



**OFFICE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT TODD GLORIA  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** May 21, 2013  
**TO:** Honorable Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Council President Todd Gloria   
**SUBJECT:** Horton Plaza Theatres Foundation Board

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I am pleased to nominate Suzanne Varco for one of the current vacancies on the Horton Plaza Theatres Foundation Board.

Ms. Varco is currently the managing partner at the law firm Opper and Varco, LLP, specializing in environmental law. As the managing partner, she is responsible for the firm's finances, evaluating staff performance, and establishing annual budgets. She has an outstanding record of community service which includes serving on the boards of the San Diego Women's Foundation, Lambda Alpha, and St. John's Episcopal Parish Day School. Overseeing the operations and management of the publicly leased Lyceum Theatre and acting as its steward are keys to her enthusiastic interest serving on the Horton Plaza Theatres Foundation Board.

I believe that Ms. Varco's professional experience, educational background, and leadership make her an ideal candidate who deserves your consideration as a member of the Horton Plaza Theatres Foundation Board.

Attachment

cc: Honorable Bob Filner, Mayor  
Honorable Jan Goldsmith, City Attorney  
Elizabeth Maland, City Clerk

## SUZANNE R. VARCO

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### **Opper & Varco LLP - San Diego, California**

Managing partner, December 2000 to present (formerly Varco & Associates). Private law practice concentrating in the redevelopment of contaminated properties, hazardous waste cleanup, state environmental compliance counseling, environmental permitting, land use, business and real estate transaction environmental issues, and underground storage tank issues.

### **Peters & Varco LLP - San Diego, California**

Partner, November 1996 to December 2000 (formerly Suzanne R. Varco & Associates). Private law practice concentrating in environmental compliance, regulation and litigation, appellate work, and general business litigation. Experience includes hazardous waste contamination compliance and litigation, UST Cleanup Fund reimbursement, CEQA Guideline preparation and litigation, environmental permitting, corporate law, general business litigation, and writs and appeals.

### **Wittman, Mitchell & Skola - San Diego, California**

Associate Attorney, January 1996 to October 1996. Appellate work, environmental compliance and litigation, general business litigation, and transactional work. Represented and advised clients on specific issues relating to hazardous waste contamination compliance and litigation, UST Cleanup Fund reimbursement, CEQA compliance, environmental permitting, as well as general civil litigation, construction defect litigation, and appellate work.

### **Lorenz Alhadeff Cannon & Rose - San Diego, California**

Associate Attorney, May 1991 to January 1996. Practice included environmental litigation, general business litigation, and appellate work. Specific case work included hazardous waste litigation, environmental insurance, California Fish & Game and Clean Water Act violations, CEQA litigation, hazardous activity strict liability, water rights and drainage liability, securities litigation, general business litigation, writs, and appeals.

### **Environmental Law Clinic - University of San Diego School of Law - San Diego, California**

Student Attorney, August 1990 to May 1991. 1992 Outstanding Environmental Clinic Intern Award. Cases handled involved public trust violations, Clean Water Act violations, NEPA permitting procedures, and land use planning.

## **EDUCATION**

University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, California, J.D., 1992

Advocacy Experience and Awards: National Moot Court Team; State Moot Court Team; Moot Court Board; First Place, Constitutional Law Competition; First Place, Law and Motions Competition; Best Oral Advocate, Tort Competition; Best Appellate Brief, Lawyering Skills I; Oral Advocacy Specialist.

Specialized Courses: Environmental Clinic, Environmental Law, Environmental Torts, Water Law, Advanced Trial Advocacy, Negotiations, Tax, and Corporations.

Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington, B.A. 1987

English major, Economics minor

Honors: Honors at Entrance, Dean's List, Distinction in oral examinations in English.

Specialized Courses: Environmental Studies, Geology and Paleontology.

## **PUBLISHED OPINIONS**

*Citizens for Responsible Equitable Env't'l Dev. v. City of San Diego*, 184 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> 1032 (2010).  
*San Diego Housing Commission v. Industrial Indemnity*, 68 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 526 (1998).  
*Hardin Oldsmobile v. New Motor Vehicle Board*, 52 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> 585 (1997).  
*Miller v. Superior Court*, 50 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1665 (1996).

