

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dear OCTEC Members and Future Members,

Welcome back to another exciting year with OCTEC!

The OCTEC Board is looking forward to an exciting year ahead, filled with engaging meetings, memorable social mixers, and meaningful opportunities to connect and collaborate with transportation professionals throughout Southern California. Here are highlights of some of the 2025-2026 events:

- Fall Mixer at Rocks & Brews in November 2025
- Joint Holiday Mixer with ITE SoCal, ITS CA, and RSBITE in December 2025
- Joint Spring Mixer with ITE SoCal in March 2026
- Annual Golf Tournament at Tijeras Creek in May 2026
- Joint Student Presentation Night with ITE SoCal in May 2026
- Joint Summer Mixer with ITE SoCal in August 2026

During the summer, the OCTEC community was saddened to learn of the passing of Jim Sommers, a longtime member of the Southern California transportation engineering community and past OCTEC President. Jim remained an important part of OCTEC over the years, including his involvement with the annual OCTEC Golf Tournament. We are grateful for his leadership, friendship, and contributions to our organization and profession. On behalf of OCTEC, we extend our sincere condolences to Jim's family, friends, and colleagues. He will be greatly missed.

On behalf of the OCTEC Board and members, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Trevor Briggs, 2025-2026 OCTEC President, for his dedicated service on the OCTEC Board these past four years. His time, energy, and passion have helped guide OCTEC forward. Thank you, Trevor, for your outstanding service and leadership.

Also, I would like to welcome our newest Board member, Javier Ruedas, who will be serving as our Sponsorship/Membership Coordinator. Javier brings a strong sense of dedication and passion that will help shape the next chapter of OCTEC. The Board would also like to thank all of our sponsors, OCTEC members, and future members for your continuous support and contribution to this wonderful organization!

Sincerely,

Mai Vang  
OCTEC President 2026-2027

## SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

**September 24, 2026**

**11:30 AM to 1:00 PM**

**Orange County Mining Co**  
10000 S Crawford Cyn Rd  
Orange, CA 92705

If you have any questions regarding upcoming luncheons or sponsorships, please contact  
Javier Ruedas, at  
[javier.ruedas@mbakerintl.com](mailto:javier.ruedas@mbakerintl.com)

## THIS MONTH'S LUNCH IS SPONSORED BY:



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## September Presentation: OCVIBE: Planning, Entitling, and Implementing the Transportation Network for a Transforming Entertainment District

### Panelists:

Christine Saunders, Senior Director, Entitlement & Development Services, OCVIBE

Doug Johnson, Vice President, Real Estate Engineering OCVIBE

Julian Harvey, Vice President of Security, OCVIBE

Rafael Cobian, T.E., LEED GA, City Traffic Engineer, City of Anaheim



**Christine Saunders**, serves as Senior Director of Entitlement & Development Services for OCVIBE, where she leads entitlement strategy, environmental review, agency coordination, and development implementation for the 100-acre mixed-use entertainment district surrounding Honda Center. She joined the OCVIBE team in 2019 and has been involved in the project's evolution from entitlement and environmental review through implementation. She has more than 25 years of public-and private-sector planning experience, beginning her career as a transportation planner with the Orange County Transportation Authority, followed by positions with the Port of Los Angeles and City of Orange. She later served as a CEQA planner for the City of Anaheim before transitioning to private-sector environmental planning and development consulting, where she has managed complex entitlement and CEQA programs throughout Southern California. Ms. Saunders holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies with an emphasis in Public Administration from San Diego State University.



**Doug Johnson, B.S.C.E.**, serves as Vice President of Real Estate Engineering for OCVIBE, where he oversees infrastructure design and permitting, mapping and associated agreements, entitlement support, and coordination with on-site facilities, consultants, and public agencies. He joined OCVIBE in 2023 after more than three decades in consulting civil engineering with The Keith Companies and Stantec, where he worked on major infrastructure, master-planned, and mixed-use developments throughout Southern California, including Newport Coast, Irvine Spectrum, Portola Springs, Shady Canyon, OCWD Recharge Basins, UCI Health Center, and World Logistics Center. A native of Orange County, Mr. Johnson began his career as an intern with Caltrans District 5 and was named ACES Community Development Engineer of the Year in 2017. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.



