

Mark Merrifield

Director, Center for Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation



Mark Merrifield has spent the past two decades studying global and regional sea-level change. A Scripps alumnus, Merrifield returned to campus from a 20-year stint as director of the University of Hawaii Sea Level Center to direct the Center for Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation. Merrifield's research areas include sea-level rise and climate variability, coastal oceanography, and nearshore processes.

He received his PhD in Oceanography from Scripps in 1989, was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia from 1989 to 1991, followed by a return to Scripps as a project scientist and researcher. In 1994, he joined the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the Ocean Engineering department, subsequently moving to the Oceanography department from 1997-2017. He has a longstanding interest in linking basic and applied research outcomes to practical solutions for societal benefit.

Merrifield has had experience working with partners in academia, industry, government, and non-government organizations as the chair of the Global Sea Level Observing System, as the lead investigator of the Waves and Water Level component of the Pacific Integrated Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS), and as a lead author of the Sea Level Change chapter of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. As the new CCCIA director, Merrifield will pursue research that advances the understanding of climate impacts and provides meaningful projections, and develop a focused curriculum that prepares the next generation of scientists, engineers, and policymakers in risk assessment and adaptation strategies.

Councilmember Kellie Hinze

City of Encinitas



Kellie Shay Hinze serves on Encinitas City Council representing District 2, 'Old Encinitas'.

Prior to serving on Council, Kellie worked as the Assistant Director and then Executive Director of Leucadia 101 Main Street Association focusing on the intersection of historic preservation and revitalization by engaging a community of residents, business owners and property owners.

Kellie is a third generation Encinitas resident striving to improve mobility for all residents and visitors to our City's small businesses, parks, public spaces, and beaches.

Councilmember Ryan Keim

City of Oceanside



Councilmember Ryan Keim was appointed to the Oceanside City Council in January 2019, to complete the last two years of a Council seat vacated as a result of the transition to district elections.

Ryan has spent a majority of his career in service to the citizens of Oceanside. Councilmember Keim was a Lifeguard at City of Oceanside pools during college, and graduated from California State University San Marcos with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

In 2004, Ryan served on the Police and Fire Commission until he joined the Oceanside Police Department in 2006. While with the Oceanside Police Department (OPD), Ryan worked in numerous assignments including the Neighborhood Policing Team and the Gang Suppression Unit. As a member of the Neighborhood Policing Team, Ryan partnered with various community groups throughout the city to address quality of life issues that often required creative and time-intensive solutions. Additionally, Ryan had the opportunity to work with students in vulnerable neighborhoods to prioritize education and healthy extra-curricular activities. After suffering an on-duty injury, Ryan retired medically as a sworn officer and became the Public Information Officer for the Oceanside Police Department. Ryan then had the opportunity to join San Diego County Sheriff's Department as the Public Affairs Director and primary spokesperson. As a member of the Sheriff's Executive Management Team, he oversaw the Department of Media Relations at one of the largest sheriff's departments in the country.

Councilmember Keim's priorities for the City of Oceanside are enhancing public safety for all residents by strengthening community relationships, increasing and diversifying the economic opportunities for the City, and reducing traffic congestion. Ryan has been an Oceanside resident for over thirty years and lives in District 3 with his wife and daughter.

Mayor Serge Dedina

City of Imperial Beach



Serge Dedina was elected Mayor of Imperial Beach in November 2014. A first-generation American, he moved to IB in 1971 at the age of seven and grew up on the southeast side of town near the entrance to Ream Field. Serge attended Berry and Harbor View Elementary Schools, Mar Vista Junior High and Mar Vista High School (Class of 1982). He put himself through UCSD while working as a City of Imperial Beach and Silver Strand State Beach Lifeguard where he rescued more than 500 swimmers.

While growing up in Imperial Beach, Serge helped conserve the coastline and open space that make Imperial Beach one of the most beautiful beach cities in California. As a member of the Imperial Beach Youth Commission and Tidelands Advisory Committee, Serge worked with residents, the business community and government agencies to improve the quality of life for residents of Imperial Beach.

