

**SPEAKER AND PANELIST BIOS - CALABASAS SYMPOSIUM****March 10, 2019****Andy Lipkis** - Founder & President, TreePeople

Andy Lipkis began planting trees to rehabilitate smog and fire-damaged areas when he was 15 years old. He founded TreePeople and has served as its President since 1973.

TreePeople has been an international guiding light for the citizen forestry movement. Andy's innovations include inspiring the planting of one million trees in Los Angeles before the 1984 Summer Olympics, volunteer-based disaster relief efforts during flood and fire, and trainings that increase citizen leadership in urban tree planting and care. For the past 20 years, Andy has spearheaded an approach to using integrated watershed management to apply a forest's natural infrastructure services to cities. The result: a sustainable water supply, as well as flood and pollution prevention. Andy's advocacy has resulted in numerous demonstrations and progress in the adoption of this new paradigm, including the long-term retrofit of L.A.'s Sun Valley area.

Andy is a social entrepreneur and visionary who develops, implements and communicates solutions to pressing public health, economic and environmental issues by forging partnerships between diverse and sometimes conflicting parties. For over 40 years, Andy's leadership has helped make Los Angeles a model for community-based efforts that have gone to scale in the region and around the world.

Across the country and around the world, Andy has addressed groups involved in the linked issues of environment, urban forestry, sustainability, water and energy use. These include: The United Nations, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.K. National Urban Forestry Unit, the U.S. Forest Service, Greening Australia, American Society of Civil Engineers, and many others.

Andy's honors come from groups as diverse as the Baha'i Faith Daughters of the American Revolution and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. In 1991, President Bush named TreePeople a Point of Light. In 1998, Andy was honored as Founder of the Year at National Philanthropy Day. In 2009, Andy was named an Ashoka Fellow.



**Cindy Montañez** - CEO, TreePeople

Cindy is a lifelong Angeleno raised in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. She began volunteering with local community organizations at the age of 12.

Her love for the environment began with her family. Cindy's mother was raised in a remote, mountainous region of Veracruz, Mexico and her father in the dry border state of Chihuahua.

Her parents ignited a passion for the environment in Cindy at an early age when they pointed out environmental injustices in their neighborhood. As a family, they participated in tree plantings and, blessed them with visits to state and national parks and encouraged the kids to pursue careers in social justice.

At the age of 25, Cindy was elected as the youngest mayor and councilmember of her hometown of San Fernando. At 28 years old, she made history by becoming the youngest woman elected to the California State Legislature, where she became a champion for the environment, sustainable urban planning and social justice.

Cindy then moved on to serve as Assistant General Manager at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, where she was a core part of the team transitioning the nation's largest publicly-owned utility to cleaner energy and a more sustainable local water supply.

Cindy is currently a Board Member for the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and a Legislator In-Residence at the USC Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics.

Some of Cindy's favorite things to do are to hike our local mountains, explore California and give back to Los Angeles. She is inspired by the magic of California's ancient 2,000-year-old giant sequoia trees, the delectable taste of the fruit from her mother's trees and the ability to live and work inside oak woodlands within a major metropolis.



**Craig Lapsley** - Emergency Management  
Commissioner of the State of Victoria, Australia (ret.)

Craig Lapsley is one of the most experienced, capable and creditable leaders in the Australian Emergency Management sector.

Strategic and operational leaderships are personal qualities that are second to none and being Victoria's first Emergency Management Commissioner and the only Fire Services Commissioner provided the opportunity to create new approaches that changed and improved Emergency Management across Victoria.

The new emergency management approach in Victoria has been community centric and have also influenced Australia and the world.

Prior to being appointed to the Commissioner roles, Craig held several senior executive and operational positions within Victoria's Fire and Emergency Management agencies. Now having extensive and broad experience and knowledge to all aspects of Emergency Management including corporate strategy and business management.

Craig was also appointed to senior operational positions in New South Wales Fire Brigades and senior consultant to National Fire Authority Fiji; and has developed very strong working relationship across the Emergency

Management sectors with agencies in the United State of America and Canada.

