22nd Annual Policy Conference
The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach: Links In A Chain
Speaker Biographies



Dr. Lynn Mahoney
Provost
California State University, Los Angeles

Dr. Mahoney became provost of California State University, Los Angeles, in February 2015. As the university's chief academic officer, she is charged with responsibility for fulfilling the University's teaching and research mission including oversight of eight academic colleges. Prior to her appointment as provost, she served as vice provost & dean of Undergraduate Studies at California State University, Long Beach, from 2008-2014. A tireless advocate for students, Dr. Mahoney has spent her academic career working on issues related to enhancing student learning and improving retention and graduation rates. She has a proven track record on implementing and delivering initiatives aimed at improving the educational experience of all students. Dr. Mahoney received a bachelor's degree in American studies from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in history from Rutgers University. She is the author of *Elizabeth Stoddard and the Boundaries of Bourgeois Culture* and has lectured extensively on the construction of whiteness in the U.S. and the construction of gender globally.



Eric Garcetti
Mayor
City of Los Angeles
@LAMayor

Eric Garcetti is the 42nd Mayor of Los Angeles. His "back to basics" agenda is focused on job creation and solving everyday problems for L.A. residents. Garcetti was elected four times by his peers to serve as president of the Los Angeles City Council from 2006 to 2012. From 2001 until taking office as Mayor, he served as the Councilmember representing the 13th District that includes Hollywood, Echo Park, Silver Lake, and Atwater Village -- all of which were dramatically revitalized under Garcetti's leadership. Garcetti was raised in the San Fernando Valley and earned his B.A. and M.A. from Columbia University. He studied as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and the London School of Economics and taught at Occidental College and USC. A fourth generation Angeleno, he and his wife, Amy

Elaine Wakeland, have a young daughter. He is a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy reserve and is an avid jazz pianist and photographer.



Dr. Raphael J. Sonenshein
Executive Director
Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at Cal State LA

Dr. Raphael J. Sonenshein is the executive director of the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at CSU Los Angeles. Previously, he was chair of the Division of Politics, Administration, and Justice at CSU Fullerton. He received his B.A. from Princeton, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Yale. He is the author of three books on Los Angeles politics and government. Dr. Sonenshein served as executive director of the Los Angeles (Appointed) Charter Reform Commission. He served as Executive Director of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Review Commission. He was Best Educator and Distinguished College Faculty Member at CSUF. He received a Wang Family Excellence Award. He was the first winner of the campus wide Carol Barnes Award for Teaching Excellence and one of two co-winners of the Haynes Foundation Research Impact award. He was the fall 2008 Fulbright Tocqueville Distinguished Chair in American Studies at the University of Paris 8.



Stephen Cheung
President
World Trade Center Los Angeles (WTCLA)

Stephen Cheung leads WTCLA, which attracts foreign direct investment into L.A. County, provides trade facilitation and increases exports out of L.A. County, which drive innovation, jobs creation and prosperity for the region's communities and residents. Mr. Cheung was most recently the secretary general of foreign affairs and trade for Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and was responsible for managing policies and programs related to Port of Los Angeles. Concurrently, Mr. Cheung was the director of international trade for the Port of Los Angeles. He also served as managing director of international trade and clean technology for former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. He received both his bachelor's in psychobiology and master's in social welfare from UCLA. He currently teaches a course on public policy at the Luskin School of Public Affairs, and serves on the Advisory Council of USC's Center for International Business Education and Research and the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator.



Patrick O'Donnell
Assemblymember
California State Assembly, District 70

In November 2014, Patrick O'Donnell was elected to the California State Assembly to represent District 70, which includes Long Beach, Signal Hill, San Pedro and Catalina Island. As chair of the Assembly Education Committee, Assemblymember O'Donnell worked to ensure more than $14 billion in additional funds were dedicated to our schools and community colleges in the 2015 Budget. Assemblymember O'Donnell currently serves as chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Ports and the Assembly Select Committee on Aerospace. He has championed efforts to grow the maritime industry and attract new jobs in aerospace in California. Assemblymember O'Donnell is a teacher with more than 20 years' experience in the classroom. He also previously served as a member of the Long Beach City Council. Born in Long Beach, O'Donnell graduated from California State University, Long Beach with a degree in history and a master's degree in public administration.



