



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

November 10, 2025

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Mr. Benny Tran to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2029.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Tran is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work which shall devolve upon him, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Mr. Tran will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Mia Lerher.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Bass" clearly distinguishable.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Benny Tran
Commission: Board of Water and Power Commissioners
End of Term: 6/30/2029

Appointee Information

1. **Race:** API
2. **Gender:** Male
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 9 - Central
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** Master in Public Affairs, School for Public and International Affairs, Princeton University
7. **Occupation/profession:** Principal, Baobab Global Consulting
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Appointment
10. **Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):**

Commissioner	APC	CD	Race	Gender	Term End
Board of Water and Power Commissioners	VACANT				6/30/2030
Board of Water and Power Commissioners	VACANT				6/30/2029
Board of Water and Power Commissioners	Katz, Richard	South Valley	Caucasian	M	6/30/2026
Board of Water and Power Commissioners	Pinder, Wilma	South LA	African American	F	6/30/2027
Board of Water and Power Commissioners	Katz, Nurit	South Valley	Caucasian	F	6/30/2028

BENNY TRAN

PROFILE

Strategic and impact-driven executive with over 15 years of leadership experience at the intersection of public policy, sustainability, and large-scale infrastructure and community initiatives. Combines global expertise in strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and organizational governance across North America, Asia, and emerging markets.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Principal

Baobab Global Consulting (DBA)

Current

Strategy Advisor supporting SEV and IRONMAN Vietnam for 20in20 Partners. Lead high-impact consulting assignments focused on event strategy, business development, and market entry initiatives, including branding, partnership, and operational advisory for endurance and mass participation events.

Executive Vice President, Corporate Strategy

Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC) | Los Angeles

2014 – (April) 2025

As part of the founding team, worked on full cycle of the sports business, including financial feasibility analysis and the successful launch of the organization and stadium. Also directed stadium development, managed stadium and food and beverage operations, implemented corporate strategy, cultivated key government relationships, and oversaw international club assets contributing to the club's rapid growth and reputation as an industry leader.

Key Achievements:

- Directed all phases of a \$375M stadium project from land entitlements to ribbon cutting for one of the world's most advanced venues, including design and build, lease negotiations and feasibility analysis, culminating in the successful launch of a high-tech stadium that set new standards in sports entertainment.
- Led sustainability strategy and environmental compliance for the stadium, achieving LEED Gold certification through adoption of green design, sustainable construction, and energy efficiency measures; oversaw the environmental review process and collaborated directly with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to secure success under the Savings by Design program and obtain DWP rebates for electric vehicle charging stations, establishing the venue as a model for sustainable sports infrastructure in Los Angeles.
- Spearheaded international expansion of European partner football clubs by driving cost restructuring and operational turnaround through overhauls of ticketing, branding, sponsorship processes, and merchandising.
- Led external affairs and public policy engagement for LAFC's business operations across critical issues such as liquor licensing, digital signage, real estate, and sports betting ensuring full compliance.

- Directed execution of global sporting events including the MLS All-Star Game, CONCACAF Gold Cup, and Champions Cup, managing all event operations, logistics, and stakeholder coordination to ensure successful delivery and international visibility for the club, enhancing LAFC's global brand positioning.
- Transformed the fan experience by leading the launch of the stadium and LAFC fan technology stack, developing the mobile app, digital ticketing, and NFC-enabled services, resulting in several league and industry "firsts" in payments and tech adoption while also managing the stadium's food and beverage business.

Consultant for Cleantech Innovation Incubator

Asian Development Bank/World Bank | Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

2014

Supported the first competition for Greentech entrepreneurs and set up the structure for the establishment and implementation of the Climate Innovation Center supported by the ADB and the World Bank.

Key Achievements:

- Developed governance and funding structures for the Vietnam's Climate Innovation Center, that resulted in \$4.6 million in financing which eventually served 48 proof of concepts that developed into a business and a total of \$3.6 million in investments, benefitting 200,000 households with their products and services.

Deputy Regional Director Southeast Asia

Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) | Hanoi & Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

2006-2013

Directed operations, strategy, and program execution in energy efficiency in buildings, street lighting, and waste management programs, working with the cities of Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Bangkok, Manila and Jakarta.

