

August 23 - Health & Environment; Public Works; Land Use Resiliency Planning

SPEAKER:

Mary Beth Coburn, a partner in the San Diego office of Best Best & Krieger LLP, is also a California licensed professional civil engineer with more than a decade of experience in design and construction of public facilities. She held positions with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and several consulting engineering firms.

For the last twenty years, Mary Beth's primary practice has focused on public works and infrastructure construction law, including construction contracting and construction claims resolution. Her unique combination of "hands on" engineering experience and construction law provide clients with efficient, practical and comprehensive legal services. Mary Beth understands what it takes to get a project built and what delays and claims can do to that process.

Mary Beth is adept at assisting public agencies and private owners with all aspects of the construction process, including construction document preparation, bid protests, subcontractor substitution and default, contractors' claims, stop notices, and project close out.

Mary Beth routinely works with municipalities, special districts and school districts on all issues related to construction of public facilities, from master planning through claims resolution. She often assists clients with latent construction defects long after construction projects have been closed out and warranty periods have lapsed.

Mary Beth successfully terminated contractors for failure to perform and routinely works with sureties on various payment and performance bond issues, including surety takeover of projects in default. She also has experience in false claim actions against contractors for inflating or falsely submitting extra work claims.

Mary Beth is frequently called upon to provide public works training sessions to assist firm clients in proper procurement practices, claims avoidance and dispute resolution. Mary Beth is a member of the San Diego County Bar Association and the American Society of Civil Engineers. She is admitted to practice in the State of California.

Catherine Ures has the unique qualifications of having worked in a management capacity in both the public and private sectors. Catherine's public service encompasses over eleven years in municipal government, in both the housing and redevelopment fields. In her tenure with the City of Palm Desert, Palm Desert Redevelopment Agency and Palm Desert Housing Authority, she managed the full lifecycle project development of multiple five-year strategic plans, housing elements, and several other assessments for planning purposes.

Catherine is currently Vice President of Consulting Services with Nan McKay & Associates, Inc., and has been with them since early 2016. There she conducts ongoing research and analysis of regulations and notices. Catherine has expertise in the areas of Program Management, CDBG-DR, CDBG/HOME, Strategic Planning, Planning Assessments & Initiatives and Procedure Development.