a world-class visionary and leader in the field of transportation, land use, social equity, and creative placemaking. We are delighted to have his talents serving the residents of the six-county region and leading the staff at SACOG. He is a gifted leader and collaborator who will be an asset to the Sacramento region."

Phil Serna, Sacramento County Supervisor added, "I'm confident James has the essential experience and skills necessary to effectively lead the agency, and I look forward to collaborating with him as he implements his vision, and ours, for the six-county Sacramento region."

Upon his appointment, Corless remarked, "I am honored to be given the opportunity to lead SACOG into its next chapter. It is one of the most forward-looking and visionary regional planning agencies in the country. From its work strengthening rural communities and preserving agricultural land to the progress promoting more walkable, transit-oriented, and compact development through the Sacramento Region Blueprint, on the ground success can be seen across the region. SACOG's leadership and role as convener and collaborator is going to be critical in the years ahead in order to promote economic prosperity, innovation, and a high quality of life that will benefit each and every resident of the region."

Prior to joining Transportation for America, Corless held senior positions at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in the San Francisco Bay Area. Corless is married to Diana Williams and together they have three children.



## **Dennis O'Connor**, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Mr. O'Connor is a Principal Consultant to the California Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water. In that role, he analysis all proposed water and Delta related legislation, organizes oversight and information hearings, prepares briefing papers on issues relating to water and Delta issues, and advises members of the Senate on California water

policy issues. He has played a significant role in a number of legislative efforts, including the 2007 package of flood legislation, the 2009 water package, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and most recently the Making Conservation a California Way of Life legislation. He has been with the Senate since January 2003.

Before coming to the Committee, Mr. O'Connor spent 10 years at the California Research Bureau (CRB), a non-partisan policy research branch of the California State Library, serving for six of those years as the Assistant Director for the Environment and Natural Resources. Mr. O'Connor is the author of a number of CRB reports, including reports on the governance of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the financing of the State Water Project. Mr. O'Connor did his undergraduate and masters studies in economics at CSU Sacramento.



**Bill Craven**, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

William Craven is the chief consultant of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. The Natural Resources and Water Committee is chaired by Senator Henry Stern, D-Canoga Park. It has jurisdiction over legislation pertaining to many issues such as water supply, flood policy, mining (including oil and gas drilling), fire and forestry issues, endangered species and wildlife, state lands and conservancies, state parks, coastal protection, harbors, and ocean policy. He also frequently attends meetings of the Ocean Protection Council and the California Parks and Recreation Commission as the Senate's designee.



**Katie Valenzuela**, Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change

Katie Valenzuela Garcia is the principal consultant for the Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies. Established by AB 197 in 2016, this committee is charged with overseeing and providing recommendations regarding California's climate policies and investments. Katie also staffs the committee chair, Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, in his role as ex-officio representative for the Assembly on the California Air Resources Board. Prior to joining the Legislature Katie was the founding principal for VG Consulting, a firm that partners with advocates and community groups in their pursuit of environmental justice, and was co-chair for the AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. As an active organizer in Sacramento, Katie helps facilitate the Sacramento Neighborhood Coalition and the development of the new Sacramento Community Land Trust, a community-based organization that will acquire and manage land for community benefit.

**Lisa Engel**, Chief Consultant to the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee



**Margaret Van Vliet**, Sonoma County Community Development Commission

Margaret Van Vliet serves as Executive Director of the Sonoma County Community Development Commission, the county's lead agency for housing and homelessness programs. Van Vliet possesses three decades of experience in public administration and affordable housing management, development, and finance



Prior to joining Sonoma County in 2016, she served as Director of the State of Oregon's Housing and Community Services Department, a cabinet-level position reporting to the governor. She has also held leadership posts at the City of Portland's Housing Bureau and its Housing Authority. Other previous experience includes leading a nonprofit lending consortium called the Network for Oregon Affordable Housing. Van Vliet began her career in banking and commercial real estate and, over the years, has served on several volunteer boards and commissions.

She earned a BA from Linfield College and completed two executive education programs at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

## SITE VISIT SPEAKERS

### STOP 1: WEST SACRAMENTO: WEST GATEWAY PLACE



#### **Christopher Cabaldon**, Mayor, West Sacramento

Christopher Cabaldon became the first mayor directly elected by West Sacramento voters in November 2004; he was re-elected in 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018. He is currently serving his seventh elected term as mayor.

