



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

January 5, 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. Rudy Ortega to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2026 and the subsequent term ending June 30, 2031.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Ortega 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. Ortega will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Richard Katz.

Sincerely,

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

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment

## COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

**Name:** Rudy Ortega  
**Commission:** Board of Water and Power Commissioners  
**End of Term:** 6/30/2026 and 06/30/2031

### Appointee Information

1. **Race:** Native American
2. **Gender:** male
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 7 - North Valley
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:**
7. **Occupation/profession:** Tribal President, Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
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
Marks, Allan	Central	5	Caucasian	M	6/30/2030
Tran, Benny	Central	9	API	M	6/30/2029
VACANT					6/30/2026
Pinder, Wilma	South LA	10	African American	F	6/30/2027
Katz, Nurit	South Valley	4	Caucasian	F	6/30/2028

## **Rudy Ortega Jr., L.H.D**

*Tribal President, Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians*

Rudy Ortega, Jr., citizen of the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (Tribe), and lifelong resident of the San Fernando Valley. Where he attended local schools, graduated from college to have worked in the design and marketing industry for major Los Angeles daily newspapers and marketing agencies as a senior graphic artist and art director.

In 1994, Rudy was elected Vice President for his tribe at the age of eighteen where he assisted in the continuing efforts of the Tribe's missions of protecting the rights of Fernandeano Tataviam people as Indian people. Rudy assisted his Tribe in 2000 of the reinvigoration of the Tribe's non-profit, Pukúu Cultural Community Services (Pukúu) to provide community programs to Native Americans living in the Los Angeles County as well to sustain his own tribal community.

At end of his term as Vice President in 2004 Rudy was selected to the position of Tribal Administrator where he'd assisted securing land of one of the Tribe's ancestral villages and monetary grants to support the Tribe's efforts to restore federal recognition. With the passing of California State laws on cultural resources, Rudy worked to ensure the Tribe is acknowledge by tribal, local, and state governments in protecting sacred sites and the safe return of many ancestral remains to their funeral sites. Rudy led the founding of Pahi Creative Group Ltd. in 2009 for the Tribe. Pahi is an internet-marketing company providing low-cost web development and marketing tools.

In additional to his position as Tribal Administrator, Rudy was selected by the Tribal Senate in 2004 to serve as Executive Director for Pukúu. Responsible for all operations at Pukúu from development and financial sustainability to community programs and services. Rudy oversees Pukúu staff plus Haramokngna American Indian Cultural Center, an interpretive center of Pukúu that is located in the National Angeles Forest.

Rudy was re-elected Vice President in 2013 where he assisted in the continuing efforts of the Tribe's missions of protecting sacred sites and the rights of Tataviam people as Indian people. During his term Rudy instituted a cultural resources process throughout the Tribe's ancestral territory. Just this January 2015, Rudy was elected to serve his Tribe as Tribal President, following in his father's footsteps.

Rudy serves as Chairman of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission the only United States commission form by both city and county. The primary purpose of the Commission is to increase the acquisition and application of funding resources to the socioeconomic problems of American Indians in Los Angeles City and County without duplication of any service or activity provided by any other County officer or department.

## ***Professional Experience***

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### **Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians**

**June 2013 to Present**

*California Historic Tribal of northern Los Angeles County*

#### **Tribal President**

Responsible for the day-to-day activities that tie together the many departments within the Fernandeno Tataviam Tribal Government and the many programs provided to its membership. The department manages the grants that fund various department projects, such as monthly community events and a newsletter that is distributed to all adult tribal members.

### **Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians**

**February 1999 to September 2009**

*California Historic Tribal of northern Los Angeles County*

#### **Tribal Administrator**

Responsible for the day-to-day activities that tie together the many departments within the Fernandeno Tataviam Tribal Government and the many programs provided to its membership. The department manages the grants that fund various department projects, such as monthly community events and a newsletter that is distributed to all adult tribal members.

