**A person in a suit

AI-generated content may be incorrect.SEAT 1 – Kern County Representative (Board of Supervisors)**

David Couch has been serving as the Kern County Supervisor for District 4 since 2013. Before his tenure as a county supervisor, he was a member of the Bakersfield City Council from 1999 to 2012, where he also served as vice-mayor.

Commissioner Couch has a background in the financial services industry, having worked in that field for over 20 years. He holds a B.S. in Business Administration (Accounting) from San Jose State University. Additionally, he has been involved in various community organizations, including the Boys & Girls Club and the Valley Water Alliance. Serving LAFCo since 2019

**A person in a suit and tie

AI-generated content may be incorrect.SEAT 2 – Kern County Representative (Board of Supervisors)**

Jeff Flores has worked with local officials, nonprofits, and businesses to improve our community's quality of life for decades. He believes community service drives real change.

Jeff serves on various boards and committees, including CAPK, Kern Emergency Council, Kern Emergency Medical Care Advisory Board, Kern COG, Kern County Foundation, Kern Medical Center Foundation, Southern California Water Committee, Tobacco Funding Corporation of Kern County, and Treasury Oversight Committee. As District 3 Supervisor, he focuses on public safety, economic development, and enhancing the quality of life for all Kern County residents. Serving LAFCo since 2024.

**A person in a suit and tie

AI-generated content may be incorrect.SEAT – 3 City Representative (City of Ridgecrest)**

Dr. Travis Endicott is the mayor of Ridgecrest, CA, a Navy intelligence veteran, and a professional at NAWCWD.

With a background in political science and a passion for public service, he brings experience as a former professor and a commitment to protecting civil liberties, supporting youth opportunities, ensuring access to rural Healthcare, and promoting transparent local government. Raised in rural Indiana, he values hard work, integrity, and community. He is a proud husband to his high school sweetheart and father of two. Serving LAFCo since 2025.

**A person in a suit and tie

AI-generated content may be incorrect.SEAT – 4 City Representative (City of McFarland) Saul Ayon**

Serving LAFCo since 2022

**SEAT – 5 Special District Representative (NORSD) Gary McKibbin**

Gary McKibbin has been a resident of Bakersfield for 47 years. He is an Army Veteran. Ran his own Insurance Agency for Farmers Insurance and retired in 2014 after 32 years. He has dedicated 29 years of service to the North of the River Sanitary District.

Additionally, he has been a member of the Lyons Club, contributing to community initiatives and local projects. Serving on LAFCo since 2019.

**A person wearing a black hat

AI-generated content may be incorrect.SEAT 6 – Special District Representative (WSRPD)**

Les Clark III is the District Administrator for the West Side Recreation & Park District (WSRPD) and has dedicated nearly 20 years to serving the community through parks, recreation, and public service. During his tenure, he has helped lead efforts to improve local facilities, build community programs, and secure hundreds of thousands of dollars in outside funding to support district projects.

Les has served as an elected official for the City of Taft and has been actively involved in community service leadership, local boards, and various advisory committees. He brings valuable experience in special district operations and a strong commitment to collaboration and long-term community growth. Serving LAFCo since 2024.

**A person wearing a vest and smiling

AI-generated content may be incorrect.SEAT 7 – General Public Member Representative**

Vince Zaragoza is an independent planning consultant with over 30 years of experience in community and economic development, urban and environmental planning, and GIS/Geography.

He firmly believes in civic engagement and using technology to enable planners and policymakers to improve the welfare of people and their communities by preserving open spaces, discouraging urban sprawl, and shaping urban areas and rural neighborhoods into healthier, more efficient, and manageable spaces. Serving LAFCo since 2019.

**A person in a suit smiling

AI-generated content may be incorrect.SEAT 8 – Largest City Representative (City of Bakersfield)**

Councilman Andrae Gonzales was elected to represent Bakersfield Ward 2 in November 2016. Known as the "Downtown Ward," Ward 2 is the most urban and diverse in Bakersfield. Born and raised in East Bakersfield, Gonzales is deeply committed to public service, especially for the most vulnerable.

In 2023, he became the City's first Latino Vice Mayor. As a Councilman, he focuses on completing the Thomas Roads Improvement Projects, revitalizing Downtown Bakersfield, reducing homelessness, preserving historic neighborhoods, and improving residents' quality of life. Gonzales also chairs the Budget and Finance Committee and is involved in various nonprofit organizations. Serving LAFCo since 2023.

