

**AM 1: Chairs' Roundtable: Authors of Innovation and Policy**  
*Magic Kingdom 1*

**MODERATOR**



**Carl Guardino**  
*Chair, California Transportation Commission*

Carl Guardino serves as the Vice President of Government Affairs at Tarana Wireless, whose mission is to “accelerate the world’s progress on closing its persistent digital divide through faster, more affordable broadband for literally billions of people on the planet.”

Prior to joining Tarana Wireless, he served as the Executive Vice President of Global Government Affairs and Policy for Bloom Energy, and nearly 24 years as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, a public policy trade association that represents more than 350 of Silicon Valley’s most respected employers.

In February 2007, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Carl to a four-year term on the California Transportation Commission. He was reappointed twice by Governor Jerry Brown, and in 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed him to his fourth consecutive four-year term.

In 2000, the San Jose Mercury News named Carl one of the “Five Most Powerful” people in Silicon Valley, in a once-per-decade “Power Study.” He received similar recognition in 2010.

Carl also held an executive position in governmental affairs with Hewlett-Packard and he spent six years on the staff of Central Valley Assemblyman Rusty Areias, the last three as his chief assistant.

Known throughout the region as a consensus builder, Carl has championed a number of successful ballot measures, especially in the areas of transportation and housing.

His transportation leadership includes successful management of ballot Measures A & B in 1996 that funded 19 key road and rail improvements with \$1.4 billion; and co-managed a 2000 traffic relief initiative that will generate some \$7.5 billion in local funds to bring BART to Santa Clara County, improve CalTrain and other transit improvements. In 2008, Carl managed the successful Measure B (BART) campaign which earned nearly 67 percent voter approval. It authorized a 1/8-cent sales tax for 30 years to fund a 16-mile Santa Clara County BART extension. Carl led a 3-year effort that culminated in “Measure B” on the November, 2016 ballot, which will generate an additional \$6.5 billion in local funds for traffic relief improvements. Measure B passed with 71.74 percent of the vote. Most recently, in June of 2018, Carl co-led the Bay Area’s first 9-County transportation measure – Regional Measure 3 – which will generate \$4.5 Billion in its first 25 years.

As a housing advocate, he co-created the Housing Trust Silicon Valley, which has helped 30,000 people afford homes in high-cost Silicon Valley by raising more than \$250 million in voluntary contributions. He also co-managed Prop. 46, the statewide Housing Bond, in 2002, co-chaired Prop. 1-C, the November 2006 statewide Housing Bond, and, most recently, co-led Propositions 1 and 2 on the November, 2018 ballot, generating \$6 billion for affordable housing.

Carl is the founder and former race director of the annual Thanksgiving Day Applied Materials “Silicon Valley Turkey Trot,” which has nearly 25,000 participants. In 15 years, it has raised nearly \$10 million for local charities. He is also the founder of the Google “Santa Run Silicon Valley” to benefit Christmas in the Park, and the Lam Research “Heart & Soles 5K” to place

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*Magic Kingdom 1*

salad bars in Silicon Valley public schools. Carl also is on the boards of California Stewardship Network and the California League of Conservation Voters.

Carl was born and raised in San Jose and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from San Jose State University, where he is a Distinguished Alumnus. He is a member of Junior Achievement's "Silicon Valley Business Hall of Fame" and the recipient of the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from City Year, and was the second recipient of the American Public Transit Association's "Business Executive of the Year."

Carl is married to Leslee Guardino. In their spare time, they compete in marathons, triathlons and duathlons. They have two daughters, Jessica and Siena, and one son, Jake.

### **PANELISTS**



#### **Hon. Rick Denison**

*Councilmember, Town of Yucca Valley and Vice President, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority*

Councilmember Rick Denison was elected to the Yucca Valley Town Council in 2014 and served as Mayor Pro Tem in 2017 and as Yucca Valley's Mayor for 2018 and 2022. Running unopposed in his district in the November 2018 General Election, the Town Council appointed him to the Council for a term ending in 2022. In 2022, Councilmember Denison was re-elected by his constituents to serve an additional four-year term ending in 2026.

Councilmember Denison also represents Yucca Valley as a San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) Board Member, currently serving as Vice-Chair. Through SBCTA, Councilmember Denison serves on the Mountain Desert Policy Committee, the General Policy Committee, the Legislative Policy Committee and Transit Committee. Additionally, Councilmember Denison serves as a Regional Council Member, Energy and Environment Committee Member, and Voting Delegate for Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Councilmember Denison currently serves as the alternate City representative on the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

Serving Yucca Valley, Councilmember Denison's prioritizes public safety, infrastructure, and technology. Councilmember Denison is highly active in the community, supporting various functions and non-profit and charitable organizations, contributing to the quality of life in Yucca Valley.

Prior to his recent retirement, Councilmember Denison's professional background was as a Battalion Chief in the Mojave Desert area for the San Bernardino County Fire Department, with relevant education focused on primarily incident management, hazardous materials, search and rescue, and medical services. He also served on various Southern California Incident Management Teams for ten years with the primary goal of protecting life, property, and priority consideration to the environment.

A long-time resident of Yucca Valley, Councilmember Denison and his wife Kathy have raised two beautiful daughters and is retired from a 32-year public safety career.