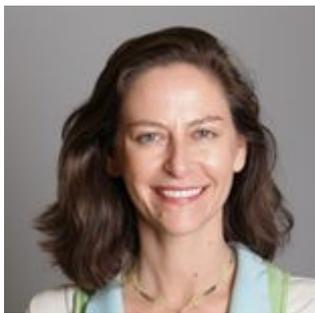
The future is the key and Craig will now focus on community challenges with an emphasis on the following themes:

- Public Safety
- Emergency Management
- Crisis and Disaster Management
- Environmental Management

With a special focus on:

- Community Connection and Resilience
- Innovation and Technology
- Strategic Leadership
- Change Management.

The future is full of opportunity and it will be complex and it's about understanding the local and global challenges we face. Craig's experience and approach brings the complex problem solver to create the future by understanding the community and the convergence of challenges. It sounds difficult, but it can't be!



**Cassy Aoyagi** - President of FormLA Landscaping

Cassy Aoyagi aims to transform even L.A.'s urban spaces into vibrantly beautiful, optimally sustainable, places to connect with nature. She promotes an authentically Los Angeles landscape aesthetic, relying on use of native and climate-compatible plants, innovative permeable hardscapes, and smart water infrastructure.

Aoyagi is a board member of the thought-leading LA Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC-LA). She is one of the rare practitioners aggregated in both its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Sustainable SITES programs. Aoyagi sits on the LA County Planning Department's Significant Ecological Areas Technical Advisory

Committee and is also the immediate past board president of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers and Native Plants.

Aoyagi's work has been covered in InStyle, Sunset, Dwell and Form Magazines, as well as on HGTV and in the LA Times. She contributes expertise to the Los Angeles Times' SoCal Garden Clinic and Houzz, as well as the USGBC's Green Home Guide. FormLA Landscaping and her work is frequently featured on area garden tours.

In 2018, Aoyagi was recognized as a Woman in Business Honoree for the 25th Assembly District, and she previously received the small business of the year award for the district. The Los Angeles Business Council has also recognized her for her work educating the public about water conservation.

Aoyagi earned her bachelor's in environmental horticulture at California Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo and co-founded FormLA Landscaping with her husband Kirk in 1997.



**Tracy Katelman** - Executive Director, California Fire Safe Council

Tracy Katelman recently joined the California Fire Safe Council staff after serving on the board from 2004-2007.

She is a Registered Professional Forester with an extensive background in community wildfire preparedness, conservation, restoration, and temperate forest management.

She returned to California in 2016 after working in Chile, where she developed the country's national methodology on community wildfire preparedness and planning, and facilitated the signing of a wildfire prevention MOU between CAL FIRE and CONAF, the Chilean national forestry and fire agency. She has spent much of her career in Humboldt County, where she helped build several local Fire Safe Councils.

She is the author of many CWPPs and as such, is an international leader in collaborative, community wildfire preparedness planning.

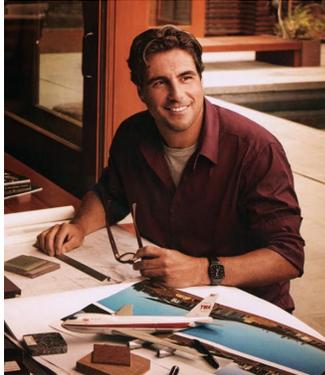


**J. Lopez** - Assistant Chief, County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Prevention Services Bureau, Forestry Division

For the last 32 years, Assistant Chief J. Lopez has worked for the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Forestry Division covering from forest nursery operations and reforestation to the implementation of the forest and chaparral management practices in accordance to the national, state and county fire plans.

Currently, he manages the Department's Defensible Space Section implementing the Fuel Modification Plan Review Program and Defensible Space Inspection Program. His work focuses on systematic analysis of alternative methodologies to protect natural and cultural resources from the risk of wildland fire damage. Projects include a combination of fuels reduction, ignition management, fire-safe engineering activities, fire prevention and behavior education, support of Fire Safe Councils, Fire Adapted Communities, and Firewise organizations.

