

**Chairmans' Roundtable: Stepping Up to 2020's Challenges**  
*Thursday, September 17, 2020 (9:30 AM to 10:30 AM)*

**MODERATOR**



**Paul Granillo**

*President & CEO, Inland Empire Economic Partnership and Board Member, Mobility 21*

Paul Granillo has served as President and CEO of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership since 2010. IEEP has a strong policy focus and works in Washington D.C., Sacramento and locally to ensure the San Bernardino and Riverside Counties issues are well represented. Paul has also put a special focus on leadership training for the regions public and private sector next generation.

Paul sits on many National and Statewide Boards including UnidosUS, the Regional Economic Association Leaders of California and the Campaign for College Opportunity. Paul is a current board member and Past-Chair of Mobility 21 as well as the California Stewardship Network. He has also served as Past-Chair of the California Economic Summit and is a member of its Steering Committee. In 2018, Paul was named Regional Steward of the Year by the California Economic Summit for his work, on behalf of businesses and residents of the Inland Empire, and was also honored for that work by the California State Legislature.

Additionally, Paul serves on the SCAG Global Land Use and Economics Committee, the California State University San Bernardino Foundation, the Leonard Transportation Center, and Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation.

**PANELISTS**



**Hon. Claudia Bill-de la Peña**

*Chairwoman, Ventura County Transportation Commission and Mayor Pro Tem, City of Thousand Oaks*

Mayor Pro Tem Claudia Bill-de la Peña has lived in Thousand Oaks since 1995. She and her husband, Dr. Ron de la Peña, an OB-GYN, are raising their twin boys, Dante and Luca, in what they want to be a safe and healthy environment for generations to come.

Before voters elected Mayor Pro Tem Bill-de la Peña to the City Council in 2002, the late Councilmember and former Mayor, Edward Masry, appointed her to the Planning Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Bill-de la Peña was a quick study of city planning and has been applying the same dogged scrutiny to city matters as she did in her full-time position as an Emmy Award-winning news writer at a Los Angeles television station.

In 2005, while serving as Mayor, Bill-de la Peña had a busy schedule conducting the affairs of the city. On top of everything, she attended the National League of Cities convention in Chicago in June while pregnant, and later in August, gave birth to twin sons, Dante and Luca. Mayor Pro Tem Bill-de la Peña did not miss a meeting during the entire year! Further, while on the Council, she enrolled at California Lutheran University at her own cost – not the taxpayers' – and obtained her master's degree.

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### **Hon. Eric Garcetti**

*Chairman, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
and Mayor, City of Los Angeles*

Mayor Eric Garcetti is a fourth-generation Angeleno and the 42nd Mayor of Los Angeles. Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley — the son of public servants and the grandson and great-grandson of immigrants from Mexico and Eastern Europe — Mayor Garcetti's life has been shaped by a deep commitment to the core values of justice, dignity, and equality for all people.

These ideals have fueled the Mayor's relentless drive to fulfill our common obligation: to give children and families of every race, faith, background, and income the chance to get a good education, live on safe streets, earn a decent wage, breathe clean air, drink clean water, receive affordable medical and child care, and build a future of their own choosing.

Angelenos are experiencing the remarkable results of his vision and leadership: Mayor Garcetti led and won a campaign to pass the boldest local infrastructure initiative in American history, funding a once-in-a-generation expansion of public transportation. He launched the L.A. College Promise, one of the most ambitious higher education access programs in the nation — serving more than 15,000 students, many of whom are overcoming poverty and are the first in their families to pursue the dream of higher education. He is confronting a homelessness crisis by leading an unprecedented regional alliance committed to getting people off the streets and ending chronic homelessness. He put more money in workers' pockets by raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and cut business taxes to help drive a historic economic recovery that has created a record number of jobs in legacy industries like entertainment and aerospace. And in 2018, he formed a historic partnership with the philanthropic sector to refurbish nearly 350 athletic courts across the city — to support his plan for universal sports and fitness programs that are both free and local for all children in Los Angeles.

The Mayor's leadership is making an extraordinary impact on the national and international stages: he rallied more than 400 mayors in cities across America to adopt the Paris Climate agreement after the Trump Administration pulled out of the pact. He led the first National Day of Action on Immigration and has put unprecedented local resources toward providing Dreamers and others with legal aid to fight deportation. He signed America's strongest earthquake retrofit law to protect thousands of people's lives from natural disaster. And he successfully led the bid to bring the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games to the United States for the first time in more than 30 years. He has lived and worked in Europe, Asia, and Africa and appointed Los Angeles' first Deputy Mayor for International Affairs to expand L.A.'s global ties and bring more jobs, economic opportunity, culture, education, and visitors to the city.

While Mayor Garcetti has taken on these enormous challenges, he has also reimagined how city government delivers the most basic services. Since July 2013, L.A. has paved 14,750 lane miles of road; cut the average pothole repair time by half; implemented a \$1.4 billion plan to repair every sidewalk in every community, and greatly expanded the number of trees in neighborhoods across the city. He created Clean Streets L.A. — a block-by-block assessment of 9,100 miles of streets that identifies neighborhoods with the most needs and prioritizes delivery of resources. Under his leadership, L.A. has been rated the nation's best-run city by the Bloomberg What Works Cities initiative and become the number-one solar energy city in America.

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The Mayor's government service began on the L.A. City Council, where he spent four terms as Council President before being elected Mayor in 2013 and winning re-election in 2017 by the widest margin in the history of Los Angeles.