Joe Buscaino
Councilmember
Los Angeles City Council, District 15th

Councilmember Joe Buscaino is in his second term as the Los Angeles City Councilmember for the 15th District, which covers the communities of Harbor City, Harbor Gateway, San Pedro, Watts and Wilmington. Councilmember Buscaino chairs the Public Works Committee, which oversees the Department of Public Works, the city's third-largest department with 5,000 employees. He is also a board member on the South Coast Air Quality Management District. His top priorities include redevelopment of the Los Angeles Waterfront, redevelopment of Jordan Downs Housing Development in Watts, building more park space, improving public transportation infrastructure and bringing the tech sector to the Harbor Area. Councilmember Buscaino graduated *Cum Laude* with a B.A. in communication from California State University, Dominguez Hills and resides with his family in San Pedro, California.



Dr. Suja Lowenthal DPD
Vice Mayor
City of Long Beach

Dr. Suja Lowenthal was elected to the Long Beach City Council in June 2006 and as vice mayor in 2014. Her council district includes much of the port, harbor and coastline areas, as well as downtown. She holds a bachelor's in economics from UCLA, a master's in business administration from California State University, Los Angeles and a doctorate in policy, planning and development from the University of Southern California. Vice Mayor Lowenthal has served as an alternate to the California Coastal Commission and currently represents Long Beach on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. She is also on the board of Heal the Bay and has more than 15 years of experience in water policy. She has used her community and professional experience, along with her education in business and urban planning, to improve the quality of life and economic outlook in Long Beach.



Ben De Alba
Assistant Secretary
Rail and Ports at the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)

Ben De Alba is the assistant secretary for rail and ports at the California State Transportation Agency. He was appointed to this position by Governor Jerry Brown in 2013 after serving as special assistant to the secretary of the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. In his current role, Mr. De Alba serves as an advisor to the secretary on key freight-related issues. He also represents the secretary on a number of state boards and commissions, including the California Board of Pilot Commissioners, the California Maritime Security Council, and the California-Mexico Border Relations Council. He oversaw the development of California's Freight Mobility Plan and the implementation of the state's first Freight Advisory Committee. He is currently working with an interagency team to develop targets, strategies, and pilot projects for Governor Brown's sustainable freight action plan. He is a candidate for a master's degree in public administration at the University of San Francisco.



Robert A. Kleinhenz, Ph.D
Chief Economist
Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC)

Dr. Kleinhenz directs the Kyser Center for Economic Research, which conducts research on regional, state, and national economies. He has more than 25 years of experience and expertise in academia and the private and public sectors. Prior to joining the LAEDC, he served as deputy chief economist at the California Association of REALTORS®. He also taught economics for over 15 years, most recently at California State University, Fullerton. He is a member of the National Association for Business Economics (vice chair, Regional Roundtable), the National Association for Business Economics, Los Angeles Chapter (Past President, Past Treasurer), and the Real Estate Research Council of Southern California (current executive Board Member and Treasurer). Dr. Kleinhenz has a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, a master's degree and a doctorate from the University of Southern California, all in Economics.



Gene Seroka
Executive Director
Port of Los Angeles

As executive director of the busiest container port in North America, Gene Seroka is responsible for managing more than a $1billion budget, leading a team of more than 900 employees, advancing major capital projects, growing cargo volumes, and promoting innovative, sustainable practices that improve Southern California's economy and quality of life. His duties involve interacting with a wide range of stakeholders, including Port customers worldwide, supply chain partners, labor, community members, and elected and appointed officials at all levels. An industry-known leader, Seroka brings more than 27 years of experience in shipping, global logistics and executive management to the Port. He began his career in the maritime industry as a sales support representative and over the course of two decades advanced to several executive-level positions, with overseas assignments in Shanghai, Jakarta, Singapore, and Dubai. An alumnus of the University of New Orleans, where he earned a bachelor's degree in marketing and a master's degree in business administration.



