

Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy

Oversight of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

Tuesday August 9, 2016, Sacramento, California 2:00 p.m.

Witnesses Biographies (alphabetical order)

Panorea Avdis; Director, GO-Biz

Panorea Avdis serves as the Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), the state's lead entity for economic development and job creation efforts. Prior to her most recent appointment, Director Avdis served as the Chief Deputy Director for GO-Biz, Chief of Staff in the Office of Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna, Director of External Affairs at the California Department of Housing and Community Development under Governor Schwarzenegger. She also served in several positions in the Office of Governor Gray Davis including advance staff and special assistant to the Governor. In addition to her public sector work, she spent several years in the private sector as a project manager and advisor to the Chairman of AKT Development; a major land development company based in Northern California.

Director Avdis Chairs the I-Bank Board and the CA Competes Tax Credit Committee and serves on the California Employment Training Panel, Green Collar Jobs Council, California Industrial Development Financing Advisory Commission, Economic Recovery Financing Committee and the CALED Advisory Committee. She also serves on the Board of Director for the California State University, Sacramento Hellenic Outreach Program, the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Foundation, Music on a Mission, Angelic LLC, and serves as the custodian of archives for Governor Gray Davis.

She is a native Sacramento, daughter of Greek immigrants, and a graduate of UC Davis.

Teveia Barnes; Executive Director, IBank

Teveia Barnes was appointed by Governor Brown as Executive Director of the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) on July 12, 2013. IBank's mission is to finance infrastructure, economic expansion, clean energy and water projects and to promote small business in California through the Small Business Finance Center. IBank's statutory powers include the authority to issue bonds, make loans and provide financing and credit enhancements for a variety of infrastructure, clean energy, water and economic expansion projects to state and local governments, municipalities, universities, schools and hospitals.

Prior to joining IBank, Ms. Barnes was commissioner of the California Department of Financial Institutions, the chief state regulator of depository financial institutions responsible for the licensing, examination and supervision of [banks](#), [credit unions](#), savings associations, [trust companies](#), [foreign banking organizations](#), industrial development companies and [money transmitters](#). Barnes was a partner at the law firm of Foley and Lardner LLP. Barnes worked at the Bank of America NT&SA as associate general counsel and senior vice president.

Ms. Barnes earned a Juris Doctorate from New York University School of Law in 1978 and received her BA degree in economics, political science and German studies from Rice University in 1975, where she was an Arthur B. Cohn Scholar.

Tyson Eckerle; Deputy Director of Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

Tyson Eckerle serves as the Deputy Director of Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure in the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (Go Biz). In this role, he focuses on coordinating resources

to streamline the development of hydrogen and plug-in electric vehicle stations. Prior to joining Go Biz, Tyson served as Executive Director of Energy Independence Now (EIN), where he and his team developed the Hydrogen Network Investment Plan with input from multiple stakeholders.

Tyson holds a B.A. in Biology from the University of California, Davis and a Master of Environmental Science and Management (MESM) from the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Kristen Kane; Deputy Director of California Competes Tax Credit Program; Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

Kristen Kane, of Sacramento, is the deputy director of the California Competes Tax Credit Program at the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). Prior to her position with GO-Biz, Kane served as tax counsel at the California Franchise Tax Board for over six years. She was an intern at the California State Board of Equalization Tax Appeals Assistance Program in 2010 and an attorney at the Legal Aid Society of San Diego from 2009 to 2010. Kane earned a Juris Doctor and an LL.M. in taxation from the University of San Diego School of Law.

William Koch; Chief Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

Will Koch was appointed in 2015 by Governor Brown as chief deputy director at the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). Governor Brown previously appointed Koch as GO-Biz's deputy director of the California Competes Tax Credit Program in 2014 and deputy director of legislative and inter-governmental affairs in 2012. His 18 years of continuous service to the State of California began in 1998 with the Franchise Tax Board where he held several positions including legislative analyst, personal income tax technical advisor, tax collection specialist, and tax collector. Koch received a Bachelor's Degree in accounting from the California State University, Sacramento.

Frank Ramirez; Senior Permit Assistance Specialist, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

Frank Ramirez serves in an appointed senior staff position within the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). Prior to his appointment, he served in Governor Schwarzenegger's Office of Military Support, and Governor Gray Davis' Office of Planning and Research. In addition, he also served in several positions within the California Research Bureau, the California Trade and Commerce Agency, the California Department of Transportation, and the California Department of Housing and Community Development. He also spent several years working for James P. Moody, Congressman, State Senator, and Assembly member from the State of Wisconsin.

Mr. Ramirez is currently the lead GO-Biz staff in developing and implementing the California Sustainable Freight Action Plan. In addition, he regularly mediates disputes between governmental permitting and regulatory agencies and businesses. He also takes a lead role in various other GO-Biz initiatives. He has a wealth of local government experience having served on the City of Sacramento Planning Commission; the City of Woodland Planning Commission; and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality management District. His community volunteer activities have included serving on the Board of the Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center, and a volunteer coach for the Cap FC United Soccer Club.

