

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Media Contact:** [Caren Kagan Evans](mailto:caren@ecicomcommunications.com), caren@ecicomcommunications.com, 301-467-6337 (cell)**EPN Elects Three New Members to Its Board of Directors**

(WASHINGTON, DC, September 15, 2021) — The [Environmental Protection Network](#) (EPN) today announced the election of Wayne Nastri, Brian Swett, and Melissa Vargas to its [Board of Directors](#)

Executive Director Michelle Roos welcomes the new Board Members. “As EPN continues to build the capacity of environmental agencies and the communities they serve to truly address the most urgent public health and environmental crises, including environmental injustices, we are excited about the breadth of expertise that our new Board Members bring to the organization.”

Wayne Nastri is the Executive Officer of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). Previously, he served as EPA Region 9 Regional Administrator where he was responsible for policy development and operations, exercising management oversight for nearly 1,000 employees, and an annual budget exceeding \$700 million. Nastri worked closely with the public, industry, and all levels of government in a wide variety of voluntary pollution prevention programs and energy conservation efforts, including the development and implementation of the West Coast Diesel Collaborative.

Brian Swett is a Principal and Office Leader of Arup’s Boston office and serves as Director of Cities and Sustainable Real Estate for Arup in the Americas. Swett began his professional career at EPA, including stints in the Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance, the Office of International Affairs, and Region 1. He is a nationally recognized leader in resilience, climate change, and sustainability strategy with over a decade of leadership experience in municipal government, real estate development, federal government, and non-profit sectors.

Melissa Vargas is the District Director for Representative Jimmy Gomez in California’s 34th congressional district. Vargas served as the Director of Public Engagement in the Office of Public Engagement at EPA and as the Deputy White House Liaison, where she was selected to help develop, implement, and manage the agency’s grassroots education and outreach initiative as a part of EPA’s emergency response efforts to the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. After leaving EPA, Vargas led Latino Engagement & Partnerships as the Political Affairs Manager for the Environmental Defense Fund, creating political will and bold policies with leading Latino advocacy organizations to fight climate change.

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ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NETWORK

Founded in 2017, the [Environmental Protection Network](#) (EPN) harnesses the expertise of more than 550 former EPA career staff and confirmation-level appointees from Democratic and Republican administrations to provide the unique perspective of former regulators with decades of historical knowledge and subject matter expertise.