



**City Council**

Gerard Giudice  
Mayor

Emily Sanborn  
Vice Mayor

Susan Hollingsworth Adams  
Jackie Elward  
Samantha Rodriguez  
Councilmembers

Marcela Piedra  
City Manager

Michelle Marchetta Kenyon  
City Attorney

Lee Burdick  
Assistant City Attorney

Cindy Bagley  
Director of Community Services

Jamie Cannon  
Director of Human Resources

Vanessa Garrett  
Director of Public Works

Alicia Giudice  
Director of  
Development Services

Sylvia Lopez Cuevas  
City Clerk

Tim Mattos  
Public Safety Director

Betsy Howze  
Finance Director

January 6, 2025

2025 Chair City, City of Rohnert Park  
Sonoma County Mayors' and Councilmembers' Association  
130 Avram Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
Attn: Lauren Berges, MCA Clerk [scmcaclerk@gmail.com](mailto:scmcaclerk@gmail.com)

**Re: Request for Re-Appointment to the North Bay Division, LOCC, Executive Board**

Honorable Mayors and Councilmembers,

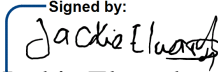
I am writing to respectfully request your support for my re-appointment to the North Bay Division, LOCC, Executive Board.

I've been an active member of the League of California Cities since elected to the Rohnert Park City Council in 2020 and appointed to the North Bay Division, LOCC, Executive Board in February of 2023. I would love to continue expanding my understanding of the challenges faced by all the member cities and towns, and I am excited at the opportunity to continue to work collaboratively with the League of California Cities. I believe working together and sharing common experiences will help us come up with creative solutions to ongoing issues.

Thank you so much for your consideration of my request for re-appointment to the North Bay Division, LOCC, Executive Board.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions at (707) 588-2223, or by email at [jelward@rpcity.org](mailto:jelward@rpcity.org).

Sincerely,

Signed by:  
  
Jackie Elward

City of Rohnert Park

Cc: City Council  
City Manager  
City Clerk  
City Selection Committee Clerk of the Board  
[Michelle.Norman@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Michelle.Norman@sonoma-county.org) and  
[Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org)

January 19, 2025

SCMCA City Selection Committee  
Michelle Norman  
Kyreen Gonzalez  
County of Sonoma, Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Dr. Room 100A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Letter of Interest

To Whom it May Concern,

Please accept my request for your support for my appointment to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. Agriculture, water, farmlands, wildlife and quality of life in Sonoma County is very important to me. Would love to have an opportunity to contribute to future decisions in this area.

Raised on a local Family Farm in Petaluma, I learned the importance of Agriculture and education of sustainable agriculture for future generations. My family's land is near the Petaluma Urban Growth Boundary, it was very important for me, to protect it, supporting the recent ballot measure to expand the UGB for another 50 years. As well, as volunteering to help defeat Measure J which would have harmed our local agricultural businesses and put our local farms/ranches, in jeopardy.

In the past, I have raised awareness to the importance to our local State Parks and keeping them open to the public. My love of the community and history, earned me the Petaluma 1995 Good Egg Award. Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park is one of the County's first ranchos, owned by General Vallejo. It is an example of how important Agricultural lands are to our area, protecting and maintaining the waterways for wildlife etc.

My first term on the Petaluma City Council was 2004-2008, during that term, the City approved a 20-year General Plan. In 2022, I was elected again, as the District 3 Council member, again, Petaluma is working to finalize another 20-year General Plan. Looking to the future, yet remembering the past, is important to me. Quality of life for my family, friends, and neighbors is my commitment, as I serve on the City Council. I would very much like to have an opportunity to serve on a County Committee too.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my name to this County committee, I ask for your support as a new member. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 707-529-2487 or [Knau@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:Knau@cityofpetaluma.org)

Sincerely,

Karen Nau  
City of Petaluma  
Council member  
District 3



Lauren Berges &lt;scmcaclerk@gmail.com&gt;

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**Letter of Interest**

1 message

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**Marjorie Morgenstern** <mmorgenstern@ci.cloverdale.ca.us>  
To: "scmcaclerk@gmail.com" <scmcaclerk@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 19, 2025 at 8:13 PM

