



*Spring Planning Forum
May 10, 2002*

Biographies



Cathy Bechtel
Director of Transportation Planning and Policy Development
Riverside County Transportation Commission

Cathy Bechtel heads the Commission's critical role of planning future projects and allocating millions of dollars in federal, state and Measure A transportation funding to local jurisdictions. Prior to her promotion as Director of Planning and Programming, Ms. Bechtel headed the Commission's transit departments, overseeing local public transit providers.

Ms. Bechtel has worked for the Commission since 1991 and has developed an exceptional relationship with local government officials and with representatives from local transit agencies. Her wide variety of experience in working with Riverside county government agencies has enabled the Commission to develop successful relationships with its constituent cities. Ms. Bechtel received her Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, San Bernardino.

Edward J. Blakely
Dean of the Milano Graduate School of
Management and Urban Policy
New York City

Edward J. Blakely (Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles) was the Lusk Professor of Planning and Development for the School of Urban Planning and Development at the University of Southern California until 1999. Dr. Blakely is an internationally recognized scholar in urban community development, and has also been a successful practitioner in strategic planning, financing, real estate development and project management. He serves on the National Academy of Sciences Panel on Urban Development and Transportation. He also serves as an advisor to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and to state governments in the United States, Australia, Sweden and Japan.

Dr. Blakely is the author of four books and more than 100 scholarly articles. His books include, Fortress America: Gated Communities in the United States (1997) and Planning Local Economic Development (1989). He has served on the Board of Directors of the American Planning Association and the Nature Conservancy and as advisor to the Los Angeles Public School District.

Jane C. Block
Advocate, Riverside County

Jane C. Block was born in Montana, later moving to Idaho where she attended Boise State University. Mrs. Block has provided many services to the City and County of Riverside by assuming duties as a board member for several organizations. She has served on the Multiple Species Habitat Plan Advisory Committee, Riverside City-County Child Care Committee (founding member), City of Riverside Citizen's Advisory Affirmative Action Committee, and the Strategic Vision Steering Committee to name just a few. Her dedicated work has allowed her to receive the YWCA Woman of Achievement Award in 2001, and the Soroptimist International Gold Key Award in 1991, 1999, she was elected to the Women's Hall of Fame by the University of California, Riverside Women's Resource Center.

Jane Block and her husband, Richard Block, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at UCR, have three children, Teri, Catherine and Charles. They have been residents of Riverside since 1968.

Chris Carlson Buydos
Director of Economic Development Initiatives
University of California, Riverside

Chris Buydos possesses a degree in Community & Regional Planning, and is a certified Planner with 15 years experience in the Inland Empire in urban planning, redevelopment & economic development, and public administration. Chris has worked for county and city agencies. Chris served as the Assistant Director for the March Joint Powers Authority and oversaw a variety of functions and tasks for the reuse and development of realigned March Air Force Base.

Chris is presently the Economic Development Manager for the University of California, Riverside working on initiatives such as University Research Park, Technology Transfer Center, University-industry partnerships, and a variety of public-private partnerships to benefit the education and research environment of the campus and area. The Buydos family resides in the City of San Jacinto where Chris serves on the City Council.

Rick Cole
City Manager, City of Azusa

Rick Cole has been the City Manager of Azusa, CA since July 1998. He has been called "one of Southern California's most visionary planning thinkers" by the Los Angeles Times. Mr. Cole's goal for Azusa is to renew and revitalize the entire community by building fiscal stability, promoting sustainable community development, improving two-way communication and creating new strategic visions.

Mr. Cole resides in Azusa where he serves on the Executive Committee of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership. He formerly served as Mayor of Pasadena during which time he was a leader in the revitalization of Old Pasadena. He is a member of the International City-County Managers Association, and the American Association of Public Administrators.

Cathy E. Creswell
Department of Housing and Community Development
Division of Housing Policy Development

Cathy Creswell was appointed by Governor Gray Davis on March 21, 2001 as the Deputy Director for the Division of Housing Policy Development. She has been with the Department since 1985. Ms. Creswell is responsible for activities supporting effective implementation of the State's housing laws, policies and programs by State and local governments. These activities include developing the Statewide Housing Plan and housing policy initiatives; the development of statistical reports and analyses; the preparation of the State's Consolidated Plan, ensuring California's receipt of over \$90 million in federal dollars.

Ms. Creswell has been involved in housing and community development since 1979 when she was the Director of a Community Development Association in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ms. Creswell resides in Sacramento with her husband and son.

Frank Hall
Councilmember, City of Norco
WRCOG Executive Committee Chair

Frank Hall worked 35 years for the County of Orange in General Services and Environmental Management Agencies. Frank moved his family to Norco in 1975.

