



Neysa Hinton
City Councilmember

City of Sebastopol
7120 Bodega Avenue
Sebastopol, CA 95472
www.cityofsebastopol.org

December 16, 2020

Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association
c/o Mary Gourley

Re: Request for Reappointment to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space
District Advisory Committee

Dear Mayors and Councilmembers:

I am writing to ask for your support for reappointment as a Mayors and Councilmembers representative to the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District. It would be my honor to serve and represent our cities once again.

I have been an active member on the committee and have worked to ensure that Sonoma County cities' best interests are represented. I currently serve on two funding sub-committees. The first is the Agricultural Support and Protection (ASAP) Emergency Matching Grant Program, focused on supporting our agricultural community and keeping lands productive during COVID. Additionally, I serve on the Matching Grant sub-committee, focused on providing funding to public agencies and nonprofits on a "match" basis, for the protection of open spaces for agriculture, community recreation, natural resource restoration, and public access.

I bring a unique prospective to the committee as a third generation Sonoma County resident, who was raised on a ranch that has been in our family since 1945. I come from a family where agriculture and the preservation of land for the next generation was instilled in us from childhood. With all three seats available for reappointment, I bring consistency and knowledge from having served on the board for the last four years.

Having raised my children in Sebastopol, I deeply appreciate having parks and recreation within our urban communities in order to create balance and joy in our lives. Sebastopol has many parks and natural areas within and on either side of our community. I understand how important it is for all urban areas to have outdoor spaces available for residents to easily access and enjoy.

I respectfully ask for your support for my reappointment.

Sincerely,

Neysa Hinton
Councilmember, City of Sebastopol
NeysaCouncil@gmail.com
(707)495-9087

December 29, 2020

Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association
Attn: Sommer Hageman, Town of Windsor
9291 Old Redwood Highway
Windsor, CA 95492

Re: Appointment to Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Advisory Committee

Dear Sonoma County Mayors and Council Members,

I am writing to ask for your support in appointing me to Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

I am a fourth generation Petaluman who has roots in our agriculture and open space community. My grandfather and great grandfather were both dairy farmers, and my parents still raise livestock in rural Petaluma. I grew participating in 4-H and FFA, showing at the Sonoma Marin and Sonoma County fairs, and growing and hunting my food.

In 2008, while obtaining a degree in City and Regional Planning from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, I interned for Greenbelt Alliance. I worked on the SMART and Marin Clean Energy campaigns, and did GIS mapping and analysis to support the expansion of the Community Separators. This is where I cut my teeth on progressive open space policies and developed an appreciation the work of the Ag and Open Space District.

These days, I wake up and work to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and address our climate crisis. As an elected leader, my advocacy for density, active transportation and transit-oriented development is fueled by my love of Sonoma County's rolling hills, green fields and farms—so much so that I chose to make these features the design aesthetic for my yard signs.

At times, the ag and open space constituencies conflict. As a person who has experience in both domains, I believe I can help find common ground on important issues by drawing our attention back to a common love of the land, connection to where food comes from, and desire for future generations to have the opportunity to find a similar love for Sonoma County's ag and open space lands.

For these reasons, I ask for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (707) 373-6414 or by email at bbarnacle@cityofpetaluma.org if you would like to speak about this.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Barnacle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian Barnacle, Petaluma City Councilmember-elect



CITY OF HEALDSBURG

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Healdsburg, CA 95448-4723

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December 31, 2020

Sonoma County Mayors' & Councilmembers' Association
Town of Windsor - Dominic Foppoli, Mayor
9291 Old Redwood Hwy, Building 400
Windsor, CA 95492

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

Dear Honorable Mayors and Councilmembers,

I write to respectfully request your support for my appointment as a Mayors' and Councilmembers' representative to the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

As an attorney with experience in land use law and environmental policy, my expertise in real estate transactions, conservation easements and preservation of natural resources will be a strong asset to the Citizens Advisory Committee. For the past three years, I have sat on the Sonoma County Planning Commission where we examine the delicate balance between agricultural preservation, economic diversity as well as regional housing and development needs. Many of the grant programs and real estate transactions before the Citizens Advisory Committee involve complex financial transactions where my MBA degree and experience as a non-profit executive will prove useful in advocating for our community.

Raising my young children in Healdsburg, I regularly utilize our parks and open spaces across the county. I formerly served on Healdsburg's Parks and Recreation Commission, where we oversaw a network of parks, playgrounds and open spaces in and around Healdsburg. I grew up in a family that was dedicated to preserving our agricultural lands and learned early on about the importance of public access for outdoor recreation while being steadfast in the protection of our natural resources for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration of my appointment to the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District's Citizens Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

Ariel Kelley
Healdsburg City Councilmember

cc: Members of the Healdsburg City Council

December 31, 2020

Sonoma County Mayors and Council Members Association
Attn: Sommer Hageman, Town of Windsor
9291 Old Redwood Highway
Windsor, CA 95492

Dear Mayors and Council Members,

I am writing to gain support for an appointment to the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Advisory Committee. I am a Sonoma County native, born in Petaluma and Raised in Healdsburg. Growing up here I have garnered a profound appreciation of our land and the abundance it has provided us. My intent in joining the commission is not only to continue this important work, but to advocate for those that face inequities in gaining access to the land.

I come from a generation of farmers from Zihuatanejo, Mexico. My father, my grandfather, and his father were all farmers on family land that has since been sold. My parents instilled in me an immense awe and gratitude for nature. When I was younger, we were members of the Sierra Club and would frequent many state and regional parks, which have shaped some of my favorite childhood memories.

I am grateful for the opportunities to carry this love of our land into my leisure as a frequent hiker, and my work, first as an employee with Santa Rosa Parks and Recreation, and now as a youth advocate for TLC Child and Family Services. As a counselor for foster and disadvantaged youth, I often take our adolescents on outings to our beautiful open spaces and parks and have helped facilitate various ecological awareness activities such as gardening and beach clean ups at the Sonoma Coast.

I understand how necessary and healing it is for all, but especially our youth to adventure and care for our land. This board position would allow me the opportunity to ensure our land and natural resources are sustained and made available to all for generations to come. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Skylaer Palacios
Healdsburg City Council Member