J. Lopez has a bachelor's degree in forestry engineering and his professional affiliations are: Past member of the National Society of American Foresters (SAF) Board of Directors, Past Vice-Chair of the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC), member of the California Fire Science Consortium Advisory Board, Chair of the Southern California Regional Area Safety Taskforce (SCRAST), Co-Chair of the Los Angeles County Weed Management Area (WMA), member of the Theodore Payne Foundation Board of Directors and member of many government and professional organizations. He is a qualified Incident Command System Logistics Section Chief (2) and in 2011, he received the Society of American Foresters Presidential Outstanding Field Forester Award for his district.



**David Hertz** - Founder & President, SEA Studio of Environmental Architecture, the Resilience lab and Skysource

Architect David Hertz is the founder and president of David Hertz FAIA Architects,inc. and S.E.A., the Studio of Environmental Architecture, which he established as Syndesis in 1984 and skysource.org in 2016.

David graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture Degree from the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-ARC) in 1983. In 2006 David was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from Sci-Arc. In 2008 David was elected to the prestigious American Institute of Architects College of Fellows as one of it's youngest member in it's over 155 year history.

David Hertz' award winning work has been widely published and exhibited internationally some highlights include exhibitions in the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA),The Smithsonian Museums of Natural History and the National Building Museum, the Cooper Hewitt Museum as well as inclusion the Venice and Istanbul Architectural biennale's, having won the American Architecture Award in 2009 and 2012 respectively.

The work of S.E.A has been included in over a hundred books and periodicals world wide. Key highlights include two covers of Dwell, included in Met Home's Design 100 was featured in a profile in Vanity Fair Magazine. Hertz' 747 Wing House won a 2012 Record Houses award and the 2016 Architizer A+ Award and has been widely published and documented world wide including the 2017 feature on World's most Extraordinary Homes on Netflix. In 2016 A monograph, The Restorative Home, Ecological Houses of David Hertz was published by Oro Press.

David is a founding member of the AIA Committee on the Environment (COTE) as well as the USGBC and was involved in the first LEED Platinum Commercial and Residential Projects in the U.S. Since 1990 David has been on the Academic Advisory Committee and the faculty of the UCLA Arc- ID Program teaching sustainable design courses. David has also taught at the

USC School of Architecture, SCI-ARC and Art Center College of Design. David has been serving on the Task Force of the Environment for the City of Santa Monica for over 20 years co authoring the cities Green Building Ordinance, David serves on the board of directors of Heal The Bay and is involved in numerous social and environmental non- profits profiting pro- bono services.



**Dave W. Pedersen** - General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Dave Pedersen is the General Manager of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Administering Agent for the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority. In these roles, he serves as the chief executive responsible providing water and sanitation services to approximately 100,000 people in the Conejo/Las Virgenes Valleys.

Dave has a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Irvine and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the California State University, Long Beach. He serves on the Board of Trustees for both the Southern California Water Committee and WateReuse California.



**Scott Ferguson** - Chairman, Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness

Scott Ferguson is board chair of the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness, more commonly known as TCEP. TCEP educates Topanga residents about disaster preparedness and during active emergency incidents, posts regular verified updates on [TCEP.org](http://TCEP.org), social media (@TCEP90290), and a telephone hotline

(310-455-3000).

A 28-year resident of Topanga, Scott has experienced numerous wildfires and has accumulated vast knowledge of emergency preparation, response and

recovery action steps. He is a trained Home Ignition Zone evaluator, who works with Beth Burnam's North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council to help Topanga homeowners identify ways they can make their homes and properties more resistant to embers and better able to survive wildfires.



**Beth Burnam** - Co-President and Founding Member of the North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council

This organization writes grants and manages large-scale fire hazardous vegetation removal projects, educates the Topanga community about pre-fire event preparation, and created a program that performs visits to help homeowners understand what they can do to harden their homes to embers. Beth is also a TCEP Neighborhood Network Coordinator.

Beth also serves on the Board of Trustees of Vassar College, on the Board of Directors of the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, and on the Board of Directors of TreePeople.