



LOS ANGELES AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ENERGY, WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Chairs: Brissa Sotelo-Vargas, Valero
Co-Chairs: Noah Perch-Ahern, Glaser Weil
Frank Lopez, Southern California Gas Company
David Jacot, LA Department of Water and Power
Thomas Wong, Southern California Edison

ENERGY, WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL

February 7, 2019

10AM-11:30AM

1. WELCOME & SELF-INTRODUCTIONS- Brissa Sotelo-Vargas

2. PRESENTATIONS

LA's Energy, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice Committee 2019 Priorities

• **Councilwoman Nury Martinez**

Los Angeles City Council, Council District 6

Councilwoman Martinez was elected to represent Los Angeles' Sixth District in 2013, which includes the San Fernando Valley, North Hollywood and Van Nuys. She is President Pro-Tem of the Council and Chair of the Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee. Since her time on the Council she has led major initiatives on mitigating environmental pollution and its impacts, fighting to end human trafficking, and empowering women. The Councilwoman will share her priorities for 2019 with us.

Q&A

Measure W Implementation Panel

- **Shahram Kharaghani** (LASAN), **Matt Frary** (LA County), **Judith Ibarra-Bianchetta** (Tetra Tech), and **Gil Crozes** (Carollo Engineers)

In 2018, Los Angeles County voters approved Measure W, the Safe, Clean Water Parcel Tax, to address the region's storm water challenges. The County will begin collecting tax revenue to implement the program in 2020. This panel will discuss implementation and next steps from the LA County, LA City Sanitation and private sector perspective.

Q&A

3. UPDATES

- 2019 Advocacy Agenda
- State legislative items

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

- ACCESS: D.C. March 11-13

Next Energy, Water and Environmental Sustainability Council In-person

April 4

Ad-hoc Legislative Update Call TBD – Contact Kendal Asuncion at kasuncion@lachamber.com for details



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Honorable Nury Martinez
Los Angeles City Council

Councilwoman Nury Martinez is the Assistant President Pro-Tem of the Los Angeles City Council. As one of only two women elected out of 18 Los Angeles city offices, Councilwoman Martinez is also the first Latina to ever hold a leadership position on the Council.

Representing Los Angeles' Sixth District, Councilwoman Martinez is dedicated to bringing basic government services to the often-underserved communities she represents. She is committed to improving residents' quality of life, from fixing sidewalks and roads, to removing trash, debris and bulky items from neighborhood streets. Councilwoman Martinez is also devoted to ensuring safe neighborhoods, in which Valley families and children can live, play and thrive.

At City Hall, Councilwoman Martinez leads the Council on several major initiatives, including the fight to end human trafficking, empowering and ensuring parity for women, and mitigating environment pollution and its impacts.

Councilwoman Martinez was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley. A lifelong advocate for her community, she represented the much of the East Valley on the L.A. Unified School Board from 2009 through 2013. A proud product of the public school system and the first in her family to graduate from college, Councilwoman Martinez led the School Board in expanding access to quality education for all communities.

The daughter of immigrant parents, Councilwoman Martinez learned early on the importance of hard work and community involvement. Every day, her father took the bus from Pacoima to his dishwashing job in Sherman Oaks, while her mother worked on an assembly line at the Price Pfister factory in Pacoima. Her mother's union job provided healthcare coverage for the entire family. When Price Pfister announced plans to relocate to Mexico, Councilwoman Martinez organized the community to save local jobs and help impacted, hardworking families.

On July 23, 2013, Councilwoman Martinez was elected to the Los Angeles City Council in a special election. She was re-elected to City Council on March 3, 2015. In addition to serving as Assistant President Pro-Tem of the Council, she is Chair of the Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee, Vice-Chair of the Transportation Committee, and a member of the Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights and Equity Committee, and the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee.

Councilwoman Martinez is a graduate of San Fernando High School and California State University at Northridge. She and her husband Gerry live in Sun Valley with their daughter, Isabelle.



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Shahram Kharaghani

Program Manager

City of Los Angeles, LA Sanitation and Environment

Dr. Shahram Kharaghani currently provides leadership to the City of Los Angeles as Program Manager relating to storm water pollution abatement and flood control infrastructure needs. He is a Registered Professional Civil Engineer in the State of California and Board Certified Environmental Engineer with over 25 years of experience in the various aspects of engineering. Dr. Kharaghani is responsible in leading the City's compliance efforts with the Clean Water Act, the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and over twenty TMDL water quality regulations. Dr. Shahram Kharaghani takes a regional perspective on storm water issues, for the reason that the City covers approximately 465 square miles requiring an interagency coordinated effort with surrounding cities and county for strategic planning, program funding, and implementation of water quality improvement projects. As Manager of the City's Stormwater Program, he directs a \$35 million program within nine City bureaus and departments as well as administers the implementation of five storm water model programs in the areas of Illicit Connection/Discharge; Public Agencies; Construction & Development; and Planning & Engineering. He serves as the storm water quality expert/representative in the Leadership Committee that oversees implementation of the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and solicits funding for regional projects. He is a Board member of Council for the Watershed Health, a non-profit scientific organization emphasizing stormwater and water related issues. Dr. Shahram Kharaghani is currently leading the development of watershed-wide enhanced watershed management plans in the City through a stakeholder driven process. He has embraced green/blue strategy in improving water quality in the City of LA and has helped developing many green tools including the City's Low Impact Development ordinance, various green streets/alleys handbooks, and rainwater harvesting programs. Dr. Shahram Kharaghani assisted in the successful passage of Proposition O, a \$500M General Obligation Bond to improve water quality in the City. As the Prop O Planning Manager, he worked closely with the Prop O oversight committees to establish project selection criteria and then assisted to award the \$500M to 26 multi-purpose projects to improve water quality, habitat, water supply, open space, etc. He is currently overseeing the implementation of these projects



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Matt Frary
Acting Principal Engineer
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

Matt Frary has been serving the public on behalf of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works for over 15 years. He is currently leading the Department's staff efforts for all support services related to stormwater planning, including implementation of the Safe Clean Water Program passed by voters in November 2018.

