BIOGRAPHIES OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPOINTEES TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION AUTHORITY

July 13, 2010

Joshua Arce
Executive Director
Brightline Defense Project

Joshua Arce is the Executive Director of Brightline Defense Project, a San Francisco-based civil rights advocacy non-profit organization. Mr. Arce founded Brightline in 2005 with the proceeds of a settlement in an anti-Latino employment discrimination case, bringing to the organization his experience as a civil litigator in matters ranging from tenants rights to equality in the workplace.

In 2007, Mr. Arce and Brightline broadened their scope to include work on environmental justice issues in San Francisco’s low-income, mostly minority neighborhoods of Bayview-Hunters Point and Potrero. Partnering with a diverse group of organizations including Latino Issues Forum, the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, Sierra Club, and Environmental Defense, Brightline fought to successfully halt the construction of $273 million worth of new fossil fuel-burning power plants in and around San Francisco’s environmental justice communities. For Brightline’s effort, Mr. Arce received a proclamation from San Francisco Gavin Newsom declaring March 26, 2009 “Brightline Defense Project Day” in San Francisco.

Mr. Arce continues to work with both advocates and energy stakeholders to find ways to ease the historically disproportionate burden that energy generation has placed on low-income people of color. Most recently, he has pushed Brightline’s commitment to community sustainability and empowerment to address green workforce development issues on major infrastructure investments.

Dion Aroner
Partner
Aroner, Jewel & Ellis

Dion Aroner is a nationally recognized expert on the California state budget and issues concerning human services. She represented the cities of Richmond, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville and Oakland in the State Assembly from 1996-2002. During her tenure as Assemblywoman, Ms. Aroner authored groundbreaking legislation on welfare and foster care
reform, as well as local government finance, school finance, juvenile justice, transportation, and child care. She was appointed by the Assembly Speaker as Democratic Caucus Chair during the last two years of her time in the Assembly. Prior to her election to the Assembly, Ms. Aroner served as Chief of Staff to her predecessor, Tom Bates, where she became an undisputed expert on welfare reform, foster care, and realignment.

Sally Lieber
Community Advocate

Sally Lieber was the sponsor of AB 2954, the legislation that created the SF Bay Restoration Authority and advocated for the Authority concept from 2007. She was termed out of the State Assembly in 2008 and is currently serving as a community advocate. Ms. Lieber was elected to the California State Assembly in November 2002 to represent the 22nd Assembly District. Before her election to the State Assembly, she served as a Councilwoman and Mayor of the City of Mountain View and as a Santa Clara County Commissioner.

Ms. Lieber has been active in a number community organizations including serving as a Boardmember of the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, the National Women’s Political Caucus and the YWCA.

Steve Ngo
Trustee
San Francisco Community College District

Steve Ngo was elected citywide to the San Francisco Community College District Board of Trustees in November 2008, becoming the first Vietnamese American elected to public office in the City and County of San Francisco. The District is one of the largest in the nation and serves over 100,000 students. As a Trustee, Mr. Ngo has worked to reduce the impact on students of state budget cuts, increasing local hiring for construction projects, creating job opportunities during the recession, and address the District’s structural deficit.

Mr. Ngo’s commitment to civil rights and education is rooted in his family’s refugee experience. After fleeing Vietnam for the United States, his mother worked in the service industry as a waitress and nail salon technician in New Orleans, Louisiana. After 20 years, she eventually opened her own nail salon business. His father took jobs as a busboy, roofer, and chef, and later attended community college to become an auto body repair technician. Mr. Ngo’s mother only had a third grade education and his father only completed the eighth grade, but in America they were able to build a better life through hard work and vocational education.

Mr. Ngo became an attorney and practiced election law and civil litigation, representing individuals in negligence and employment discrimination cases, before winning office. Previously, he was a budget consultant for the California State Assembly Budget Committee, where he advised legislators on $3.1 billion worth of spending proposals. He served in state government as a recipient of the Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship. He continued his public service as a law clerk for the California Attorney General’s Energy Task Force, a specially formed group that pursued price gouging and other unfair business practices claims.
Mr. Ngo continues to practice law and remains active in his community. He served for three consecutive terms as Chair of the Civil Rights Committee of the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area. He is also an active volunteer with API Equality, an organization working for equal marriage rights and fair treatment of the lesbian and gay community. The Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights recently appointed him to its membership.

