

# Emergency: Housing & the Ballot

## Panelists



### **Karla Zombro – Field Director, California Calls**

Karla is the Field Director at California Calls, where she leads their statewide organizing, capacity-building and Integrated Voter Engagement work. California Calls is also part of the Million Voters Project, a new alliance of 7 statewide networks (ACCE, APEN, CHIRLA, MIV, PICO California and Y-Vote) seeking to change the California Electorate to win lasting systemic change. Prior to California Calls, Karla worked in a variety of roles at SCOPE where she helped lead their organizing and policy campaigns. From 1994 to 1999, Karla was a union organizer with Justice for Janitors, SEIU Local 1877 in Los Angeles. Karla graduated from UCLA in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Women’s Studies.



### **Matthew J. Adams - Vice President, Building Industry Association, San Diego County**

Matthew Adams serves as Vice President of the Building Industry Association of San Diego County. The BIA represents over 700-member companies in an industry that employs more than 65,000 men and women in San Diego County.

He is the senior policy advocate for the 80-year old trade association on multiple land use and regulatory issues throughout San Diego County. He leads and directs the efforts of the BIA governmental affairs staff and serves on the BIA Urban Council which focuses on urban infill and redevelopment policy. Prior to joining the BIA, he served as Chief of Staff to then

Assemblyman Jan Goldsmith.

Matt is involved in several community planning organizations. He is a member of the City of San Diego Technical Advisory Group that evaluates land use policy, and is currently the Navajo Community Planning Group that advises the City of San Diego on land use matters for the communities of Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, Grantville and San Carlos,

Matt has more than 20 years’ experience in San Diego’s political arena and is the industry liaison to various coalition partners and political campaigns. He serves as senior staff the BIA’s Political Action Committee that evaluates candidates and ballot measures that affect the building industry.

He is a 38-year resident of the San Diego mostly in the Navajo community- and is married to Ann Marie Adams – his bride of 30 years. They have three children.



## **Michael W. McConnell – Advocate for homeless issues**

Michael McConnell is a recognized leader in the fight to solve homelessness. He has served on multiple local and regional homelessness advisory committees, including having served as vice chair on the Regional Task Force on the Homeless.

A thought leader on the topic, he's presented at conferences across the country, including the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference. He has organized regional summits and is a regular presence at community meetings.

Previously, McConnell was a member of San Diego Grantmakers' Homelessness Working Group and helped established Funders Together to End Homelessness San Diego – a local representative of a national collaborative of philanthropists and grant makers that combine resources to actively end homelessness.



## **Paola Martinez – Executive Director, ACCE San Diego**

Montes has lived in San Diego for nearly 20 years, growing up here since arriving from Mexico with her family in 1995, she is the daughter of immigrant parents and was undocumented herself for many years, giving her a unique worldview and sensitivity to the injustices and inequalities that many people face. Being raised in San Diego, she harbors a deep love for the city and the people who live here and it was that love that led her to organizing.

She began her organizing as a student at San Diego City College where she obtained a degree in Sociology, during which time she organized around ending budget cuts, increased tuition costs, violence against women, and immigrant rights. She was a teacher's assistant in Gender Studies, interned for the American Federation of Teachers Local 1931. All this experience allowed her to further understand inherent interconnections between the importance of social justice, unionism, and community organizing.

In 2011, she joined the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerments (ACCE), as a member of a civic engagement team, where her leadership and organizing continued to develop leading her to the position of Director of ACCE for San Diego County. As Director of the San Diego chapter of ACCE, she has engaged her community, run civic engagement programs, facilitated community-led campaigns, developed local community leaders as well as new organizing staff, and participated in numerous coalitions to develop policies and organizing campaigns aimed at improving the lives of low-income community members and people of color in San Diego, Chula Vista and National City. Paola is currently serving as the Chair for the Human Relations Commission and Engage Action Fund.