Key Achievements:

- Led research efforts and authored proposals for potential climate programs; developed strategies to scale up energy efficiency projects leading to training sessions and scaling of energy efficiency building projects including the launching of a LED street light pilot in Ho Chi Minh City, which prompted city-wide rollout.
- Represented the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group as a part of CCI, collaborating regularly with the Ho Chi Minh City government to advance urban climate action plans focused on clean energy transition, sustainable mobility, and climate resilience initiatives

Deputy Regional Director Southeast Asia

Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) | Hanoi & Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

2006-2013

Global executive working with national and provincial governments at the policy, strategy and operational levels on rolling out public health programs including workforce training, supply chain, lab networks, patient care.

- Oversaw strategy and operations as leader of a 50+ member team across Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea, managing finance, administration, and program execution with a \$12M annual operating budget, which ensured effective delivery and alignment of multi-country public health initiatives.
- Researched, designed, implemented, and evaluated innovative public health programs to strengthen HIV/AIDS treatment expansion, supply chain and laboratory systems, and workforce training in diverse national contexts, resulting in sustainable improvements to national health infrastructure and capacity.
- Expanded nationwide access to HIV/AIDS medicines and services for children and adults by orchestrating targeted program rollouts and collaborating with health agencies, increasing pediatric enrollment from under 200 to over 3,000 children and indirectly extending adult access to over 100,000 individuals within five years.

Associate Consultant

Touchstone Consulting | *Washington, D.C.*

2003-2004

Provided strategic advisory services for public sector clients, focusing on program management, change management, and strategic communications

- Conducted in-depth research on program and change management strategies to support the development of internal frameworks, helping standardize practices across departments
- Designed comprehensive communications and change management plans for a federal agency for a nationwide rollout of education data collection systems, facilitating smooth adoption and improved stakeholder alignment.

EDUCATION

Master in Public Affairs, School for Public and International Affairs

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

BA, Middle Eastern Studies

EMORY UNIVERSITY

RECOGNITIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievements, Honors, & Notable Roles

- *City Commissioner, Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department (current - Los Angeles, California)*
- Board Member, Food Access Los Angeles non-profit (current - Los Angeles, California)
- Fulbright Scholar (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam)
- Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) Fellow (Cairo, Egypt)
- Martin Luther King Scholar - Emory University (Atlanta, Georgia)
- Global speaker on sports stadium development and fan engagement

Languages

- English: Native
- Vietnamese: Professional fluency
- Arabic: Advanced fluency



November 10, 2025

Dear Mr. Tran:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you of your appointment to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2029, subject to confirmation by the Los Angeles City Council.

On behalf of the people of Los Angeles, thank you for your willingness to serve. Our boards and commissions are a vital part of the City's governance, and your leadership and expertise will play an important role in shaping the future of Los Angeles.

To move forward, there are a few steps you must complete prior to the Council's consideration of your appointment. My Commission Affairs team has prepared an attached checklist with deadlines and submission instructions, and they are available to support you throughout the confirmation process.

Once again, congratulations, and thank you for your commitment to serve the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment I
Mr. Benny Tran
November 10, 2025

Nominee Check List

I. Within 7 days of appointment:

- ☐ Submit the completed forms, found on the last three pages of this letter, to: myr-commissions@lacity.org **OR** mail them to:

Office of the Mayor
Attn: Luz Portillo
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

 - Remuneration Form
 - Undated Separation Letters (2)
- ☐ Schedule a fingerprinting appointment to complete your background check.
 - The Commissions team will connect you with the Personnel Background Unit.
- ☐ Complete and file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700).
- ☐ Submit the CEC Form 60 (Ethics Clearance Form) to the City Ethics Commission.
 - The City Council cannot act on your nomination until the Ethics Department receives and submits your filings.
 - Note: you will be required to submit the same forms again after you are sworn in

II. Council Member Meetings:

You may be asked to meet with Councilmembers prior to your hearings.

- ☐ Your City Councilmember Curren D. Price
- ☐ Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, Chair of the Council Committee, considering your nomination

III. Public Meetings at City Hall:

- ☐ Energy & Environment Committee Hearing
 - The Clerk's office will contact you once your item has been scheduled.
- ☐ Full Council Hearing and Oath of Office
 - The Clerk's office will contact you once your item has been scheduled.

V. Standing Requirements

- Notify the Commissions team of any changes in address or contact information.
- If you wish to resign, you must submit a resignation letter to myr-commissions@lacity.org.