The Executive Director and co-founder of WILDCOAST, an award winning non-profit organization for both its programs and high standards of financial and administrative management, Serge helped secure tens of millions of dollars to build a new sewage treatment plant along the U.S.-Mexico border, saving taxpayers more than \$100 million in the process. He received the California Coastal Commission's "Coastal Hero" Award and the San Diego Zoological Society's Conservation Medal in recognition of his conservation efforts. He is a member of the Sweetwater Unified School District's Hall of Fame, received an honorary degree from Southwestern Community College, and was honored as a John Muir Fellow at UCSD.

Serge has a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Texas at Austin, a M.S. in Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a B.A. in Political Science from UCSD. In 2013 he received a scholarship from the Harvard Business School Club of San Diego to attend the Harvard Business School's Executive Education Program. A first generation American, Serge has been married to his wife Emily since 1989.

As a father of two boys, Serge has worked to make Imperial Beach a more family-friendly community. He was involved in the effort to build a free community skatepark and provided scholarships for children to attend Junior Lifeguard programs. As a member of the Mar Vista High Poseidon Advisory Board, Serge has mentored MVHS students and provided them with internship and volunteer opportunities. He was a member of the Sheriff's Community Advisory Group, co-founded the Imperial Beach Collaborative and was a member of the SDG&E Community Advisory Board.

Councilmember Tony Kranz

City of Oceanside

Board Chair, North County Transit District (NCTD)



Tony Kranz moved to Encinitas, California, as a baby in 1960 and spent his youth involved in sports and the graphic arts and enjoying the beautiful Pacific Ocean shoreline. He graduated from San Dieguito High School in 1977 and attended college at Palomar and Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo.

Following college, Tony moved to Anchorage, Alaska, and served as an air traffic controller in the Army National Guard. He also spent seven years living in St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

In 1985, Tony married his wife Cynthia, another long-time Encinitas resident. They have three children: James, Brian and Stephanie. Tony still enjoys sports as a life-long fan of the Padres and continues his work in the graphic arts with photography and printing sales.

Tony was elected to the Encinitas City Council in 2012 and is working to promote policies that help to protect our natural resources, improve our quality of life and address social justice issues.

In addition to his work on the Council, Kranz's public service includes being the Vice Chairman of the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor board, a Joint Powers Authority, representing the North County Transit District.

Coleen Clementson

Director of Regional Planning, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)



Coleen Clementson is Principal Regional Planner with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) overseeing transit planning and land use coordination. Her work includes oversight and implementation of the Regional Plan, which sets forth a strategy for the region's future growth and development that will provide more housing and transportation options while preserving important open space and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with California Climate Change legislation. In addition, she leads work to integrate health, housing, social equity, sustainability in regional transportation efforts along with on-going performance monitoring. Coleen is the immediate past president of the California Planning Roundtable, a group of California APA members from the public and private sector who volunteer their time to advance the planning practice, providing leadership to create healthy, prosperous and equitable communities.

Brendan Reed

Planning & Environmental Affairs Director, San Diego County Regional Airport Authority



Brendan Reed is the Environmental Affairs Director for the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (SDCRAA), which owns and operates the San Diego International Airport. He is responsible for guiding the organization's policies and programs concerning environmental regulatory compliance and environmental sustainable business practices. He represents the SDCRAA on the San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative, California Airports Council Environmental Working Group, and Airports Council International - North America Sustainability Working Group.

Eileen Maher

Director, Environmental Conservation, Port of San Diego

Eileen Maher is the Director, Environmental Conservation at the Port of San Diego. Eileen is responsible for the natural resources of the Bay including in-water construction permit compliance and mitigation requirements; environmental education; aquaculture and the Port's Blue Economy incubator; as well as assisting with bay wide development projects including hotels and a convention center worth over \$3 billion.