



BUILDING TRADES NEWS

VOLUME 27, NO.3 LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTIES BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO  JULY 2022



Building Trades leaders, representatives and members join Hackman Capital Partners to sign a Project Labor Agreement.

TRADES GO TO TELEVISION CITY

\$1 billion makeover will strengthen entertainment industry

BY ANNE-MARIE OTEY

When a big player signs a deal with the major leagues, they hold a signing ceremony. With a billion-dollar project on the line, Hackman Capital Partners and the Building Trades did the same thing.

On June 1, more than 100 Trades union leaders and representatives gathered to wit-

ness Chris Hannan, Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, and Michael Hackman, founder and CEO of Hackman Capital Partners, sign a Project Labor Agreement to guarantee all union labor for the modernization of Television City.

The ceremony took place at the Pico Blvd.

headquarters of Laborers Local 300.

“I want to thank Television City and Hackman Capital Partners for forging a PLA, which recognizes the benefits of building with union labor and will create thousands of good-paying construction jobs,” Hannan told the crowd.

With this momentous start, the makeover

of Television City at Beverly Blvd. and Fairfax Avenue is now moving through the LA city approval process. It will create an estimated 4,220 jobs during construction.

The plan, dubbed TVC 2050: The Los Angeles Studio Plan, will add 1 million square feet, building on a flexible framework to

SEE TVC 2050 PAGE 18

HISTORIC WIN IN COSTA MESA

BY LESLIE BERKMAN

Reflecting Costa Mesa’s pivot in recent

years toward appreciating blue collar workers and unions, the Costa Mesa City Coun-

cil Feb. 1 adopted the city’s first Community Workforce Agreement with the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council.

Over the next five years, it will cover at least \$80 million in public works projects that will be built with union labor standards.

The council approved the agreement by a 6-1 vote.

Council members said they welcomed the prospect of high-quality work by well-trained construction workers on safe job



The CWA will cover work on the lakes at TeWinkle Park.

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PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

In the June 7 California primary election, most candidates endorsed by the Building Trades did well enough to move on to the general election, which will take place Tuesday, Nov. 8. In some city and school board contests, if a candidate won the primary with at least 50 percent of the vote or a plurality, he or she is the final winner and doesn't face another election.

Here are highlights of the major contests, and elections to watch for in November.



Tony Thurmond

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES SENATOR

For the term ending Jan. 3, 2023, incumbent Democrat Alex Padilla, endorsed by the Building Trades, advances to the November election against Republican Mark Meuser. For the full, six-year term, Padilla and Meuser will also be the candidates in the general election.



Gavin Newsom

GOVERNOR

The Building Trades endorse Gov. Gavin Newsom. The Democratic incumbent will face Republican Brian Dahle.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The Building Trades endorse Eleni Kounalakis. The Democratic incumbent will face Republican Angela Jacobs.



Shirley Weber

SECRETARY OF STATE

The Building Trades endorse Shirley Weber. The Democratic incumbent will face Republican Rob Bernosky.

STATE CONTROLLER

The Building Trades endorse Democrat Malia Cohen for the open seat. She will face Republican Lanhee Chen.

STATE TREASURER

The Building Trades endorse Fiona Ma. The Democratic incumbent will face Republican Andrew Do.

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

The Building Trades endorse Ricardo Lara. The Democratic incumbent will face Republican Robert Howell or Democrat Marc Levine, depending on the count by July 15, when all results will be certified.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Incumbent Tony Thurmond, endorsed by the Building Trades, will face a runoff against Lance Christensen.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Incumbent Democrat Rob Bonta, endorsed by the Building Trades, will compete with Republican Nathan Hochman in November.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District 1:

Hilda Solis, endorsed by the Building Trades, won re-election with 74 percent.

District 3:

Bob Hertzberg, endorsed by the Building Trades, was the largest vote getter with 32 percent. In the general election, he will face off against runner-up Lindsay Horvath, with 27 percent.



Bob Hertzberg

NEXT ELECTION DATE

NOV. 8: GENERAL ELECTION

Vote by mail is permanent!
All registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail.
Save time—fill out and send back, postage-free.
Ballots will arrive:
First week of October

Are you registered to vote?
See QR code on p. 1 or go to:

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/registration-status>

Register to vote by
Oct. 24, or register later as a conditional voter

ASSESSOR

Jeffrey Prang, endorsed by the Building Trades, won re-election.

SHERIFF

Incumbent Alex Villanueva will face Robert Luna, who came in second in a field of nine candidates.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDS

LOS ANGELES

District 2:

Maria Brenes, endorsed by the Building Trades, will go to a runoff against Rocio Rivas.

District 4:

Nick Melvoin, endorsed by the Building Trades, won re-election with more than half the votes.



Kelly Gonez

District 6:

Kelly Gonez, endorsed by the Building Trades, will go to a runoff against Marvin Rodriguez.

LONG BEACH

Area 1:

Maria Isabel Lopez led with 43 percent of the vote and will go to a runoff with Nubia Flores, endorsed by the Building Trades, who had 30 percent.



Juan Benitez

Area 3:

Juan Benitez, endorsed by the Building Trades, won without an election, which was cancelled.

Area 5:

Diana Craighead, endorsed by the Building Trades, won with more than half the votes.

COMPTON

Trustee Area A:

Danzell O. Perry won with more than half the vote, defeating Building Trades endorsee Adrian Cleveland.

Trustee Area E:

Alma Pleasant, endorsed by the Building Trades, won with more than half the vote.

Trustee Area G:

Satra Zurita, endorsed by the Building Trades, won with more than half the vote.

PARAMOUNT

Eddie Cruz, endorsed by the Building Trades, won with more than half the vote.

U.S. CONGRESS

The top two vote getters will go to a runoff in the November general election, even if they are from the same party.

SEE ELECTIONS PAGE 4

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

OUR SISTERS' FREEDOM

In California, the Building Trades, "the Construction Department of the AFL-CIO," has been standing up for workers' rights for more than 100 years. The last time we won legislation that was truly momentum-shifting was in 1935. That's right, 87 years ago, Franklin D. Roosevelt was the President and the National Labor Relations Act became law.