### **Pukuu Cultural Community Services**

**February 1999 to Present**

*A 501(c)3 non-profit organization established to empower Native American families.*

#### **Executive Director**

Reports to the Board of Directors, and is responsible for the organization's consistent achievement of its mission and financial objectives. In program development and administration, has assure that the organization has a long-range strategy which achieves its mission, provides strong leadership with the Board of Directors and staff in developing programs, organizational and financial plans. Publicizing the programs to the Native American and surrounding communities of the vital programs offer through Pukúu. Selective in picking team, knowing that individual joining Pukúu's will be challenge in a small office that operations in a high capacity. Encourages staff to reach higher expectations while maintaining a climate that attracts, keeps, and motivates a diverse staff of top quality people.

### **Multiple Agencies & Global Companies**

**November 1997 to February 1999**

*Design, Production and Production Consultant, maintain and develop web sites.*

#### **Freelance Artist**

Clients: Native American Water Management LLC, Visual Art Source, PMF PRO Studios, Flynn Real Estate, AIP Printing, 3Com, Icon International, Acento Advertising, art ltd. Magazine, San Fernando Valley Newspaper

### **San Fernando Valley Newspaper**

**May 2002 to July 2004**

*Community newspaper in San Fernando, California*

#### **Art Director**

Responsible for Production and Marketing direction of a weekly newspaper. Maintained and developed company web site.

**Daily News of Los Angeles**  
*Major daily base in Woodland Hills, California*

**June 1996 to November 1997**

**Creative Senior Artist**

Art Director of design and layout four color advertising supplements, including print and delivers.  
Photo correction and restoration also output and correct film to ECRM processor.

**Ventura County Star (newspaper) & Los Angeles Times (newspaper)**  
*Ventura and Chatsworth, California*

**February 1996 to March 1996**

**Production Artist**

Art Director of design and layout four color advertising supplements, including print and delivers. Photo correction and restoration also output and correct film to ECRM processor.

**L.A.TRONICS**  
*Encino, California*

**October 1994 to February 1996**

**Production Artist**

Design and layout advertisements for daily and weekly newspapers plus direct mailers.

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***Community Experience***

**Friends of Hart Park and Museum**  
**Board member** - Newhall, California

**September 2022 to Present**

*Support the Hart Park and museum facilities. Through fundraisers that help maintain the mansion, help with the animals in the park, and clean/restore numerous art treasures.*

**Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority**  
**Board member** - Los Angeles, California

**January 2023 to Present**

*The MRCA is dedicated to the preservation and management of local open space and parkland, wildlife habitat, coastal access, watershed lands, and trails in both wilderness and urban settings, and to ensuring access to public parkland and coastal resources.*

**Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy**  
**Board member** - Los Angeles, California

**July 2018 to Present**

*Established by State legislature to preserve over 75,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings and improved more than 114 public recreational facilities throughout Southern California.*

**American Indian Scholarship Foundation of Southern California**  
**Board member** - Los Angeles, California

**February 2006 to 2012**

*The Foundation raises funds to American Indian youth scholarships in Southern California.*

**Los Angeles City/County American Indian Commission**  
**Chairman** - Los Angeles, California

**November 2004 to Present**

*Increase the acquisition and application of funding resources to the socioeconomic problems of American Indians in Los Angeles City and County.*

**Frazier Park Visitors Center**

**July 2007 to June 2007**

**Advisory Board member** - Frazier Park, California

*The Commission was created through a joint effort of members of the Los Angeles American Indian community, Los Angeles City, and Los Angeles County governments.*

**Tujunga Watershed Project – The River Project**

**July 2004 to July 2006**

**Advisory Board member** - Studio City, California

*Provide a sustainable plan for the Tujunga/Pacoima Watershed ecosystem*

**Tataviam Village - North Hollywood High School**

**September 2000 to June 2003**

**Cultural Specialist** – North Hollywood, California

*Provide direction in creation of a replica Tataviam village*

**Haramokngna American Indian Cultural Center**

**March 1997 to February 2002**

**Founding Member** – San Gabriel, California

*Assisted in establishing the cultural center and agreement with US Forest Service.*



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

January 5, 2026

Dear Mr. Ortega:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you of your appointment to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2026, and for the subsequent 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'.

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment I  
Mr. Rudy Ortega  
January 5, 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](mailto: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 Monica Rodriguez
- 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](mailto:myr-commissions@lacity.org).