

# Questionnaire for Candidate Board Member of the East Bay Regional Park District Ward 5, 2014 Election

## **IPM Program of the East Bay Park District**

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program serves as technical support to Park District divisions and departments on matters of management or minimizing the impacts or damage by various plant and animal pest species to District resources and infrastructure. This is accomplished through an adaptive management approach utilizing the established concepts and strategies of IPM to maintain and enhance ecological values and habitat conservation of desired plant communities and animal species. The program administrator cooperates and works with internal and external committee and work groups to prioritize annual planning of projects that are achievable, cost effective and environmentally sustainable. The Park District conducts vegetation and pest management activities in compliance with applicable state and federal law and in accordance with the direction contained within the District Master Plan 2013, "Wildland Management Policies and Guidelines" (EBRPD 1992 and 2001) and "Pest Management Policies and Practices" (EBRPD 1987). The "Pest Management Policies and Practices" manual describes how the District implements its IPM program. The IPM program includes a comprehensive methodology for: evaluating animal and plant pest problem areas; choosing the appropriate treatment from among non-chemical and chemical alternatives; and conducting treatments safely for applicators, the general public and the environment.

### 1. Why are you running for the Park Board? Why do you think you should be elected?

I have been involved in public service for most of my adult life. I enjoy working with the public, elected officials and staff to achieve shared goals. I've served on the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, the Livermore City Council, and the Alameda County Recycling Board. I'm president of EBRPD currently and have served on this board since 1999. I rarely miss any EBRPD meetings and am actively engaged in the district and its issues. From Mission Peak to Tesla, Doolan Canyon, McLaughlin Eastshore, Pleasanton Ridge, etc. I want to help things happen at EBRPD.

### 2. What issues do you intend to emphasize in this election? (in order of importance)

- Improve access and use at our parks by persons with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged individuals, and senior park visitors.
- Continue land acquisitions that connect wildlife corridors and connect trails using WW funds and partners such as the HCP, the Altamont Landfill funds and other funders.
- Protect Tesla's historic natural resources.
- Build the Dumbarton Quarry facility and plan for the Patterson addition to Coyote Hills
- Continue trail restoration at Mission Peak and continue work on quality of life improvements for the neighborhood.

### 3. What is your track record on environmental issues?

I have a sound track record for projects and issues within my ward and the district. All our land use plans carefully study environmental issues and how to protect the environment of each project. I was a strong supporter to acquire Doolan Canyon and

made sure Tesla was kept on the Master Plan map. Limiting access to Vasco Caves and Tesla is very important to me.

4. Explain how you have worked with the Sierra Club, CNPS, Local Audubon Societies, and other environmental organizations on environmental issues in your area over the past five years.

I do not have a close working relationship with the Sierra Club, CNPS, or Audubon but I have always listened to their testimony, studied their opinions, and found them useful for decision making. I am a member of Tri City Ecology, Tri Valley Conservancy, and Save Mt. Diablo and work closely with the Friends of Tesla.

I served on the original Alameda County Recycling Board which added county-wide source reduction and recycling Programs, etc.

5. What is your view on the Park District's vegetation management program for the wildland-urban interface and-its application to FEMA for funding?

The board 2010 Fire Hazard Mitigation Plans and Programs was passed after great study and discussion at public meetings. I know that there are growing concerns about the near and /or long term costs to manage this wildland/urban interface. Is there enough funding from FEMA, a continuation of CC,, local taxing and other grants to cover the costs of the fuels management program? We don't know the cost of whipsnake habitat mitigation either. Adaptive management means we can change our current plan when needed. The district staff is following this issue closely.

6. What is your position on the Chabot Marksman Range lease renewal?"

I have major concerns about lead migration into Lake Chabot and the noise impacts that affect neighbors and Chabot park visitors from the gun club. I know we will have much public input during the EBRPD process. I'll listen to all the facts and concerns before I make a decision.

7. Describe the issues that you see in balancing recreation with preserving habitat in the Park District lands?

I don't see recreation and reserving habitat as being in competition at this district. Parks are classified and planned to provide the correct level of public use. We are sensitive to preserving natural and cultural resources and open space. When people use and love parks they support them at the polls.

8. What is your understanding of the position of stewardship in the Park District organization and what internal organizational changes would you recommend in regard to stewardship, if any at all?

The Stewardship unit now has full department status with Matt Groul as Chief of Stewardship. Matt is handling the job very well. Stewardship is a key function for the district and I support the need for additional staff to handle the fuels management program and other stewardship duties.

9. What do you feel are the most important regional park and trail acquisitions for the Park District in the next 10 years.

Obviously regional park and trail acquisitions do depend on land availability and funding.