BY CHRIS HANNAN
Executive Secretary

Our fight for these rights has evolved over the decades and we've had many victories. These victories have come from the strength of our unions and members. I believe that members of the Building Trades unions are simply the best craftspeople in the world. And for the most part, we've been able to preserve and protect the voice of working men and women on the construction site.

The ability to be a member of a union has empowered us to maintain this voice and our place in the middle class. Our country stands for freedom, including freedom to have differences of opinion, religion and every possible difference imaginable.

Our place in this great country has been defended for 246 years by many who have paid the ultimate price. The ability to live in this country—even though the United States is not perfect—is a privilege that I believe we always must strive to make better. A country where every one of us can have a chance to accomplish all of our dreams, regardless of where we were born and raised, our gender, race, religion, gifts or challenges. Together, our labor movement has helped working people make this country a little better.

As the leader of this Building Trades Council, a union member and the father of a wonderful daughter and son, I feel the need to address a terrible step backwards for our country. In 2018, my wife and I were told that our unborn son was diagnosed with Down Syndrome. At times, it seemed like we were encouraged not to bring our son into this world. Although this changed when we absolutely were vocal about welcoming our son with the best care possible, I still cannot deny that the initial pressure was there.

SEE FREEDOM PAGE 16

INSIDE BUILDING TRADES NEWS



PG. 1

1 TRADES GO TO TELEVISION CITY
Ambitious \$1 billion plan will build all-union

1 WORKERS WIN IN COSTA MESA
City goes from anti- to pro-union with Community Workforce Agreement

2 PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS
Most candidates endorsed by Building Trades win or move on to runoffs

3 FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
The Supreme Court strips freedom from women and workers

8 POSEIDON DOES NOT RULE THE SEA

Coastal Commission rejects union-supported desalination plant in Huntington Beach



PG. 10

10 ON THE JOB: APPRENTICES VIE FOR HONORS

Bricklayers & Tile Layers Local 4 hosts a skills contest and will send members to nationals

15 PORT OF LONG BEACH OPENS RAIL ACCESS

Building Trades bring in Double Track project early and under budget



PG. 15

17 UNITED TO HOUSE LA ON THE BALLOT

Trades-backed measure is certified for the Nov. 8 City of Los Angeles election

BUILDING TRADES NEWS

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Electrical Workers Local 11
Electrical Workers Local 40
Electrical Workers Local 45
Electrical Workers Local 441
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Laborers Local 1184
Laborers Local 1309
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Plumbers & Fitters Local 398
Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 582
Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669
Sprinkler Fitters Local 709
Plumbers & Fitters Local 761
Plasterers-Cement Masons District Council
Plasterers-Cement Masons Local 755
Plasterers Local 200
Cement Masons Local 500
Cement Masons Local 600
Roofers & Waterproofers Local 36
Roofers & Waterproofers Local 220
Sheet Metal Workers Local 105
Sheet Metal Workers Local 170
Teamsters Joint Council 42
Teamsters Local 848
Teamsters Local 952
Teamsters Local 986

Change of address: Union members, please contact your local.

ELECTIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

U.S. CONGRESS, RACES TO WATCH

District 27 (North LA County): Democrat Christy Smith, endorsed by the Building Trades, will challenge incumbent Republican Mike Garcia. In distant third place was Quayle Quartey.



Christy Smith

District 37 (Culver City/Baldwin Hills): Democrats Sydney Kamlager and Jan Perry will face off in November. There is no current Building Trades endorsement.



Robert Garcia

District 42 (Long Beach): Democrat Robert Garcia, endorsed by the Building Trades, received 46.6 percent and will face Republican John Briscoe in the general election.

STATE SENATE

The top two vote getters will go to a runoff in the November general election, even if they are from the same party.

STATE SENATE, RACES TO WATCH

District 20 (Burbank/San Fernando



Lola Smallwood-Cuevas

Valley):

Democrat Daniel Hertzberg, endorsed by the Building Trades, was the top vote getter with 30.8 percent and will face Caroline Menjivar in the general election.

District 28 (South LA/Culver City): Building Trades endorsee Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, a Democrat, will compete against Democrat Cheryl Turner in the general election.

District 30 (Pico Rivera/Whittier): Incumbent Bob Archuleta, a Democrat endorsed by the Building Trades, will compete in November against Republican Mitch Clemmons.



Bob Archuleta

STATE ASSEMBLY:

The top two vote getters will go to a runoff in the November general election, even if they are from the same party.

STATE ASSEMBLY, RACES TO WATCH

Assembly District 34 (Quartz Hill): Incumbent Republican Tom Lackey, endorsed by the Building Trades, came in second with 29.7 percent, narrowly trailing Republican challenger Thurston Smith with 31.1 percent. The two will compete again in the November election.

District 51 (Beverly Hills/Hollywood/West LA): The seat is open, and the Building Trades endorse Rick Chavez Zbur.



Rick Chavez Zbur

CITY ELECTIONS

LOS ANGELES MAYOR

Karen Bass and Rick Caruso finished 1-2 in the primary and will face each other in the November election. There is no Building Trades Council endorsement at this time.

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

District 1: Incumbent Gil Cedillo, endorsed by the Building Trades, lost to challenger Eunisses Hernandez, who had 54 percent of the vote.

District 3: Incumbent Bob Blumenfield, endorsed by the Building Trades, won re-election.

District 5: Top-two finishers Katy Young Yaroslavsky and Sam Yebri will go to a runoff. The Building Trades did not endorse a candidate.

District 7: Incumbent Monica Rodriguez, endorsed by the Building Trades, won re-election.

District 9: Incumbent Curren Price, endorsed by the Building Trades, won re-election.

District 11: Top-two finishers Erin Darling and Traci Park will go to a runoff. Building Trades endorsee Greg Good came in third place.



Mitch O'Farrell

District 13: Incumbent Mitch O'Farrell, a strong ally endorsed by the Building Trades, will face Hugo Soto-Martinez in a runoff.



Tim McOsker

District 15: Tim McOsker, endorsed by the Building Trades, was the top vote getter with 38 percent and will face off against Danielle Sandoval, with 29 percent.

LONG BEACH MAYOR

The Building Trades endorse Rex Richardson, who gained 44 percent of the vote and will face Suzie Price in the runoff election in November.

CITY ATTORNEY

Dawn McIntosh, endorsed by the Building Trades, won with more than half the vote.

