



# KAREN J. MARTIN

## Principal, Development & Entitlement Services

Karen has over 25 years of experience providing planning and development services to public- and private-sector clients. She is the ultimate “in-between,” serving as a liaison between stakeholders and filling in the tasks that fall through the cracks in the crossover of government, technical, and consultant entities. She looks for ways to add value and bring out the best in people, places and processes, successfully mediating highly controversial projects, listening to and communicating with municipal staff and officials; regulatory agencies; community groups; and project designers, engineers, and contractor teams. Karen applies a comprehensive perspective to help illuminate and identify relevant issues and recognize opportunities for collaboration and equitable solutions. Her role is often to uncover the truths of a project and its stakeholders, and to weave the different disciplines together for successful solutions.

The nuts-and-bolts part of her experience includes coordination with many local agencies to determine potential land use for economic development and community benefits. She has created effective systems for budgeting time, costs, and stakeholder interests across private and public domains. Karen has also applied for and received federal, state, and private funds for a variety of projects, including affordable housing, historic preservation, and public services.

Educating the next generation has always been an important part of her career. Karen trains two to four undergraduate and graduate student interns each term, resulting in training and placement of more than 50 future urban planners.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF EXPERIENCE

- OC Superior Court/Receiver Development Consulting | Orange County CA
- Hillstone Restaurant Group Development Consulting | Sonoma County CA

### PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Multiple Hotels, California Coast | Monterey, Sonoma, Mendocino, Orange, San Diego Counties CA
- Substation Relocation | San Diego CA
- Multiple Small Lot Developments | San Francisco Bay Area, and Los Angeles, Orange, and Marin Counties CA
- Multifamily Project Management | Orange CA
- Golf Course Redevelopment Due Diligence | Santa Clara and Orange Counties CA
- Project Strategy for Various Mineral Mining Projects (Due Diligence and Reuse & Reclamation Planning and Processing) | Sutter, Imperial, Kings, Kern Counties CA

### EDUCATION

- MA, Urban and Regional Planning, University of California, Irvine
- BA, Environmental Analysis and Design, University of California, Irvine

### AFFILIATIONS

- Lambda Alpha: A Land Economics Society

Team member since 2023





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**Principal**

kmartin@placeworks.com

### **LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY**

- Project management for Mercy House Living Centers' new projects:
  - » Emmanuel House, a transitional living center for persons with HIV | Santa Ana CA
  - » Garfield House, a longer-term living option for women with children | Santa Ana CA
- Project management support, Human Options, Irvine, a shelter for women dealing with domestic violence
- Provided grant writing services for HomeAid, the nonprofit arm of BIA, for new transitional housing
- Site selection for Housing Element implementation projects, City of Laguna Beach Affordable Housing Task Force
- Board Member, Straight Talk Counseling, 2016–2021
- Member, City of Laguna Beach Open Space Commission, 1993
- Member, City of Laguna Beach Housing and Human Services Committee
- Board Member, UCI Urban Planning Alumni, 2013–2016

### **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

- Moderator, "From Green to Gold" panel presentation, 2008 Association of Corporate Real Estate Executives (ACRE) Conference, Long Beach CA