



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

August 14, 2026

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Mr. Nick Gaines to the Area Planning Commission - South Valley for the term ending June 30, 2031.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Gaines 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. Gaines will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Lisa Karadjian.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass".

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Nick Gaines
Commission: Area Planning Commission - South Valley
End of Term: 6/30/2031

Appointee Information

1. **Race:** Caucasian
2. **Gender:** Male
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 6 - South Valley
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** Bachelor of Arts Comparative Politics, University of California, Berkeley
7. **Occupation/profession:** Program Director, Matthew Perry Foundation
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
Barraza, Vanessa	South Valley	3	L	F	6/30/2030
Mather, Lydia	South Valley	6	C	F	6/30/2029
Gourdikian, Nareg	South Valley	4	ME	M	6/30/2028
Crockett, Jasson	South Valley	2	AA	M	6/30/2027
Karadjian, Lisa	South Valley	2	C	F	6/30/2026

Nick Gaines

Policy Director and Senior Advisor • Yes on Prop 37 • January 2025 - present

- Drafted measure to put \$25 billion housing
- Created inaugural grant program in CA
- Lead meetings with CA elected officials and other stakeholders
- Manage team of 4 direct reports

Director of Public Policy • Matthew Perry Foundation • Feb 2024 - present

- Responsible for all external-facing campaigns and grantmaking
- Created inaugural grant program in CA
- Lead meetings with CA elected officials and other stakeholders
- Manage team of 4 direct reports

Director of Legislative Affairs • H2 Safety Pipe • November 2024 - present

- Analyze CPUC and PHMSA proceedings related to pipelines
- Led legislation to create a zero-leakage standard for hydrogen pipelines in CA
- Engaged Middle Mile Broadband Initiative to pursue “dig once, benefit twice” policy

Broadband Strategist and Policy Analyst • Michael Baker International • May 2023 - November 2023 • Wrote RFP responses to Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) programs in Pennsylvania, Idaho, Connecticut, Arkansas, and multiple municipalities in CA

- Created Broadband Ready Communities framework for Pennsylvania
- Wrote BEAD 5-year action plan for Pennsylvania
- Developed workforce development program for BEAD in Idaho

Campaign Manager • Henry Stern for Supervisor 2022 • Los Angeles, CA • December 2021 - June 2022 • Developed and implemented campaign strategy and communications

- Managed day-to-day scheduling for campaign events, rallies, and fundraisers
- Directed and oversaw endorsement process
- Interfaced with other regional campaigns
- Managed team of 10 direct reports

Campaign Manager Henry Stern for Senate 2020 • Los Angeles, CA • December 2019 - November 2020 • Planned all field, communications, finance, and scheduling for the campaign

- Organized political events
- Increased margin of victory among Republicans and Independents in NW LA County and NE Ventura County

Deputy District Director • Senator Henry Stern • Los Angeles, CA • December 2018 - May 2023 • Managed technology and climate policy portfolios

- Represent the Senator at community events and with local and state stakeholders
- Advocated for the Transportation Innovation Zone in Warner Center
- Staffer on Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Agenda, including SB 774, SB 596, SB 1160, SB 1215, and SB 739 • Worked with CPUC on microgrid development and SGIP funding deployment
- Created microgrid and emergency DER working groups
- Staffed \$5 billion climate resilience bond, SB 45
- Lead staffer on California Future of Work Commission

Community Engineer • Silicon Harlem • NYC, NY • August 2016 - December 2018

- Developed successful government grant applications totaling over \$50 million
- Worked closely with officials from various NYC agencies and elected officials
- Redeveloped Harlem WiFi and deployed resilient community wifi network in East Harlem

- Managed a team of 6-10 on daily basis and up to 30 volunteers for annual Next Gen Tech Conference

Civic Innovation Fellow • Microsoft • NYC, NY • May 2015 - September 2015

- Developed and marketed Azure for Smart Cities
- Product Manager for Skype Translator plug-in for YouTube and CivicGraph.io
- Organized events for financial executives and policy leaders
- Researched technology companies' lobbying and corporate data philanthropy

Account Executive, Crisis Communications • Weber Shandwick • NYC, NY • June 2014 - May 2015

- Developed first corporate-wide social media crisis response plan
- Organized engagement for Fortune 500 companies in crisis
- Ran media trainings for executives

Account Executive, Crisis Communications • Weber Shandwick • NYC, NY • June 2014 - May 2015

- Founded and built a political social network, raised \$150K, built MVP, and performed executive duties
- Developed GIS system associating Census TIGER files with local political representatives

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - BERKELEY • Berkeley, CA • Graduated May 2014
Bachelor of Arts Comparative Politics

KEY SKILLS

- 10 years of experience at the intersection of community and technology
- Coordinated with multiple government agencies, commercial, and non-profit partners • Drafted press releases, managed media relationships, and placed op-eds
- Experienced in campaign organizing and fundraising
- Strong working relationships with local, state, and federal officials in CA LA and NYC • Knowledgeable in state/local politics and regulatory environments
- Full stack developer with experience in JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Python, PHP, and Ruby • Bilingual in English and French, conversational in Spanish, basic comprehension of Arabic and Latin • Passionate about technology policy, structural reform and infrastructure renewal • Experienced public speaker and capable of handling multiple projects simultaneously



August 14, 2026

Dear Mr. Gaines:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you of your appointment to the Area Planning Commission - South Valley for the term ending June 30, 2031, 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 fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Bass" clearly distinguishable.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment I
Mr. Nick Gaines
August 14, 2026

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 Imelda Padilla
- ☐ Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Chair of the Council Committee, considering your nomination

III. Public Meetings at City Hall:

- ☐ Planning and Land Use Management 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.