

## **MELANIE NUTTER**

### **Principal, Nutter Consulting**

Melanie Nutter is the Principal of Nutter Consulting, a boutique consultancy providing urban sustainability, digital equity and smart cities strategic planning, policy analysis and stakeholder engagement. Since 2014, her firm has served over 30 local governments, foundations and nonprofits to help advance their sustainability, digital equity and smart city goals.

Nutter is the former Director of the San Francisco Department of the Environment and former Deputy District Director for the U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi. In addition to her municipal and federal government experience, Nutter's career has included leadership roles at a tech firm, a digital services consultancy, several environmental nonprofits and in electoral politics and grassroots organizing.

## **JASON ANDERSON**

### **President and CEO, Cleantech San Diego**

Jason Anderson is President and CEO of Cleantech San Diego, a business organization that positions the greater San Diego region as a global leader in the cleantech economy. Cleantech San Diego's members include more than 120 businesses, universities, governments, and nonprofits committed to advancing sustainable solutions for the benefit of the economy, the environment and all members of the community.

## **JIM MADAFFER**

### **CEO, Madaffer Enterprises, Inc.**

A native San Diegan, Jim's distinguished civic service spans over three decades. He served two terms as Chief of Staff to a City Council member and was elected to the San Diego City Council in 2000 and reelected in 2004. Jim's accomplishments as an elected official are numerous: building libraries, fostering economic development, water and wastewater policy and specializing in regional transportation and planning issues. Jim is also Past President of the League of California Cities.

In 2013 Jim was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the California Transportation Commission where he served until January 2019. While on the CTC he was a champion for improving technology in our transportation system.

Jim also serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Water Authority, responsible for maintaining a safe and reliable water supply supporting a

regional economy of over \$220 billion per year. Governor Gavin Newsom recently appointed Jim to serve on the Colorado River Board of California.

The recipient of numerous awards and honors over his career, Jim is a member of San Diego Rotary Club 33, and Lambda Alpha International. An author, futurist and entrepreneur, Jim speaks frequently to groups, conferences and organizations around the world about the future of transportation, technology innovation, connected communities and numerous leading-edge technologies.

Jim has two sons. He and his wife Robin live in San Diego with their two English Bulldogs, Ruby and Red.

## **SHAHRIAR AFSHAR**

### **Tech Podcaster**

Shahriar Afshar was a career public servant with the City of San Diego & Port of San Diego serving in a variety of leadership roles in Asset Management, Development Services and Government Relations for over 25 years. Throughout his career, Shahriar specialized in managing complex land use & infrastructure projects, building public-private partnerships, creating diverse A-teams and accelerating innovative process improvements in the public sector. As a recognized strategic communicator, Shahriar was a frequent spokesperson for his agency with community & professional groups, key government & political stakeholders and mainstream media outlets.

In 2018, Shahriar moved into the private sector and is currently representing a major telecommunications company as the lead negotiator with public jurisdictions in Southern California. He also sits on the Southern California Association of Government's Digital Divide Task Force and the San Diego Association of Government's Regional Digital Divide Task Force.

Shahriar is a community activist and involved with multiple nonprofit organizations from California to Washington, DC dealing with food insecurity, autism awareness, international development and Iranian-American advancement. He also just started podcasting on politics and public service, tech startups, and autism issues. Shahriar attended SDSU and has a BS in Finance & Master of Public Administration.

**DENNIS GAKUNGA****Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Chula Vista**

Dennis Gakunga is the Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Chula Vista, California. As the Chief Sustainability Officer, Dennis leads the city's Office of Sustainability and smart cities campaign. His responsibilities include managing the implementation of a wide range of sustainability programs and smart cities initiatives. His previous experience includes serving as a department director and assistant director for multiple municipalities and public agencies in Texas and California. Dennis has also worked as a management consultant for Deloitte Consulting and PWC Consulting. He holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Syracuse University and a B.S. in Information Systems and Management Sciences from the University of Texas, Arlington.

**CHERI R. PIERRE****Chief Executive Officer, Computers 2 Kids**

Chéri Pierre serves as the CEO of Computers to Kids. She and her dedicated team of staff and volunteers provide desktop and laptop computers to low-income students nationally to help reduce educational inequities. Chéri's commitment and passion for advocating for the technologically underserved, along with a strong partnership with the community, has led C2K to become one of the top computer refurbishers in the nation. In 2021, Chéri helped develop a Technology Assistance Program App, ensuring anyone with a phone can access affordable technology. Ms. Pierre is a 2021 CEO of the Year Nonprofit Small Winner, 2021 Women of Influence in Technology Honoree, 2021 Women of Influence 50 over 50, 2020 SD 50: Executives Who Have Made a Positive Impact During Covid-19 Crises, and 2020 SD500: Most Influential People in San Diego.

**DAVID MIYASHIRO, Ed.D.****Superintendent, Cajon Valley Union School District**

Dr. David Miyashiro currently serves as Superintendent of The Cajon Valley Union School District (CVUSD). David completed his doctoral studies at UCLA. He was named 2016 Superintendent of the Year by ASCA (Association of California School Administrators), Region 18. Cajon Valley's vision of "Happy Kids, Engaged in Healthy Relationships, on a Path to Gainful Employment" and its signature career development program "The World of Work" has garnered both national and global recognition.

**SHALINI VAJJHALA, PhD****Executive Director, San Diego Regional Policy & Innovation Center**

As Executive of the San Diego Regional Policy & Innovation Center, Shalini leads a team of experts dedicated to developing integrated solutions to San Diego's most pressing challenges.

Shalini has over 15 years of experience working across the public, private, and non-profit sectors on developing, designing, and financing resilient infrastructure for vulnerable communities around the world. Most recently, she served as Founder and CEO of re:focus partners, a San Diego based design firm, and co-founder of The Atlas, an online community for local governments to find and source innovative solutions. Prior to founding re:focus, Shalini served as Special Representative in the Office of Administrator Lisa Jackson at the US EPA, where she led the US-Brazil Joint Initiative on Urban Sustainability. Previously, she was Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Office of International & Tribal Affairs at EPA and Deputy Associate Director for Energy & Climate at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. She joined the Obama Administration from the environmental think-tank Resources for the Future.

Shalini received her PhD in Engineering & Public Policy and B.Arch in Architecture from Carnegie Mellon University and was also a visiting associate professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

## **DAVID GRAHAM**

### **Chief Innovation Officer, City of Carlsbad**

David Graham is a veteran local government leader having worked for San Diego County, three San Diego Mayors, as well as a stint in private sector public affairs. He is the Chief Innovation Officer for the City of Carlsbad, the co-chair of the UC San Diego Global Policy and Strategy School Civic Leadership Council and co-chair of the Civic Innovation Program at Harvard University's Technology and Entrepreneurship Center. His passion for land use, civic innovation and intelligent infrastructure has led him to be a globally recognized civic innovation thought leader who inspires curiosity, and collaboration in the public, private, and academic sectors.