



EPN Board of Directors



Mark Hague

Board Chair

Retired

Prairie Village, Kansas

In January 2017, Mark Hague retired as Regional Administrator of EPA Region 7 after 37 years at the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. and Kansas City. Mark was appointed Region 7 Regional Administrator in November 2015, after having served as EPA Region 7 Deputy Regional Administrator since 2011. In addition, from September to December 2014, Mark served as Acting Deputy Chief Financial Officer at EPA.

As Regional Administrator, Mark led Region 7's 500+ professional and technical employees responsible for implementing environmental programs in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas and nine Native American Tribes. He served as the primary liaison to the public and elected officials in the Region. Mark worked with State and local environmental leaders to ensure environmental and health protections throughout the region, and engaged citizen groups and non-governmental organizations on EPA program issues. Mark served as a member of the EPA, State and Tribal E-Enterprise for the Environment governing board which worked to modernize systems supporting environmental program implementation across the nation.

As Deputy Regional Administrator, Mark was instrumental in implementing approaches to streamline and modernize business practices in Region 7; an approach that was adopted across EPA. During his EPA career, Mark held a variety of leadership positions including Director of the Region 7 Enforcement Coordination Office, Acting Assistant Administrator for Policy and Management, and Senior Indian Program Manager.



Chithra Kumar

Board Member

**Managing Director, Climate & Clean Energy Program, Union of Concerned Scientists
Washington, DC**

Chitra Kumar is the managing director of the Climate & Energy Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. In her role, she provides leadership, strategy, and oversight for the UCS teams working to transform the US energy system into one that is equitable and powered by renewable electricity, and to address climate damages by ensuring polluters pay their fair share of these costs and that people have the tools and resources they need to build healthy, resilient communities.

Prior to joining UCS, Ms. Kumar served as the director of the Office of Policy, Partnerships, and Program Development in EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights. In that position, she advised senior Biden administration officials and career EPA leaders on environmental justice and climate policies and programs, including the Justice 40 initiative, and a \$3 billion Inflation Reduction Act provision for Environmental and Climate Justice Grants. She also helped shepherd the organization through a historic reorganization, laying out a vision for entirely new lines of work for the agency to integrate environmental justice principles throughout its programs and policies. Chitra was also a senior fellow with the Aspen Institute's Community Strategies Group and Thrive Rural, and she directed the Federal and State Division of EPA's Office of Community Revitalization and served at the White House Council on Environmental Quality as the Deputy Associate Director for Water.

Ms. Kumar holds a master's degree in city planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a BA in international policy for environment and negotiation from Boston University.



A. Stanley (Stan) Meiburg

Board Member

Director, Graduate Program in Sustainability, Wake Forest University
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Dr. A. Stanley (Stan) Meiburg spent 39 years with EPA, from 1977 to 2017. As Acting Deputy Administrator (2014-2017) he created the Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Finance Center, was a co-chair of the E-Enterprise Leadership Council, and served as an active member of the President's Management Council. From 1996-2014, Stan served as Deputy Regional Administrator in EPA's Region 4, after also serving as Deputy Regional Administrator in Region 6 in 1995, making him only the second person in EPA history to serve in this position in more than one region. Between 1985 and 1990, he was Director of the Planning and Management Staff of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, where he led work on the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. In addition, he was the Executive Director of EPA's Environmental Financial Advisory Board from 2001 to 2010 and served on many task forces promoting innovation and collaboration within the Agency. Currently, Dr. Meiburg is the Director of Graduate Studies in Sustainability at Wake Forest University, where he leads the Master of Arts in Sustainability program and associated dual degree certificate programs. Among other honors, Stan received EPA's Distinguished Career Award in 2014 and was recognized as a Distinguished Federal Executive in 2012. He holds a B.A. from Wake Forest University, and M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from Johns Hopkins University. He and his wife Julie live in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.



Wayne Nastri

Board Member

Executive Officer, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Aliso Viejo, California

Wayne Nastri is the Executive Officer of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). Previously, he served as U.S. EPA's Regional Administrator for Region 9. In that position, he was responsible for policy development and operations, exercising management oversight for nearly 1,000 employees, and an annual budget exceeding \$700 million. He 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, in which SCAQMD actively participates. Mr. Nastri also focused Region 9 efforts on development of strategies to address emissions associated with ocean-going vessels and marine ports.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Nastri served as the Legislative Director for the California Environmental Business Council, and among other private sector experience, he served as co-president of E4 Strategic Solutions, Inc., a consulting firm focused on negotiating mutually effective solutions for complex environmental & energy issues faced by regulatory authorities; elected officials; and executive management at local, state, and federal levels.



Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta

Board Member

Retired

Durham, NC.

Dr. Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta served at EPA from 1981-2021. From 2017-2021, she served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Office of Research and Development and EPA's Science Advisor. She began with EPA as a student intern conducting research on the potential health effects of drinking water contaminants. Over the course of her career, Jennifer worked in the Office of Toxic Substances and Office of Water in the areas of human health and ecological research, risk assessment, policy and regulation development, strategic planning, and program implementation. As EPA's Science Advisor, Jennifer Chaired the Agency's Science and Technology Policy Council and worked to refocus the Risk Assessment Forum. In 2008, she served as the President of the Society of Toxicology's Risk Assessment Specialty Section. In 2021, Jennifer received EPA's Distinguished Career Service Award as well as a Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Award.

Dr. Orme-Zavaleta received her B.A. in Zoology from Ohio Wesleyan University, an M.S. in Zoology and Toxicology from Miami University, and a Ph.D. in Wildlife Science with a minor in Public Health from Oregon State University. Jennifer and her husband David live in Durham, NC.



Micah Ragland

Board Member (As of March 2023)

**Vice President of Public Affairs, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
Detroit, Michigan**

Micah Ragland will be joining EPN's Board in March 2023. He currently serves as vice president of public affairs at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, where he helps to lead the Bank's external communications and public engagement initiatives.

Prior to joining the Bank, Ragland served as the associate administrator for Public Engagement and Environmental Education at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In this role, he managed the EPA's stakeholder engagement strategies and led the agency's on-the-ground community outreach efforts during the Flint water crisis. Previously, Ragland served as a regional political director on President Barack Obama's 2012 re-election campaign, and as communications director or press secretary for several members of the U.S. Congress.

He received his bachelor's degree from Morehouse College and his law degree from North Carolina Central University.

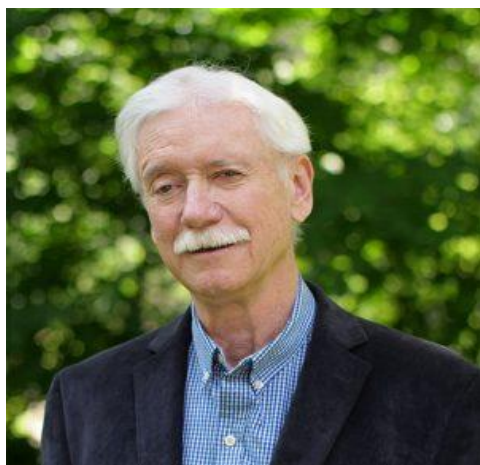


Melissa Vargas

Board Member

**District Director, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC**

Melissa Vargas is District Director for Congressman Jimmy Gomez in California's 34th congressional district. Previously, 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. Ms. Vargas served the Obama Administration as the Director of Public Engagement in the Office of Public Engagement at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She began the administration as Deputy White House Liaison in the Office of the Administrator, where she supported the Office and the Agency's Presidential appointees. As Deputy White House Liaison, Vargas was selected to help develop, implement, and manage the agency's grassroots education and outreach initiative as a part of the EPA's emergency response efforts to the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. Leading bilingual and bicultural community outreach efforts, Vargas was successful in building coalitions within Flint's Latino and immigrant population.



Robert M. Wolcott

Board Member

Retired

Vice President, Chino Cienega Foundation

Washington, DC

Robert Wolcott is a former Deputy Assistant Administrator for Policy at EPA (1995 and 2000) and, between 1983 and 1985, served as Assistant to the EPA Administrator on policy matters, including the phase-down of lead in gasoline. Wolcott is now a consulting economist focusing on the intersection between the environment and the economy. He began his EPA career as Regional Economist in the agency's San Francisco office and then served as West Coast Director of the Public Interest Economics Foundation and as its Executive Director in Washington DC. He returned to EPA and went on to direct several EPA divisions in Washington DC, ranging from Economic Analysis to Agriculture to Water Policy. From 1990 through 1992, Wolcott advised the EPA Administrator on special projects, including environmental justice and the controversy over the Spotted Owl. He chaired EPA's Work Group on Environmental Justice, overseeing the preparation of the agency's report on the issue and revisions in agency policies and procedures responding to this challenge.