



Panel #2, Safety & Enforcement (11am-noon)

Moderator: David Abel,
Chairman & Managing Director of
VerdeXchange Institute President & CEO
of ABL, Incorporated

- **Armando R. Hogan,**
Deputy Chief, Los Angeles Fire Dept.
- **Dominic H. Choi,**
Assistant Commanding Officer
Los Angeles Police Department
- **Albert Torres,**
Captain Park Ranger Los Angeles,
City Department of Recreation & Parks
- **Craig Sap,**
District Superintendent Angeles
District California State Parks



Panel #3, Workforce Development (11am-noon)

Moderator: Miguel Luna,
Principal at DakeLuna Consultants and
Founder of Urban Semillas

- **Dan Knapp,** Executive Director/CEO
Long Beach Conservation Corps
- **Brittany Murrey,**
Business Development Manager
Homeboy Electronics Recycling
- **Lulu Kornspan,**
Director of Administration
Homeboy Electronics Recycling
- **Mark Loranger,**
President & CEO Chyrnalis



Summary (3-3:10pm)

- **Spencer Eldred,** Staff Counsel
Mountains Recreation &
Conservation Authority



Closing (3:10-3:30pm)

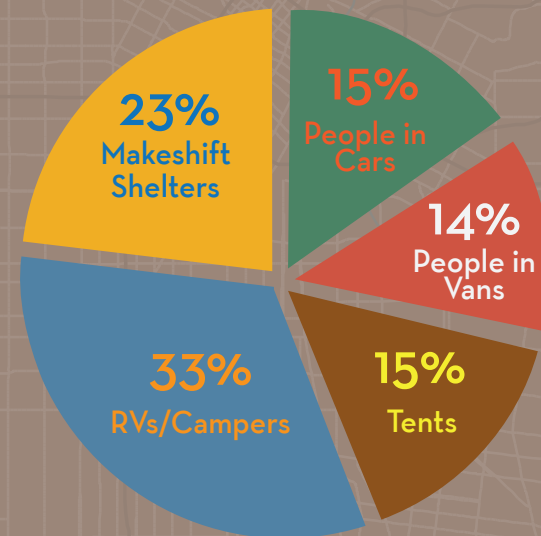
- **Bruce Saito,** Director
California Conservation Corps

The total Homeless count
in Los Angeles County is

52,765

75%
of the homeless population
are unsheltered in LA County

Percentage of Homeless People in Vehicles, Tents,
and Makeshift Shelters in Los Angeles County, 2018



SOURCE:
2018 GREATER LOS ANGELES HOMELESS COUNT -
DATA SUMMARY FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY
LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY (WWW.LAHS.A.ORG).

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HOMELESSNESS & OPEN SPACE FORUM

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVACY
MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY NATURE CONNECTION

Thursday, August 2nd
Casa Italiana
1051 N Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90012



Welcome (10am-11am)

- **Fernando Gomez,**
Assistant Deputy Executive Officer &
Chief Ranger, Mountains Recreation &
Conservation Authority
- **Nathaniel VerGow,**
Director Access & Engagement
Department, Los Angeles
Homeless Services Authority
- **Phil Ansell,** Director, Homeless
Initiative Chief Executive Office,
County of Los Angeles
- **Rorie Skei,** Chief Deputy Director
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy



Panel #1, Solutions (11am-noon)

Moderator: Jacqueline Waggoner,
VP & Market Leader Southern CA
Market Enterprise Community
Partners, Inc.