**Julian Harvey** serves as Vice President of Security & Guest Services for OCVIBE and the Anaheim Ducks Hockey Club, bringing 30 years of public-safety and organizational leadership experience to the district. Prior to joining OCVIBE, Mr. Harvey served as Chief of Police for the Huntington Beach Police Department, where he led the organization through major special events, civil demonstrations, and the COVID-19 pandemic. He began his law-enforcement career with the Anaheim Police Department, ultimately serving as Interim Chief of Police for an organization of more than 800 employees and volunteers serving a city that welcomes more than 25 million annual visitors. His experience includes major-event operations, emergency response, interagency coordination, and public-private collaboration supporting world-class sports and entertainment venues. Mr. Harvey holds a Master's Degree in Emergency Services Management from California State University, Long Beach

and a Bachelor's Degree from the University of California, Irvine, and is a recipient of the FBI Meritorious Service Award.



**Rafael Cobian, T.E., LEED GA**, is the City Traffic Engineer for the City of Anaheim, where he oversees the Traffic and Transportation Section of the Public Works Department. His responsibilities include operation and maintenance of the City's traffic signal system, traffic engineering capital improvements, development and traffic-study review, long-range transportation planning, and traffic management for major destinations including Disneyland, the Anaheim Convention Center, Angel Stadium, and Honda Center. Mr. Cobian also serves as a City lead for transportation and mobility planning for the 2028 Olympic Games in Anaheim. He has more than 18 years of traffic engineering experience, including 12 years with the City of Anaheim and six years in the private sector, as well as 13 years of law-enforcement experience as a sworn Reserve Deputy Sheriff with the Orange County Sheriff's Department. He is a California-registered Traffic Engineer and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in transportation from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

## JUNE 2026 MEETING RECAP

The final OCTEC luncheon of the 2025-2026 year was held on Thursday June 25, 2026 at the Orange County Mining Company. Javier Ruedas and Mingmin Liu, gave their candidate speeches for Sponsorship/Membership Coordinator. Outgoing President, Trevor Briggs, opened his final meeting and transitioned to the 2026-2027 President, Maider Vang. John Thai, NTCIP Joint Committee Chair, and Jane Keely, Principal Traffic Engineer at City of Anaheim, gave an engaging presentation on leveraging previous project outcomes with smart grants in the City of Anaheim.





## LOCAL, REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS

### OCTA Invites Public Input on Proposed I-5/EI Toro Road Interchange Improvements [\[Continue here\]](#)

The Orange County Transportation Authority, in partnership with Caltrans, is inviting the public to review and comment on a draft environmental document evaluating proposed improvements to the I-5 interchange at El Toro Road.

[\[Continue here\]](#)

### Transit agencies' plans for LA 2028 Olympics coming up \$2 billion short (so far)

During the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, a successful mobility plan included rented buses staged at designated park-n-ride lots that shuttled ticketed spectators to and from venues, reducing car trips that kept freeways free-flowing.

For the 2028 L.A. Olympic and Paralympic games, LA Metro plans a similar approach. It needs to acquire 1,750 buses from across the country in addition to the 2,100 of their own, to handle an unprecedented 1 million extra transit trips per day during the games.

[\[Continue here\]](#)

### Driving Through North Orange County Could Get Easier

People commuting through a large swath of North Orange County could see reduced driving times as traffic lights along another major street are slated for overhauls aimed at reducing congestion and emissions.

### California Invests 2.7 Billion Dollars to Improve Highway Safety, Enhance Transit Options and Prepare for a Changing Climate

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) has approved \$2.7 billion in funding for more than 150 new projects designed to improve travel times, increase multimodal options and strengthen the state's transportation assets against severe weather and other climate-related threats. These investments align with Governor Gavin Newsom's build more, faster agenda, delivering critical infrastructure upgrades and creating thousands of jobs across the state.