**I would like to submit a letter of interest to become a member of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Citizens Advisory Committee.**

**I grew up in Marin County at the very end of a dead end street. First the land next to our home was privately owned. Eventually the land became Open Space and the entire community was delighted that the land would be preserved and that the community could finally utilize the land for hiking gatherings and picnics. I believe Open Space and Agricultural Preservation are extremely important for our entire community. Not only is Open Space beautiful it is highly recreational as well. Open Space is important for protecting and preserving the environment.**

**Agricultural Preservation is important because it supports the environment along with nurturing biodiversity, local communities and the economy. Preserved farmland creates habitats for wildlife, improved soiled health, along with helping to reduce water pollution while ensuring local food supply. Preserved farmland supports numerous jobs in agriculture and in the food sector.**

**I would like to participate in preserving Sonoma County Open Space and Farmland for generations to come. Farmland preservation insures that farming is here to stay. Sonoma County is a vital part of the Country's food and wine supply and I would like to participate on a committee that supports these endeavors.**

**Thank you,**

**City of Cloverdale Councilmember Marjorie Morgenstern**

Sent from my iPad

January 20, 2025

2025 Chair City,  
City of Rohnert Park  
Sonoma County Mayors' and Councilmembers' Association  
130 Avram Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Re Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Citizens Advisory Committee Letter of Interest

Honorable Mayors and Councilmembers,

I write to respectfully request your support for my appointment to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Citizens Advisory Committee. I firmly support the District's mission to preserve agricultural lands, community identity, community health, water, and wildlands.

My diverse background and passion for open spaces gives me a unique perspective that will serve this advisory board well. I am an avid user of our open spaces through hiking, backpacking, and biking, I am a strong supporter of our county's agriculture and view it as a cornerstone of our economy and culture. I am deeply rooted in our community and committed to serving it. I've served on Petaluma's Transit Advisory Committee since 2023 (Chair for past 6 months). I also served simultaneously on Petaluma's Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee and was the Vice Chair of this committee during this same time. My terms on these committees ended when I recently won my election to Petaluma's City Council, at which time I was re-appointed to both committees as the council liaison.

I hold a BA in Accounting and an MBA from Saint Martin's University in Lacey Washington.

My professional background is in supply chain transportation. I've held key leadership positions for companies like Target and my current employer Restoration Hardware. My years of experience have taught me how to lead teams, collaborate and work with others to accomplish important goals. Our open spaces are critical for our community's quality of life and I'm confident my experience will help me offer meaningful contributions to this important committee.

Lastly, I'm passionate about climate change and I believe preserving our open spaces is critical to our efforts to reverse the course we are on. I am excited to join the Petaluma City Council, and I am committed to protecting our open spaces would enjoy an opportunity to work on this issue regionally.

I would be honored by your support for this appointment and respectfully ask for your vote. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 707-971-9226 or by email at [fquint@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:fquint@cityofpetaluma.org)

Sincerely,



Frank Quint  
Petaluma City Council member

cc: Members of Petaluma City Council

Hello neighboring Mayors & Councilmembers,

My name is Alex DeCarli, and I am a new member of the Petaluma City Council. I'm writing you today to seek your support in my request for appointment to the available seat on the Agriculture Preservation and Open Space District Advisory Committee.

I come from a family that has lived in Sonoma County for several generations, on both farms and land all over the county. I was taught at a young age to respect and take care of the land. I am grateful to know that there are land conservation groups, like Ag & Open Space, that exist to protect family-owned farmland as well as promote opportunities for more public space through match grant programs.

I have always been a strong advocate for farming and preserving farmland. Our local food system is unique, world-renowned, and I believe just the best food you can find anywhere. In the last year, I worked diligently with the nonprofit, *Communities for Food & Family Farms*, to stop the passage of Measure J, and I am currently trying to help farms that could be affected by the proposed Soulajule Dam expansion and the recently impacted farms along the Point Reyes National Sea Shore.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work and travel in many parts of the world, and I have never seen any place more beautiful than Sonoma County. For that reason and many others, I would be honored to serve on the Ag & Open Space Advisory Committee, so that I may help protect our land and guarantee that future generations are able to fully enjoy our beauty and farming heritage.

