

JOHN B. WITHERS

LAFCO COMMISSIONER

CURRENT TERM OF OFFICE: 2014 - 2018

Commissioner Withers was first appointed by the Special District Selection Committee to OC LAFCO in 1995. Mr. Withers has served as LAFCO Chairman, Vice Chair and as a member of the Executive Committee. He has also served two years on the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) Executive Board. Commissioner Withers has represented LAFCO in Sacramento before the legislature and is often called upon to speak about issues affecting special districts and LAFCO.

Commissioner Withers is a member of the California Strategies team, where he brings years of practical experience in water resources and real estate development and entitlement activity. Prior to opening John Withers and Associates, and creating a strategic alliance with California Strategies, he served as a Vice President for Lewis Operating Corporation, one of the nation's premier land development and real estate investment firms, where he managed a 6,000-unit master planned community in the Chino agriculture preserve in the Inland Empire. Prior to joining Lewis, he spent more than 10 years as a director for Psomas and Associates, a leading civil engineering firm.

In addition to his professional activities and his association with OC LAFCO, John holds numerous elected and appointed positions in state, county, and local government, including serving as a director of the Irvine Ranch Water District since 1989 and as a Governor's appointed Board member (and former Chairman) of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. He is especially proud to have been appointed to this Board by both Republican Governor Wilson and Democratic Governor Davis.

Commissioner Withers' community activities include service as a director of the National Water Research Institute, director of the Urban Water Institute and the AB331 statewide Blue Ribbon Committee that works to remove obstacles to expanded use of recycled water. Additionally, he has served in a variety of development and policy assignments including director of governmental affairs for the Orange County region of the Building Industry Association and as a legislative advocate in the state Capital in Sacramento for the California Building Industry Association.

A native Southern Californian, Commissioner Withers attended Los Angeles City Schools and received his B.A. from UCLA in Economics with a specialization in Urban Studies. He was then selected as a CORO Foundation Fellow and received a Masters Degree in Urban Studies from Occidental College.

Commissioner Withers resides in Irvine with his wife, Katie. They have three grown children, Carolyn, Gordon and Peter.