- **Pauline Louie,** Field Operations &
Management, U.S. Department of
Housing & Urban Development
- **Glen Bae,** Office of Community
Planning & Development
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban
Development
- **Dhakshike Wickrema,**
Assistant Senior Deputy for Mental
Health & Homeless Advocacy,
Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor
Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District
- **Nathaniel VerGow,** Director Access
& Engagement Department, Los Angeles
Homeless Services Authority



Lunch (12pm-1pm)

Keynote Speaker: Norma E. Garcia,
Chief Deputy Director for
LA County Dept. of Parks & Recreation

Personal Testimony:
Larae Cantley,
CSH Speak Up! Advocate

(Listed in Speaking Order)



Fernando Gomez is Chief Ranger for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). Fernando started out with the MRCA Division of Interpretation through MRCA's Urban Naturalist in Training (UNIT) program at the age of 18. UNIT was a jobs program that recruited young adults from urban areas to be naturalists for MRCA's environmental educations programs that serve a similar demographic.

Fernando eventually transitioned from being a naturalist to coordinator of a training program to a Park Ranger. Fernando leads the MRCA Rangers as they protect park lands & provide for public safety. Fernando and his team often serve on the front line of intersection among parks, homelessness and displacement, rescuing people from the LA River and directing people to services.



Nathaniel VerGow is the Director of Homeless Services for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) where he directs more than 50 teams of street-based service staff responsible for outreach across Los Angeles County. He has a Master of Public Health degree and has been working with people experiencing homelessness in various capacities for more than 15 years in Boston, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.



Phil Ansell was appointed Director of the County's Homeless Initiative effective August 17, 2015, when he temporarily left his position as Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). During his 19 years with DPSS, Phil played a key role in the design and implementation of numerous programs and services for homeless families and individuals, including a key role in the development of the County's Homeless Prevention Initiative in 2005-06. Effective February 1, 2017, Phil was appointed the permanent director of the County's newly-formed Office of Homelessness.

In his work on homelessness and other major issues impacting low-income families and individuals, Phil has a long history of effective collaboration, both within and outside County government. He coordinated the County's response to federal welfare reform in 1997-98 and chaired the former Interagency Operations Group for many years. In addition, Phil has been a strong advocate for low-income people in Sacramento through the County Welfare Directors Association and in Washington through the American Public Human Services Association.

Phil holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stanford University and participated in the Community Scholars Program through the UCLA School of Architecture and Urban Planning. He has been happily married for 33 years and has 2 sons, ages 24 & 28.



Rorie Skei has been involved in Southern California open space preservation and parkland issues for over 40 years.

As Chief Deputy Director for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Ms. Skei oversees acquisition, park development, and watershed planning staff; partnerships with local, state, and federal governments; and resource protection of the 75,000 acres of parkland that have been preserved for the public to date. She also serves ex officio as the Chief Deputy Executive Officer of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), a joint powers agency; and is Deputy Executive Officer for seven other joint powers authorities in which the Conservancy is a member. She is a sworn park ranger with MRCA. Since 1981, she has been the appointed public member and is the current chairperson of the Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency, a joint powers agency between the City of Thousand Oaks and the Conejo Recreation and Park District.

Ms. Skei has long been a California native plant enthusiast and has maintained her home native garden in Thousand Oaks for many years.



Jacqueline Waggoner is vice president and Southern California market leader for Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. She oversees Enterprise's affordable housing, community development, investment and strategic programs from the state's Central Coast to San Diego. Jacqueline started with Enterprise in 2005. During her tenure, she has employed capital, intellectual resources and capacity building tools to achieve Enterprise's strategic and production goals, leading to more than \$300 million in Enterprise investments locally. She has worked with the city of Los Angeles, banks and nonprofit developer partners to create local funds for affordable housing, advocate for low-income families and support Enterprise's vision of providing communities of opportunity.

Jacqueline serves on the 10-member Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Commission, the agency's governing board, appointed by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas in February 2017. She is on the board of directors of the Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing (SCANPH), a membership organization that supports the production, preservation and management of affordable homes. Jacqueline is on the board of governors of the California Housing Consortium and a board member for the Los Angeles Business Council and Restore Neighborhoods LA, Inc. Jacqueline serves on the steering committees for LA Thrives, a collaborative advancing equitable transit-oriented development, and LA Funders' Collaborative, a network promoting healthy, equitable & sustainable communities.