Thank you for your support, and I'm excited for this opportunity to serve Sonoma County. If there are any questions or you would like to speak with me, please reach out! [adecarli@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:adecarli@cityofpetaluma.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander DeCarli". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Alexander" and last name "DeCarli" clearly legible.

Alexander DeCarli  
Petaluma City Council



### **City Council**

Gerard Giudice  
*Mayor*

Emily Sanborn  
*Vice Mayor*

Susan Hollingsworth Adams  
Jackie Elward  
Samantha Rodriguez  
*Councilmembers*

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*Assistant City Attorney*

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*Director of Community Services*

Jamie Cannon  
*Director of Human Resources*

Vanessa Garrett  
*Director of Public Works*

Alicia Giudice  
*Director of  
Development Services*

Sylvia Lopez Cuevas  
*City Clerk*

Tim Mattos  
*Public Safety Director*

Betsy Howze  
*Finance Director*

January 6, 2025

Clerk of the Board  
County of Sonoma, Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Dr, Room 100A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Attn: Michelle Norman [Michelle.Norman@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Michelle.Norman@sonoma-county.org)  
Karen Gonzalez [Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org)

### **Re: Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) District Letter of Interest**

Dear City Selection Committee,

In light of the upcoming vacancies, I am writing to respectfully request your support for the appointment to the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) District Board of Directors, for a four-year term.

I was first elected in 2020, and since then I have served as a Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmember on the Rohnert Park City Council. In December of last year, I was elected by the Rohnert Park City Council to serve as Mayor for 2025. For many years, I have served as a Director for the Sonoma County Transportation Authority/Regional Climate Protection Authority, and in 2022, I was appointed as Director for the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District Board. I am a long-time resident of Rohnert Park and have had the fortune of witness each phase of the system come to fruition. I have been a supporter of SMART connecting cities since regular service opened in 2017.

The combination of my professional and live experiences as a resident residing on the rail line in Sonoma County will bring a unique perspective as member of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) District Board of Directors.

Thank you for your consideration of my request for an appointment to the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) District Board of Directors. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions at (707) 899-3087, or by email at [ggiudice@rpcity.org](mailto:ggiudice@rpcity.org). I appreciate your support.

Kind Regards,

Signed by:  
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gerard Giudice".  
Gerard Giudice

Mayor, City of Rohnert Park

Cc: Rohnert Park City Council and City Manager

Cc: Lauren Berges, [scmcacclerk@gmail.com](mailto:scmcacclerk@gmail.com)



Janice Cader Thompson  
*District 1*

# CITY OF PETALUMA

POST OFFICE BOX 61  
PETALUMA, CA 94953-0061

January 19, 2025

Re: Request for Appointment to the Sonoma Marin Rail Transit (SMART) Commission

Dear Board of Directors:

Dear Mayors and Council Members,

I am seeking one of two SMART-SCTA/RCPA seats representing the nine Sonoma County cities on the SMART board of directors and I humbly ask for your support. With all three seats being vacated (two SMART-SCTA/RCPA, one SMART only), it is vital to appoint experienced councilmembers who understand the intricacies of transportation funding, SMART's role in driving city-centered development, and the importance of both the train and multi-modal trail to our cities and region. A SMART sales tax renewal will likely be on a ballot in the next two years. My hard-earned experience passing local measures and working with regional partners will be vital to SMART's success and I will work tirelessly to make sure the renewal passes.

I currently serve as Petaluma's representative on SCTA/RCPA where I strongly advocate for transit equity and mobility as part of Petaluma's commitment to city-centered development and carbon neutrality. As a member of the SMART board, as I have at SCTA/RCPA, I will advocate for policies to complete SMART to Healdsburg and north to Cloverdale, as well as policies to ensure safe and reliable access to the SMART corridor from communities in east and west county. I will use my experience and regional relationships to make sure the interests of all nine cities are represented and that the most vulnerable populations have opportunities to access safe, reliable, transportation options.

My approach to projects is to find innovative and practical solutions, work closely with partners, and to support equity, mobility and carbon neutrality. Like other cities, Petaluma city bus rides are fare-free, and we recently added Luma Go, our county's first door-to-door pickup service. Both programs have proven successful and are utilized by Petaluma's seniors, communities of color, and the vulnerable and underserved. Our goal is to expand Luma Go for those who need alternate transportation options—I will bring my commitment to innovative solutions that benefit all to representing your city on the SMART board.

