

## Guadalupe Ramos Watson

Guadalupe "Lupe" Ramos Watson was born and raised in Indio. She is the eldest of seven siblings born into a family of migrant farm workers. Her parents met here in the Coachella Valley while working in the local Date industry. After her birth, the family members settled in the Coachella Valley and established themselves, as upholsterers, in the City of Indio. Her family's community involvement, through the Masonic Family, gave Lupe her first experience as a volunteer with the Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival. She attended local schools and received her degree from the College of the Desert. Upon entering the work force, she began working for a local Date and Produce grower, packer, and international distributor. This presented a second opportunity for Lupe to become involved with the Fair through Date and Produce exhibits. Since then, Lupe has continued to volunteer as a volunteer coordinator for her community group -The Order of the Eastern Star. And, has enjoyed many years of service and shared in the spirit of the costume theme of the Fair. She is also proud to claim that she has attended the Fair every year since her birth.

Before the Fair begins you will find her, as well as her family, as volunteer Ticket Sales Agents and assisting in the pre-fair set-up. During the Fair she assists with Ticket Taking, Arena Supervision, Exhibit Monitoring and Volunteer Coordinating. And, after the Fair, can be found cleaning up and sorting in preparation for the next year Festival. She shares her love and enthusiasm for the Fair with her children who regularly attend and volunteer.

Lupe is a wife, mother of eight, and businesswoman with over 20 years of experience in business management, accounting, land development, financial operations and human resources.

In addition to this Board, Lupe is also a Council Member for the City of Indio. She serves on numerous Local and Regional Committees, Boards and Authorities.

- City Council Member, City of Indio
- Agency Member, City of Indio Redevelopment Agency
- Director, City of Indio Water Authority
- Director, City of Indio Public Financing Authority
- Coachella Valley Association of Governments Human & Community Resources Committee
- Palm Springs Desert Resorts Convention and Visitors Authority
- Riverside County Fair Advisory Board
- Southern California Association of Governments Energy & Environment Committee
- Coachella Valley Water District Water Policy Advisory Committee
- Imperial Irrigation Energy Consumers Advisory Committee

- Coachella Valley Regional Housing Trust Board
- Riverside County Children & Families Commission

Her professional membership organizations include:

- The Ninety Nines, Inc. of California
- Professional Education Institute Student Advisory Council
- Building Industry Association of Southern California
- California Homeowner's Association
- Coachella Valley Mexican American Chamber of Commerce
- Indio Chamber of Commerce

The Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival is a testimony to our Valley's rich historical culture in agriculture and community spirit. It is a celebration for all generations.