Prior to his election as mayor by voters, Mr. Cabaldon had been elected to four single year terms as mayor by the West Sacramento City Council. Voters first elected Mr. Cabaldon to the City Council in 1996.

Mayor Cabaldon's work on transportation, land use, air quality and climate change, housing, and economic development is regarded as a model for effective collaborative action. The Sacramento Bee says that "under his leadership, the City has become one of the municipal stars of the region."

Mayor Cabaldon was chair of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments' groundbreaking Blueprint for the Future project. He also chaired the region's Partnership for Prosperity, and has served on a variety of transportation and air quality agency boards. He worked on state water and habitat issues for more than a decade, as a member of the state's Delta Protection Commission, as well as the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

As mayor, Mr. Cabaldon has represented the City as a member of the Sacramento-Yolo Port District Commission and the River City Regional Stadium Financing Authority. His local and regional leadership on school facilities and programs, along with his efforts to advance universal preschool, have established him as a visionary leader for education.

Mr. Cabaldon served as a director for the League of California Cities, and was the founding co-chair of both the Asian Pacific and Gay / Lesbian caucuses. He was also president of Asian and Pacific Americans in Higher Education, founding chair of the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project, and president of the Asian Pacific Legislative Caucus.

From 1997 to 2003, Mr. Cabaldon was vice chancellor of the California Community Colleges System.

He earned his B.S. in environmental economics from UC Berkeley, where he's also been a member of the alumni association board, in addition to a Master of Public Policy and Administration degree from CSU Sacramento, where he subsequently received the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Mayor Cabaldon says, "West Sacramento has had dreams come to reality. We keep developing major projects that symbolize improvement. Development has led to new homes, Raley Field, a library, community college, and new retail. West Sacramento has become one of the most admired cities in the region."

## **Renner Johnston**, Principal, Mogarvero Architects



Renner became passionate about architecture while working in Europe and returned to the U.S. for a Masters in Architecture at the University of Oregon.

Joining Mogarvero Architects in 1997, Renner shares the firm's long commitment to green sustainable design. As Principal, he has designed and managed projects including infill, affordable and market rate housing, mixed-use, urban design and large solar arrays.

Renner has also worked on several master planning projects including, the Mather Campus Vision plan, Grass Valley Workforce Housing plan and the Baechtel Charrette for the City of Willits.



## **Michael Massie**, Senior VP, Jamboree Housing

Michael Massie's years of broad experience in all facets of residential development, affordable housing, and real estate finance have been developed across a changing real estate landscape. As the Senior Vice President of Finance, he works to identify and secure new sources of capital and revenue including alternative funding and financial services businesses to support Jamboree's mission.

Michael returns to Jamboree having previously served as Senior Project Manager from 2005 to 2008, and Director of Housing Development from 2008 to 2014. He managed all aspects of Jamboree's affordable housing development program, including public and private finance, design, entitlement, and construction of more than 2,800 multifamily units throughout California.

To diversify his experience and knowledge, Michael pursued executive opportunities with other major builders of multifamily housing from 2014 to 2017. At The Picerne Group, he oversaw the development of all of the company's multifamily projects throughout Southern California and was a member of the executive committee. At Related California, he was vice president responsible for the company's affordable housing developments in San Diego and Los Angeles counties.

## STOP 2: SACRAMENTO BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (BHC)



**Shakeya Bella**, Administrative Assistant,  
Sacramento BHC



**Christine Tien**, Program Manager, The California  
Endowment

Christine C. Tien, M.P.P., J.D., joined The Endowment as a program manager in May 2009. Prior to joining the TCE, Tien worked for the City of Stockton, first as a community relations officers and then as the deputy city manager for 8 years. Prior to that, Tien worked in Union City where she served in multiple capacities including Deputy City Manager. In addition, Tien worked for Consumers Union and was a research analyst for the Pima

County Department of Environmental Quality, and a technical analyst for Morse, Richard, Weisenmiller & Associates, Inc. She is proficient in Mandarin, has been published in numerous journals, and maintains a commitment to community service, serving on a number of boards and advisory groups.



