

Re: Recommendation to ABAG for Appointment
to the San Francisco Restoration Authority

February 6, 2023

Dear Cities Association Selection Committee,

Please consider me for the seat on the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority opened by Sally Lieber's resignation. It was my honor to serve on the Restoration Authority from 2015 to 2017 and assist with the passage of Measure AA. The grants the Bay Restoration Authority issues with the funds collected by the Measure AA parcel tax are vital to restore Bay habitat and provide protection from sea level rise with nature-based solutions. It would be an honor to serve on the Restoration Authority again.

I have served on the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) since 2016 as an ABAG appointee, alternate and now as the Senate Rules Appointee. By serving on the Environmental Justice and Bay Fill Working Groups, I have helped develop modernized policies. BCDC and the Restoration Authority collaborate on many issues.

As an environmentalist, I'm passionate about wetland restoration around San Francisco Bay for the incredible habitat it produces. As a civil engineer, I'm passionate about that same wetland restoration for the protections it provides against climate change induced sea level rise and tidal flooding. As a resident, I am also passionate about the public access restoration provides for hiking and biking along the Bay.

San Francisco Bay belongs to all residents- past, current and future, so we need to protect and enhance it. As we face the impacts of Climate Change, lots of infrastructure will be needed to protect surrounding communities from sea level rise and tidal flooding. Fortunately, most restoration efforts, such as the South Bay Salt Pond Program along the Santa Clara County shoreline, serve as soft infrastructure that protects from sea level rise and provides important habitat.

As outlined in my resume, the last 20 years of my professional experience focused on environmental restoration projects that require working collaboratively with many agencies and stakeholders. For 5 years, I represented the Santa Clara Valley Water District on the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Program's Project Management Team . Staff from 6 partner agencies met monthly to work out policy, operational, science and funding issues. This experience educated me about wetland restoration and the funding and regional oversight it requires. Before joining ValleyWater, I managed the San Francisco Watershed Council and helped found the San Francisco Joint Powers Authority.

In summary, my technical expertise as an engineer and my experience on BCDC would provide value to the Bay Restoration Authority. I understand the importance of wetland restoration habitat, flood protection and recreation. I respectfully ask for your recommendation.

Sincerely,



Pat Showalter, PE

Vice Mayor

City of Mountain View

PATRICIA SHOWALTER

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SUMMARY: Climate Resilience and Housing advocate. Vice Mayor of Mountain View for 2023. Served on Mountain View City Council from 2015-2018, as Mayor in 2016 and re-elected in 2020. Professional Engineer who dedicated career and public service to protecting and advocating for the Bay Area environment. Started career as hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, served as director for the non-profit San Francisco Creek Watershed Council, and retired after 15 years with the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Specialized in multi-agency projects like the Valley Habitat Plan and the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration. Active in IFPTE Local 21.

EDUCATION: University of California, Berkeley - **M.S.** in Civil Engineering (Geotechnical)
Mount Holyoke College - **A.B.** in Geology and History
Princeton University - Visiting Student

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

2003 to May 2017 **Santa Clara Valley Water District** **Senior Project Manager** San Jose, CA
Retirement

Extensive experience managing multi-agency collaborations and representing the SCVWD on various initiatives including:

- Salt Pond Restoration Projects:
 - Represented SCVWD on Project Management Team of multi-agency efforts related to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration
 - Led project to restore Alviso Salt Ponds A5-A8 including scientific oversight of numerous investigations required to answer permitting questions.
 - Led effort to reconnect Calabasas and San Tomas Creek to Bay.
- Running SCVWD's Community Rating System, a program that saves county residents more than \$2M/year through flood insurance premium discounts.
- Providing bi-monthly flood policy updates to District Management.
- Representing SCVWD on the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission's Technical Advisory Committee.
- Leading effort to secure Endangered Species Act Permits for SCVWD activities through development of 2 Habitat Conservation Plans.
 - Water supply HCP was drafted as part of managing Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE), a program to resolve challenge to the SCVWD's water rights by extensive stream restoration and reoperation of reservoirs.
 - For 24 non- aquatic species, an HCP was developed in partnership with the County of Santa Clara, Valley Transportation Authority, cities of San Jose, Gilroy and Morgan Hill. Adopted in 2013, this 50-year plan is being implemented by the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan Agency.
- Representing District on technical committees related to State and Federal Water Contracts, particularly related to environmental issues.
- Leading completion of the district's Water Management Plan required by the Bureau of Reclamation under Central Valley Project Improvement Act for all water contractors. Worked with other federal water contractors to increase transparency of environmental fee usage and effectiveness.

2001 to 2003 **Santa Clara Valley Water District** **Senior Engineer**

Represented District on the San Francisquito Watershed Council and provided staff support for the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (JPA). Leadership allowed for on-

time construction of JPA floodwall replacement and levee restoration project, a collaboration between 6 agencies.

1997 to 2001 **San Francisquito Creek Watershed Council** **Coordinator** Palo Alto, CA
a program of Acterra

Led watershed alliance of 23 signatory stakeholder groups. Provided expertise on broad range of environmental issues, zoning requirements, project requirements, habitat restoration, and permitting. Led the Steering Committee, the Watershed Council’s monthly forum and governing body. Took lead role in establishment of Joint Powers Authority. Secured \$500K in grants from private foundations and government. Established collaboration with US Geological Survey on land-use policy development. Administered grant programs. Chaired Department of Fish and Game’s Citizen’s Advisory Committee for the 2000 California Coastal Salmon Recovery Grant Program.

1980 to 1987 **US Geological Survey** **Hydrologist** Menlo Park, CA

Managed cooperation between Monterey County Flood Control District, San Luis Obispo County and Regional Water Quality Control Board to develop a comprehensive ground and surface water monitoring network for the Salinas River Basin. Project chief for program with Santa Clara Valley Water District to assess quality of water used to recharge regional aquifers.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP:

2019 to 2020	Santa Clara County Roads Commission Alta Housing Corporation Carbon Free Mountain View Cooper Park Neighborhood Association	Commissioner Board Member Board Member President
2018 to 2019	National League of Cities	Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Committee
2017 to present	Water Now Alliance	Board Member
2016 thru 2018	Santa Clara County Recycling & Waste Reduction Commission	Commissioner
2016 thru 2018	Santa Clara Cities Association	Board Member, Legislative Action Chair, 2nd Vice President
2016 to present	San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission	Commissioner & Alternate; Environmental Justice & Bay Fill Committees
2015 to 2017	San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority	Governing Board Member
2015 to 2019 2021 to present	Mountain View City Council	Vice Mayor (2023); Mayor (2016)
2000 to 2014	Santa Clara League of Conservation Voters	Board Member
2003 to 2014	Los Altos-Mountain View League of Women Voters	Natural Resources Chair
1994 to 2002	Environmental Planning Commission City of Mountain View	Vice-Chair (1996), and Chair (1997)

REGISTRATION: Professional Civil Engineer, California, #33556