



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
RESTORATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 28, 2019

TO: Governing Board
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

FROM: Ad Hoc Committee for the Advisory Committee
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

SUBJECT: Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation on Advisory Committee Appointment

We, the ad hoc committee for Advisory Committee (AC) consisting of Supervisor John Gioia and Supervisor Susan Gorin, recommend that the Authority adopt Resolution 62 appointing Myla Ablog, a member of the public from San Francisco County with environmental justice expertise, to the AC for a term beginning on September 6, 2019 and ending on February 22, 2023.

Background

The Advisory Committee Procedural Document, adopted by the Governing Board, is based on the Restoration Authority's enabling legislation and The San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure ("Measure AA"). It provides guidance for the selection of Advisory Committee members who represent both the interests of the community, as well as the interests of agencies within the Restoration Authority's jurisdiction. The Procedural Document provides that the Authority will strive to include the following:

- Representatives of agencies named in the Authority's enabling legislation;
- Representatives of open space or park districts that own or operate shoreline parcels in the San Francisco Bay Area;
- Representatives of nongovernment organizations working to restore, protect, and enhance San Francisco Bay wetlands and wildlife habitat;
- Members of the public from bayside cities and counties in the San Francisco Bay Area;
- Balanced representation of public agencies, non-profit organizations, community groups, business interests, and individuals;
- Racial, ethnic, income, and gender diversity;
- Geographic representation, including at least one representative from each of the nine counties in the San Francisco Bay Area; and
- Representation of 16 different areas of expertise listed in the document.

On February 28, 2019, Nahal Ghoghaie, then of the Environmental Justice Coalitions for Water, resigned from the AC, creating the opportunity for one new appointment.

On July 3, 2019, staff released a call for applications to the Advisory Committee, noting that environmental justice expertise was needed, and worked with partner organizations to ensure that it was distributed widely. Outreach included the focus groups with leaders from economically disadvantaged communities conducted as part of the Authority's equity and community engagement contract. Staff received five applications by the August 9, 2019 deadline.

An ad hoc committee of the Governing Board met on August 15, 2019 to review the applications. The applicants' statements of interest and areas of expertise relevant to the Advisory Committee were considered, with a focus on selecting a candidate with environmental justice expertise.

The ad hoc committee selected Myla Ablog, an independent environmental consultant and master's student in wetland ecology and restoration, to recommend to the Governing Board for appointment to the AC.

Biography

Myla Ablog is a member of the public from San Francisco County. She is an independent environmental consultant and master's student in environmental management, focusing on wetland ecology and restoration, at the University of San Francisco (USF). Her environmental justice expertise comes from her work for the non-profit Literacy for Environmental Justice as the Ecologist at Heron's Head Park in San Francisco, where the organization provided free hands-on service-learning programs to complete wetland and upland restoration projects and to landscape the EcoCenter, an environmental education which won a national EPA Award in Environmental Justice. She also served as an Executive Board Member for an international social and environmental justice organization, Center for Story-Based Strategy. She gained her experience and expertise in habitat restoration through her studies at USF and her work as a biological technician for the National Park Service on the Crissy Field Wetland Restoration Project, where she implemented a five-year monitoring program. Ms. Ablog also has expertise in regulatory policies, gained through her work for Caltrans permitting infrastructure projects and required mitigation, and for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permitting Section 10 and Section 404 projects.

Recommendation

The ad hoc committee has followed the guidance in the Advisory Committee Procedural Document in recommending appointment of an Advisory Committee member who can contribute expertise in environmental justice, habitat restoration, and regulatory policies related to restoration of wetland areas in San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline. Accordingly, we recommend that the Authority adopt Resolution 62.

Attachments Resolution 62