**Gabby Trejo**, Executive Director, Sacramento Area  
Congregations Together (ACT)



**Amy Williams**, Regional Counsel, Legal Services of  
Northern California

Amy Williams has devoted her career to serving low-income people in urban and rural northern California and providing legal services specifically for low-income LGBT people in these areas, focusing particularly on healthcare access for low-income and marginalized communities, including transgender people and people living in the United States without status. Since graduating from law school in 2005, Amy has worked for Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC) in a number of roles, now serving as their Deputy Director, serving LSNC's 23 counties.

Amy also started one of the first free LGBT legal clinics in the country through a partnership between LSNC and the Sacramento LGBT Community Center. These clinics provide free legal information and brief service to low-income LGBT people. Amy also co-founded and managed several medical-legal partnerships in the greater Sacramento area helping individuals increase access to safe housing, government benefits, and health care. She champions several community-led initiatives charged with decreasing health disparities for low-income Sacramento residents by improving access to quality health care and healthy food options.

She serves as a statewide expert on health care law and policy. She is a leader in the California Health Consumer Alliance, a network of legal services organizations that advocate and litigate access to ACA, managed care, Medicaid, Medicare, and local health clinic programs. In *Fuchino v. Edwards-Buckley*, Amy secured a victory in the Third District of California Court of Appeal securing the rights of the uninsured to receive emergency safety net health services and payments from their county of residence. She is one of the leading voices for health care access for people living in poverty, especially for those folks living in rural communities, and is one of only a few experts on healthcare coverage for low-income transgender people in California.



**Elaine Abelaye-Mateo**, Principal Consultant, Everyday Impact Consulting/BHC Sacramento

Elaine Abelaye-Mateo is an innovative social change executive with a passion for building meaningful relationships to create social good. Recognized as one of Sacramento Magazine's 15 People to Watch, Ms. Abelaye-Mateo is known for her forward-thinking and strategic approaches towards solving community problems.

As the former Executive Director of Asian Resources, Inc., a Sacramento-based workforce development nonprofit, Ms. Abelaye-Mateo led a team of 25 employees, three offices, thirteen contracts and a \$2M budget.

In 2011, Ms. Abelaye-Mateo was awarded the inaugural Equity Award from the Coalition on Regional Equity (a project of the Sacramento Housing Alliance) and in 2008, Ms. Abelaye was awarded the Community Reinvestment Act Panther Award by the California Reinvestment Coalition.

Ms. Abelaye-Mateo has served on the Board of several non-profit organizations and is currently serving on the Sacramento Region Community Foundation Community Impact Committee of the Board, and the Philippine National Day Association.

### STOP 3: SUTTERS LANDING PARK/AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY



**Jeff Harris, Councilmember**, City of Sacramento and Chair of the Lower American River Conservancy Advisory Committee

Jeff Harris was elected in November 2014 to represent the 3rd City Council District in the City of Sacramento. The third district encompasses the East Sacramento, River Park, Sacramento State, the Downtown Railyards, the River District, South Natomas, Gardenland and Northgate neighborhoods.

Since taking office, Councilmember Harris has been a strong advocate for parks and neighborhoods. He has successfully furthered development of Oakbrook Park (scheduled to open Spring 2018) and the rehabilitation of Gardenland Park in South Natomas. He fought for additional parks maintenance funding, new community gardens, and more Park Rangers. Thanks to his efforts, in 2018 the City will develop an Urban Forestry Master Plan. The Mayor and Council supported his request for funding to rebuild two antiquated fire stations (Stations 14 & 15). Station 15 is scheduled to open Summer 2018.

He has been a leading voice on the Council to address the needs of the homeless and the impacts of people living outdoors. He worked with the City staff and Volunteers of America (VOA) to establish the City's first homeless triage shelter. Councilmember Harris has advocated for funding to develop a pilot program for to have attended restrooms in the River District. He is working to develop micro pads and other housing for homeless persons in our region. Councilmember Harris has worked with other community leaders to identify funding to clean up the river parkways impacted with trash and debris. He also led the effort to secure \$1 million in funding to expand the Sacramento Police Department's Homeless Impact Team to be a 7-day a week operation.

After spending 30 years as a small business owner building scores of quality homes and additions in the Sacramento region, Jeff Harris has become a champion for fiscal restraint on the Council. He has pushed for a larger rainy day fund and regularly questions City expenditures he feels are excessive.

