

Session A

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Title: Multi-generational and asset management approaches to Public Engagement and Input

How does a small, boutique, multi-generational City inform the public of the services, projects and value provided to the community by Public Works? The City of Laguna Niguel's Public Works Department employs many best practices for actively communicating with its residents. We take a multi-faceted approach to deploying information via numerous avenues of communication with the public. While technology is changing the way some residents receive information, the City of Laguna Niguel's Public Works Department also considers its residents' generational demographics when determining the most cost-effective and efficient means to disseminate information to them. The overall purpose of this presentation is to share best practices and ideas for others to utilize within their own City.

Location: East Wing

Moderator: Harry Lorick

Speakers:



Kelli Everett

City of Laguna Niguel

Kelli Everett is a seasoned business professional with over 20 years of experience in strategic communication, contracts, risk management, merchandising, and corporate financial planning, with past roles at Disney and Lockheed Martin. Since 2021, she has served as Senior Management Analyst for the City of Laguna Niguel's Public Works department, where she has led key improvements in business processes and communications. Kelli holds a B.S. in Business Management from Arizona State University, an MBA from The George Washington University, and is a certified Project Management Professional and licensed California Property and Casualty Insurance agent.



Melanie Banfield

City of Laguna Niguel

Melanie Banfield has been with the City of Laguna Niguel Public Works team for about two years, bringing over 15 years of marketing and graphic design experience in educational publishing and five years of community service with the City of Mukilteo, Washington, where she served on the Community Center Advisory Board. She holds a B.A. in Mass Communication from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master's Degree in Strategic Communication from Washington State University.



Kolten Keeney

Comcate Inc.

Kolten Keeney is the Vice President of Growth at Comcate, where he has served since 2018, overseeing Sales, Marketing, and Client Services Operations, including implementation, training, and support for CRM, Code Enforcement, and GIS solutions. He holds a B.A. in Economics and an MBA in Finance and Entrepreneurship from California State University, Fresno. Previously, Kolten was the Global Director of Customer Success at FocusVision Inc., working with clients in technology, healthcare, and FMCG sectors, and served as Regional Director of FV Asia PTE, Ltd., managing business development, project management, and technical support for private and public agencies across healthcare, education, and government. He currently supports several Southern California agencies, including Beverly Hills, Alhambra, La Palma, Ventura, and Downey.



Dalton Gilbert

OpenGov

Dalton Gilbert is an Enterprise Account Executive at OpenGov, specializing in the company's Enterprise Asset Management solution. He joined OpenGov in 2023 through its acquisition of Cartegraph Asset Management. Dalton holds degrees in Environmental Science and GIS from Stony Brook University in New York. He began his career at Southern California Gas Company as a GIS Analyst and Project Specialist, helping lead the Sewer Lateral Inspection Program, and later served as Sales Development Manager at ESRI, where he led a team of 16 sales representatives. Dalton joined Cartegraph in 2021 and has worked with numerous Southern California agencies—including the City of Los Angeles, San Bernardino County, Orange County, Palm Desert, Victorville, and Eastvale—to implement Enterprise Asset Management systems.

Session A

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Title: Lessons Learned in Consultant Selection from proposals to partnerships

Consultant selection is one of the single most important aspects to successful project delivery. Join local industry experts to discuss the pros, cons, and lessons learned through their years of experience managing Requests for Proposals/Requests for Qualifications (RFPs/RFQs). This panel will take a look at best practices for preparing, responding to, and reviewing responses to RFPs/RFQs.

Location: Room 107

Moderator: Joe Mulvilhill

Speakers:



Robert Newman
MNS Engineers

Robert Newman, PE, PLS, is the Southern California Municipal Services Director with MNS Engineers, with over 40 years of public sector experience. He supports agency clients with capital planning, funding strategy, organizational management, emergency response, and project delivery. Previously, he served as Public Works Director for the City of Santa Clarita, overseeing six divisions, 145 staff, and managing \$76 million in combined budgets. His career also includes roles with LA County Public Works and the cities of Calabasas, Pasadena, and San Marino. Robert has served on boards for the League of California Cities, APWA, and various Caltrans committees.