Richard D. "Rick" Cameron
Managing Director
Environmental Affairs and Planning for the Port of Long Beach, California

Richard D. "Rick" Cameron is the managing director of environmental affairs and planning for the Port of Long Beach. Mr. Cameron joined the port in 1996 as an environmental specialist, was promoted to manager of environmental planning and named director of the newly-created Division of Environmental Planning in 2007. As managing director, he oversees the Environmental Affairs and Planning Bureau that includes Environmental Planning, Master Planning and Transportation Planning. As director of environmental planning, he led the division most directly responsible for the port's signature environmental program, the Green Port Policy, and the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan. Under the Green Port Policy, the division coordinates programs to improve air, water and soil quality, preserve wildlife habitat and integrate sustainability into Port practices. Mr. Cameron has a bachelor's degree in urban and regional planning from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.



Michelle Grubbs
Vice President
Pacific Merchant Shipping Association

Michele Grubbs is the vice president of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA). With offices in San Francisco, Long Beach and Seattle, PMSA is a West Coast maritime trade association, representing ocean carriers and marine terminal operators on a variety of local, state and federal issues. Ms. Grubbs has been with PMSA since 2004. In addition to PMSA, Ms. Grubbs has also worked for the McDonnell Douglas and Boeing companies in Washington, D.C. and Long Beach. Ms. Grubbs has a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of New Orleans and a master's degree in business from Pepperdine University. She is married to Jim Grubbs, and they have three children. Ms. Grubbs is on the board of the Marine Exchange of California, the Advisory Board for the Center of International Trade and Transportation at California State University, Long Beach and has been active in a variety of activities for her children's school.



Angelo Logan
Policy Director
Urban and Environmental Policy Institute

Angelo Logan is the Moving Forward Network, policy director out of UEPI. Angelo grew up in the City of Commerce and lives in Long Beach, CA. Angelo is the co-founder of East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice and has worked with a wide variety of coalitions to achieve health protective policies specifically regarding goods movement and Green Zones. Currently Angelo serves on several committees, such as: SCAQMD's Environmental Justice Advisory Group, I-710 Corridor Advisory Committees, Southern California Association of Governments Goods Movement Task Force and City of Commerce's Environmental Justice Task Force and Green Zones-Policy Working Group.



Robert (Bobby) Olvera, Jr.
President
International Longshoreman and Warehouse Union Local 13

Robert (Bobby) Olvera, Jr. is president of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 13 and represents more than 20,000 longshore workers. Local 13 is the largest local on the West Coast and works the fourth largest and busiest port in North America. Mr. Olvera is a third generation longshoreman, and in his 26-year history with the ILWU, he has served on the executive board, the political action committee, and as a caucus delegate on the local level. His career as an officer included terms as a chief dispatcher, business agent and three years as vice president, ultimately leading to his election as president in 2013 and re-election in 2015. Mr. Olvera serves on the board of directors for the Miguel Contreras Advocacy Foundation, and on the board of directors for the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Labor Community Services. From 2011 to 2013, he also served as the executive vice president of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor AFL-CIO.



Dr. Robert Garcia
Mayor
City of Long Beach

Dr. Robert Garcia, 37, is an educator and the 28th Mayor of Long Beach. He is also a member of the California Coastal Commission, where he serves as an alternate. Mayor Garcia has taken a leadership role in economic development, education, and investing in technology. Garcia served as vice mayor from 2012 - 2014 and was elected to the City Council in 2009. He also served on the California Coastal Commission from January, 2013 until taking office as Mayor of Long Beach. Mayor Garcia has been a member of the public policy and communications faculty at University of Southern California, and taught communications studies at both California State University, Long Beach and Long Beach City College. He holds a doctorate in Higher Education, and master's degree in communication management from USC and a bachelor's degree in communication studies from California State University, Long Beach.



Thomas O'Brien
Executive Director
Center for International Trade and Transportation (CITT)

Thomas O'Brien is the executive director of the Center for International Trade and Transportation (CITT) at California State University, Long Beach and the associate director of Long Beach Programs for the METRANS Transportation Center, a partnership between CSULB and the University of Southern California. His teaching and research focus on logistics, supply chain management, and goods movement policy. Dr. O'Brien has a master's degree in urban planning and development and a Ph.D. in policy, planning, and development from the University of Southern California. He is both an Eno and Eisenhower Transportation Fellow and a member of the Transportation Research Board's Intermodal Freight Transport Committee.



