

Bios and Contact Info

Al Savay, AICP, is the Community and Economic Development Director with the City of San Carlos overseeing the Planning, Economic Development, Housing and Building Divisions and the BAPDA Chair. Prior to San Carlos, Al worked for the City of Mountain View as the City's Zoning Administrator. He was the chief author of the Mountain View Rowhouse Guidelines and in charge of the Mountain View Downtown Precise Plan Update utilizing an innovative collaborative, community engagement process. Prior to the City of Mountain View, he managed current and advanced city planning with the Daly City Economic and Community Development Department. Al graduated from California Polytechnic State University with a B.S. in City and Regional Planning.

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Neil Hall brings over 40 years of intensive interaction with public agencies and communities throughout California. As Owner and President of the Fairfield Research Group from 1995 to 2014, Neil conducted over 150 focus groups, and attitude and satisfaction surveys for various communities, political candidates, and public entities in Solano County. For the past three years, Neil, as SCI Consulting Group's lead cannabis consultant, has worked extensively in helping California cities and counties with regulating all administrative aspects of cannabis implementation within their communities. He has now worked with over a dozen cities and counties on various phases of local cannabis implementation. Neil has visited dispensaries in California, Oregon, Washington, and Vancouver, British Columbia. He has also participated in different seminars and workshops, as an observer and panelist, with leading cannabis experts in policy, retail, cultivation, manufacturing, delivery, monitoring, and testing. Neil earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management and MBA from St. Mary's College.

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Paul Jensen, AICP, is the Community Development Department Director for the City of San Rafael, overseeing city planning, building and code enforcement. He has worked for the City of San Rafael for almost two decades, returning to this City in 2008 as an employee after 20 years. Paul initially worked as a planner for San Rafael from 1980-1988. In the intervening 20 years, Paul had a planning consulting business specializing in large development project management, environmental review and policy writing for Bay Area cities. During this time, Paul provided consultant services for about a dozen cities. Paul holds a BA in Geography/Urban Planning and AICP planning certification. He is a native San Franciscan and has lived in Marin for 37 years.

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Beth Greene, AICP, is a Senior Planner for the City of Berkeley. She holds a Master degree in Urban Planning from San José State University and has over 15 years of planning experience in local government. Since 2011, she has been the Secretary to Berkeley's Medical Cannabis Commission. In that role, she is the City's point person for cannabis issues. She guided the development of Berkeley's ordinances for medical cannabis dispensaries and cultivation; managed a competitive dispensary selection process; and is the primary point of contact for the public regarding cannabis regulations in the city. Beth is currently involved in the creation of Berkeley's comprehensive adult use cannabis regulations.

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Greg Minor is an Assistant to the City Administrator for the City of Oakland where he oversees the Nuisance Abatement and Special Activity Permits Division. Since 2014, Greg has overseen the permitting of cannabis businesses in the City of Oakland. Most recently, Greg co-authored a race and equity report that analyzed the impacts of proposed cannabis regulations on historically marginalized populations in the City of Oakland. The analysis identified disparities in the cannabis industry as well as specific legislative and administrative recommendations to address the root-causes of these disparities. Greg is now in the process of implementing these recommendations, including prioritized permitting for historically marginalized populations and an incubator program that incentivizes more-resourced cannabis operators to provide direct support to less resourced cannabis operators. Prior to working in the City Administrator's Office, Greg worked in the Oakland City Attorney's Office as a Neighborhood Law Corps Attorney. Greg has also worked at Public Advocates in San Francisco and the East Bay Community Law Center in Berkeley. Greg has a joint city planning and law degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

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Whitney McNair, AICP, leads the Office of Land Use and Environmental Planning (LUEP) for Stanford University to support the senior administration and the Board of Trustees with recommendations for long-term land uses and the protection of land-based resources. LUEP strives to balance the stewardship of lands for future University needs and protection of the local environment. Whitney provides advice on securing land entitlements for University development and actively works with the local agencies to communicate Stanford's priorities for its lands and maintain compliance with regulations. Whitney has a background in city planning, with a particular emphasis on policy development and implementation. She has worked throughout the Bay Area on large, complex, high-profile projects, and has been instrumental in the preparation of award-winning planning documents, ranging from design guidelines, specific plans and precise plans.

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Ruthann Ziegler, a Principal at Meyers Nave, has more than 35 years of experience in public law, representing municipalities and special districts throughout California. She leads both the Cannabis Law Practice Group and the California Public Records Act Practice Group. Ruthann has been serving on the League of California Cities' City Attorneys' Department's Ad Hoc Medical Marijuana Committee since being selected to that committee when it was formed in 2011. Ruthann represents clients in all matters affecting local governance and decision-making, from day-to-day operations to long-term policy issues. She advises clients on issues such as rate setting, public contracts and bidding, land use, public power, cannabis, and environmental issues, as well as the Brown Act, Political Reform Act, and Public Records Act. Ruthann currently serves as city attorney and general counsel for several cities and special districts.

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Neil Ruditsky spent the first 25+ years of his career in the hospitality industry managing hotels, food and beverage operations, and convention centers. In 2012, he left this livelihood to enter the medicinal cannabis industry as it was emerging in San Jose. Spending the first 4 years with the organization as a board member and general manager of Elemental Wellness Center, Neil helped institute standard operating procedures for San Jose's largest medicinal retail dispensary while working hand-in-hand with the City of San Jose in shaping successful public safety regulations in the "most regulated" city in California.

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Sean Kali-rai is a California-based business advisor and lobbyist specializing in land use entitlement for the cannabis industry, and state level legislative actions. Sean represents the top five largest medical cannabis dispensaries in the City of San Jose. In 2015, Sean assisted seven of San Jose's 16 legally operating medical marijuana facilities in securing their local licenses. He has expertise in governmental affairs, land use, lobbying, and business development /consulting in the San Francisco Bay Area. Sean is the founder of Jackson and Main, LLC, in Los Gatos. Sean works with city, county, and state regulators on the behalf of his clients. Sean graduated from Santa Clara University with a BS in Economics and he is a California real estate licensee/broker.

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