Thank you for your careful consideration. I will work tirelessly to pass the sales tax renewal, bring my long years of experience working for practical and innovative solutions, and make sure your community's interests are represented at SMART.

Feel free to call or email if you have any questions.

*Petaluma City Hall  
11 English Street  
Petaluma, CA 94952*

*Phone (707) 778-4345*

*E-Mail:  
jcaderthompson@cityofpetaluma.org*



Sincerely,

Janice Cader Thompson

Janice Cader Thompson  
Councilmember for District 1  
City of Petaluma



Cloverdale Mayor Todd Lands  
124 N Cloverdale Boulevard  
Cloverdale, CA 95425  
tlands@ci.cloverdale.ca.us  
(707) 280-1366  
1/10/2025

SMART Board of Directors  
Old Redwood Highway  
Suite 200  
Petaluma, CA 94954

**Subject:** SMART Board Letter of Interest

Dear SMART Board of Directors,

I am writing to express my interest in concurrently serving as the Cloverdale city/town representative to the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Board of Directors and the Sonoma County Transit Authority (SCTA). As an experienced leader with a strong commitment to advancing infrastructure, providing services to economically vulnerable residents, and enhancing connectivity within our communities, my interest in serving aligns SMART's objectives.

Serving as Mayor of Cloverdale for three consecutive terms, I have developed a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities involved in improving public services and infrastructure. During my tenure, I've advanced projects aimed at supporting socio-economically disadvantaged populations, ensuring that vital services reach those who need them most. I've collaborated with diverse stakeholders across jurisdictions to deliver positive outcomes.

SMART's planned extension to Windsor, Healdsburg, and finally Cloverdale, aligns with my community's desire to be connected to the rest of the region. I'm particularly interested in the potential of SMART's rail and pathway system to enhance access to jobs, education, retail hubs, and housing, while also boosting tourism and economic growth in Cloverdale. My familiarity with local needs and priorities positions me uniquely to advocate for SMART's expansion and ridership in northernmost Sonoma County.

In addition to my leadership experience, I bring a strong track record of fiscal responsibility and resource optimization. Crafting and managing balanced budgets has been a cornerstone of my public service career, beginning with my tenure on the board of Cloverdale Unified School District and most recently, as mayor, filling a one-million-dollar deficit and bringing the City's spending back into the black. I highly value ensuring that community projects are both impactful and sustainable. I am confident my skills would be valuable to SMART's ongoing success as a steward of public funds and resources.

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how my leadership experience, budgetary acumen, and dedication to sustainable growth makes me a good choice to serve as the city/town representative to the SMART Board.

Warm regards,

Todd Lands,  
Cloverdale Mayor  
(707) 280-1366



# CITY OF HEALDSBURG

401 Grove Street  
Healdsburg, CA 95448-4723

**Visit us at [www.healdsburg.gov](http://www.healdsburg.gov)**

January 20, 2025

Sonoma County Mayors' & Councilmembers' Association

Re: SMART Board - SCTA Seat Letter of Interest

Honorable Mayors and Councilmembers,

As I begin my second term on the Healdsburg City Council, I am writing to request your support for my appointment to one of the two SCTA/RCPA seats on the SMART Board of Directors as the Sonoma County Mayors & Councilmembers appointee.

**I am uniquely positioned to help SMART achieve its key priorities over the next four years:**

- **Successfully reauthorizing the SMART sales tax prior to its expiration.**
- **Securing funding to complete SMART's extension through Healdsburg to Cloverdale, including the pathway.**
- **Increasing ridership and operationalizing freight rail service to meet critical regional economic and climate goals.**

For the past four years, I have served on the Sonoma County Transportation Authority/Regional Climate Protection Authority (SCTA/RCPA), planning, funding, and implementing regional and local transportation projects. In this role, I have worked diligently to advocate for Sonoma County as a whole. This has included ensuring our fair share of transportation and roadway funding and fostering collaboration among agencies often operating in silos.

