



City of Sonoma

COMMISSION APPLICATION

CA-24-30

Received Date: October 22, 2024

Application Type: Sonoma Valley Community Advisory
Commission

Other Interest: Planning Commission, Traffic Safety Commission

NAME: Adam Ross
ADDRESS: Sonoma, California, 95476
PHONE:
EMAIL ADDRESS:
ARE YOU APPLYING FOR A YOUTH POSITION? No

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: M.S. Environmental Studies from California State University, Fullerton
B.A. Political Science from California State University, Fullerton
Refer to Resume for further information.

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE: I am currently a Senior Land Planner working for Pacific Gas and Electric Company where I am essentially the environmental project manager for transmission lines within SF Bay Area and North Coast working with all of the Federal, State, and Local agencies. Before that I was City Planner in Santa Rosa working on all types of entitlements analyzing the General Plan, zoning code, and CEQA while facilitating engagement with the public.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: While I am not as active in charitable organizations as much as I like, I participate in food drives and Secret Santa of Sonoma County every year. Fortunately, I am at a place where I am able to participate in more charitable and civic organizations.

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Have you ever attended a meeting of the Commission to which you are applying? If so, how many?

I have attended several Planning Commission meetings via Zoom.

What is your understanding of the role and responsibility of this Commission?

Represent the City of Sonoma as well as the County of Sonoma by participating in public meetings and public hearings that promote community participation to study issues affecting Sonoma Valley, consider solutions of these issues, and advise elected officials and other decision makers when warranted and enhance communication between the various governmental agencies and the general public.

What would be your goal(s) as a Commissioner?

To follow the goals of Sonoma City Council including housing, economic, development, annexation/unification, climate mitigation and adaptation, and represent residents and the community in Sonoma Valley. Become a steward of the community to the best of my ability.

What do you feel you could contribute to see these goals realized?

I have a lot of experience working for a public agency and have made recommendations to various commissions, committees, and council while promoting public integration into the planning process. I work in environmental management and make sure we are the best versions of ourselves by avoiding impacts to species and habitat. I care about housing, the environment, safety, the community with a career that specifically highlights these areas of interest. I am very easy to get along with and can have a meaningful conversation with most. I am approachable and professional and want to utilize my knowledge and skills to help make Sonoma even better.

Have you previously served, or do you currently serve, on a Sonoma Commission or Committee? If yes, which one(s) and for what period of time?

No.

Is there anything else you would like us to consider when reviewing your application?

I have developed roots in Sonoma. My wife is from here and we have started our family here and will continue to look for ways to contribute to Sonoma and Sonoma Valley. Please review my resume for further information. I am also a phone call away.

I certify that all of the information contained in my responses to the questions on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that, by checking the box below and submitting this application, online or otherwise, I am affixing my digital signature to this form as of the date submitted. I also agree that if appointed, I will serve on the Commission/Committee for which I have submitted this application.

☒ I AGREE

Adam Joseph Ross

October 22, 2024

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(714) 681-8158

ADAM ROSS

SENIOR LAND PLANNER

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Land Planner with over 9 years of expertise in environmental project management and urban planning, adept at fostering stakeholder engagement and streamlining permitting processes. Demonstrates proficiency in CEQA compliance and environmental permitting, ensuring a balance between conservation goals and infrastructure development. Committed to pioneering innovative solutions that drive sustainable growth while adhering to regulatory standards.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

MAR 2022 - PRESENT

SENIOR LAND PLANNER, Pacific Gas & Electric, Oakland, CA

- Environmental lead for Electric Transmission projects, navigating regulatory landscapes and fostering stakeholder engagement to ensure compliance and project success.
- Experience with federal, state, and local agencies like USACE, CDFW, BCDC, and CDFW to obtain permits and maintain compliance with federal and state regulations.
- Draft and manage contract proposals, overseeing project execution, and delivery.
- Develop creative solutions for environmental challenges, integrating practices to balance conservation needs with infrastructure development goals.
- Drive project efficiency through research and analysis, consistently delivering actionable insights that optimize decision-making and resource allocation.
- Provide mentoring to fellow colleagues and engage in knowledge sharing whenever feasible.

APR 2018 - MAR 2022

CITY PLANNER/INTERIM SENIOR PLANNER, City of Santa Rosa, Santa Rosa, CA

- Managed complex entitlement projects, identifying environmental conditions, and ensuring compliance with CEQA.
- Delivered presentations to city officials, improving policy understanding and decision-making.
- Led public presentations to City Council and various boards and commissions and authored comprehensive staff reports, resolutions, and ordinances, providing informed recommendations to guide policy development through Council and Board actions.
- Conducted environmental research, ensuring adherence to state and federal regulations.
- Supervised contracts, optimizing project delivery and resource management.
- Served as Environmental Coordinator, developing creative solutions to balance urban development with ecological preservation.

DEC 2017 - APR 2018

PROJECT COORDINATOR, Tait & Associates, Santa Ana, CA

- Coordinated entitlements for multiple commercial projects, analyzing zoning codes and conducting peer review plan checks to ensure compliance and efficiency.
- Conducted peer reviews and plan checks, enhancing project accuracy and compliance.
- Estimated fees and tracked budgets, optimizing resource allocation and cost management.
- Facilitated team collaboration to streamline project workflows and improve efficiency.
- Delivered high-quality project outcomes by effectively balancing multiple responsibilities, meeting deadlines, and ensuring stakeholder satisfaction.

NOV 2016 - SEP 2017

ASSISTANT PLANNER, Kapstone, Irvine, CA

- Conducted comprehensive plan reviews and issued detailed comment letters, ensuring adherence to zoning regulations and enhancing project clarity.
- Coordinated with various city departments, fostering interdepartmental cooperation to streamline entitlement project processes.
- Authored comprehensive staff reports and resolutions for entitlement projects, providing critical information for decision-making.
- Managed multiple projects simultaneously, ensuring timely completion and adherence to city planning standards and requirements.

EDUCATION

2014 - 2016

M.S. Environmental Studies, California State University, Fullerton, Fullerton, CA

Developed a Sustainability Project Using Scientific Technologies with a Statistical Assessment, Evaluation, Findings, and Presentations

Sustainability Projects, Urban Planning Principles, Urban Planning Methods, Environmental Issues and Approaches, Environmental Evaluation and Protection, Environmental Planning, Environmental Law, and Environmental Policy

GPA: 3.67

B.A Political Science, California State University, Fullerton, Fullerton, CA

Public Finance, Public Management, Comparative Politics, Politics in Nation States, Statistics in Public Administration, Public Policy, Writing, and Human Resource Management

Cumulative GPA: 3.1

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Volunteer Experience

Environmental Studies Student Association, Fullerton, CA (2014-2016): Activities Coordinator – Organized student events for the Environmental Studies Department. Successfully adopted a local beach.

Fullerton College Writing Center, Fullerton CA (2013): Writing Center Tutor – Tutored students and helped them improve their writing skills in various subjects.

Pathways of Hope, Fullerton CA (2012): Grant Writing Intern – Awarded a \$25,000 grant and spoke at a fundraising event.

REFERENCES

William Rose

PROLOGIS

☎ (415) 517-4459

Michele Trecek

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC

☎ (925) 786-9183

Amy Nicholson

CITY OF SANTA ROSA

☎ (707) 543-3258

Trevor Burwell

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

☎ (530) 902-0551

SKILLS

Urban and Regional Planning

Office 365

Environmental Permitting

CEQA

Salesforce

Communication