Rania Amen
City of San Diego

Rania is the Director of the Engineering and Capital Projects Department and City Engineer for the City of San Diego, bringing over 33 years of experience in planning, design, construction, and operations across water, wastewater, transportation, stormwater, and building projects. She has extensive expertise in city infrastructure and capital improvement processes, including A&E contract procurement. Rania previously served as Engineering Services Manager at the Santa Fe Irrigation District and as Assistant Director in the City of San Diego's Public Utilities Department. She holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering and is a licensed Professional Engineer in California, known for her solution-focused leadership and strong communication skills.



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Carla Callahan

City of Santa Clarita

Carla Callahan is a Senior Engineer with the City of Santa Clarita, overseeing the design and construction of complex Capital Improvement Projects and managing consultant and contractor procurement. Since joining the City in 2002, she has contributed to major projects including the SCV Sheriff Station, Vista Canyon Bus and Train Station, Golden Valley Road Bridge, and Magic Mountain Parkway Beautification. She also worked closely with developers on projects like the Valencia Town Center expansion. Carla holds a degree from California State University, Northridge, is a licensed Professional Civil Engineer, and brings over 23 years of public sector experience. In her free time, she enjoys being with her family and spending time near the water.



Creighton Sebra

Clark Hill LLP

Creighton Sebra is a seasoned construction law attorney with a background in civil and general contracting, having worked as both a project manager and estimator. He represents architects, engineers, contractors, and subcontractors in complex commercial construction litigation. Notably, he secured a \$1 million jury verdict in a public works dispute involving fraud and breach of contract. Creighton earned his J.D. from Pepperdine University and a B.A. from Brigham Young University. He is licensed in California and admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court and multiple federal courts. Recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*® and Thomson Reuters, he is an active member of several legal and industry organizations.

Session A

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Title: The Promise of Quick Build Projects: Are They Delivering on Speed and Cost Savings?

As construction and professional services costs rise, public agencies are turning to Quick Build methods for faster, more cost-effective roadway improvements. This panel explores real-world experiences from agencies leading the way. SCAG will share insights from past successes and future plans to expand Quick Build strategies. The City of Pasadena will present lessons from its Allen Avenue project and its transition to a permanent installation. LADOT will offer best practices and challenges from its extensive Quick Build experience, including preparing for the 2028 Olympics. Moderated by KOA | Lochner, this session delivers candid insights and practical takeaways for accelerating project delivery and maximizing limited resources.

Location: Room 206 (52 people)

Moderator: Anissa Voyiatzes

Speakers:



Carlos Velasquez

KOA | Lochner

Carlos Velasquez is a Principal at Lochner with nearly 20 years of experience in transportation planning, active mobility, and infrastructure implementation across Southern California. He has led over \$15 million in projects, specializing in Safe Routes to School, multimodal planning, and rapid project delivery. Carlos played a key role in a major LADOT SRTS initiative, leading bilingual outreach, facility design, and strategic grant writing. A leader in California's Quick Build movement, he has delivered award-winning, fast-turnaround safety projects in cities like Burbank, Los Angeles, and Downey, bridging long-term planning with real-world impact.



Rachel Om

SCAG

Rachel Om is a Senior Regional Planner at the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) leading coordination and planning efforts around active transportation across the region. In addition to active transportation, Rachel has experience in complete streets, roadway safety, safe routes to school, and first/last mile planning. Prior to joining SCAG, Rachel worked as a transportation planner with Fehr & Peers consultants, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, and Alameda County General Services Agency.



Scott Johnson
Pasadena DOT

Scott Johnson, a graduate of the NYU Wagner School of Public Service and City College of New York Grove School of Engineering, is a seasoned transportation professional with over a decade of experience enhancing safety and accessibility in communities. His expertise spans a range of areas, from planning protected bike lanes to analyzing crash data for local roadway safety plans. As a Senior Planner with the City of Pasadena's Department of Transportation, he focuses on safety, complete streets, and active transportation projects. Scott's project management experience includes a variety of "quick-build" projects from Vision Zero transportation safety projects in New York City, beachfront bike lanes in Santa Monica, to first and last mile transit improvements in Pasadena.