LONG BEACH CITY COUNCIL

District 1: Mary Zendejas, endorsed by the Building Trades, was the top vote getter with 50.25 percent at press time. She narrowly avoided a runoff.

BUILDING TRADES SUPPORT UNITED TO HOUSE LA

LOS ANGELES CITY BALLOT MEASURE FOR NOV. 8

To raise \$875 million a year for affordable housing with prevailing wage and Project Labor Agreements

More information:
Unitedtohousesla.com

District 3: Kristina Duggan and Kailee Caruso led the field. At press time, Building Trades endorsee Nima Novin is in third place and will probably not make it to the runoff.

District 5: Megan Kerr, endorsed by the Building Trades, led with 44 percent and will go to a runoff against Ian Patton.

District 7: Roberto Uranga won re-election with 58 percent.

District 9: Dr. Joni Ricks-Oddie, endorsed by the Building Trades, had a strong showing with 49 percent and will face Ginny Gonzales in a November runoff.

PASADENA CITY COUNCIL

District 3: John Kennedy, endorsed by the Building Trades, won re-election with 59 percent.

District 5: Jess Rivas, endorsed by the Building Trades, ran unopposed.

COMMERCE COUNCIL

For the three seats available, the winners were Mireya Garcia, Kevin Lainez and Ivan Altamirano, who was endorsed by the Building Trades. Endorsee Alfonso Garate did not win a seat.

COVINA COUNCIL

District 1: Hector Delgado, business agent with Teamsters Local 986, endorsed by the Building Trades, won with more than half the votes.

GLENDALE CITY CLERK

Dr. Suzie Abajian, endorsed by the Building Trades, won with 52.7 percent, defeating Greg Krikorian.



Hector Delgado

LA VERNE COUNCIL

District 3: Meshal Kashifalghita, endorsed by the Building Trades, won election with more than half the votes.

LAKEWOOD COUNCIL

District 1: Building Trades endorsee Todd Rogers won election with 77 percent of the vote.

District 2: Building Trades endorsee Steve Croft, with 47 percent, will go to a runoff against Laura Sanchez Ramirez.

SAN DIMAS MAYOR

Building Trades endorsee Ruth Luevand lost to Emmett Badar.

SAN DIMAS COUNCIL

District 2: Building Trades endorsee Eric Nakano won with 74 percent of the vote.



Eric Nakano

TORRANCE MAYOR

George Chen defeated Building Trades endorsee Cliff Numark.

TORRANCE COUNCIL

District 1: Jon Kaji won with 45 percent of the vote, defeating Dave Zygielbaum, endorsed by the Building Trades.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARDS PASADENA

Trustee Area 5: Kristine Kwong, endorsed by the Building Trades, won with more than half the votes.



Kristine Kwong

Trustee Area 7:

Building Trades endorsee Alton Wang defeated incumbent Anthony Fellow with 50.2 percent of the vote.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Seat 90:

Building Trades endorsee Melissa Lyons will go to a runoff against Leslie Gutierrez.

ORANGE COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District 5:

Incumbent Katrina Foley, endorsed by the Building Trades, was the top vote getter with 42 percent and will face off against Patricia Bates in the runoff.



Katrina Foley

District 4:

Incumbent Doug Chaffee, endorsed by the Building Trades, will face Sunny Park in the runoff election.

ASSESSOR

Building Trades endorsee Rick Foster lost to Claude Parrish.

U.S. CONGRESS

The top two vote getters will go to a runoff in the November general election, even if they are from the same party.

U.S. CONGRESS, RACES TO WATCH:

District 40:

The Building Trades endorse Dr. Asif Mahmood, a Democrat. He will try to unseat Republican Young Kim in November.

District 45:

Building Trades ally Jay Chen made a strong showing against Republican incumbent Michelle Steel and other challengers; the two will go head-to-head in November.

District 47 (Irvine/Laguna):

Democratic incumbent Katie Porter, endorsed by the Building Trades, was the top vote getter with 51.7 percent and will face off against Republican Scott Baugh.

STATE ASSEMBLY

The top two vote getters will go to a runoff in the November general election, even if they are from the same party.

STATE ASSEMBLY, RACES TO WATCH



Avelino Valencia

District 68 (Anaheim/Orange/Santa Ana):

Democrat Avelino Valencia, endorsed by the Building Trades, came in first place and will face Republican Mike Tardif.

District 70 (Garden Grove):

Democrat Diedre Thu Ha Nguyen, endorsed by the Building Trades, led the field with 40 percent and will compete with Republican Tri Ta in the general election.



Diedre Thu Ha Nguyen

District 71 (Mission Viejo into Riverside County):

Pro-worker Republican Matt Rahn, endorsed by the Building Trades, will take on another Republican, Kate Sanchez.



Tom Umberg

District 74 (San Clemente/Dana Point): Chris Duncan, a Democrat endorsed by the Building Trades, will have a rematch against Republican Laurie Davies.

STATE SENATE

The top two vote getters will go to a runoff in the November general election, even if they are from the same party.

STATE SENATE, RACES TO WATCH

District 30 (Brea):

Incumbent Bob Archuleta, a Democrat endorsed by the Building Trades, will compete in November against Republican Mitch Clemmons.

District 34 (Anaheim/Santa Ana):

Incumbent Democrat Tom Umberg, endorsed by the Building Trades, will oppose Republican Rhonda Shader in November.

District 36 (Huntington Beach):

Kim Carr, a Democrat endorsed by the Building Trades, will go to the general election against Republican Janet Nguyen.



Kim Carr

District 38 (south OC):

Top-two finishers Matt Gunderson, a Republican, and Catherine Blakespear, a Democrat, will go to the general election. Building Trades endorsee Joe Kerr came in third place.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Area 4:

Building Trades endorsee Paulette Chaffee lost to Tim Shaw.

Area 5:

Building Trades endorsee Sherine Smith lost to Lisa Sparks.

JUDGES, SUPERIOR COURT

All Building Trades endorsees won their position with more than half the vote.

Seat 5:

Claudia Alvarez

Seat 22:

Brahim Baytieh

Seat 33:

Steve McGreevy

Seat 45:

Israel Claustro

Trades Turn Town From Low-Wage to High Road With Labor Agreement



Costa Mesa has a population of 113,000 and is a commercial and arts center.