He is a graduate of the University of the Pacific and earned a Master of Urban Planning degree from the University of Wisconsin-M. His parents immigrated from Mexico and eventually opened a family operated restaurant in Sacramento.

Diane Richards; Senior Program Manager, City of West Sacramento Economic Development and Housing Department

Diane is a member of the International Economic Development Council and the American Institute of Certified Planners. She holds a B.A. degree in Geography from the University of South Florida and previously worked in commercial real estate and banking. Diane has led the City's business attraction program for nearly 15 years. She has had the honor of assisting numerous companies to locate or expand in West Sacramento, including Bayer CropScience, TOMRA Sorting Systems, Siemens Healthcare, Nippon Shokken and Shinmei Foods, that have created over 6,000 new jobs in West Sacramento. Diane believes the keys to her success are providing value to her clients through superior customer service and integrity. She considers her role to be that of a facilitator of conversations between industry and local, state and regional partners.

Dan Ripke; Director, Northeastern California SBDC & Center for Economic Development California State University, Chico

Dan Ripke is director of the Center for Economic Development at California State University, Chico, as well as regional director of the Northeastern California Small Business Development Center network. Mr. Ripke has over 27 years' experience working in California economic development and working with California business owners and entrepreneurs.

Mr. Ripke has served as advisor to the California Economic Strategy Panel, two terms on the board of the California Association for Local Economic Development, and three terms on the board of the national University Economic Development Association.

Jan Roos; Partner at The Urban Hive and I/O Labs in Sacramento

Jan is a founder and partner in ventures ranging from software development and technology investment to real estate development and the practice of law. He has a passion for upending traditional industry norms by introducing flexible, high-growth policies that scale with any company or program, particularly through the use of new technologies. Jan received both his B.A. and law degree from UC Davis, and has dedicated the last several years to spurring innovation and growth in the Sacramento region.

Mr. Michael Shaw; Vice President of Government Relations, California Manufacturing and Technology Association

As Vice President of Government Relations for the California Manufacturers & Technology Association, Mr. Shaw oversees the legislative and regulatory agenda for California manufacturers and manages the CMTA advocacy team. The California Manufacturers & Technology Association has advocated for pro-growth laws and regulations before the California legislature and administrative agencies since 1918.

Shaw was most recently Vice President of External Affairs for the California Trucking Association after serving as California Legislative Director for the National Federation of Independent Business, and as a lobbyist for the California Chamber of Commerce. Shaw has extensive experience in the areas of climate change, health care, tort reform, and workers' compensation, and he has worked on a number of statewide political races and initiative campaigns.

Shaw is a third-generation Californian and he graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a B.A. in Government

Louis Stewart; Deputy Director for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, GO-Biz

Louis Stewart currently serves as the Deputy Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), where he oversees the coordination and promotion of

innovative programs, activities, and emerging technologies throughout the state of California. At GO-Biz, Mr. Stewart manages a robust statewide innovation-based economic development support network of regional innovation clusters called the California Innovation Hubs (iHubs). The 16 iHubs were designed to stimulate local, regional, and statewide job creation as well as enhance the awareness, visibility, and opportunities for commercialization of the technologies emerging from GO-Biz' iHub partners.

Mr. Stewart's role includes a priority to develop an ecosystem that endorses entrepreneurship as well as promotes approaches that will augment strategic business development opportunities. High profile business opportunities are coordinated and managed in order to retain and expand business investment, assist in job creation, and enhance economic opportunities through collaboration and innovation.

Mr. Stewart comes from the private sector where he has 17 years of experience in Sales, Marketing, and Information Technologies. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Santa Clara University.

Jesse Torres; Deputy Director and State Small Business Advocate, GO-Biz

Jesse Torres was appointed deputy director, small business advocate in the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development in April 2015. Previously, Jesse had served as regional director of the Los Angeles Small Business Development Center Network at Long Beach City College from 2011 to 2015. He was director of alumni relations at Pepperdine University from 2009 to 2011, where he was also director of alumni and corporate relations from 2005 to 2009. Additionally he served as regional director at Orange County and Inland Empire Small Business Development Center Network in 2009 and associate director of development, grants and communications at Geffen Playhouse from 2002 to 2005. Torres earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Pepperdine University and Bachelor's degree in Psychology from UCLA.

Sid Voorakkara; Senior Business Development Specialist, GO-Biz

Mr. Voorakkara was appointed by Governor Brown in May 2013 as the Senior Business Development Specialist for San Diego and Imperial Counties. In this capacity, he works directly with companies to receive credits and incentives from the state for job growth, attraction, expansion and retention. He also partners with our elected delegation and other public and private economic development stakeholders to develop long-term initiatives to grow and expand the region's economic outputs.

Mr. Voorakkara spent nearly a decade prior to this service as a Program Manager with The California Endowment, the state's largest private foundation. In this capacity, Mr. Voorakkara was The Endowment's statewide strategic officer on building pathways into high-wage, high-growth jobs. Additionally, Mr. Voorakkara spent ten years as a communication and media specialist in public and private positions. He currently serves on the San Diego City Ethics Commission, is the Vice Chair of the San Diego City College Foundation Board of Directors and is a member of the San Diego Community College Trustees Advisory Council.