

COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE: Ms. Mary Benson

Ms. Mary Benson is the founder and CEO of the Los Angeles Trails Project (a part of the National Heritage Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization). Ms. Benson is also a member of the Upper Los Angeles River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Steering Committee. She is a graduate of California State University Northridge with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and has served as the vice president of the Sun Valley Neighborhood Council and as the treasurer of the Foothill Trails Neighborhood Council.

The LA Trails Project is the NGO advocate for the Rim of the Valley (ROV) Trail. LA Trails is assisted through a Technical Assistance Grant from the National Parks Service: Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Unit.

Ms. Benson is a second generation Angelino, became active in trail issues due to the loss of open space as the result of residential development. She is an advocate of the preservation of access and right of way for completion of trails and works towards accomplishing this by having the coordination of multiple jurisdictions. Ms. Benson also advocates the incorporation of the ROV into the 'mobility element' of the City of Los Angeles' General Plan. In May 2008, she joined Congressman Adam Schiff to celebrate the passage of federal legislation for the study of Rim of the Valley resources.