COSTA MESA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sites, plus opportunities for local residents to work in their hometown and for military veterans and the city's high school graduates who are not college bound to join union apprenticeships on a path to a bright middle-class future with good jobs, health benefits and pensions.

"I think the pandemic has taught us the value of institutions that treat their workers well," said Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Marr. "I have never been more motivated to make sure we are finding ways to encourage the fair treatment of our workforce. And so having a CWA on the books only further reinforces that is one of our values."

Costa Mesa is the fourth city in Orange County to adopt a citywide Community Workforce Agreement, following Anaheim, Santa Ana and Garden Grove.

The win for the Building Trades was the product of years of activism and negotiations.

"This is a landmark," said Ernesto Medrano, Orange County Representative for the LA/OC Building and Construction Trades Council. Back in 2012, Costa Mesa

made headlines by considering becoming a charter city. That would allow it to write its own charter, and not follow the state law requiring prevailing wages on public works projects. Adopting a charter would allow it to pay less than prevailing wages.

But the Building Trades and allies mobilized to defeat the anti-worker campaign. City voters ultimately rejected the idea and Costa Mesa remains a general law city, required by the state to pay a prevailing wage.

That led to upping the stakes by proposing a Community Workforce Agreement, which adds worker protections and the ability for local hiring.

We've Come a Long Way

"Ten years ago we were fighting for our lives just to protect the prevailing wage," Medrano said. "So we have come a long way."

Building Trades local unions spoke for the CWA, taking turns telling the council how it would benefit Costa Mesa as a whole, as well as construction journeymen and apprentices who live in the city and returning veterans looking for a career.

"We all know ensuring local residents are able to participate in local public works

projects benefits the city by having tax dollars spent on city projects paid to local residents, who spend that money in local businesses," said Doug Mangione, political director for IBEW Local 441. As a Vietnam veteran, Mangione said he is a good example of how veterans can benefit by joining a union through the Building Trades' Helmets to Hardhats program.



In 2012, residents rejected a move to make Costa Mesa into a charter city. The Building Trades opposed Measure V.

"Any project that employs local home-grown talent that also provides a decent path to the middle class is a project that we should support," said Luis Aleman, lead project coordinator for the Orange County

Labor Federation.

Haitham Awaineh, a third-year apprentice with Iron Workers Local 433, lives in Costa Mesa, where he attended Orange Coast College before joining the union. The father of two boys said the CWA represents for him "the American dream." That's because with it, he will sometimes be able to work near home "instead of driving two or three hours in the traffic and then working 10 or 12 hours and then driving three or four hours in traffic to my family only to eat dinner, take a shower and go to sleep and not being able to see my 10-month-old son grow up and take his first steps."

Awaineh added, "I would like so much to be a part of my community and build with my community and be able to take my 11-year-old to baseball practices and basketball practices, and take him skateboarding not only on the weekends but every single day."

He argued that the CWA's purpose "is not about making our unions strong. We are already strong. This is exactly about local hires."

Paul Moreno, business agent for Iron Workers Local 433, said he has 50 members who live in Costa Mesa and would be happy to work in their own city "and not



Fairview Developmental Center, a former state hospital, will become a multi-use facility with construction done under the CWA.



Restoring habitat at Fairview Park is also a CWA project.

have to drive to LA or other areas just to go to work."

Councilman Loren Gamaros, a member of Operating Engineers Local 12, pointed to his own experience. "If it wasn't for the opportunities afforded me through unionism I would probably still be living paycheck to paycheck."

Mayor John Stephens also touted the potential benefits of the agreement. "I think there is nothing wrong with supporting strong unions and I think our country is better when there are strong unions," he added, noting that his parents enjoyed a comfortable retirement into their 90s because of their union membership.

Apprenticeship Is a Pathway

The councilman who seconded the CWA vote, Manuel Chavez, said he was particularly interested in apprenticeship. He recalled when he was a senior at Estancia High School on Placentia Ave., he participated in an event where students held aloft the pennants of their prospective colleges, his own banner bearing the name of UC Irvine. That's when he noticed that about a quarter of his classmates had no college plans. He said the union apprenticeships are an alternative pathway to prosperity

and accomplishment for high school graduates like them.

"That is why when I got to council I was determined to get some sort of Community Workforce Agreement in place," Chavez said.



Segerstrom Concert Hall, a Costa Mesa attraction, won the Q Award for union construction.

Medrano marveled at how much the political outlook of the Costa Mesa City Council has changed over the years. He said a demographic shift in the city became apparent in the 2018 elections, which gen-



More than a mile of Adams Avenue, above, will get a makeover with trees and bicycle lanes.

erated a large turnout of blue collar and young voters. That was the year Chavez, Marr and Reynolds were elected to the council, changing the majority that was once protective of the status quo.

Former Mayor Katrina Foley was one of those allies as well. Now an Orange County Supervisor, she sent an email to the current city council members urging their support of the CWA. Councilman Don Harper cast the sole opposing vote.

In a long public debate before the vote, opponents of the agreement, including Harper and anti-union groups such as Associated Builders and Contractors, complained that the agreement would give unions and union apprenticeship programs an unfair advantage and discourage non-union contractors from bidding on city projects. They also said they doubted the outreach efforts of the city, contractors and unions would achieve the agreement's 35 percent local hiring goal.

In retort, Medrano pointed out that Orange County's existing CWAs are exceeding their 35 percent goals, reaching 40.74 percent local hiring in Anaheim and 50.52 percent in Santa Ana.

Under questioning from Councilwoman Arlis Reynolds, City Manager Lori Ann

Farrell Harrison assured council members they would receive yearly reports on how well the agreement's hiring priorities were being met, and an administrator recruited by the city would give the staff monthly updates.

Medrano also observed that the apprenticeship programs jointly sponsored by union and management are much more robust that what non-union shops offer, citing that 93 percent of the state-certified apprenticeship graduates in California are union members.



Haitham Awaineh, apprentice with Iron Workers Local 433, lives in Costa Mesa.

After the meeting, Medrano said many of the objections to the CWA were "myths," including a concern that non-union contractors would not bid on CWA work. All public contracts are, by law, open to both union- and non-union contractors. In other cities with similar agreements, a significant number of non-union contractors are participating.