Tim Fremaux
LADOT

Tim Frémaux is a Principal Transportation Engineer at the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, overseeing Design, Permit Plan Review, and Interagency Design and Coordination. His teams manage traffic signal and geometric design, construction oversight, and coordination with agencies and private developments. With 23 years at LADOT, Tim has held roles in District Operations, led the City's Vision Zero safety program, and managed bicycle infrastructure projects. He holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from USC and lives in Burbank with his wife and daughter. Outside of work, he enjoys hiking, traveling, and playing pickleball.

Session A

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Title: Making the Most of Utility Coordination and Subsurface Investigation

This two-part session brings together experts from Monument, Southern California Edison, and Mark Thomas to explore how early utility coordination and innovative Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) can improve public works outcomes. In “Don’t Delay, Call Today!”, learn how proactive utility coordination helps avoid costly delays, reduce risk, and navigate complex regulations. In “Innovating Underground”, discover how advanced SUE technology and ASCE 38-22 standards provide accurate utility data that enhances safety, saves time, and supports efficient project delivery. Together, these sessions highlight how smart planning below ground leads to successful results above it.

Location: Room 209AB

Moderator: Darin Johnson

Speakers:



Curtis Bibelot

Monument

Curtis Bibelot, SR/WA, R/W-AMC, brings over 15 years of expertise in utility relocation coordination and property management. He has successfully delivered projects for major agencies such as RCTC, OCTA, SBCTA, and LACMTA, specializing in resolving utility conflicts and clearing encroachments. Known for his strong relationships with utility owners and collaborative leadership, Curtis also oversees a statewide property management team, ensuring client assets are maintained with care.



Ricky Rodriguez

Monument

Ricky Rodriguez has over 35 years of experience delivering major transportation projects and is a recognized expert in right-of-way implementation and utility relocation coordination. With 30 years at Caltrans, including serving as District 12’s Right-of-Way Supervisor, he brings deep knowledge of the Uniform Act and complex regulatory processes. Ricky is known for his strong leadership and ability to navigate challenges while building lasting partnerships with project stakeholders.



Cynthia Wagner

Southern California Edison

Cynthia Wagner is a Project Manager at Southern California Edison with 14 years of utility industry experience. She oversees a \$25 million portfolio of complex transmission initiatives, capital programs, and customer-requested relocation projects for private developers and public agencies. Cynthia is known for her ability to manage projects from start to finish while ensuring alignment with scope, budget, and schedule.



Francisco Rojas

Mark Thomas

Francisco Rojas, PMP, serves as the Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) Program Manager at Mark Thomas, bringing 13 years of experience in underground utility mapping and coordination. He leads the delivery of high-accuracy SUE services using advanced surface geophysical technologies, vacuum excavation, and surveying. Francisco works closely with municipalities and utility owners to reduce risk, avoid conflicts, and streamline infrastructure delivery.



Gabriel Kumar

Mark Thomas

Gabriel Kumar is a Survey Specialist II at Mark Thomas with over 16 years of experience in utility locating across seven U.S. states. Proficient in technologies like CCTV, GPR, and electromagnetic locators, he has supported critical infrastructure projects including missile silos, ports, airports, and medical facilities. Gabriel is committed to delivering clear, comprehensive utility reports and collaborating with engineers and contractors to address complex challenges.



Dave Moritz

Mark Thomas

Dave Moritz, PLS, is a Regional Business Leader and Associate Principal at Mark Thomas with 31 years of experience in land surveying, right-of-way engineering, and utility mapping. He has developed and led SUE programs supporting major infrastructure initiatives across Southern California, including highway, energy, and rail projects. Dave is also dedicated to client service, staff development, and educating peers on the role of SUE in cost-effective project delivery.



Naushin Kamal

City of Los Angeles

Naushin Kamal, P.E., is a Senior Civil Engineer and Assistant District Engineer in the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering. With 20 years of public service, she manages Above Ground Facility and Excavation “U” permits for utility construction in the public right-of-way. Naushin has led the design and construction of numerous Proposition O and Measure W-funded water quality projects, building a career grounded in technical excellence and civic impact.