## **SPEAKING AND PUBLICATIONS**

Assoc. of Environmental Professionals, *CEQA Basics Workshop*, San Diego, California, October 2011, October 2012.  
Environmental Protection Agency, *Western Brownfields Workshop*, Missoula, Montana, September 2010.  
San Diego Environmental Professionals, Environmental Legislative Update, San Diego, California, February 2006, February 2007, February 2008, February 2009, February 2010.  
Industrial Environmental Assoc., *Plating Shop Compliance Update*, San Diego, California, October 2008.  
Industrial Environmental Assoc., *Plating Shop Workshop*, San Diego, California, November 2007.  
American Bar Association Section on Environment, Energy & Resources, *Emerging Environmental Litigation Option*, San Diego, California, October 2006.  
Lorman Education Services, *Affordable Housing in San Diego*, San Diego, California, August 2003, February 2005, and February 2006.  
Lorman Education Services, *Local Government and the Law*, San Diego, California, May 2003.  
Lorman Education Services, *Eminent Domain in California*, San Diego, California, October 2002, November 2004, and November 2005.  
Co-author, "Environmental Aspects of Property Redevelopment," San Diego County Site Assessment and Mitigation 2000 SAM Manual, San Diego County Department of Environmental Health, 2000.  
University of California, San Diego Extension, Guest Lecturer, *State and Federal Hazardous Waste Laws*, San Diego, California, May 1998.  
Continuing Education of the Bar Seminar, *Hazardous Waste and Real Property Transactions*, San Diego and Santa Barbara, California, February 1998.  
"Common Law Environmental Claims in California," *Hazardous Waste and Real Property Transactions Program Handbook*, CEB, February 1998.  
Women's Environmental Council, *Fishing with the Net: Environmental Resources on the Internet*, San Diego, California, July 1997.  
Women's Environmental Council, *Effective Negotiating*, San Diego and Orange County, California, July 1997.

## **ADMISSIONS**

State Bar of California	U.S. District Court, Southern District
U.S. District Court, Central District	U.S. District Court, Northern District
U.S. District Court, Eastern District	U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

State Bar of California, Environmental Law Section  
San Diego County Bar Association, Environmental and Land Use Law Sections  
Past-Chair, County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health, Site Assessment and Mitigation Division Steering Committee  
Past President, San Diego Environmental Professionals (formerly Association of Hazardous Materials Professionals)  
Urban Land Institute  
Lambda Alpha International  
National Brownfields Association

## Attachment

6. Please list all organizations and societies that you have been a member of during the last 10 years.

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>From/To</u>
Lambda Alpha	Board Member	2009-Present
Urban Land Institute	Member	2009-Present
National Brownfields Association	Member	2008-Present
San Diego Environmental Professionals	Past President	1992-Present
County of San Diego, Site Assessment And Mitigation Steering Committee	Past Chair	1997-Present
Association of Environmental Professionals	Member	2012-Present
San Diego Women's Foundation	Member	2012-Present
San Diego County Bar Association	Member	1992-Present
California Bar Association	Member	1992-Present

May 28, 2013

[REDACTED]

Office of Council President Todd Gloria  
juradosainzd@sandiego.gov

Re: Nomination of Suzanne R. Varco to Horton Plaza Theaters Foundation

Dear [REDACTED]:

It is my pleasure to recommend Susanne Varco for consideration as a board member for the Horton Plaza Theatres Foundation. I have known Susanne for over 10 years through my previous position with the Downtown San Diego Partnership and now with the Urban Land Institute.

Suzanne's professional and volunteer work demonstrates her interest and care of greater good issues in San Diego. She is thoughtful, dependable, energetic, and is greatly respected by her peers. I heartily recommend her to the HPTF Board where I'm confident she will bring great value.

SINCERELY,



Mary Lydon, Executive Director  
Urban Land Institute, San Diego-Tijuana

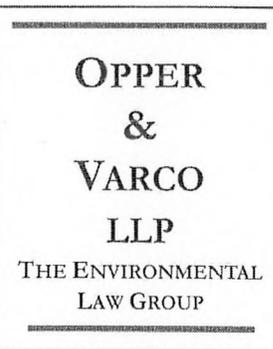
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May 28, 2013

Via Email Only

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Office of Council President Todd Gloria  
[REDACTED]

Re: Nomination of Suzanne R. Varco to Horton Plaza Theaters Foundation

Dear [REDACTED]

It is my understanding that Suzanne Varco has submitted an application for nomination to the Horton Plaza Theatres Foundation. Suzanne and I have been law partners for ten years, practicing environmental law for both public agency and private clients. Ms. Varco has served on many Boards and Committees during our law partnership, and is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the local Lambda Alpha chapter and is the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees for St. John's Episcopal Parish Day School.

Our firm has long had a commitment to the arts in our community, and we have actively supported several noteworthy institutions, including the Museum of Photographic Arts and the NTC Foundation. We are keenly aware of the role that theatre plays in San Diego, and I am grateful to be able to put in my vote of support for Suzanne's nomination to the Board. Suzanne possesses the skills necessary to make a positive contribution to the HPTF Board. She is sensitive to the arts, and understands how to analyze complex issues. She is articulate, dependable, takes initiative, and is a natural leader. I recommend her to the HPTF Board and believe she will be a tremendous asset.

Yours very truly,

OPPER & VARCO LLP

Richard G. Opper