"The difference," Medrano said, "is that with a CWA, everyone has to follow the same rules and standards. It's better for workers, better for communities and for the taxpayers too."

BUILDING TRADES NEWS 7



Councilmember Arlis Reynolds.

6 BUILDING TRADES NEWS



Councilmember Loren Gamaros.



Mayor John Stephens.



OC Supervisor and former Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley.



Councilmember Jeff Harlan.



Councilmember Andrea Marr.



Councilmember Manuel Chavez.

COMMISSION VOTES TO SINK POSEIDON

20-Year Fight to Build Union Desalination Plant Comes to an End



Building Trades local union members, including these Laborers, turn out for Poseidon.

BY LESLIE BERKMAN

Poseidon Water's request to build a \$1.4 billion desalination plant on the Huntington Beach coast to convert seawater to drinking water for Orange County residents was unanimously denied by the California Coastal Commission at its meeting May 12 in Costa Mesa, despite support from the Building Trades and many water executives and elected public officials, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, as a valuable method to help combat California's drought.

"The Building Trades will continue to stand up for strong, industrial-scale solutions to major environmental challenges," said Ernest Medrano, Orange County Representative for the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, after the vote. "We sup-



A sister, union-built desalination plant in Carlsbad is producing drinkable water now.

port desalination to bring Californians the water that we need."

The Coastal Commission has approved about a dozen other desalination plants in the state, including one built and operated by Poseidon in Carlsbad, and it left the door open for more, including a smaller facility proposed in Dana Point. The Dana Point plant will be built under a Project Labor Agreement with the Building Trades, and is currently moving through state approval processes.

But the Huntington Beach proposal, which has been in the works for 20 years, will not be able to recover from the commission's action.

Jobs and combating drought were top of mind for union members, who showed up in force. They challenged opponents' assertion that higher priced water from Poseidon would be unaffordable for community residents. In San Diego County, the Carlsbad plant reportedly has added \$5 a month to the average household water bill.

Fredi Flores, business agent for Heat & Frost Insulators Local 5, said, "I can afford to pay a few bucks more on my bill if it means getting a high-quality water supply. But neither my neighbors nor I can afford to turn on taps and have nothing come out."

"We are very proud of the desalination plant we built with union labor down in Carlsbad," Medrano said. "That project has been successfully providing billions of gallons of drinking water to San Diego County for more than five years. While much of Southern California has been forced into water rationing at 35 percent reduction of use, San Diego County is exempt because much of the water is coming from a climate-resilient source: the Pacific Ocean."

Medrano said he was glad to see Newsom support the Huntington Beach project and, with the proper environmental mitigations attached to the plans, he told the Coastal Commission that the Building Trades also favor it because "we need both the water and the jobs."

Poseidon Huntington Beach was expected to generate more than 3,000 construction jobs during its four-year development.

"We are grateful for all who contacted the California Coastal Commission to voice their strong support for this project," said Jessica Jones, director of communications for Poseidon Water. "We firmly believe that this desalination project would have created a sustainable, drought-tolerant source of water for Orange County, just as it has for San Diego County."

Commissioners did not see it that way, though. They accepted their staff's assessment that the project, proposed for low-lying acres close to Pacific Coast Highway, violated the state Coastal Act because of the site's vulnerability to severe flooding, tsunami and seismic hazards, plus the potential destruction to marine life from seawater intake and brine disposal, inadequate mitigation measures and resulting higher water rates.

Sea Levels Are Rising

The staff argued that the proposed plant site would be submerged by rising sea levels that would come with climate change during the plant's anticipated 50-to-60-year lifespan. Although Poseidon proposed elevating the plant, the commission staff said it could not continue to operate efficiently as an island surrounded by ocean water.

"I think we all agree and recognize that the ongoing historic drought is a crisis in California and that desalination facilities will be part of California's future water portfolio," said Commission Executive Director John Ainsworth. "Unfortunately, the project that is before you today is simply the wrong project in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Debate was intense during the all-day hearing in Costa Mesa.

Building Trades members joined representatives of several Orange County water agencies and business and farming groups in advocating for the project's ability to help the county meet its water needs with less reliance on imported water.

"This project has bipartisan support from members of the California State Senate and the California State Assembly,



"We support desalination to bring Californians the water that we need."

—Ernesto Medrano,
LA/OC
Building Trades



UA Local 582 shows support with (l-r) Business Manager Robert James, organizer Adam Elliot, business agent Henry Hillebrecht and organizer Larry Kirkconnell.



Poseidon advocates from Building Trades local unions include (l-r) Iron Workers apprenticeship instructor Ernie Penuelas, Iron Workers Local 433 business agent Paul Moreno, UA Local 250 organizer Pete Wohlgezogen and Roy Afusia, business representative for UA Local 709 Sprinkler Fitters.

throughout the state," said a spokesman for State Senator Pat Bates, who represents the coast south of Huntington Beach.

The opposition included representatives of major environmental protection groups and residents who said they prefer a greater emphasis on water recycling and

conservation. Some objected that allowing Poseidon to build and operate such a plant would "privatize" water, turning it into a profit-making venture.

Carlsbad Mayor Matt Hall told the commission that "the Carlsbad desalination plant provides the San Diego region

with a critical and reliable water source for all residents that is both drought proof and locally controlled."

Kenny Williams, President of the Orange County Labor Federation, said he wanted the Huntington Beach project to go forward because "desalination offers the opportunity and promise of freeing California forever from the real threat of drought."

"This is an investment in our future. We can proudly build something that will provide water for our kids and our grandkids," said Adrian Esparza, Business Manager of Laborers Local 652.

Relying on Imported Water

Although Orange County has become a world leader in replenishing its groundwater with recycled wastewater from homes, it still depends on water imported from Northern California and the Colorado River for almost a third of its groundwater replenishment, said Cathy Green, a former mayor of Huntington Beach and first vice president of the Orange County Water District.

"It is incumbent upon us to develop local water supplies to reduce our reliance on imported water," Green said. She predicted that as imported water grows scarce, it will become more expensive than desalinated water.

Charles Gibson of the Santa Margarita Water District in southeastern Orange County said he looked forward to purchasing desalinated water to improve the reliability and quality of that district's water, nearly all of which is imported.