Jeff Harris has been a strong advocate for small businesses and economic development. He worked with business and property owners on Alhambra Boulevard to create a Property and Business Improvement District (PBID) to address maintenance and other issues. The result has been a dramatic improvement for businesses and customers on the Alhambra corridor. He has led the effort to gain the entitlements for Redevelopment of the Downtown Railyards. This year, we will see the construction of major sewer infrastructure.

While serving as Chair of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) in 2016, he led the successful effort to pass an initiative to fund numerous flood protection measures along the American and Sacramento Rivers, and the Natomas east main drainage canal. He currently serves as SAFCA Vice Chair. Flood control remains a prime area of interest.

He serves as the Chair of the Lower American River Conservancy Program Advisory Committee, the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA), and the Council standing committee for water issues. He is a member of the Board of Sacramento Regional Transit, Sacramento Regional Sanitation District, Regional Water Authority, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Regional Water Authority, Sacramento Transportation Authority, the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority, the Council Law and Legislation committee and others.

Prior to his election to the City Council, he served 4 years on the City of Sacramento Parks Commission, the final year as Chair of the Commission. He was a leader of the group that worked to pass Measure U that restored most Police, Fire and Park services funding that was lost during the Great Recession. He founded one of the first "Adopt-a-Park" groups in Sacramento to provide for the upkeep of Glenn Hall Park. He also helped start "Adopt-a-Park" groups for Chorley Park, Ninos Parkway and Bannon Creek Parkway. As a past-president of the River Park Neighborhood Association, he coordinated and trained Neighborhood Watch and Night Patrol programs for seven years. He was a leader in the McKinley Park Rebuild.

A beekeeper, gardener and Cal Aggie, Harris has a deep connection with the agricultural heritage and farmers of the Sacramento Valley. He lives in the Riverpark neighborhood with his daughter Lilah.

## STOP 4: SACRAMENTO INTEGRATED MULTIMODAL PLACE-BASED LIVING (SIMPL)



**Tyrone Roderick Williams**, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

Tyrone Roderick Williams is the Director of Development at the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) and the Director of the Sacramento Promise Zone. His expertise is in real estate development, housing finance, economic development, downtown and neighborhood transformation initiatives. In 2018, He was elected Chairman of the California Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group which advises the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission. Mr. Williams received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from Prairie View A&M University, a Master of City Planning degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a

PHD from the School of Hard Knocks.



**Victoria Johnson**, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

Victoria Johnson serves as a Program Manager for the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency. She is currently overseeing the revitalization of the former Twin Rivers Public Housing community. Ms. Johnson is an ardent advocate for sustainable urban development and has previously worked in Alameda, San Jose, Fresno, Hollywood and West Palm Beach, Florida to construct or renovate over 1,000 affordable housing units over the past 20 years. Ms. Johnson has a Master's degree in Urban Planning from Florida Atlantic University, a Florida contractor license and is a LEED Accredited Professional.

**Jo Anna Davis**, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

Jo Anna Davis is a Management Analyst at Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency and coordinated the Transformative Climate Communities grant for the SIMPL Project. Prior to her work at SHRA, Ms. Davis oversaw the California State PTA's School Smarts Parent Engagement Program, which was honored by the White House in 2014 for increased support for the educational attainment of the Hispanic community. She also led statewide grassroots mobilization campaigns to restore domestic violence shelter funding in California and began her career as an executive director of a domestic violence shelter in the Teton Mountains. Ms. Davis studied International Sustainable Development at Sewanee: The University of the South and holds a Masters in Strategic Communications from National University.



**Tiffany Rosso**, Executive Director, Alchemist CDC

Tiffany Rosso joined the Alchemist CDC Team as Executive Director in 2017. She received her BA in Environmental Studies from San Jose State University and earned her Masters of Nonprofit Administration from University of San Francisco. Tiffany has over 20 years nonprofit experience and her professional accomplishments include nonprofit development, volunteer and events planning, and program management. She has worked for several Bay Area and Sacramento-

based nonprofits, including Off the Mat – Into the World, March of Dimes, and California Musical Theatre. She is passionate about her nonprofit work and provides tools and resources to empower organizations to build capacity and scale programs to maximize mission impact. She takes a collaborative approach to nonprofit management and aligns her work with her core values of integrity, community engagement, and sustainability.



