Panel 4: The Present & Future of Environmental Planning: A View from ES Alums in the Field

Moderated by Paul Wack
Saturday, April 25, 2015 10:30-11:30am, Bren Hall 1414

Panelists

Nancy Bragado is the Deputy Planning Director for the City of San Diego. She currently oversees the City’s Long-Range Planning Division, with responsibilities including community plan updates, transit-oriented development master plans, multi-modal mobility studies and plans, preparation of a new Climate Action Plan, and ongoing General Plan implementation. She has over 25 years of planning experience including managing the City’s General Plan Update. The City’s General Plan was the recipient of the American Planning Association’s 2010 Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan. Nancy also served as a lead author for the urban and infrastructure chapter of the U.S. National Climate Assessment, and was on the steering committee of the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy for San Diego Bay, prepared by ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability.

In prior years, Nancy served as the planning liaison between the City of San Diego and the former Metropolitan Transit Development Board, where she was involved in regional transit planning and transit-joint development projects. She was the project manager for development of the City’s Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Design Guidelines, and was a part of the staff team that updated the City’s Land Development Code, that included new zones and regulations to implement the TOD Guidelines. She has also served as a community planner and as an aide to a City Council member. Nancy has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a Master’s degree in Public Administration from San Diego State University.

Matthew Burris, AICP, LEED AP

Matt is a community planner with more than a dozen years of experience and an Associate Principal with the urban planning firm Raimi + Associates. Matt is also the Planning Commissioner Chair for California’s newest City of Jurupa Valley. He was drawn to the field of planning by his interest in resource efficiency and sustainable communities. Matt specializes in the preparation of General Plans, Climate Action Plans, neighborhood plans, and the implementation of community-scale health and sustainability principles that holistically consider and address the complex interrelationships of land use patterns and transportation systems. In addition to his work as a planner, he teaches planning courses for both UC Berkeley and UC Riverside. His planning experience includes preparing community plans and updates, sustainability master plans, development standards green and design guidelines, community outreach and education, constraints analyses, preparation of environmental studies, policy analysis, cost-benefit analysis, feasibility studies, modeling/simulation, and mapping. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Barbara, as well as a Master of Science in City and Regional Planning and a Master of Science in Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Kim Prillhart, AICP

Kim is the Planning Director for the County of Ventura and a 1995 graduate from UCSB with a BA in Environmental Studies. Kim has served many years on the board of the Central Coast Section of the American Planning Association (APA) as well as the State APA Chapter Board. Currently, she volunteers her time as the newsletter editor for the National APA Women and Planning Division. She has over 20 years of experience in land use planning, is a certified planner under AICP, manages a staff of over 30 professional planners and is focused on excellent customer service in government. Kim also has four young children and is active in the local Foster Care program.
**Chris Stephens**

Chris is currently the Director of Ventura County's Resource Management Agency (RMA). The Ventura County RMA includes the Planning, Building & Safety, Environmental Health and Weights & Measures programs. Prior to his current position, Chris served in numerous planning capacities: Ventura County Planning Director, Deputy Director of the Ventura County Transportation Commission, and as a transportation planner in the City of Oxnard and the counties of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo. A native of the Bay Area, Chris received his Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from UC Santa Barbara and his Master's Degree in City & Regional Planning from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. His son, Graham, is a recent graduate of the Environmental Studies Program.

**Moderator**

**Paul Wack, AICP**

Paul celebrated his 45th anniversary this month as a proud member of the planning profession. He was a Deputy Planning Director for Ventura County before becoming Assistant Planning Director for Santa Barbara County when he taught his first edition of ES 135 (Introduction of Environmental Planning) 37 years ago. He soon realized education was his calling as a way to build a constituency for planning. Between Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo (now Professor Emeritus) and the ES Program (now Senior Lecturer, retired), more than 22,000 students have taken his courses, many of whom have gone on to become planners and make a difference. He is more proud of that than any award he has received for either his teaching or 35 year old national award winning consulting firm (Jacobson & Wack). He feels blessed to be part of the ES story.