

Keynote – Lunch Panel

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Title: Public Works Personnel as First Responders, in accordance with Federal Law: Exploring the vital collaboration between public works responders and traditional first responders—such as police and fire personnel—during the response and recovery efforts for the recent Palisades and Eaton Fires.

Panelists:



Luis Ramirez

Deputy Director, Public Works, County of Los Angeles

Experienced Capital Project Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the construction industry. Skilled in Public Contracting, Design, and Asset Management, Agency Liaison, Construction Cost Control, CCM, Low Impact Development, and Contract Management. Strong program and project management professional with a Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) focused in Architecture from California State Polytechnic University-Pomona.



Ted Allen

City Engineer, Bureau of Engineering, City of Los Angeles

Ted Allen has served as City Engineer for the City of Los Angeles since 2022, leading the Bureau of Engineering (Engineering) which is a part of the Department of Public Works. Ted grew up in nearby Whittier, California, and attended UCLA, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1992. He obtained his California Civil Engineering license in 1997. Ted has spent his entire career working for the City's Public Works Department, including three years with the Bureau of Sanitation and the rest with Engineering.

Ted spent the first 20 years of his career working on all aspects of project delivery, including design, construction management, project management, financial management and contracting. In 2014, Ted was made Deputy City Engineer over the Development Services Program, which includes the public right-of-way permitting and land development functions within Engineering, as well as the two divisions that oversee technology. This program issues more than 20,000 permits annually and manages numerous web applications. In this role, Ted led Engineering's transition to the cloud and oversaw several web application improvements or replacements, including a transition to electronic plan check and a cashing web application to accept electronic checks. Ted also continues to help lead the City's BuildLA project that implemented a single citywide web application for development services, appointments and virtual counter services. He is passionate about the future transformations that BuildLA will provide, including the facilitation of much needed affordable housing in the city.



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Ted has frequently utilized his affinity for technology to make organizational improvements and has also implemented a number of data analytics tools within Engineering. Ted serves on the Industry Advisory Board for the UCLA Civil and Environmental Engineering Department and for the Cal State LA Computer Science Department. He is currently working with UCLA on a project to utilize technology to assess the condition of hillside streets within the City and with Cal State LA to develop a sidewalk assessment robot. Ted has also been a key participant in the California Multi-Agency Capital Improvement Project Benchmarking Study group since 2007. As a part of that group, he discusses and analyzes project delivery best practices with executives from six other large California cities. He has leveraged the findings from that study group and his own experiences to help implement several project delivery policies and procedures over the years.

Above all, Ted places great value on employee development and an equitable workplace. He spent many years coordinating Engineering's rotation program for recent hires and actively participates in the mentorship program every year. Ted is an executive member of Engineering's Racial Equity Committee and was a lead in developing Engineering's outreach to local elementary and middle schools to encourage students to consider pursuing engineering careers. Ted is also a Senior Certified Professional by the Society for Human Resource Management.



Yolanda Bundy

Environmental Sustainability Director/Building Official, City of Malibu

Yolanda Bundy joined the City of Malibu in October 2019 as its Environmental Sustainability Director/Building Official and brings twelve years of public service experience gained while at the City of Ventura, the past five of which she served as Ventura's Chief Building Official. Ms. Bundy's impressive professional background includes her extensive knowledge of the State Building Code Standards, as well as the leadership she provided to the Ventura community after the Thomas Fire in 2017.

Yolanda successfully led the City of Ventura during the rebuilding efforts in which more than 524 structures were destroyed by the December 2017 Thomas Fire. Under her leadership, along with the support of the City of Ventura's team of Building Inspectors and Plan Check Engineers, the Ventura Fire Department, and the Ventura Water and Public Works, Ms. Bundy developed a seamless and expeditious building permit approval process.

Yolanda's educational background as a registered Professional Civil Engineer and her bachelor's degree of Science in Civil Engineering from California State University Northridge, as well as her Master's Degree in Structural Engineering, inform her assistance with the City of Malibu's ongoing regular building safety and environmental issues.

Yolanda was the recipient of the "2019 Annual Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards - Safer City Building Official of the Year" given by the Southern California



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Structural Engineers Association. She is recognized by the International Code Council as a Certified Building Official and Certified Fire Code Official. She is also a CAL-EMA Safety Assessment Program Evaluator and Coordinator.

As a team member of the Ventura County Earthquake Preparedness Initiative Cohort sponsored by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Yolanda worked in partnership with The Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society to address critical earthquake vulnerabilities. This cohort was created to help local cities and counties protect and prepare Southern California communities and economies from disruption in the event of a major earthquake.



Scott Grayson

Chief Executive Officer for the American Public Works Association (APWA) and the Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA)

In this role he provides strategic leadership and directs operations to ensure that the vision and core values of APWA and CPWA are communicated and implemented at all levels of the organization. Grayson serves as the spokesperson along with the APWA and CPWA Presidents, on behalf of APWA's 30,000 members. He collaborates with key stakeholders in the public works sector including: the U.S. Congress, Canadian Parliament, and federal and provincial/state branches of government agencies.

Grayson came to APWA from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE), the world's largest professional/technical association. There, he served as the Associate Managing Director with responsibility for programs related to employment, career and professional development, licensing, and accreditation and support of the IEEE-USA Board of Directors. While at IEEE-USA he had been responsible for grassroots, state and federal legislative programs including being a staff liaison to numerous scientific engineering and legal organizations to build coalitions. He has worked in the areas of communications, public relations, chapter relations, membership development, conference management, fundraising, research, and prior to joining APWA he had been working with global student and young professional member engagement.

Grayson served for four years as a city councilmember for the City of Golden Valley in Minnesota and chair of its Housing Redevelopment Authority. In his role as councilmember, he also served as liaison to multiple public-school districts, the League of Minnesota Cities, Basset Creek Watershed Commission, Joint Water Commission for the cities of Golden Valley, Crystal, and New Hope, and the Golden Valley Human Rights Commission. During his time on the council, he founded a non-profit foundation to establish the Golden Valley Arts and Music Festival.

Mr. Grayson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin and a master's in Latin American & Caribbean Studies, specializing in international relations and economic development from New York University. He is also an active member of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE),



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from which he holds a Certified Association Executive (CAE) credential, a member of the Council for Engineering and Scientific Executives (CESSE) Board and serves as a Board Member and Secretary of the Kansas City Society of Association Executives (KCSAE).