A Los Angeles native, Jacqueline has a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in urban planning from UCLA. Her experience in commercial real estate lending spans more than 20 years. Before joining Enterprise, she was vice president for community lending with Wells Fargo Bank in Los Angeles.



Pauline Louie returns to field operations and management at HUD after 4 years coordinating the 14 federal agencies and over 40 stakeholder organizations participating in the Urban Waters Federal Partnership - Los Angeles River. She has spent the prior 14 years leading Sustainability and other Community Development initiatives for both the Los Angeles and Santa Ana Field Offices. She also returned from leading housing recovery efforts for the 2017 Northern CA Wildfires.

Prior to federal service, Ms. Louie worked in redevelopment consulting and BRAC reuse for Keyser Marston Associates, Inc., and as a Contracts and Grants Administrator for the University of California. Ms. Louie attended UCLA where she earned Bachelor's degrees in Political Science, and in Geography/ Environmental Studies. Also from UCLA, she completed her Master's degree in Urban Planning, with a focus on environmental and transportation policy and planning. She has also completed an executive program in Community Building at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Glen Bae works as a Senior Community Planning and Development (CPD) Representative in the LA Field Office of HUD. In this capacity, he provides oversight and assistance to nonprofits and units of local government in carrying out Departmental initiatives and responding to local community development needs. He acts as departmental liaison with entities such as the County of LA's Community Development Commission (LACDC) and Housing Authority (HACOLA), Glendale, Pasadena, among other partners, overseeing a total grant portfolio of \$82 million. Glen has been with the Department for eight years and is a native of Los Angeles. He holds a master of planning degree from the USC Price School of Public Policy.



Dhakshike Wickrema, Assistant Senior Deputy for Homelessness and Mental Health, serves as the lead on policies, programs and advocacy related to homelessness and mental health. Most recently, she supported the Supervisor's successful efforts to pass Measure H, a quarter-cent special sales tax, estimated to raise \$355 million annually to fund strategies to prevent and end homelessness in Los Angeles County.

Prior to joining the Supervisor's office, Ms. Wickrema worked at Shelter Partnership, a non-profit focused on public policy and advocacy related to homelessness and affordable housing. She has also worked for the World Bank's Poverty Alleviation, Health Services and Social Development sectors. Ms. Wickrema earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from Illinois Wesleyan University and her Masters degree in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she investigated international housing strategies.



Norma Edith García was appointed as Chief Deputy Director of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation in September 2016. She is the first woman to serve in that capacity and executive role in the Department since it Assessment, an effort unprecedented in scope and scale, that quantified the need for parks and recreation resources in Los Angeles County (including 88 Cities and 156 Unincorporated Areas) and estimated the potential cost of meeting that need. Holding over 140+ community engagement meetings and engaging thousands of community members, this effort served as the groundwork for Measure A: Los Angeles County Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Measure of 2016 which was passed by the voters with nearly 75% approval rating.

Ms. García is an ardent believer of lifting up children, families and strengthening communities throughout the County, and works tirelessly to achieve this through her active participation in many civic and professional organizations. She currently serves on the Governing Board of Trustees for Rio Hondo College, the Board of New Economics for Women and the El Monte Promise Foundation. Ms. García's work has been highlighted by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics in 2015 and invited to the White House by President Barack Obama. In 2016, Ms. García was invited to participate and share the stage with former President Clinton at the Clinton Global Initiative America. Ms. García received the 2017 First District Women of the Year by the Los Angeles County Commission of Women and Supervisor Hilda Solis and the 2018 Woman of the Year for the 22nd California Senate District. Ms. García is a graduate from the Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) Leadership Institute and was awarded a Conflict Resolution Fellowship through the U.S. State Department in Indonesia.

Ms. García graduated from UCLA, earning a B.A. in Political Science and M.A. in Urban Planning. Ms. García and her adventurous family of boys and huskies enjoy California road trips and everything about parks and the great outdoors.



