

# IMPERIAL VALLEY

THE ENERGY WATER NEXUS



## Laura McDonald

Laura McDonald is President of Sunrise Strategies Group, a public affairs, governmental relations and communications firm specializing in the permitting and licensing of energy infrastructure projects.

Prior to starting Sunrise Strategies Group, Laura worked for 16 years at San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E). While at SDG&E, Laura held various leadership positions including, Director of Clean Transportation and Advanced Technology Integration. In February 2016, under Laura's leadership, the California Public Utilities Commission approved SDG&E's innovative Electric Vehicle Grid-Integration application, a historic initiative that allows SDG&E to build, own and operate 3,500 grid-integrated electric vehicle charging stations throughout its service territory.

In 2004, Laura was selected by senior management to serve as Project Manager for the Sunrise Powerlink, a 117-mile, 500-kilovolt electric transmission line. At a cost of nearly \$2 billion, the Sunrise Powerlink is the single largest infrastructure project in SDG&E's history. The line was completed and put into service in June 2012 and is currently delivering more than 1,000 megawatts of reliable, renewable and affordable power to the San Diego and Southern Orange County regions.

Prior to joining SDG&E, Laura served as Chief of Staff to former San Diego City Council Member Barbara Warden. Laura is a graduate of San Diego State University.