

## Digital Divide and Smart Cities Workshop

**April 22, 2021**

[Registration Link](#)

**9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (15 mins)
  - Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director, SANDAG
  - Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO, California Emerging Technology Fund
2. Broadband and Digital Equity 101 (10 minutes)
  - Antoinette Meier, Mobility and Innovation Director, SANDAG
3. Addressing the Digital Divide from the Business Perspective (10 mins)
  - Angeli Calinog, Policy Advisor, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
4. SANDAG Digital Equity Strategy Overview and Broadband Gap Analysis Findings (20 mins)
  - SANDAG Staff
5. Panel Presentation and Discussion on Best Practices for Broadband Planning, Permitting and Deployment (45 mins)
  - Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director, South Bay Cities Council of Governments
  - Jonathan Behnke, Chief Information Officer, City of San Diego
  - Todd Corbin, General Manager, Riverside Public Utilities
6. Group Discussion (20 mins)

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### Panelist Bios



**Jacki Bacharach**

*Executive Director of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments*

In addition to serving as Executive Director of the South Bay Council of Governments, Jacki is also the Chair of the Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission.

Previously, she served for 14 years as Mayor and Councilmember in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and on the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) for 12 years. At various times, she chaired LACTC's Planning and Rail Construction Committees and the Commission itself. She led the committees through the development of the overall rail plan for L.A. County as well as overseeing the construction of the Metro Blue and Green Lines.

Jacki served as the Founding Chair of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority - the five-county agency that operates the Metrolink commuter rail system. Additionally, she was a Founding Vice Chair for the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency, and a charter member of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority dealing with landside access to the Ports of LA and Long Beach. For the League of California Cities, she chaired the Transportation and Communications Committee which included technology issues.

She served as a member of the National Commission on Intermodal Transportation, appointed by then U.S. Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña, and worked with Secretary Peña as a member of President Clinton's Transition Team Transportation Cluster Group.

**Todd Corbin**

*General Manager, Riverside Public Utilities*



Todd has 31 years of business experience in Southern California, with the last 28 years made up of extensive public sector finance, utility operations and management experience serving mostly in the Inland Empire. During the past two years, he has served as the Utilities General Manager for the City of Riverside leading the activities of the water and electric public utilities for California's 12th largest city with a population of 330,000. Prior to joining Riverside Public Utilities, Todd worked as the General Manager for the Jurupa Community Services District and in various management leadership capacities for the Cucamonga Valley Water District, which fueled his passion for innovation and sustainability and the Rowland Water District, which sparked his love for public agency service to the community.

Todd is anchored by his wife of 31 years and their three sons and one daughter-in-law. He has called Orange County home for the past 31 years, after heading west from a small town outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Of course, the Steelers are first in his heart for sports teams but he has adopted the Lakers and Angels to prove his transplanted California roots.



## Jonathan Behnke

*Chief Information Officer, City of San Diego*

Jonathan is the Chief Information Officer for the City of San Diego. He has over 20 years of IT experience managing and implementing technology for a broad range of industries including public sector, contract services, manufacturing, oil, automotive, distribution, consulting, and construction.

In Jonathan's current role, he is responsible for the technology strategy and operations for America's eighth largest city, managing the data center, network, voice, public safety wireless communications, web services, enterprise applications, IT governance, portfolio management, cybersecurity, and GIS, in support of over 11,000 users and 1.4 million residents. He has also lead the implementation of the City's Digital Equity initiative called SD Access 4 All, with expanded no-cost Wi-Fi services at City libraries, parks, and 255 Wi-Fi hotspots along many City streets while partnering with non-profits and community based organizations to provide access to devices and digital navigation services.