Larae Cantley's has Lived Experience which has driven her passion for speaking about topics such as Housing, Domestic Violence, Mental Health, Healthcare, Parenting, Education, Advocacy, Social Justice and Being Your Best Self. 6 years ago she graduated from PICO National which is now known as Faith in Action and has gladly taken the role as a Community Leader. Her advocacy has



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Dominic H. Choi was born in Los Angeles, California, and currently resides in Orange County. He graduated from Canyon High School in 1988, and continued his education at the University of Southern California where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. Commander Choi is married and has three

daughters.

Commander Choi began his career with the Los Angeles Police Department on November 27, 1995. He worked a variety of Divisions as a police officer, which included Southeast Division, Pacific Division, Rampart Division, and Hollenbeck Division. His assignments included patrol officer, field training officer, bike detail, foot beat detail, and special problems unit. In 2001, he was promoted to Detective at Harbor Division where he worked a variety of assignments including Crimes Against Persons & Gang Detectives.

In 2002, he was promoted to Sergeant at 77th Street Area where he worked as a field supervisor. In addition, he also worked as an investigator assigned to Internal Affairs Group, Administrative Investigation Section.

In 2009, he was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to Southwest Area as a watch commander. As a Lieutenant, Commander Choi held the position of Officer-in-Charge at Internal Affairs Group, Workplace Investigation Section, and Adjutant to the Director of Office of Special Operations.

He was promoted to Captain on June 15, 2014, and appointed as the Foothill Division Patrol Commanding Officer. Commander Choi also worked as the Commanding Officer of Risk Management Division, until December 25, 2016, when he was appointed as the Commanding Officer at Pacific Area.

In 2017, he promoted to the rank of Police Commander and is currently assigned to Operations-Central Bureau. In addition to his operation duties, Commander Choi serves as the Los Angeles Police Department's Homeless Coordinator.



Albert Torres currently serves the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks at the lead in addressing illegal encampments and bulky items at 444 city parks, including 12 regional parks, 182 recreation centers, and 16,000 acres of open space. Over his 35

years as a park ranger, he has been involved in assisting homeless people his entire career. Having made thousands of contacts in the field with homeless people, Ranger Torres is recognized as a department expert and speaks to community groups, department staff, and professional groups. Each discussion starts and ends with the work compassion. Compassion toward each person and their circumstance, with the hope of a better outcome. Compassion toward community and the impact of the park conditions.



Craig Sap began his career with California State Parks in April 1983 as a Seasonal Lifeguard at Ventura and Carpinteria Beaches working summers while attending college at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

In 1997, Craig became a full time Lifeguard at Huntington and Bolsa Chica State Beaches and was eventually promoted to the Public Safety Superintendent for the Angeles District in 2007.

His first Superintendent assignment was also in 2007 when he became the Acting Sector Superintendent for Los Angeles Sector.

Craig became the Acting District Superintendent of the Angeles District in 2010 and in 2012 was appointed to the position.

Mr. Sap brings a wide variety of park knowledge and has had a great deal of experience with State Parks in urban settings.

Living in Malibu with his wife and son, he travels, hikes frequently in the Santa Monica Mountains, enjoys reading and cooking.



Miguel Luna is an immigrant from Colombia who works on water, people, and smiles. He is a principal at DakeLuna Consultants and founder of Urban Semillas. He is sought after and respected locally, regionally, and statewide for his expertise in working with diverse communities and for his ability to utilize community

reconnaissance in order to develop and implement effective outreach tools and to deploy community engagement mechanisms for coalition and consensus building. Miguel serves on a myriad of boards that focus on water education, pedestrian advocacy and mobility, youth education, economic development, open space conservation, and community access to the outdoors.