**Torin Dunnivant**, Director of Education & Engagement, Sacramento Tree Foundation

Torin joined the Sacramento Tree Foundation in the spring of 2017, returning to his beloved hometown after living in Los Angeles for ten years. As the Director of Education and Engagement at the Tree Foundation he oversees the community programming element of the organization, working on constituent engagement, behavior change, communications and strategic planning. He has worked in the

environmental sector for thirteen years, previously with TreePeople, Friends of the River and the California Wild Heritage Campaign. He studied Political Communications and Rhetoric at San Francisco State University.

**Traci Canfield**, Sacramento Regional Transit

Ms. Canfield has been with Sacramento Regional Transit since 2003, initially in community outreach and the past 13 years in long range planning developing infrastructure, obtaining funding, and facilitating transit oriented development. This month she began a new role as Acting TOD and Real Estate Manager for SacRT where she will focus on surplus disposition, transit oriented developments, land acquisition, etc.



**Rebekah Casey**, GRID Alternatives

Rebekah Casey is the Deputy Director for GRID Alternatives North Valley. She oversees the business and fund development strategy, workforce development and training, government and utility partnerships for the nonprofit. Rebekah is a northern California native with a passion for renewable energy at its intersection with housing and environmental justice.





### **Isaac Dozier**, Urban Strategies

Mr. Dozier is Regional Vice President for USI. Mr. Dozier brings over 15 years of experience in Human Capital Development, project management and social services delivery to communities, including working for both public and private agencies to develop sustainable service delivery infrastructures for public housing communities undergoing physical revitalization. He specializes in supportive services strategic planning, community engagement, resident capacity building and relocation support for the CNI in San Francisco

and Sacramento, along with new business development.

## **ON THE BUS**



### **Ella Wise**, Acting Co-Director, ClimatePlan

Ella works with ClimatePlan partners to reform state legislative and administrative policy for more sustainable, equitable land use and transportation. She brings experience as a planner at Dyett & Bhatia Urban and Regional Planners, where she developed general and specific plans, as well as zoning code regulations for cities throughout California. She also worked to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through state land use and transportation policy as a Policy Associate with the Natural Resources Defense Council. Ella received her Master's

in City Planning from UC Berkeley and her Bachelor's in Environmental Studies from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



### **Josh Stark**, State Policy Director, TransForm

Joshua advocates for TransForm's statewide goals at the Capitol and through building coalitions with our many allies. Before coming to TransForm, Joshua represented a number of nonprofit environmental and environmental justice organizations at the state and federal levels, including the National Parks Conservation Association. He helped build diverse alliances at the state level and in the Central Valley, and represented organizations through Spanish language media. Before

taking on policy work Joshua worked in agriculture, education, park management and outdoor guiding. Joshua and his family live in West Sacramento, where they enjoy the Delta river life - paddling, fishing, hunting and camping. And, though he enjoys his two mile walk to work, he can't wait for the trolley service to start. Joshua received his BA in Social Science in 1998 and his teaching credential in 2000, both from California State University at Sacramento.



**Corey Brown**, Program Officer/Attorney, Resources Legacy Fund

Corey Brown serves as a strategic policy advisor and program officer on a diverse portfolio of issues, including climate change, land use, park protection, urban rivers, and river restoration. In the past, Corey served as executive director of the Big Sur Land Trust, government affairs director for The Trust for Public Land (Western Region), general counsel for the Planning and Conservation League, legal counsel for Friends of the River, and Assembly Fellow with the California State Legislature. He also served as adjunct professor at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law and as visiting lecturer at UC Davis. He is a graduate of the UC Davis School of Law.



**Ron Milam**, Interim Director, Smart Growth California

Ron Milam joined Smart Growth California in 2014 as the coordinator of the Los Angeles Funders' Collaborative and currently serves as Smart Growth California's interim director. Ron brings 17 years of leadership experience in the nonprofit sector, having served over 150 sustainability-oriented organizations as a consultant. Ron is skilled at developing leadership, building stronger teams, improving organizational effectiveness, and facilitating collaborative change. He brings an understanding of issues related to transportation, land use, environment, health, arts and education. He served as the founding executive director of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition. Under Ron's leadership, the organization grew from an idea into a 1,000 member organization. Ron studied planning, public policy, and management at the University of Oregon, and has a Masters in Organization Development from Pepperdine University, where he wrote his thesis on managing collaborative change efforts in Southern California.