

Dear City Selection Committee Members,

I am a Council Member for the City of Palo Alto and respectfully seek the honor of your appointment to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

I earned my BS in Biochemistry because of a deep curiosity and respect for organic life, a desire to promote health, and an interest in understanding the impact of our environment. I was raised in a home that cared deeply about the air we breathe – my father was a professor of Public Health and interacted frequently with the American Lung Association; in fact, his first doctoral student became their president. As an adult, I became a patent lawyer and have litigated life science patent cases starting 35 years ago.

More broadly, my background with respect to environmental and climate issues includes:

- a. After coursework in environmental law at Georgetown Law School, I performed pro bono work early in my legal career for the Natural Resources Defense Council related to disposal of toxins.
- b. After I moved to California, I performed pro bono work for the Earth Environmental Tithing Trust.
- c. In 2016, I ran on protecting the environment and climate action during my campaign for the State Assembly. I was honored to earn an endorsement from the Sierra Club and the California League of Conservation Voters (now California Environmental Voters). I also earned endorsements from the California Environmental Justice Alliance and environmental leaders including former Congressman Pete McCloskey and former State Senators Byron Sher and Fran Pavley.
- d. In November 2022, I ran for the Palo Alto City Council and was the only candidate endorsed by both the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters. As a Council Member, I will be serving on the City's S/CAP Committee and the Joint Palo Alto/Santa Clara Valley Water District Recycling Committee.
- e. On a personal note, I have driven an EV since 2015 and my husband drives a plug-in hybrid. In fact, in 2017 I wrote a blog entitled "Two in a Tesla" about driving across the country with my daughter in an EV at a time when people seriously wondered if it could be done. It's hard to imagine now, but people would walk up to us at charging stations, tell us they'd never seen an EV before, and ask questions like, "does it have trouble going uphill?"

I am eager to use my knowledge of chemistry and biology, background with environmental issues, and experience evaluating expert opinions and data to address issues before the BAAQMD Board. I have litigated patent cases in courts across the country, primarily related to biotechnology and medical devices. A big part of that was analyzing the views of competing expert witnesses. My years of experience analyzing technical reports and competing views, would be a useful asset in this role.

In addition, I will be serving simultaneously on Palo Alto's Sustainability and Climate Action Plan Committee, which would create natural synergies with the work of BAAQMD. Palo Alto has the country's top electric vehicle adoption rate. The City's strategies to support EV use is directly applicable to BAAQMD's goal to reduce mobile source emissions.

As a patent lawyer, I have honed the art of being a quick study on technical issues. I have also made a career of understanding and catalyzing innovation. I believe this skillset would be an asset on the BAAQMD Board and equips me well to get up to speed quickly on the complex issues that come before it.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me at [vicki@vickiforcouncil.com](mailto:vicki@vickiforcouncil.com) if you would like any additional information. It would be an honor to serve in this capacity.

Respectfully,

Vicki Veenker

Council Member  
City of Palo Alto