His past experience includes design, operation, and management of flood control infrastructure and large-scale capital improvement projects, as well as administration of the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management efforts and overseeing the Department's strategic planning efforts related to stormwater management and infrastructure.

Mr. Frary is a registered Civil Engineer in the State of California. He received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering with a minor in economics from the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado.



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Judith Ibarra-Bianchetta

Vice President and Director of Client Services
Tetra Tech

Judith is currently Vice President and Director of Client Services for Tetra Tech based out of the firm's Pasadena office. She is responsible for client service, business development, and strategic planning activities for water, environment and infrastructure services throughout the Southwestern United States.

She brings over 19 years of diverse consulting experience in the areas of business development, operations, program/project management, government affairs, and community relations. She has served in a variety of leadership roles in Texas and California for both Water and Transportation Business Lines including Operations Lead, Client Account Manager, Client Service Manager, and Area Manager. Judith is a proud graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. She is a licensed Professional Engineer, Certified Floodplain Manager and Certified Envision Sustainability Professional.

Judith is passionate about: sustainable infrastructure through multi-disciplined approaches, bringing solutions to complex infrastructure challenges, communicating technical information to non-technical communities, and STEM advocacy.



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Gil Crozes
Senior Vice President
Carollo Engineers

Dr. Gil Crozes, Ph.D., is a Senior Vice President with Carollo Engineers and our firm's operational lead in the Los Angeles region. He is actively participating in multiple alternative delivery projects, both as an owner's advisor and as the engineer on design-built teams. He currently oversees the procurement of the Hyperion Treatment Plant AWWPF and the Donald C. Tillman AWWPF via a progressive-design-build delivery method. Gil has been involved in water for over 25 years, leading a variety of engineering, applied research, water resources, and planning projects many of them in the City of LA. Gil is in tune with the City dynamics and policies regarding water and interacts routinely with many stakeholders and other influencers in Los Angeles.

ENERGY, WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Energy, Water & Environmental Sustainability Council focuses on advancing cost-effective policies and programs that ensure reliable and affordable water and energy delivery, improve air quality, and promote economic growth in Los Angeles through the local development of technologies, businesses and jobs.

Review cost impacts of and responsibly implement air quality regulations

The Chamber will work with local, state and federal environmental agencies and the Chamber's Transportation & Goods Movement Council to understand the availability, cost-effectiveness and feasibility of alternative fuels for commercial and personal vehicle use in order to help meet anticipated air quality standards in the region, in addition to following implementation of the Air Quality Management District's 2016 Air Quality Management Plan in order to achieve compliance. The Chamber will also closely monitor federal environmental standards at the Environmental Protection Agency and the State, specifically AB32 and SB32, while quantifying the impact of these new standards on the economy of California.

Secure safe, reliable and affordable water supplies for Southern California

Securing a safe, reliable and affordable water supply is critical to the continued success of L.A.'s economy. The Chamber supports the State's co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply and storage for California and restoring the Delta ecosystem. Recognizing that a reliable water source is critical to Southern California, Metropolitan Water District voted to support California WaterFix in 2018. As a supporter of WaterFix, the Chamber will continue to advocate for the state-wide adoption and implementation of the project. The Chamber will also identify feasible and cost-effective augmentations to imported water in order to secure the long-term water quality and supply of the region, taking into account existing infrastructure investments, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Metropolitan Water District shared objectives of maintaining their existing infrastructure and enhancing the diversity of the region's water supply resources, including recycled, stormwater water, conservation, mitigation and remediation efforts.

Advocate for technology-neutral, cost-effective, reliable and diverse energy supply

The Chamber recognizes that businesses must have an affordable, diverse and reliable energy supply with storage capacity for the regional economy to remain productive and competitive. The Chamber will work with members and policymakers to understand the options, feasibility and costs for investments in alternative energy supply, including the related infrastructure and operational costs of integrating alternatives into the existing power systems. The Chamber will support domestic energy production and maintenance of the region's existing energy systems and supplies, including the integrity and safety of our regional pipeline infrastructure. Additionally, with increasingly destructive wildfires, the Chamber will support safe, efficient investments in electric infrastructure, and modernization of wildfire response and liability as the state confronts a "new normal."

Strengthen Los Angeles' position as a global leader of clean technology innovation

California is a global leader of clean technology innovation and sustainable business practices. The Chamber will advocate for economic strategies that will continue to help L.A.'s clean technology sector grow. This includes pursuing state and federal funding opportunities, streamlining government processes, and working in conjunction with organizations such as the LA CleanTech Incubator, PortTechLA and the Chamber's Bixel Exchange to increase collaboration among the private, public and academic sectors.

Modernize California's Environmental Quality Act

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) must be modernized to preserve the law's original intent while preventing abuse for purposes unrelated to environmental protection. The Chamber supports substantive improvements and will continue to engage in a statewide coalition effort advocating for a "standards approach," which will integrate California's strongest-in-the-nation environmental laws and planning documents into the CEQA process, streamline the project approval and challenge processes, and reduce the risk of lawsuits that abuse the intent of CEQA and delay development, jobs and economic recovery. Cross-sector and council collaboration with the Chambers' Land Use, Housing and Construction and Transport and Goods Movement Councils on CEQA reform is important to effectively meet housing needs and emission reduction requirements.

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