Rahul Prakash
President and Founder
Earth Aid Enterprises

Rahul Prakash is President & Co-Founder of Earth Aid Enterprises. Earth Aid is a leading energy start-up that has developed the first free service that enables individuals to monitor all of their utility data streams from one central location and as a result drive significant energy savings. Most recently, Mr. Prakash served as part of the Founding Team & Vice President of Business Development & Marketing at 1 Block off the Grid (1BOG) and was responsible for scaling 1BOG nationally to 10 cities and profitability. 1BOG has recently raised $5 million dollars in venture capital from New Enterprise Associates.

Prior to 1BOG, Mr. Prakash was part of the executive team at Spock where he served as Vice President and directed all marketing and operations for the leading people search engine. He was instrumental in growing traffic to over 12 million unique visitors via distribution partnerships with leading Internet brands. Spock was successfully acquired by Intellins.

Mr. Prakash also was a co-founder of The Clean Economy Network, the largest national advocacy association for the clean technology and green business community; the Full Circle Fund’s Energy Impact Circle, an alliance of emerging business leaders who help solve public problems through engaged philanthropy and public policy advocacy; and Clean Tech & Green Business Leaders for Obama. Mr. Prakash serves on the Board of Directors at The Junior Statesmen Foundation, The New Leaders Council, Ethos Alliance, The Indian American Leadership Initiative and Universal Giving. He serves as an advisor to several prominent elected officials across the country on energy and technology policy.

John Rizzo
Trustee
San Francisco Community College District

John Rizzo has served on the Board of Trustees of the San Francisco Community College District since 2007. He currently serves as the Board’s vice-president, chairs its Facilities, Infrastructure and Technology Committee, and is a member of the Planning and Budget Committee. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the City College Foundation.

As a Trustee, Mr. Rizzo has worked to modernize the District’s technology systems; to advance several environmental initiatives, including a District-wide Sustainability Plan, “greening a new building up to LEED Gold certification, and creation and funding of new green-jobs training
programs for disadvantaged communities and at-risk youth; and to achieve more effective management of the District’s capital and operation budget.

Until earlier this year, Mr. Rizzo was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority, working to add public safety improvements to the underground garage project.

Mr. Rizzo is also a volunteer environmental activist, currently serving as a member of the board of the 40,000-member Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter and as its Political Chair. In 2008, John won a commendation from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for his work in environmental advocacy, having worked with a coalition of environmental, environmental justice, and community members to prevent the city from building several fossil fuel power plants in low-income neighborhoods.

Since 1987, Mr. Rizzo’s has been a technology writer and author. Since 1997, he has published a technology news and information website, MacWindows.com.

Laura Thompson
Manager
San Francisco Bay Trail Project

Laura Thompson is the manager of ABAG’s San Francisco Bay Trail Project, responsible for coordinating the completion of a 500-mile continuous shoreline hiking and bicycling trail around San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. She has been a voice for shoreline public access for ten years, working to advance Bay Trail segments through urban areas and as part of wetland restoration projects. Ms. Thompson co-authored the book, Trail Planning for California Communities. Prior to her work on the Bay Trail Project, she worked as a planner with the San Mateo County Planning Division.

Kate White
Executive Director
Urban Land Institute, San Francisco

Kate White became the first Executive Director of San Francisco’s Urban Land Institute in August 2005 and has worked in the field of sustainable urban development for the past 17 years. Previously, Ms. White was the founding Executive Director of the San Francisco Housing Action Coalition, a diverse group of 70 organizations advocating for well-designed, well-located housing at all income levels in the City of San Francisco. She is a founder of City CarShare, a Bay Area non-profit car-sharing service with 20,000 members where she served as Co-Director and as a Board member for eight years. Previously, Ms. White worked at Urban Ecology, the National Low Income Housing Coalition, and on the rehabilitation of a 300-unit mixed-income residential high-rise development in Chicago. Ms. White has been published in the SPUR journal and UrbanLand magazine, and has received several awards, including: Globest.com’s “Northern California’s Women of Influence 2009” for her leadership at the Urban Land
Institute, the American Society of Public Administrators' 2007 award for Empirical Research, and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition's "Golden Wheel" award for founding City CarShare. She is a member of land use honorary society Lambda Alpha International. Ms. White lives with her spouse in the Mission neighborhood of San Francisco.