"Poseidon is not perfect. But it is good enough," said Al Nederhood, a director with the Municipal Water District of Orange County, which delivers imported water to 27 local water agencies and is predicting chronic supply issues.

Noting how long Poseidon had been making its case to state authorities, Doug Davert, President of the East Orange County Water District, said there was a sense of urgency to build the plant without further delay. "We don't have another two decades to wait," he told the commission.

"The reality is that water rates are going up whether we add new water to the mix or not. So if we are going to pay more anyway, let's at least get some new water out of it," said Duane Cave with the Moulton Niguel Water District. "Give us, the water districts, a new tool for our toolbox."

BUILDING TRADES NEWS 9



Donne Brownsey, center, chair of the Coastal Commission, votes against the Poseidon plant.

Photos by
**HECTOR CRUZ SANDOVAL/
SANDOVAL MEDIA**

STRIVING FOR PERFECTION

BAC Local 4 Hosts Contest for Western Region Apprentices



“Our Building Trades apprentices are truly the best,” says Lupe Aldaco, Business Manager of BAC Local 4.

On June 11, Bricklayers and Tile Layers Local 4 hosted the annual Western States Apprenticeship Contest at their new training center in La Verne. Thirty-six apprentices from 13 states competed. Apprentices from Local 4 did well, placing winners in three of four categories. Winners will go on to national competition in September in Boston. “We are showing that our Building

Trades apprentices are truly the best,” said Lupe Aldaco, Business Manager of BAC Local 4. “These are the best people for the construction industry, from our joint labor/management apprenticeship programs.”

Four Categories of Skill

Many skills were on display as the apprentices spent several hours perfecting their projects on the spot, including a tiled shower enclosure and a brick and cinder-block barbecue.

The categories were Tile; Brick; Pointer/Caulker/Cleaners and Marble.

In Tile, Local 4 apprentice Vito Torres



Brick mortar is mixed and ready.

won first place and Arturo Flores, also of Local 4, took second. In Marble, Local 4’s Joseph Torres placed second. In Pointer/Caulker/Cleaners, which covers restoration work, Adan Arteaga of Local 4 placed third.

Other winners came from Hawaii, Oregon, Montana, Washington and BAC Local 3, which represents the 46 counties of Northern California.

“These are the journeymen of the future,” Aldaco pointed out. “No matter what local they’re from, we’re proud. Our members can compete with anyone, anytime, and carry on the skills they’ve been taught.”



BAC Local 4 Marble Mason apprentice Joseph Torres drills holes for a “spot and anchor” installation of a marble panel.



Torres placed second and will go on to national competition in Boston.



With copper wires in position, Torres transports the marble for installation, lower right.



Apprentice Arturo Flores of BAC Local 4 took second place in Tile. Here, he checks his work on a shower enclosure.



Torres will complete his task by filling the holes with casting plaster.

Photos by
**HECTOR CRUZ SANDOVAL/
SANDOVAL MEDIA**



Vito Torres applies thin-set mortar with a quarter-inch notched trowel.



Torres's skills have earned him a ticket to the national contest.



Torres uses a level to check his work.



Tile instructor Luis Torres, left, helps mix up dry pack for a tile base.



Ray Franco of BAC Local 13, based in Las Vegas.



BAC Local 4 apprentice Elvis Sanchez, above and lower right, assembles a brick and cinderblock barbecue.



Marilena Montano of Local 13 is one of many women entering the Trade.





UA LOCAL UNION 250 LEADERSHIP

On Friday, July 1, UA Local 250 held a swearing-in ceremony for its new leadership and the boards of the union.

“Unions are democracies,” says Local 250 Business Manager Ben Clayton. “We hold regular elections, and all members in good standing may run. We always have many people interested in taking on leadership positions in our union.”

The mix of experience and new ideas gives Local 250 a good balance when it comes to representing members. “It’s important that the union be effective when negotiating contracts with our

employers for wages, for working conditions on the job, and benefits like health insurance and pensions,” Clayton says.

“We urge all our members to stay educated and participate in our union democracy, by voting and by running for office.”

It all starts, Clayton says, with attending union meetings. “Now that we’re holding meetings in-person again, it’s a great opportunity to meet brother and sister union members, and to ask questions. We look forward to our next generation of members getting involved and keeping our union strong.”

OFFICERS

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Business Manager/
Fin. Secretary Treasurer
BRANDON MORTORFF,
Assistant Business Manager
JASON GUERRERO,
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VICTOR PRECIADO,
Vice President
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BUSINESS AGENTS

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ORGANIZERS

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PAC Chairman



18355 S. Figueroa Street Los Angeles, CA 90248-4217

PORT OPENS RAIL LINK



Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia cuts a train-shaped cake to celebrate completion of the Pier G/J Double Track Access Project. From left, Long Beach City Council Member Roberto Uranga, Harbor Commissioner Bonnie Lowenthal, Pacific Harbor Line President Otis Cliatt II, Harbor Commission Vice President Sharon L. Weissman, Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council Communications Director Anne-Marie Otey, Port Executive Director Mario Cordero, Deputy Executive Director Dr. Noel Hacegaba and Deputy Executive Director Rick Cameron.

BY ZEESHAN PASTA

The goal of adding more rail access to the piers of the Port of Long Beach met a milestone in April with the dedication of the Double Track Access project for Piers G through J.

The work was completed early and under budget, guided by a Project Labor Agreement between the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council and the Port.

Speakers at a dedication ceremony April 28 said this meant Building Trades union members, contractors and Port staff did a standout job during the depth of the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020 and 2021. Construction began in February 2020.

“Our ports never stopped, our city government never stopped, our Building Trades members never stopped. No matter what safety precautions they had to take on the site, they met the challenge,” said Anne-Marie Otey, representing the Building Trades Council.

Rail Is More Efficient

As its name says, the project adds a second rail line, around 8,000 feet long, which can access the piers. The project is one of the first major capital improvement projects supporting on-dock rail operations within the Port’s Rail Portfolio. Using rail creates a more efficient method of transferring cargo from one location to another.