Dan Knapp assumed the role of Executive Director/ CEO of the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) on February 1, 2016. Prior to joining CCLB Dan served as Deputy Director of the LA Conservation Corps. Dan worked for the LA Conservation Corps for 19 years, the past 10 years in the role of Deputy Director. He started working for the LA Conservation Corps as an environmental science teacher during the summer of 1996 thinking that he'd work for the Corps for a year or two, at the most. His initial goal was to impart his love and passion for the natural environment to the young people of the Corps. Dan quickly realized that for the young people of the Corps to appreciate and value the importance of conservation they first and foremost must appreciate and value themselves. It was that revelation that hooked him and made me a firm believer in the mission of the Corps (Dan likes to say that he not only drank the Kool-aid, he guzzled it).

At the LA Corps Dan was responsible for over \$25 million in project funds. Dan has been involved in a broad spectrum of projects including: the development of award winning environmental education programs, large scale restoration projects, the development of a residential program in the San Bernardino Mountains, innovative urban forestry programs, as well as a myriad of resource conservation and environmental justice projects and programs. In addition to his conservation corps work, Dan sits on the board of directors of the Southern California Mountains Foundation, the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC), and the California State Conservation Corps Museum. He is an active member of LA Metro's Urban Greening Technical Advisory Committee, the Lower LA River Revitalization (AB 530) Plan Team, and was recently appointed to the Los Angeles River Master Plan Steering Committee. Dan holds bachelors and masters degrees in Geography from California State University, Long Beach. He is an ISA-certified arborist (WE-6295-A) and a life time member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.



Brittany Murrey joined Homeboy Recycling in February 2018 as the Business Development Manager. She previously worked at Citibank where she managed a retail banking center in Central Los Angeles. During her tenure within the financial services industry, she completed a Masters of Science degree in Social

Entrepreneurship from the USC Marshall School of Business. Brittany is passionate about sustainable business & helping marginalized groups find quality work.



Lulu Kornspan is a proud native Los Angelean who moved north to the Bay Area to earn her Bachelors degree in Media Communications at San Francisco State University. Joining the Homeboy Recycling team early on in it's existence in 2012, Lulu has helped to build out the HR and Logistics departments as well as co-creating the company culture. With a background in market research, curriculum design, and non-profit management, Lulu has been delighted to be able to utilize those skills within a business that also represents her deep passion for the environment and human rights issues.



Mark Loranger leads Chrysalis, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit that works with the homeless and those disconnected from the workforce to help them find and retain employment. During his eleven years at the agency, Mark has led significant expansion of Chrysalis, including a 70 percent growth in programmatic outcomes, the redevelopment or renovation of all three of its centers, and a doubling of the agency's revenue. In 2017, Chrysalis helped over 1700 of its clients find employment, while also employing over 1100 clients in one of its three social enterprises.

Mark has a diverse skill set developed over 30 years as both an entrepreneur and a corporate leader. He is on the board of SVP-Los Angeles, the advisory board of the California Community Foundation's BLOOM Initiative, and is an adjunct faculty member in Antioch University's Master of Nonprofit Management Program. Mark holds a B.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of California Davis and a Masters in International Business from George Washington University.



Spencer Eldred serves as Staff Counsel to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), and provides legal services to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority, and other entities. He is a founding member of the LA ROSAH Collaborative. Spencer works on issues related to climate change, expanding public access to green spaces, protecting public open space and parkland acquisitions. Spencer received his undergraduate degree in environmental science from Duke University and his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School. Prior to working at MRCA, Spencer worked on environmental justice issues at the Natural Resources Defense Council and on water policy as part of a lab at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (UCSD).



Bruce Saito's career with the California Conservation Corps goes back to 1977 and the Corps' earliest days. After graduating from San Francisco State University, he spent nearly a decade with the CCC, joining the program as a supervisor/instructor at the Bret Hart Training Academy in Calaveras County, then moving to the Santa Clara (Agnews) Center where he served for 2 years.