Before joining the City Council, I served as CEO of Corazón Healdsburg, an equity-driven nonprofit advocating for underserved residents. In that role, I worked closely with SMART staff to secure resources and engage marginalized communities in SMART planning and funding efforts in Northern Sonoma County. I turned those insights into successful grant applications, increased ridership, and pathway planning that benefited both SMART and our local residents.

As a Sonoma County Planning Commissioner representing District 4 from 2017 to 2020, I built relationships with our tribal partners across the county. I have leveraged these relationships to secure federal and state funding for SMART through advocacy on key grant applications and by raising awareness of passenger rail as a vital transit equity issue for Native communities at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

As an attorney with expertise in land use law and environmental policy, I bring a deep understanding of CEQA, complex funding structures, and real estate agreements. These skills will be invaluable in executing environmental planning and construction for SMART's northern extensions and exploring future expansions toward the Capitol Corridor.

Finally, as a parent of a nine- and eleven-year-old, I bring a personal perspective on nurturing the next generation in Sonoma County. Today families and students are using SMART in record numbers to get to school, work and other critical destinations. This lens will inform my advocacy on the SMART board as it implements the Plan Bay Area 2050 vision.

**In this coming term, SMART and our regional partners will be tasked with prioritizing strategies to create a more resilient and equitable future for Sonoma County and the Bay Area. It would be an honor to put my experience to work for you on the SMART Board and I humbly ask for your support.**

Ariel Kelley  
Healdsburg City Councilmember

[akelley@healdsburg.gov](mailto:akelley@healdsburg.gov) | 707-385-1282



Lauren Berges &lt;scmcaclerk@gmail.com&gt;

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**SMART Position**

1 message

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**Fleming, Victoria** <VFleming@srcity.org>  
To: Lauren Berges <scmcaclerk@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 6, 2025 at 9:25 AM

January 6, 2024

Dear Mayors and Council Members,

I am writing to you to express my interest in service as your “non-SCTA” representative to SMART.

My interest in serving comes from a desire to streamline communication about planning and funding between SMART and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission which I have served on since 2021.

In this time I have successfully advocated to add the Healdsburg Station to Plan Bay Area and have been in frequent communication with staff at SMART and Board Members.

Thank you for considering me for this position. If you have any questions, please reach out to talk with me.

Warmly,

Victoria Fleming



**CITY OF HEALDSBURG**  
**VICE MAYOR CHRIS HERROD**

401 Grove Street  
Healdsburg, CA 95448-4723

Phone: (707) 431-3317

Fax: (707) 431-3321

Visit us at [www.healdsburg.gov](http://www.healdsburg.gov)

December 23, 2024

2025 Chair City, City of Rohnert Park  
Sonoma County Mayors' and Councilmembers' Association  
130 Avram Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
Attn: Lauren Berges, MCA Clerk [scmcaclerk@gmail.com](mailto:scmcaclerk@gmail.com)

**RE: Appointment to the Sonoma Marin Area Rai Transit Board**

Dear Honorable Mayors and Councilmembers:

I write to express my interest in joining the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Commission.

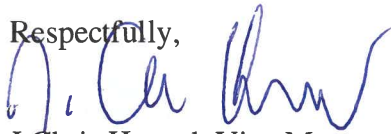
I am currently serving as the Vice Mayor of Healdsburg and have two years remaining in my term. During my time on Council, I have been vigorously involved in planning for the arrival of the SMART train to Healdsburg. I was active in the community input process leading to the Council's decision to locate our SMART station at the 'old depot' site, just south of the Plaza.

More importantly perhaps, I am committed to Healdsburg's Climate Mobilization Strategy. Alternative (public) forms of transportation are central to this important planning document, and many of our efforts to bring SMART to Healdsburg underscore Healdsburg's commitment to a greener future.

I have taken the SMART train numerous times over the years, and I am enthusiastic about its growing role in our region's evolving transportation profile. I am motivated to support the ongoing funding efforts, oversee efficient and appropriate construction planning, expand public outreach, and forward integration of the train into our everyday lives here in Sonoma County.

If chosen, I would welcome the input and partnership of all our Sonoma County leaders. Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy for this Commission seat. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

  
J Chris Herrod, Vice Mayor  
City of Healdsburg

Hello neighboring Mayors & Councilmembers,

My name is Alex DeCarli, and I am a new member of the Petaluma City Council. I'm writing you today to seek your support in my request for appointment to the available seat on the SMART Board of Directors.