**A person smiling at camera

AI-generated content may be incorrect.SEAT 9 – Restricted Public Member Representative**

Barbara Fowler was born and raised in Bakersfield, attending B.H.S., Bakersfield College, and U.C. Berkeley. Her fields of study were English Literature and U.S. History.

She married her college sweetheart, and we will soon celebrate 55 years of marriage.  They have two daughters who live locally, one wonderful son-in-law, and three remarkable grandchildren. She has been a member of the Assistance League of Bakersfield for 40+ years, a member of Chapter IW P.E.O. Sisterhood and Kern Reciprocity, a Eucharistic Minister at Christ the King Catholic Church, and Moderator of the Bookies, a local book club.  Serving LAFCo Since 2019.

**ALTERNATES:**

**A person in a suit and tie

AI-generated content may be incorrect.SEAT 1 & 2 - Alternate Kern County Representative (Board of Supervisors)**

Supervisor Phillip Peters was elected to the Board of Supervisors in March 2020. As Supervisor for the 1st District, he advocates for all Kern County residents, fighting against government overreach and preserving the county's unique qualities.

He serves on various boards and committees, including the Workforce Investment Board, Kern County Oil Contractors Association, and Association of Builders and Contractors Government Affairs Board. Peters believes government should create opportunities. With experience in oil and agriculture, he understands the challenges and benefits these industries bring. As co-owner of Williams Cleaning Systems, he fights against restrictive state regulations and has published articles on water, energy, labor, and education. Serving LAFCo since 2021

**A person with blonde hair and red lipstick

AI-generated content may be incorrect.SEAT 3 & 4 - Alternate City Representative (City of McFarland)**

Councilman María T Pérez was elected to represent McFarland. She is a dedicated community leader serving as a council member and teacher. With a strong passion for education and civic engagement, she works tirelessly to support local initiatives, enhance public services, and empower youth through education. As a teacher, María inspires students to grow academically and socially, while as a council member, she advocates for policies that reflect the needs and values of the community. Known for her approachable nature and commitment to progress, María bridges the gap between government and residents, ensuring every voice is heard and valued. Serving LAFCo since 2024.

**SEAT 5 & 6 - Alternate Special District Representative (VACANT)**

**A person wearing glasses smiling

AI-generated content may be incorrect.SEAT 7 - Alternate General Public Member Representative**

Virginia Ann “Ginger” Mello was born in Bakersfield, California at the end of World War II. Her parents started calling her Ginger at a young age. She began her LAFCo life in May 1999 as an Alternate Public Member and became a Public Member in May 2007.

After 20 years on LAFCo, she resigned to allow new blood on the Commission. When her replacement resigned, she applied for the Alternate Public Member position and was honored to be appointed. She has been married for 56 years, with 3 grown children, 5 grandchildren (one adopted us), and 1 great-grandson. Serving LAFCo since 1999.

**A person in a suit

AI-generated content may be incorrect.SEAT 8 – Alternate Largest City Representative (City of Bakersfield)**

Councilmember Eric Arias was elected in November 2020 to serve Ward 1, Southeast Bakersfield, which includes the diverse communities of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Casa Loma, Southgate, and parts of Greenfield. Born and raised in Bakersfield, Eric worked various jobs to save for college and graduated from UC Santa Barbara. Since 2014, he has served the community through the offices of County Supervisor Leticia Perez and State Assemblyman Rudy Salas. As a Councilman, Eric prioritizes issues like jobs, fair pay, and public health. He also volunteers for youth leadership and civics programs, proudly representing Southeast Bakersfield. Serving LAFCo since 2023.

**SEAT 9 – Alternate Restricted Public MemberA person in a suit smiling

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

Jose Gonzalez is a Financial Advisor at Northwestern Mutual, specializing in financial planning, asset liquidation, income protection, education funding, investments, advisory services, trust services, retirement solutions, and business needs analysis.

Previously, he was Vice President of Sales and Membership at a local Credit Union, overseeing sales performance, community engagement, and branch operations. He also served as Area Manager for Self-Help Federal Credit Union, focusing on community banking. With over 26 years of management experience, he has volunteered as Past President and Current Vice President of Greater Lamont Chamber of Commerce, and serves on various boards, including the Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Serving LAFCo since 2019.