In addition to his duties as WRCOG Chair, Mr. Hall serves on the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) Board of Directors, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), and the Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Authority(WRCRWA), where he also serves as Chairman.

Frank also is a current member of nearly 20 regional and local organizations, including the Norco Horsemen's Association, the Corona-Norco Family YMCA, the California State Horsemen's Association, and the Norco Lions Club.

John Lapke
VP, Human Resources, Guidant Corporation

Prior to joining Eli Lilly and Company in 1989 as a Staff Attorney, John Lapke spent three years as an associate attorney with Ice, Miller, Donadio & Ryan in Indianapolis. He was named Staff Attorney of Guidant's Cardiac Rhythm Management (CRM) group in 1992. In 1995, he was promoted to Senior Counsel of Guidant's Cardiac Rhythm Management group and in 1996, he was named Senior Counsel for Guidant Sales Corporation. John was promoted to General Counsel, Europe in 1997, and was named Vice President and General Counsel, International Operations one year later. He was named to his current role in January, 2001. Holding a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Public Accounting from Gonzaga University, John earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Notre Dame. He is also a Certified Public Accountant. John and his wife, Carrie, reside in Temecula with their three children, Jack, Megan and Patrick.

Randall W. Lewis
Executive Vice President
Lewis Operating Corporation

Randall W. Lewis is Executive Vice President and Director of Marketing for Lewis Operating Corp. The Lewis group of companies is currently involved in apartments, retail development and master-planned community development throughout California and Nevada.

Mr. Lewis oversees marketing activities for all regions of the organization. His broad areas of expertise include land acquisition, market research, product design, pricing, advertising and sales.

In 1999 the Lewis family sold their homebuilding company, Lewis Homes, to Kaufman and Broad. Today, more than 50,000 families, totaling over 150,000 people, live in Lewis-built single family attached and detached residences and apartment communities throughout California and Nevada. The Lewis group owns and manages in excess of 6,000 apartments and over three million square feet of office, retail and industrial space.

David Long, Ph.D.
Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

David Long, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, has 40 years of experience in the field of education, ranging from 21 years of classroom teaching to his current position as Superintendent. He obtained his Ph.D. from Iowa State University. Dave has been deeply involved with communities and is the originator of the Riverside County Community Action Planning process. He was honored as the California Administrator of the Year by the National Organization of Partners in Education. Dave has also been honored as Superintendent of the Year, Man of the Year in Canyon Lake where he lives, and has received the Governor's award for community school leadership.

Dr. Long has been recognized as a state leader in implementing innovative initiatives to improve student achievement. Among these initiatives are the Riverside County Reading Task Force, the Riverside County Community Action Planning Workshop, the County Achievement Teams (CAT) and the External Evaluator Teams. Dave is the United Way chairperson for Western Riverside County, one of the Proposition 10 commissioners and is a board member of the Foundation for the Retarded of the Desert and the Riverside Workforce

Development Group. His focus is to support the 23 school districts in the county and specifically the more than 320,000 students they serve.

Ronald O. Loveridge
Mayor, City of Riverside

Ronald O. Loveridge took office as Mayor in January, 1994. Elected at large, the Mayor represents the city, combining ceremonial and symbolic functions with a leadership role. Mayor Loveridge is a former City Council Member and he envisions the City of Riverside as a Great City. The Mayor's vision for the City of Riverside of safe streets, good jobs, and great neighborhoods.

Mayor Loveridge is a California native. He is a member of the March Joint Powers Authority, League of California Cities, South Coast Air Quality Management District Board and Southern California Association of Governments. He received his Bachelor of Political Science Degree from University of the Pacific and his Master and Ph.D. of Political Science Degrees from Stanford University. Mayor Loveridge is the Past Chair and member of the Political Science Department at the University of California, Riverside. He and his wife, Marsha, reside in a classic downtown Riverside home.

Marsha McQuern
President, Press-Enterprise Co.

Since 1992 Marsha McQuern has been the President of the Press Enterprise and Editor and Publisher since 1994. Prior to joining the Press Enterprise, Ms. McQuern held the position of City Editor, State and Political Editor for the San Diego Union and the Assistant Metropolitan Editor at the Sacramento Bee. She received her Bachelor of Political Science Degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Master of Journalism Degree from Northwestern University. She serves on the Boards of the California Newspaper Publishers Association, Riverside Community College Foundation and the Inland Empire Economic Partnership.

Ms. McQuern was the recipient of the Riverside YWCA Woman of Achievement Athena Award and the University of California, Riverside Women's Hall of Fame Award. She is a native of Riverside, California where she currently resides with her husband, Mac.