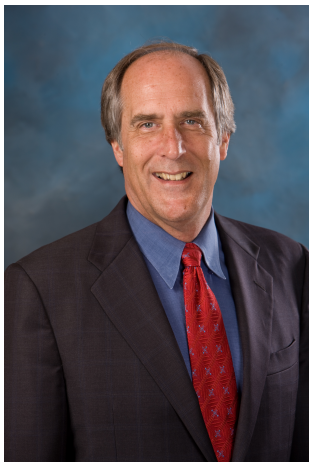
Mary D. Nichols
Chairman
California Air Resources Board

Mary D. Nichols, J.D., was reappointed chair of the California Air Resources Board by Governor Jerry Brown in January 2011. She previously held the post under Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger from 2007 to 2010 and under Governor Brown's first tenure from 1979 to 1983. At ARB she is responsible for implementing California's landmark greenhouse gas emissions legislation as well as setting air pollution standards for motor vehicles, fuels and consumer products. Chairman Nichols also served as the head of the Office of Air and Radiation at U.S. EPA during the Clinton Administration, and as California's secretary for natural resources from 1999 to 2003.



Hasan Ikhrata
Executive Director
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

Hasan Ikhrata is the Executive Director of SCAG, the largest metropolitan planning organization in the United States. Appointed in January 2008, Mr. Ikhrata has more than 25 years of public and private sector experience in transportation planning. At SCAG, Mr. Ikhrata implements the policies of an 86-member Regional Council. He is credited with being a transformational and unifying leader who has enhanced SCAG's value to member agencies and fostered unprecedented levels of public input and participation in the development of regional transportation plans. Prior to joining SCAG in 1994, Mr. Ikhrata worked for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Mr. Ikhrata holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in civil and industrial engineering from Zaporozhye University; a master's degree in Civil Engineering from UCLA and is a Ph.D. candidate in urban planning and transportation from USC.



Peter Herzog
Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs
NAIOP, Commercial Real Estate Development Association

Peter Herzog has a wide variety of experience regarding the supply chain and transportation, both as an elected official who has been appointed to serve on numerous agencies, and as a consultant for clients in the goods movement chain. He is serving on the California Freight Advisory Committee (CFAC). He has served as a Director on the Transportation Corridor Agencies (Orange County Toll Roads), Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), and the Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG). He is also a member of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Transportation Committee and worked on developing SB 375 Sustainable Community Strategies, Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTP), and transportation sales tax measures in both Los Angeles and Orange Counties. He is currently the Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs for NAIOP SoCal, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, focusing on coordinating with all segments of the supply chain to increase the competitiveness of the state's freight system.



Don Snyder
Director of Business Development
Port of Long Beach

Don Snyder is the director of business development for the Port of Long Beach. He was appointed to the post in 2006, having served since 2003 as marketing manager in the Trade and Maritime Services Division. As director of the Business Development Division, Mr. Snyder is responsible for developing business relationships between the Port and its customers and supply chain partners. Before joining the Port, his 25 years of experience in the transportation industry included six years as manager of import and export logistics for Mattel Inc. He also spent 18 years working in sales, marketing and pricing with ocean carriers including Sea-Land Services, Hyundai Merchant Marine and Lykes Brothers Steamship Co. Mr. Snyder serves on the Policy and Steering Committee for the Center for a International Trade and Transportation and the Supply Chain Management (OSCM) Advisory Board, at California State University, Long Beach. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from San Francisco State University.



Nick Weiner
Campaign Director
Justice for Port Drivers, Teamsters Union

Nicholas Weiner has 20 years of experience as a labor union strategist and organizer. He is currently the national director for the Change to Win/International Brotherhood of Teamsters "Justice for Port Driver" Campaign, which has developed cutting-edge strategies for combatting worker misclassification. In 2008, he worked with environmental, public health, and community groups to pass the landmark Clean Truck Program at the Port of Los Angeles. Also in 2008, Mr. Weiner was a member of the Obama-Biden Transition Team, serving on the Agency Review Team for the U.S. Federal Maritime Commission. In 2003, Mr. Weiner was appointed by the Maryland State AFL-CIO to serve on a Maryland Assembly study group for Unemployment Insurance legislative reforms. Mr. Weiner received his Masters of Science in Urban Public Policy and Management from the Milano School at the New School for Social Research in New York City in 1993.