“This project will streamline operations and reduce truck trips at a time

Photos courtesy of the Port of Long Beach



The Port is aiming for zero-emissions operations by 2030 for cargo-handling equipment and 2035 for trucks.

we are experiencing an unprecedented growth in cargo,” said Port of Long Beach Executive Director Mario Cordero. “Our investments in on-dock rail will help the Port remain globally competitive and environmentally sustainable well into the future.”

Currently, about 22 percent of all cargo moving in and out of the Port is handled by on-dock rail. This new rail will serve four of the six terminals and allow for simultaneous handling of the arriving and departing trains.

State Financing

This project increases rail efficiency by up to 25 percent, and greatly assists the Port’s infrastructure capital improvement program, aimed at moving more transportation of cargo by rails, rather than trucks.

The Port of Long Beach definitely succeeds in this effort. It plans to eliminate about 3.3 million truck trips of drayage to off-dock and near-dock yards over the next 20 years, along with an increase in capacity and on-dock rail use at San Pedro Bay Ports by 157,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) per year for a total of 3.1 million TEUs over 20 years.

The Double Track Access project, which cost about \$34.7 million, was partly funded with a \$14 million grant from the state’s Trade Corridor Enhancement Program. It was established by Senate Bill 1 to finance infrastructure improve-

SEE PORT PAGE 16

PORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

ments on federally designated freight networks throughout California with money from the state along with the National

Highway Freight Program. The Building Trades are strong supporters of Senate Bill 1.

Imports Are Surging

“Alleviating truck traffic will enhance air quality and decrease the impact of Port

operations on the surrounding community,” said Sharon L. Weissman, Vice President of the Long Beach Harbor Commission.

This project is just one of the many actions the Port is taking in order to deal with the ongoing surge in imports. Even



This project increases rail efficiency by up to 25 percent.



“Golden spikes” at the ceremony pay tribute to the first US transcontinental railroad.

in the midst of multiple worldwide stresses on shipping, the Port of Long Beach is committed to improve the area in a multitude of ways.

“This project is an important piece of the rail improvement program that will increase efficiency and lower emissions at our Port,” added Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia.

Next up for the Port of Long Beach is the \$1.5 billion Pier B On-Dock Rail Support Facility. It will transform Pier B rail yard into a modern, high-tech on-dock rail support facility, allowing for freight trains of lengths up to 20,000 feet—almost four miles.

The ambitious project will also be built under the Council’s Project Labor Agreement.

“We appreciate our partnership with the City of Long Beach and the Port of Long Beach,” Otey remarked. “We look forward to working with you toward the future greening of the Port.”

FREEDOM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



This is the same Supreme Court that tried to dismantle our unions with the Janus v. AFSCME decision.

David is a wonderful boy who brings joy to my life every day. He inspires me every moment. His mother and I couldn’t have imagined any other choice. The choice wasn’t just ours, we made this for his older sister as well, hoping that she would continue to give David unconditional love after we were gone.

In June, the United States Supreme Court overturned the law of the land that was codified in Roe v. Wade. The ability of women to make their own health care decisions was stripped away by the Supreme Court—the same court that tried to

“Removing the ability of women to make health care decisions has nothing to do with freedom.”

dismantle our unions in June 2018 with the Janus v. AFSCME decision in the name of “freedom.”

Removing the ability of women to make health care decisions has nothing to do with freedom. This decision will most certainly affect the ability of the poor the most, just like everything else in the world.

As a labor movement, we must always stand with the rights of people, including those who don’t share our views. In June, freedom was stripped from our sisters. Today, tomorrow and in the future, we must stand for everyone’s freedom.

BUILDING TRADES ACTION

WE’RE ON THE BALLOT!

United to House LA will raise \$875 million a year



On June 15, the LA City Council officially put United to House LA on the November ballot.

A game-changing housing measure is officially on the Los Angeles city ballot for November 8.

A coalition of community groups and unions, including the Building Trades, is spearheading the measure, called United to House LA.

On May 2, the coalition turned in to the LA City Clerk 98,171 signatures from LA registered voters to get on the ballot.

Chris Hannan said. “It affects our members and their families, and all Angelenos. That’s why we’re a leading member of this coalition to pass United to House LA.”

In the November election, the measure needs a simple majority of voters—50 percent plus one—to pass and become law.

United to House LA will raise millions of dollars and create about 4,400 new construction jobs each year.

A broad and diverse coalition of more than 130 local organizations, comprising the Building Trades, LA Federation of Labor, homeless services providers, affordable housing developers, climate change activists and tenants’ rights groups, will reach out across LA in the coming months.

The initiative will impose a “luxury tax” on sales of property valued at more than \$5 million. It affects very few properties—only about 3 percent of what



Danny Osborne, left, business agent with Iron Workers Local 433, volunteers to collect signatures from LA residents.

That’s about 30 percent more than the required number of 61,706 signatures. So although there wasn’t a lot of suspense, it was still a dramatic moment on June 15 when the LA City Council went through the last step required: a formal vote to put the measure on the ballot.

“The housing crisis is one of the most urgent matters facing the city of LA,” LA/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council Executive Secretary

sells each year—but because of the high dollar values, it will generate at least \$875 million annually. The amount could go as high as \$1.1 billion.

“This is really about millionaires and billionaires paying their fair share to help solve our housing crisis,” said campaign co-chair Laura Raymond, director of the Alliance for Community Transit-Los Angeles. “This is going to provide a broad range of strategies to build affordable

housing, acquire affordable housing and get people immediately into homes that need it, and also secure for years and years to come a permanent source of funding for housing.”

Of that money, 70 percent will go to construction, rehabilitation and preservation of affordable housing. Thirty percent will target legal aid and rental assistance to keep people in their homes, especially senior citizens, veterans and disabled residents.

The measure will create at least 26,000 new homes over 10 years.

Almost all the work will be under the Council’s Project Labor Agreement with the city’s Department of Public Works. Non-covered work will be paid at prevailing wage, and can become part of a PLA in the future.

Strong Labor Standards

The labor standards language is written into the measure, assuring that it will become law if the measure passes.

The Building Trades have already seen success with 2016’s Prop. HHH. That proposition raised \$1.2 billion and will result in 7,718 new supportive housing units,

most of them being built under a PLA.

“Our local unions are signing up more signatory contractors as a result of these housing measures,” Hannan said. “This construction is good for the people of LA and good for the Building Trades.”