Beyond his time at City Hall, Mayor Garcetti has served his country as an intelligence officer in the United States Navy Reserve and taught at the University of Southern California and Occidental College.

The Mayor received his B.A. and M.A. from Columbia University, and studied as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, and later at the London School of Economics. He is also a jazz pianist and photographer.

He and his wife, First Lady Amy Elaine Wakeland, are the proud parents of a daughter, Maya, and have been foster parents for more than a decade.



### **Hon. Jan Harnik**

*Vice Chairwoman, Riverside County Transportation Authority and Councilmember, City of Palm Desert*

Councilmember Jan Harnik was elected to the Palm Desert City Council in 2010 and has twice served as Mayor.

Complementing her service on the Council, Councilmember Harnik serves on the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) Transportation Committee and on the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission. Jan also serves on the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) as First Vice-Chair and on the Commission's

Executive Committee.

Additionally, she is Second Vice President of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), serving on SCAG's Regional Council, Transportation Committee, Audit Committee, Executive Administration Committee, and Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee.

Knowing the importance of visitors to Palm Desert and the surrounding Coachella Valley, Councilmember Harnik represents the City of Palm Desert on the Executive Committee of the Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau. She serves on the executive board for the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP), the McCallum Theatre's Board of Trustees, and in her personal time is co-president of the Girlfriend Factor – an organization dedicated to helping local disadvantaged women, 25 years of age and up, re-enter the work force by providing grants for education.

She is past president of the Palm Desert High School Foundation, a non-profit corporation supporting academic excellence at Palm Desert High School. She worked with the organization from 2002 until 2012 helping to spearhead multi-year efforts to raise funds and to distribute resources to support and improve students' academic performance.

Recognizing the value of volunteerism and the increased quality of life it brings to our community and to the volunteer, Councilmember Harnik is dedicated to volunteering and encouraging others to do so. She believes that volunteering has helped make Palm Desert the

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wonderful place that it is and that the community's willingness and commitment to giving back supports an even brighter future.



### **Hon. Steve Jones**

*Chairman, Orange County Transportation Authority and Mayor, City of Garden Grove*

Mayor Steve Jones currently serves on the Garden Grove City Council after serving eight years on the Planning Commission, with several terms as Chair, and ten years on City Council prior to becoming Mayor in 2016.

In 1986, Mayor Jones graduated from Rancho Alamitos High School in Garden Grove. He continued his studies abroad by attending Kings College Cambridge University, England in 1988. Returning to the States, he received both his bachelor and MBA degrees from the University of Southern California, graduating with Honors with a dual emphasis in finance and real estate.

Mayor Jones is the Past President and a current Board Member of the Garden Grove Community Foundation, where he has served since 2007. In addition to the OCTA Board of Directors, Mayor Jones is a founding Board Member of the Association of California Cities and serves as a Board Member for the Orange County Sanitation District. Since 1999, he has been an active member of the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce.

In his professional life, Mayor Jones is the Founder and President of Olympia Capital Corporation, specializing in real estate investment, development, asset management, and equity capital syndication, formed in 2001.

Born and raised in Garden Grove, Mayor Jones and his wife, Manivone, are the proud parents of sons Jaden and Ashton.



### **Hon. George Nava**

*Chairman, Imperial County Transportation Commission and Councilmember, City of Brawley*

Councilmember George Nava was raised in the City of Brawley. Councilmember Nava is community-minded and is an advocate for a healthy local business climate. As a local business owner, he understands the challenges that business owners and operators face. When Councilmember Nava first ran for a seat on the City Council, his motivation was to see changes in the way the City administration worked with business owners and residents. Today, his focus continues to be championing positive change in the City of Brawley.

As a Councilmember, he is currently representing the City of Brawley on the Imperial County Transportation Commission, and currently serves as its Chairperson. Councilmember Nava is active in many community organizations and efforts, and he remains dedicated to improving the prosperity of the community and its social environment.

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Councilmember Nava is a licensed real estate and mortgage broker, and he has a Master of Business Administration degree from National University and a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from San Jose State University. He and his wife, Adriana, have two children, son, George Anthony, and daughter, Abigail.



### **Hon. Frank Navarro**

*Chairman, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority and Mayor, City of Colton*

Mayor Frank Navarro was first elected in 2012 as Council Member representing District 3. In 2015, his Council colleagues appointed him to serve a one-year term as Mayor Pro Tempore. Then in 2018, he was elected to serve as Mayor. The Honorable Mayor Navarro, also represents the City of Colton as a member on several local /regional agencies and committees including:

- Chair of General Policy Committee (SBCTA)
- Colton Finance Committee
- Inland Valley Development Agency Board member
- Location Agency Formation Commission
- Metro Valley Study Session (SBCTA)
- OmniTrans Board Member
- San Bernardino County Flood Zone 2
- San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership
- San Bernardino International Airport Authority
- So. California Association of Governments (SCAG) Executive Administration Committee
- So. California Association of Governments (SCAG) FirstNet Sub-Committee
- So. California Association of Governments (SCAG) Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- So. California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Council, Dist. 6 Rep.
- So. California Association of Governments (SCAG) Transportation Committee
- Traffic Safety Committee
- Transit Committee (SBCTA)
- Vice President San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA)

His objectives as the City of Colton Mayor is to serve the community as a whole including:

- Assurance of prosperous business development and retention
- Oversight of City's financial stability
- Networking with other agencies to ensure regional transportation projects benefit Colton and surrounding communities.