Promoted to a Conservationist II, Bruce worked at the CCC San Gabriel Center, then moved to the LA Urban Center, eventually serving as director of the CCC's first non-residential center. After a stop at the Camarillo Center, Bruce joined with Martha Diepenbrock to establish the LA Conservation Corps in 1986. Bruce became LA Corps Executive Director in 1995, and devoted nearly 30 years to the LA Corps, the largest local nonprofit urban in the nation.

In 2014, the LA Corps/LA Education Corps Adult Corps High School was renamed in honor of Bruce, as Saito High School.

Bruce has also been active in the Corps movement on a national level. He has served as president of the Corps Network's board of directors and was honored with Corps Legacy Achievement Award in 2014. In California, he has served as vice-president of the CA Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC) that represent 13 certified local conservation corps programs.

Bruce is currently a board member of LA County Beaches Commission, River LA, the Friends of Manzanar, the Little Tokyo Senior Nutrition Center, the Corps Network and the Durfee Foundation.

seen new heights since participating in CSH Speak Up, Today she is more than glad to say "I am a CSH SpeakUp Advocate Alumni" as well a member of the Tenant Knowledge Exchange, Lived Experience Advisory Group at LASHA, and Client Centered Workgroup aligning domestic violence and homeless services. She enjoys spending time expressing myself in creative artistic ways while spending time with loved ones, especially her 4 beautiful children.



David Abel, President & CEO of ABL, Incorporated, publishes: The Planning Report, which focuses on land use <planningreport.com>; the Metro Investment Report, which covers public infrastructure investments; and the VerdeXchange News <verdexchange.org/>, which focuses on clean energy and sustainable technologies. Over the past decade, David has leveraged his experience and interests in civic affairs, water technologies, renewable energy, last mile transportation, land use planning, and sustainability to also create the VerdeXchange Institute - an environmental think tank and host of (California, Arizona and Canada) annual clean tech and renewable energy conferences that draw global and regional leadership from industry, government, education and public policy involved in the global, green economy marketplace.

He presently serves on the executive & governing board of Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation; ULI-LA; and Chai Energy's Advisory Boards, as well as the board of New Village Girls Academy. David has been a corporate board member of both Western Water and SuperShuttle; and served as an appointee of the Los Angeles City Controller, on Los Angeles Unified School District' Proposition BB School Bond Citizen's Oversight Committee.

He's also been a lecturer on regionalism at UC San Diego and served for eight years as Chair of the Board of Overseers of USC's School of Public Policy. By appointment, he also served as chair of State Assembly Speaker Robert Hertzberg's Blue Ribbon Commission to Consider Reforms of California's Initiative Process; Speaker's Hertzberg's Commission on Regionalism; and, was chair of former Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa's Commission on State/Local Government Finance Reform. He also is a past Director of Coro Southern California.

Mr. Abel has been a director of the Coro Foundation and has educational degrees in economics, urban studies, law and educational administration.



Armando Hogan is a proud 35 year member of the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD).

He has recently promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief with the LAFD effective February 4, 2018, serving as the Operations West Bureau Commander.

Chief Hogan's area of service includes the Los Angeles World Airport, the LAX coastal communities, Hollywood including Griffith Park, Silver Lake, the hillsides and canyon communities that border Hollywood, Pacific Palisades, Bel Air and West Los Angeles including UCLA.

Prior to this promotion, he served as the Assistant Bureau Commander in Operations West Bureau.

Additionally, Chief Hogan has served the LAFD as the Chief Training Officer at LAX, Community Liaison Officer where he represented the Fire Chief as his spokesperson and worked in various communities throughout Los Angeles.

His education consists of a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Services Management from the Union Institute and University along with a Master's Degree in Leadership from the University of Southern California (USC). He has also attended the John F. Kennedy, School of Government on the campus of Harvard University where he received an Executive certificate for his participation in the National Preparedness Leadership Initiative. He is married to his beautiful wife Marcia of 25 years and is the proud parent of two degreed adult children.