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**Hon. Fernando Dutra**

*Councilmember, City of Whittier and 1st Vice Chair, LA Metro*

Councilmember Fernando Dutra was elected in April 2018 and re-elected in 2022 to represent District 4 for four years after being elected citywide in April 2014 to a four-year term. Councilmember Dutra was initially appointed by the City Council in August 2012 to fill the remaining term of the Council seat vacated by Greg Nordbak.

Councilmember Dutra and his wife, Mary, have three children—Sara, Megan, and Eric. The Dutras have lived in Whittier since 1987. Councilmember Dutra is President of Allwest Development Company and holds licenses for general building contractor and general engineering.

Councilmember Dutra served as a Member of the Planning Commission for six years from 2006 to 2012 and has served as Chairman of the Commission. Prior to his term on the Planning Commission, he served for six years on the Design Review Board. He has chaired the Metro Light Rail Extension Project Washington Boulevard Coalition; sits on the Whittier YMCA Board of Directors; and has served on the St. Gregory Parish Board. On March 8, 2021, Councilmember Dutra was appointed to the Los Angeles County Metro Board and is 1st Vice Chair, serves on the Metro Executive Management Committee as Vice Chair and is Chair of the MTA Construction Committee. He has also been appointed to the Los Angeles - San Diego - San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency and is Chair of the Gateway Cities Affordable Housing Trust Board.



**Hon. Matt LaVere**

*Supervisor, County of Ventura and Chair, Ventura County Transportation Commission*

Supervisor Matt LaVere was elected to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in March 2020 and formally took office as the District 1 Supervisor in December 2020.

Supervisor LaVere is a 2nd generation Ventura County native. He grew up in Ventura and Ojai, attending Loma Vista Elementary School, Mira Monte Elementary School, Matilija Junior High School and Villanova Preparatory School. Following graduation from Villanova, Supervisor LaVere attended Pepperdine University where he earned a bachelor's degree with honors and distinction in 2000. Supervisor LaVere earned his law degree from the Pepperdine University School of Law.

Professionally, Supervisor LaVere is an attorney specializing in business and agricultural issues. He previously served as the Mayor of Ventura and has held positions in the White House, as a legislative aide on Capitol Hill, and worked a six-month position with the United States Attorney's Office Organized Crime Strike Force in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Supervisor LaVere has also served on the Board of Directors for Project Understanding, the Downtown Ventura Rotary Club, and continues to serve as an Executive Board Member of the Ventura College Foundation, which supports the thousands of students attending Ventura College through scholarships, free textbooks and other assistance.

**AM 1: Chairs' Roundtable: Authors of Innovation and Policy**  
*Magic Kingdom 1*

Supervisor LaVere lives in Ventura with his wife Alicia and his two daughters Lucia and Lorenza.



**Tam T. Nguyen**  
*Chair, Orange County Transportation Authority*

Chair Tam T. Nguyen serves as a Public Member on the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors. He joined the Board in April 2021 and currently serves as a member of OCTA's Executive, Finance and Administration, Legislative and Communications Committees, as well as OCTA's Diverse Leaders Group. Tam also serves as one of Orange County's representatives to the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink) Board of Directors.

Tam is the second-generation family business owner of the national award-winning Advance Beauty College, graduating more than 50,000 trained professionals over its 37-year history. Tam serves in numerous community and business leadership roles. In addition to Chairing the OCTA Board of Directors with a \$1.7-billion budget, Tam serves as a board member of MemorialCare Orange County Hospitals and Chairs the Cal State Fullerton Philanthropic Board of Governors & Small Business Diversity Network. Tam is also a founding board member of Genesis Bank and the Genesis for Good Foundation.

One of Tam's most notable contributions was cofounding Nailing It For America, a volunteer initiative that collected and delivered \$30 million worth of personal protective equipment and 80,000 restaurant meals to healthcare professionals, frontline workers and vulnerable community members during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chair Tam T. Nguyen was born in Vietnam and raised in both Los Angeles and Orange County. He graduated from UC Irvine and Cal State Fullerton and earned an MBA and a medical degree. Tam and his wife Christine have three children who enjoy music, sports, and travel.



**Hon. Lloyd White**  
*Councilmember, City of Beaumont and Chair, Riverside County Transportation Commission*

Councilmember Lloyd White grew up in Escondido. He graduated from UCLA, with an Economics degree in 1994 and earned an MBA from University of Redlands in 2004.

Since 1997, Councilmember White has been employed by ESRI, the world's leading Geographic Information Systems Software Company as a Software Developer on their Business Intelligence team in Redlands.

In 2014, Councilmember White was elected to the Beaumont City Council and was re-elected in 2018 and again in 2022. In his first three months on Beaumont's Council, Councilmember White worked with the FBI and local District Attorney's office to expose a \$40 million+ scandal leading to the arrests and felony guilty pleas for the City Manager, Finance Director, and 3 department

## **AM 1: Chairs' Roundtable: Authors of Innovation and Policy**

### *Magic Kingdom 1*

heads of Planning, Economic Development, and Public Works. The Chief of Police also plead guilty to misuse of public funds.

He has represented the citizens of Riverside County on Riverside County's Transportation Commission (RCTC) since 2015; serving as the Chair of RCTC's Budget and Implementation and RCTC's Toll Policy committee. He currently serves as RCTC's Chair.

Councilmember White has also served on the Western Riverside Council of Governments' (WRCOG) Executive Board and as a Director on the Eastern Riverside County Interoperable Communications Authority (ERICA).