

James M. “Jim” Leach

Jim Leach has been involved in business and economic development in Orange County for more than 12 years. He was Vice President for Public Affairs at Cox Communications from 2001 through his retirement from there in 2011 and has worked as Director of External Relations for the Santa Margarita Water District since 2012. From 2002 to 2008 he served in a variety of leadership roles with the South Orange County Regional Chambers of Commerce until he became Chairman of the Board of that organization. He was instrumental in the strategic reorganization of the Chambers which resulted in the creation of the South Orange County Economic Coalition, a subsidiary of the Regional Chamber. He continues to lead that organization as its chairman and leads the advocacy efforts for major projects in transportation, energy, water resources, and workforce development in south Orange County.

In the past 13 years Jim has also served on the Executive Committee and Board of the Orange County Taxpayers Association where he is currently Treasurer. He is active in the Orange County Business Council serving on both the Infrastructure and Advocacy and Government Affairs committees. He is also active with the Association of California Cities-Orange County and he serves on the Legislative Task Force of the Southern California Water Committee.

Jim is a 13 year resident of Dove Canyon where he lives with his wife, Dot, and his son, Cameron. He also has two daughters—Joanna and Katie—and two grandchildren.

Jim is a proud graduate of the University of Texas at Austin.