

AM 1: Chairs' Roundtable: Power of Partnership

Magic Kingdom 1

MODERATOR



Aaron Hake

Executive Director, Riverside County Transportation Commission and Chair, Mobility 21

Aaron Hake serves as Executive Director of the Riverside County Transportation Commission and the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority where he serves a Commission of 32 elected officials and one Governor's appointee. He leads a professional staff of 80 across nine departments and annual budget of over one billion dollars. Aaron has served RCTC for 19 years. In 2023 RCTC's Executive Committee unanimously selected Aaron to lead RCTC, tasking him with implementing Riverside county's multi-modal transportation and conservation vision.

As a civic leader in Riverside County, Aaron has served as Chair of the Riverside County Planning Commission, the City of Corona Planning Commission, and Treasurer of the City of Corona. He has served as Board Chair of the Inland Southern California United Way and has participated on numerous other local nonprofit boards of directors. His efforts have earned him recognition, including the WTS Inland Empire Chapter Secretary Ray LaHood Award, the Pick Group of Young Professionals IMPACT Award for Civic Leadership, and the 30 Under 30 by the Corona Chamber of Commerce.

Over the years, Aaron's leadership at RCTC has placed him at the forefront of transportation policy and funding in Riverside County, throughout southern California, in Sacramento, and in Washington. With the support of the best Commission and best staff in California, Aaron's career efforts have resulted in funding and legislation impacting nearly every highway and public transit corridor in Riverside County. This year, Aaron serves as Board Chair of Mobility 21, Southern California's public-private transportation advocacy coalition.

Aaron earned a bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy from American University, a master's of public administration from USC, and is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government Senior Executives in Local and State Government program.

PANELISTS



Hon. Doug Chaffee

Supervisor, County of Orange and Chair, Orange County Transportation Authority

Supervisor Doug Chaffee currently serves as the Fourth District Supervisor of the Orange County Board of Supervisors. He joined the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors in January 2019.

Supervisor Chaffee was elected to the Fullerton City Council in June 2012 and served as Mayor in 2018. Prior to joining the Council, he served as Chairman of the Fullerton Planning Commission and past president of both the Fullerton United Way and Sunrise Rotary Club.

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Active in the Fullerton community, Supervisor Chaffee served on the board of the North Orange County YMCA and the Advisory Board of Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Service. He is a member of Friends of Jazz and the Sierra Club and was a past recipient of the Mr. YMCA award.

In addition to his public service, Supervisor Chaffee is a Business Attorney, practicing law for more than 40 years in downtown Fullerton.

Supervisor Chaffee is a graduate of Fullerton Union High School in 1961 and graduated with a BA in Economics from the University of Redlands in 1965 and a JD from the Northwestern University School of Law in 1968.

He and his bride of 36 years, Paulette, have two grown sons, both raised in Fullerton.



Hon. Rick Denison

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

Rick Denison has served as a Town Council Member in Yucca Valley since 2014. During his tenure, he served as Yucca Valley's Mayor in 2018 and 2022 and will continue to serve his community through the current term, which concludes in December 2026.

Additionally, Councilmember Denison represents Yucca Valley regionally as the current President of the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority and Council of Governments. Through SBCTA, he serves on the Mountain Desert Policy Committee, General Policy Committee, Legislative Policy Committee, and Transit Committee. Furthermore, he serves as a Regional Council Member for the Southern California Association of Governments and is Chair for the Energy and Environment Committee. He also serves as the alternate City representative on the Local Agency Formation Commission.

Councilmember Denison's professional background as a Battalion Chief for the San Bernardino County Fire Department provided the foundation for his current priorities of sustainable public safety, infrastructure, and technology programs. Councilmember Denison remains highly active in the local community, contributing to the quality of life in Yucca Valley.

Councilmember Denison and his wife, Kathy, have raised two beautiful daughters and enjoy the beautiful desert that he calls home.



Hon. Fernando Dutra

Councilmember, City of Whittier and Chair, LA Metro

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.

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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 currently 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. Mike Judge

Mayor Pro Tem, City of Simi Valley and Chair, Ventura County Transportation Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Judge was elected to the City Council in November 2010. He has previously served as Mayor Pro Tem in 2013, 2017, 2020, and 2023. On February 10, 2025, he was appointed to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for a one-year term.

Mayor Pro Tem Judge retired from the Los Angeles Police Department in August 2021 after 31 years of service in law enforcement, spending most of his career in the northwest San Fernando Valley area. He served honorably in the United States Army from 1981 to 1985 and the California Army National Guard from 1985 to 1996.

Mayor Pro Tem Judge previously served on the Americans with Disabilities Act Paratransit Advisory Committee and the Simi Valley Arts Commission. He currently serves on the Affordable Housing Subcommittee, the Armed Forces Banner Advisory Committee, the E-Government Committee, the Residential Building Permit Allocation System Technical Advisory Committee, the Simi Valley Council On Aging, the Simi Valley Community Task Force on Heroin Prevention and the Simi Valley Library Board of Trustees.

Mayor Pro Tem Judge is also a liaison to Neighborhood Council #2, and is the City Council's representative to the League of California Cities, Channel Counties Division; the League of California Cities, Voting Delegate; Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance; Southern California Association of Governments – General Assembly Voting Representative, and Ventura County Transportation Commission.

Born in Encino, Mayor Pro Tem Judge came to Simi Valley as an infant and has called Simi Valley home ever since. His family's roots in the community predate the City's incorporation, going back to the 1950s when his grandparents settled here. He and his wife, Sarit, have three children.

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Hon. Karen Spiegel

Supervisor, County of Riverside and Chair, Riverside County Transportation Commission

Supervisor Spiegel has been an elected public servant since 1996, serving in several positions in the City of Corona, including City Treasurer and Council Member, and serving four times as Mayor. She was first elected to represent the Second Supervisorial District in November 2018 and was sworn into office for her second term on January 10, 2023.

She encourages community participation with City and County government and has introduced many new programs. Supervisor Spiegel has been credited for her leadership on regional transportation issues, collaboration, and regional partnerships.

In addition to the service in her District, Supervisor Spiegel represents Riverside County in leadership roles at the Regional and State level for several organizations. She is an energetic community member, and her "roll-up your sleeves" attitude has led her to immerse herself in various civic, business, and community activities.

Supervisor Spiegel graduated from California State University, Long Beach, and did her graduate studies at Pepperdine University, where she received a Master's Degree and was a Marriage Family Therapist (MFT).

Supervisor Spiegel and her husband, Bobby, of 40 years, have five adult children and three grandchildren. She treasures the time she can spend with her newest grandson, Jackson Paul, grandson RJ, and her granddaughter Makenna Rose, who adore their Bubbie (Supervisor Spiegel) and bring happiness and joy.