

# BIOGRAPHIES

## JULIE BORNSTEIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COACHELLA VALLEY HOUSING COALITION

Julie Bornstein is a 32 year resident of the Coachella Valley and has enjoyed a career in affordable housing, law and government—having the distinction of serving in all three branches at the State level. Currently she is employed by nonprofit affordable housing developer, Coachella Valley Housing Coalition, as its Executive Director. Previously Julie taught Political Science at College of the Desert as well as Contracts and Constitutional Law at the new California Desert Trial Academy School of Law in Indio.

Prior to teaching, she served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of The Campaign for Affordable Housing, a national organization that assisted state and local housing groups to conduct public education campaigns to dispel the myths and put forth the truth about the benefits of affordable housing. She served as Director of the California Department of Housing and Community Development in the Gray Davis Administration and previously served as the Chief of Staff and California Chief Deputy State Controller.

Julie was an elected member of the California State Assembly where she was elected to the leadership position of Chair of the Democratic Caucus and named “Rookie of the Year” by the nonpartisan California Journal. She served on the Housing and Community Development Committee; Finance and Insurance, Higher Education and was Vice-Chair of the Committee on Agriculture. Julie began her political career with her election in November 1989 to the Desert Community College Board of Trustees which governs College of the Desert, serving as its President in 1991. A native Californian, Julie practiced law in Los Angeles after earning degrees from both UCLA and USC and served on a wide variety of nonprofit Boards in Southern California. She taught governmental processes at the McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento and through USC and UCLA Extension. She is a California attorney and holds a real estate broker’s license. Most importantly, she is the mother of two and the grandmother of four.

## SOCORRO CARDENAS, RESIDENT LOCAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Socorro Cardenas is a retired farmworker who has lived at Desert Gardens for 14 years. Prior to living at Desert Gardens she spent 10 years commuting from Imperial Valley to the Coachella Valley for work in the fields. At the time the Coachella Valley lacked decent affordable housing for farmworkers making it impossible for her to live here. It was not until Desert Gardens Apartments was built in Indio that she was able to afford an apartment in the Coachella Valley.

## DANAVON L. HORN, PRESIDENT & CEO PALM COMMUNITIES

A second-generation affordable housing developer with over 38 years of experience, Dan Horn has directed the development of 24 communities which contain over 2,000 units of affordable multi-family housing throughout Southern California and over 2,000 units of single family housing in Riverside County since founding the Company in 1979. Dan's family company developed the largest FmHA 515 Senior Community in the nation. Dan is responsible for developing and implementing the strategic vision of the Company.

Dan maintains strong ties to both the industry and community at large. He has served on the Board of Directors of Builders Industry of America as well as the Director of Builders Council of California and he was a member of the Riverside County Workforce Development Board. Because of his background knowledge and experience, Dan is a sought after and frequent panelist and speaker at industry conferences throughout the region. Dan received his Bachelors of Arts degree from California State University in Fullerton.

## TOM KIRK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Tom Kirk is the Executive Director of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG). Before joining CVAG in June 2009, Mr. Kirk served in both the private and public sectors, served as Executive Director of the Salton Sea Authority, and a city councilman in La Quinta. Mr. Kirk has extensive experience working for real estate development companies and for planning/engineering consultants. Mr. Kirk earned a bachelor's degree, with honors, in Geography from the University of California, Los Angeles and a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of California at Berkeley where he graduated at the top of his class. Mr. Kirk was also a fellow of the University of California Transportation Center, a graduate of the Coro Foundation Public Affairs program, and the Harvard Kennedy School.

CVAG is a joint powers authority made up of the cities of Blythe, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and Rancho Mirage; the County of Riverside; and two Indian Tribes: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and Cabazon Band of Mission Indians.

The most recognized success at CVAG is in transportation. CVAG worked in cooperation with its thirteen member jurisdictions to develop a progressive regional road program and congestion mitigation program. Mr. Kirk and his staff are currently overseeing a \$70 million interchange project – the sixth such effort as part of the Interstate 10 Improvement Corridor.

Another successful effort at CVAG was the development of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). The CVMSHCP will conserve over 200,000 acres of undisturbed desert land by balancing the need for habitat conservation and development.

CVAG brought the valley cities together to address homelessness, including strategic plans and the establishment of Roy's Desert Resource Center.

Another high priority project at CVAG is the air quality program which involves a successful regional street sweeping program, reseeding alternatives education program, dust control ordinances, and landscaper related educational classes.

CVAG also leads a regional energy program that promotes energy efficiency and sustainability. Under Mr. Kirk's leadership, CVAG launched a regional PACE program offering energy, water and solar loans to property owners.

Mr. Kirk is the visionary behind the planning of the CV Link, a 50-mile pathway across the Coachella Valley for pedestrians, cyclists, as well as those who travel via neighborhood electric vehicles (NEV).

**MEGAN KIRKEBY, SENIOR POLICY RESEARCH SPECIALIST  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT**

Megan Kirkeby is a Senior Policy Research Specialist with the California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) Housing Policy Division and is part of the Draft Statewide Housing Assessment team.

Prior to joining HCD, Megan was the Policy Director of the California Housing Partnership, a state-created non-profit working on housing sustainability and preservation issues.

She has also served as the Policy Associate for the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California, and interned with PolicyLink as the Community Equity Intern, analyzing infrastructure disparities in low-income unincorporated communities of color.

Megan received a Bachelor of Arts in Global Economics from UC Santa Cruz and received a Master of Public Policy with a concentration in Urban Planning and Regional Development from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.