The SEIU Local 2015 union nursing home and care workers is on board as a strong labor advocate, with President April Verrett serving as campaign co-chair. Cameron Peters, political coordinator for the union, said the cost of housing has long been the top concern for his union’s members.

“If we cannot control the housing crisis that’s going on right now in Los Angeles, that’s going to affect not only our members but the clients, all of the elderly population and the most vulnerable amongst us who our members take care of,” Peters said.

With so much at stake, the Building Trades Council is mobilizing all local affiliated unions to support United to House LA.



Housing is the top issue for many in Los Angeles.

“Our members are going to be relied upon to help deliver this housing, and we want to make sure that we’re delivering the housing with good local jobs and local careers for the community,” Hannan said.

The local affiliated unions played a huge role in the signature drive. They financed the collecting of almost half the signatures, and sent out volunteers as well.

United to House LA is a long-term program to improve the LA economy. Hannan said the measure will help increase incomes in Los Angeles by bringing more residents into good Building Trades union careers.

“We have specific language to open our doors to residents of the city of LA, residents who want a lifelong union career with great wages and benefits, to build our city.

“On behalf of our 140,000 members, we wholeheartedly endorse this measure.”



United to House LA

ELECTION: TUESDAY, NOV. 8, 2022

@UnitedToHouseLA

www.UnitedToHouseLA.com



Members of Laborers Local 300, which hosted the gathering.

TVC 2050

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dramatically expand and improve its production operations.

Relentless demand in the streaming era is outrunning studio inventory.

“Los Angeles lacks the modern sound stages and production facilities to meet market demand and we need to invest in our city’s most identifiable industry,” Hackman said.

Built in 1952, the 25-acre Television City is both an embodiment of Hollywood’s golden era and a production workhorse that’s still being used. It’s been home to a long list of popular sitcoms and game shows, from “Good Times” to “The Price Is Right.” Currently, it includes approximately 750,000 square feet of sound stages, offices and production support space.

Entertainment production is thriving in Southern California, and TVC 2050 will help the region meet future needs.

The idea is to make the current Televi-

sion City into a bigger, more functional enterprise, adaptable to technological innovation. And a facelift—a lively creative campus, landscaped enclaves and spruced-up sidewalks, as well as a mobility hub—doesn’t hurt.

Billions in Impact

Hackman Capital Partners acquired the property in 2019.

“Television City is one of the great Hollywood studio lots and we’re proud to partner with the LA/OC Building Trades on TVC 2050 to ensure that it

will remain a robust job creator and world-class studio for decades to come,” Hackman said.

A Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation report projects a \$2.1 billion total economic output during construction, \$2.4 billion annually and more than 18,000 jobs once operational.

In renderings, the faded and sprawling lot is replaced with sleek production office buildings, abundant greenery and reinvigorated streetscapes. The original 1952 primary studio complex, deemed

Photos by Gary Leonard and Mark Savage



The 25-acre site will keep some vintage elements while adding sleek production office buildings and sound stages.

a Historic-Cultural Monument, will be preserved, while others will be demolished to make room for new configurations.

New subterranean and above-grade parking will accommodate more than 5,000 vehicles. And in a nod to sustainability, TVC 2050 will create a “multi-modal motility hub” to connect workers and residents to nearby transit, including the Metro Purple Line’s future Wilshire/Fairfax subway station, now under construction by the Building Trades and slated to open in 2024.

Solar Panels and Public Spaces

TVC 2050 has committed to environmentally friendly design, including solar panels, adaptive re-use, drought-tolerant landscaping and enhanced public spaces.

Hackman Capital Partners, which also owns Culver Studios and the Sony Animation Building in Culver City, Radford Studio Center in Studio City, Raleigh Studios in Hollywood and Manhattan Beach Studios, has nurtured community relationships in the Fairfax District. Support for the project is strong, with allies including the Holocaust Museum, Streetlights (which brings young professionals of color into IATSE Local 33), the LA Conservancy for historic preservation and even local favorite Canter’s Deli.

The Building Trades now join this team.

“LA needs more sound stages to keep our economy strong,” Hannan said. “The Building Trades have the skilled women and men to construct these stages to the quality the entertainment industry demands. Let’s get this built!”



Chris Hannan, center, Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, and Michael Hackman, right, founder and CEO of Hackman Capital Partners, meet to sign the Project Labor Agreement. Paul Koretz, left, is City Councilmember for the Television City area.



Representing IUPAT District Council 36, l-r: Henry Pena, Bob Smith and Carlos Torres.



Television City was built in 1952.



Union members enjoy freshly made tacos.



SMART Local 105 joins the ceremony, led by new Business Manager Steve Hinson (fourth from right) and, l-r, organizers Brian Germain and Eric Farrar; business representatives Tim Hinson, Anthony Campos and Donny E. Sappington; and organizers Jordan Chechitelli and Abel Cortinas.



THIS IS SHEET METAL



LABOR MANAGEMENT COOPERATION TRUST

Luther B. Medina, Business Manager,
SMART Local 105, www.local105.org

Kevin O'Dorisio, Executive Director,
SMACNA-So Cal, www.smacna-socal.org

Sheet Metal local union members and contractors are an essential part of any building. The Sheet Metal Trade includes architectural work, air balancing, and the fabrication and installation of duct and mechanical equipment for HVAC.

It's a range of specialties based on craftsmanship with metal and composite materials, and dedicated to the highest quality.

The new Orange County Museum of Art broke ground in 2019 in Costa Mesa and will open this October. It is designed by Thom Mayne of Morphosis Studio, who also designed Emerson College in Hollywood, winner of the 2014 Q Award for quality union construction.



"Both of these significant buildings use sheet metal in an innovative way," says Luther Medina, Business Manager of SMART Local 105. "In turn, that requires a contractor and workforce at the top of their game. And that's what projects get when they work with our partnership."

The SMART Local 105 crew at the museum is working for signatory contractor BEST. Each signatory contractor follows the principles of excellence. Jobs are completed efficiently, helping save money for the client. The highly trained union workforce promotes safety and increases productivity.

With over 200 contractors signatory to SMART Local 105, and over 2000 nationwide in the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association, the partnership of labor and contractors works to grow the Sheet Metal Industry to the highest quality.