I have over a decade of firsthand experience in railroading that will be a valuable addition to the board. With my understanding and experience, I believe I will come up to speed very quickly and be a contributing member of the board right away. Additionally, I have many personal and professional relationships with owners, Chief Mechanical Officers, and General Managers of other railroads, including those in the State Park system, that could be potential resources to SMART.

My main interest is in helping SMART grow its freight business, but also, and importantly, its passenger business. Freight has been one of the weaker aspects of the railroad, and I believe there's a lot of opportunity, especially as we extend the track further north. By strengthening the freight division, we take pressure off the passenger side of the operation and allow SMART to grow in both passengers and business freight. Freight is also crucial for the railroad to retain its status as a Common Carrier.

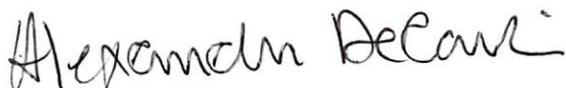
I have spoken with several perspective customers who are interested in having their products shipped by rail in or out of Sonoma County. If given a clear path, they will likely do it.

I am a proponent of enhancing economic opportunities in our local Sonoma County economy. To ensure we can do so, I believe we need to take advantage of how fortunate we are to have such a vital form of transportation. One of the great benefits to a healthier railroad freight division is that for each delivered railroad car, we would take as many as 3-5 semi-trucks off the road, thus greatly reducing traffic and carbon emissions.

I'm very supportive of SMART extending further north and will advocate for it, as well as the ongoing push to increase ridership.

Thank you for your support, and I'm excited for this opportunity to serve Sonoma County. If there are any questions or you would like to speak with me, please reach out! [adecarli@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:adecarli@cityofpetaluma.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander DeCarli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alexander DeCarli  
Petaluma City Council



January 20, 2025

2025 Chair, City of Rohnert Park  
Sonoma County Mayors' and Councilmember's Association (SCMCA)  
130 Avram Avenue  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
Attn: Lauren Berges, MCA Clerk, scmcaclerk@gmail.com

Dear SCMCA Chair, et al.,

I am enthusiastic about submitting my letter of interest for the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) Board of Director position. My understanding is there are three positions open – two are for SCTA Board of Directors and one is for a Non-SCTA Board of Director. My interest is in the Non-SCTA Board of Director opening.

I'm passionate about the work of SMART and excited that Cotati has this opportunity to have one of its members be selected for the Board to represent our entire region. Cotati is currently working on an update to the Santero Way Specific Plan which would facilitate a residentially focused transit-oriented community (TOC) surrounding the SMART station in Cotati, which may be the first TOC in the Bay Area. Having this TOC experience would enable me to share that with the other nine (9) cities in the county. This is going to benefit infill and other similar projects at the other cities in Sonoma County.

In Cotati, the City Council recently approved an agreement with the City of Rohnert Park and Sonoma State University to work on issues on a collaborative basis, and SMART would be one of those areas. Ensuring that SMART and the parallel multi-use path continues towards completion is of utmost importance to all residents in Sonoma County. The new Redwood Bikeshare program installed in Cotati, has the highest ridership in Sonoma County and could be attributed to our SMART station's proximity to Sonoma State University. I'm aware that SMART has some important work and initiatives and know I would be able to lend my skills and support.

I'm a hard-working public servant that works strategically with others to connect and build coalitions. As a Board Director, I would be able to use my bilingual public information officer experience to help outreach for the upcoming sales tax renewal. Also, my experience and ideas would help with community engagement and engaging groups of voters and riders who are traditionally difficult to reach.

I will be fully committed to the SMART Board and look forward to serving to help the Board and organization meet its goals and objectives. Since I retired from my 34-year career in public service at the County of Sonoma, I have been serving as a City Councilmember in Cotati and look forward to sharing and connecting all communities with the work and aspirations of SMART.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please let me know if I can answer any further questions.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Lemus

Sylvia Lemus  
Vice-Mayor, City of Cotati  
slemus@cotaticity.gov  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sylvia-lemus-369a4929/>