

**The Westside Urban Forum Presents**  
**“The 2023 California Legislative Roundup: Insights into Sacramento”**  
Thursday October 19th, 2023

## Panelists

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### Justin Adams

Senior Economist, LAEDC Institute for Applied Economics

Dr. Justin L. Adams is the Senior Economist at LAEDC's Institute for Applied Economics. He conducts economic impact analyses for the LAEDC's public-sector and private-sector clients, performs research supporting LAEDC's many programs, and undertakes microeconomic and macroeconomic research to help inform regional stakeholders and decisionmakers.

Justin has over two decades of experience consulting to federal, State and local governments as well as private-sector organizations. Most recently, Justin served as President and Chief Economist of Encina Advisors, an economics research and analysis firm based in the city of Davis. Prior, Justin spent six years as an economist with the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica and worked at Sacramento-based management consulting firms. He has held positions in California state government at the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Department of Transportation (CalTrans).

Justin received his Ph.D. in Business with a concentration in Political Economics from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He also received his A.M. in Political Science and his A.B. in Economics and Political Science from Stanford. Justin currently lives in Claremont with his long-time partner Gina and their three cats. He spends his spare time cycling, whether indoors or outdoors.



### Alex DeGood

Land Use Attorney, Cox Castle Nicholson

Alex is a land use attorney who handles zoning matters, environmental compliance, and litigation. He represents real estate developers before planning commissions and city councils, advises on permits and regulations, and works with public agency staff and elected officials.

Alex has litigated land use cases on behalf of developers and property owners, negotiated settlements in environmental matters, and



structured complex land use entitlement projects for industrial, commercial, and educational clients.

Before becoming an attorney, Alex was director of legislative affairs for a Washington, D.C.-based government affairs firm. In that capacity, he represented local governments and public agencies, advising them on how to advance their legislative goals in Congress. He also helped secure more than \$62 million in direct federal applications for local infrastructure and development projects.



### **Matthew Glesne**

Senior City Planner, Los Angeles City Planning

Matthew Glesne is a Senior City Planner for the Los Angeles Department of City Planning. In this position he co-leads the Department's Housing Policy Unit, which is responsible for developing various citywide housing related initiatives and coordinating the implementation of state legislation. He recently completed the City's update to the Housing Element and has led the development of many housing policies such as the Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) affordable housing incentive program, the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) policy, the Home Sharing Ordinance, the Affordable Housing Linkage Fee, Permanent Supportive Housing Ordinance. He has a Master's Degree in Urban and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a M.F.A. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



### **Konstantin Hatcher**

Senior Director of Community Impact, CA YIMBY

After a decade in sales and account management, Konstantin realized his passion for empowering people to own their voice through volunteer leadership on the 2008 Obama Presidential Campaign. Beginning in Summer 2010 as an Obama campaign Regional Field Director, his Southern California volunteer operation was the most active in the country and he ultimately became the Operation Vote and Early Vote Director for Wisconsin in early 2012. After the Obama campaign, he returned home to positively impact Los Angeles communities by continuing to lead the grassroots organizing efforts of several political campaigns and nonprofits to deal with the most pressing issues of the day. A proud dad and avid boarder, you might find Konstantin with his two sons, Kaliq and Konstantin II careening down the slopes on snowboards or cruising along the beach on

skateboards. They can't wait until his baby daughter, Zadie (aka The Boss Baby) is old enough to join them.

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## Moderator

### Elisa Paster

Managing Partner, Rand Paster Nelson

As an experienced land use lawyer, Elisa Paster is a committed advocate for her clients, guiding and assisting them with development and environmental approvals, planning and placemaking. She specializes in navigating complex entitlement and environmental processes across California, including Los Angeles, West Hollywood, Culver City, Long Beach, Glendale, Beverly Hills, Orange County, the unincorporated County of Los Angeles, and Northern California. Elisa is involved in all aspects of the development process: assisting in due diligence stages, strategizing on development and redevelopment of land, processing applications and overseeing environmental compliance (CEQA/NEPA), representing clients in front of public bodies, including appellate bodies, and defending the entitlements in litigation.

Elisa regularly represents private developers in development of hotels and large-scale developments, mid-size developers in transformative urban mixed-use projects inside and outside former redevelopment areas, and a wide variety of property owners in the Coastal Zone. An important part of Elisa's practice involves working with affordable housing developers and streamlining the process for these projects. She has consistently taken on complex land use challenges, big or small, and provided the necessary level of advice and guidance to get the job done through effective legal advocacy, strategic advice and personal relationships. Whether a project involves strategic advisement or a full environmental and planning process, Elisa's extensive range of experience in land use and environmental law is an asset to her clients.

Before law school, she worked as a planner for five years and she is well respected in the professional planning community. Her previous "behind the counter" experience allows her to think creatively about legal issues and provides clients with a unique perspective.

Elisa is a long time Boardmember of Menorah Housing, a provider of low-income senior housing, and the past president of the Westside Urban Forum. She is former member of the City of Santa Monica Planning Commission and a frequent speaker at law, real estate and planning conferences. She is a frequent guest lecturer for Urban Land Institute panels as well.



Elisa is admitted to practice law in Missouri, New Mexico and California.

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