

San Diego Patch

Bryan Benso Appointed as Chief Development Officer at Gafcon, Inc

Experienced development and construction industry leader hired to new role at Gafcon, Inc.

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Gafcon, Inc., a leading program, project and construction management firm that manages and directs complex projects both nationally and internationally, has appointed Bryan Benso as chief development officer.

Bryan has more than 30 years of experience in various fields, including public and private capital projects, redevelopment, master planning, land entitlements and development, real estate leasing and acquisitions, governmental and agency negotiations, and numerous other business acumen

verticals. He will also function as the acting Managing Director of development pursuits for the Development division of Gafcon and as such his role will include identifying, sourcing, performing feasibility due diligence and strategizing various investment projects. He will provide managing partner oversight of all investment projects and the delivery of those projects within target investment metrics. Bryan will also offer principal growth support to the Gafcon PM/CM group as well as the development of corporatewide strategic initiatives for the future growth and success of Gafcon.

"We are truly elated to have Bryan back on the team," says Yehudi "Gaf" Gaffen, CEO of Gafcon. "Bryan was an integral member of our tribe 13 years ago and the experience that he has gained while away will be truly invaluable to the team. In his new role as chief development officer, Bryan will excel in assisting to define the strategic direction of the company, while also heading up our Development team with a genuine commitment to serving our clients."

In 1994, Bryan was hired by Gafcon to serve as a project manager and in two years he was promoted to senior project manager. In 2001, he was promoted to director of operations and in 2003, he was promoted to join the executive committee as corporate vice president.

In 2008, Bryan joined the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians as the Vice President of Planning and Real Estate Development, where he provided owner representation and acted as a liaison between the SMBMI tribal and casino management, design consultants and contractors on extensive development and investments projects exceeding \$2 billion in value. In 2020, he is returning to Gafcon as their chief development officer.

Bryan will operate out of Gafcon's San Diego headquarters located in Sorrento Valley. In his new role, he will be active throughout all of Southern California and the Western US, including Gafcon's offices in the Inland Empire, Los Angeles and Orange County.

He holds a Bachelor's in Business Administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign and a Tribal Administration Certification in Tribal Government Management from Clairemont McKenna College. Bryan was honored as a Character Counts recipient by the Public

Safety Academy Charter Schools and in 2000 he was awarded Gafcon Project Manager of the Year. He is an active member of the Lacrosse community serving for the last six years as the President of the Inland Empire Lacrosse Organization which introduces the Inland Empire's youth to the sport of Lacrosse.

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