Tom Mullen
Riverside County Supervisor, 5th District

Tom Mullen is currently serving his second term as Fifth District Supervisor for California's Riverside County. As a leader of one of America's largest and fastest growing counties, Supervisor Mullen has earned a reputation for bringing inventiveness, goodwill and a big picture perspective to issues that many elected officials often will not touch. His vision is simple; improve the quality of life for each and every citizen of Riverside County. He has dealt with a broad range of issues that impact all of us; air quality, education, transportation, public safety, healthcare, economic development and the environment.

Supervisor Mullen has embarked on what one former Interior Department Deputy Secretary called, "the most ambitious planning initiative in America." The Riverside County Integrated Project is a three-pronged plan to simultaneously address transportation, habitat conservation and housing demands brought on by rapid population growth expected in Riverside County in the next 20 years. A native of Hastings, Nebraska, Supervisor Mullen is a veteran of the United States Air Force. He resides in Riverside with his wife, Kathy. They have two adult children and two grandchildren.

Assemblyman Rod Pacheco
64th Assembly District
State of California

Rod Pacheco represents the 64th Assembly District which covers Riverside, Norco, Jurupa, Mira Loma, March Air Reserve Base and part of Corona. Assemblyman Pacheco is a native of California and has resided in the Inland Empire for over 36 years. As a legislator, he was the author of Proposition 222 which increased penalties for murders of Peace Officers and has authored or co-authored 50 additional pieces of legislation that have been signed in to law. He is Vice-Chairman of the Assembly Transportation Committee and serves on the Assembly Judiciary, Education and Budget Committees.

Assemblyman Pacheco resides in Riverside with his wife and four children. He is a graduate of the University of California, Riverside, University of San Diego School of Law and worked in the Riverside County District Attorney's office for over 12 years as a Senior Deputy District Attorney.

Larry Rubio
Chief Executive Officer, Riverside Transit Agency

Larry Rubio has been with the RTA for over 14 years. He has over 24 years of transit experience that began in 1978 at the Orange County Transit District. Larry is a graduate of the University of Redlands where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration & Management. He also earned certifications in Executive Business Management and Advanced Business Management from the University of California, Riverside and a certification in Bus Fleet Management Techniques from Indiana University.

Ali Sahabi
President
SE Corporation

Ali Sahabi is the President of SE Corporation, a privately held, California-based land planning, entitlement, and development firm. He is also the Managing General Partner and Principal of Temescal Canyon Properties-8, LLC (TCP). TCP is the developer of Dos Lagos, a master planned community located in Corona, California. Mr. Sahabi has been instrumental in implementing innovative planning solutions and environmentally sensitive development plans for the Dos Lagos mixed use development, making it a true model for sustainable development. Prior to founding SE Corporation, Mr. Sahabi served as Executive Vice President for Vahdani Construction, where he personally negotiated and managed 300 construction projects statewide.

Mr. Sahabi holds his Master of Real Estate Development degree from the School of Urban Planning and Development at the University of Southern California and his Bachelor of Science in Management from Pepperdine University. He has conducted research in the areas of affordable housing and redevelopment and in recent years has focused on the planning and entitlement of large-scale mixed-use projects. He holds both "A" and "B" General Engineering Contractors Licenses, also in the State of California.

Richard D Sandoval
Publisher, Hispanic Lifestyle Magazine

Richard Sandoval is a California native. He spent nine years in the defense industry before starting RDS Consulting, a marketing and business development company in 1993. His consulting firm is an authority on the Southern California and Inland Empire Hispanic market. In 2001, the U.S. Small Business Administration named Mr. Sandoval the region's Small Business Journalist of the Year.

Among Mr. Sandoval's community service projects are Past Chairman of the Inland Empire Hispanic Chambers of Commerce Association, Riverside Arts Foundation, Advisory Board member of the Cal State San Bernardino Extended Education Program and the Inland Empire Technology Access Program.

Ed Studor

Administrative Manager

Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency

Ed Studor has held various supervisory and management positions with the Riverside County Road Department, Transportation Department and the Transportation and Land Management Agency (TLMA) for the past 25 years. In 1999 he was appointed as Administrative Manager for the CETAP element of the Riverside County Integrated Plan which aims to integrate and coordinate land use planning with multi-species habitat conservation and planning for new transportation corridors. Mr. Studor is a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and the ITE Transportation Planning Council.

Ed Studor is a native of Riverside County, and attended Banning High School and Mount San Jacinto College. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Cal Poly University at San Luis Obispo, School of Architecture and Environmental Design.