[\[Continue here\]](#)

### Announcing Phase 2 of the Hollywood Boulevard Safety and Mobility Project

Two years ago, LADOT transformed Hollywood Boulevard with the installation of protected bike lanes from Gower Street to Hillhurst Avenue. Since then, thousands of cyclists have used the new lanes to commute to work, run errands, and explore the neighborhood. Now we're launching Phase II of the Hollywood Boulevard Safety and Mobility Project—this will connect the existing Hollywood bike lanes to Sunset and improve safety and accessibility at one of LA's most notorious intersections in the process.

[\[Continue here\]](#)

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OCTA

#### "Transportation Analyst/ Senior Transportation Analyst"



Join OCTA's Planning Division and help advance the next generation of traffic operations and transportation technology in Orange County. The **Transportation Analyst/ Senior Transportation Analyst** supports the planning, implementation, and evaluation of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), traffic signal operations, Transit Signal Priority (TSP), and advanced signal technologies designed to improve transit performance and the multimodal transportation system.

Job Description - [Learn more about the position.](#)

### City of Tustin

#### "Assistant City Engineer"



This single position class reports directly to the Deputy Director of Public Works/City Engineer and assists with managing the operations of the Engineering Division. Duties are broad in scope and allow for a high degree of administrative discretion, within professional standards and general guidelines established by the Deputy Director of Public Works/City Engineer.

Job Description - [Learn more about the position.](#)

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER IS SPONORED BY



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**OCTEC NEWS**

# ***FALL 2026 SOCIAL MIXER!***

Get ready for our first social of the 2026-2027 year

**Stay tuned for the October newsletter...**

**November 2026**

Ticket will be available for presale or at the door. Price includes:

- Entry • 1 Drink • Hors d'oeuvre

**TICKET SALE INFORMATION COMING SOON**

**Look forward to seeing you there!**

**<<Sponsorships still available for Fall Social Mixer>>**

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Javier Ruedas at [javier.ruedas@mbakerintl.com](mailto:javier.ruedas@mbakerintl.com)  
or any Board member.

## 2026-2027 SPONSORS

OCTEC would like to give a special thanks to all of our generous sponsors!

### Meeting Date

### Newsletter Sponsors

### Lunch/Meeting Sponsors

September 24, 2026

Ganddini Group, Inc.

October 22, 2026  
Joint Meeting — ITE SoCalAM Signal  
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

January 28, 2027

<Sponsorship Available>  
<Sponsorship Available>February 25, 2027  
Joint Meeting with ITS-CAWestern Systems  
ADVANTEC Consulting Engineers, Inc.

March 25, 2027

General Technology Solutions (GTS)  
<Sponsorship Available>

April 22, 2027

Minagar & Associates, Inc.  
<Sponsorship Available>

May, 2027

OCTEC Golf Tournament  
SoCal ITE/OCTEC Student Chapter Night

June 24, 2027

<Sponsorship Available>  
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Engineers &  
Planners

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For more information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Javier Ruedas at (951) 472-3475 or [Javier.Ruedas@mbakerintl.com](mailto:Javier.Ruedas@mbakerintl.com)

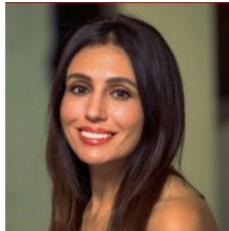
## OCTEC 2026 - 2027 Officers



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**Liz Turner**  
Secretary

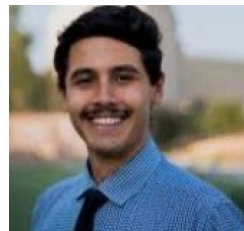
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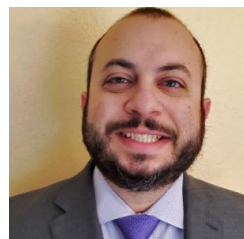
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Contact any of the board members if you are interested in joining the OCTEC Team.