Measure WW listed Alameda Point, Byron/Vernal Pools, the Concord' Naval Station, Delta Access & Recreation, Doolan Canyon/Tassajara Hills, Gateway Shoreline, Oakland Shoreline, Point San Pablo and Rancho Pinole. They should have priority.

Our Updated master plan maps includes many other parks that are important to me: Altamont, Tesla Open Space, Duarte Canyon and Cedar Mountain. Measure WW listed many new trails and ones to be improved. The Bay Trail, all the Ridge Trails, and completion of the Iron Horse Trail are the top-rated for me.

10. What should be the ethic of the Park District?"

I support the mission and vision statements in the Master Plan:

**The mission statement defines the essential role of the District:**

The East Bay Regional Park District preserves a rich heritage of natural and cultural resources and provided open space, parks, trails, safe and healthful recreation and environmental education.

An environmental ethic guides the District in all of its activities.

**The vision statement sets the direction, values, and objections of the District.:**

The District envisions an extraordinary and well managed system of open space parkland in Alameda and Contra Costa counties which will forever provide the opportunity for a growing and diverse community to experience nature nearby.

11. How do you propose to reduce Park District's carbon footprint?

The district has several active programs that help reduce our carbon footprint and others to be added in the future. Connecting our transportation trails, like the Iron Horse Trail, enables many people to get out of cars and use transportation trails to go to work, school, have recreation and do it in a healthy, safe manner. Co-ordination with our trails connection to BART and buses should be expanded. Certainly our park vegetation is a "carbon affect".offset to automobile traffic that produces carbon dioxide.

12. What is your position on off leash dogs in the Park District lands?

I support the current version of Ordinance #38 which provides for a variety of leash and off-leash areas for residents. When issues arise in any park area about off-leash dogs, the district should review said area quickly and decide what solutions are needed.

13. What is your position on when and where multi-use trails (hike, horse, and bike) should be constructed?

I support a variety of trails for all users (non-mechanized except for people with disabilities).Trail locations should be carefully reviewed for safety and habitat protection. New trails have both environmental and public reviews.

14. Are there enough single use (narrow) trails? Would you add more trails for hiking and equestrian use only. Should bicycles be allowed on narrow trails?

I support the addition of more narrow hiking and equestrian only use trails. I also support the addition of more hiking, equestrian and bicycle use trails, narrower than fire roads, designed where all 3 uses can be accommodated safely and with minimal environmental impact. They are subject to environmental review.

15. Measure CC will come up for renewal soon. What are the top five activities that you would like to see funded in a renewal of CC

I support a CC renewal very similar to the original with the original funding split: 33% for natural resource related projects, and the rest for access and safety improvements. Access / operation improvements should be made for: Alameda Point, Robert Crown, McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, Miller Knox and Pt Pinole. The 2010 Fire Hazard Mitigation Plan and Program EIR recommendations will need more funding for their projects.

16. What is your position on the proposed Carnegie SVR off road vehicle-park for Tesla Valley?

I have been totally opposed to the Carnegie SVR off road vehicle park for Tesla since I first became aware of it. I toured with Steve Edwards who established its many significant values as a protected park for me. The state should pull the draft EIR and have a new one focusing on preservation of the unique cultural and natural resources of the site. I convinced the board of the importance of keeping Tesla on the Master Plan Map.

17. What steps should the Park District take to deal with sea level rise and global warming?

We must reserve funds for repair and maintenance from storm damage caused by a sea level rise of 16-55 inches that is projected for our 40 miles of Bay Shoreline. We must plan new facilities for sustainability with future sea level rises. We must work with other concerned agencies to plan and manage for sea level rises.

18. Who are your major individual and group supporters? Have any environmentalists endorsed you?

Current partial endorsement list:

**California State Assembly**

Joan Buchanan Assembly Member

Nancy Skinner Assembly Member

Bob Wieckowski, Assembly Member

**Board of Supervisors**

Scott Haggerty, Supervisor

Valerie Raymond, former Supervisor

**EBRPD board**

Whitney Dotson, Director

Beverly Lane, Director

Ted Radke, Director

Carol Severin, Director

Douglas L Siden, Director

John Sutter, Director

Joycelyn Combs, former Director Ward 5

**BART Board**

Tom Blalock, Director

Gail Murray, Director

John McPartland, Director

Erlene DeMarcus, former Director and President

**Dublin City Council**

Tim Sabranti, Mayor

Don Biddle, Vide Mayor  
Abe Gupta, Council Member  
Linda Jeffery Sailors, former Mayor

**Livermore City Council**

John Marschand, Mayor  
Doug Horner, Council Member  
Laureen Turner, Council Member  
Bob Woerner, Vice Mayor  
John Stein, former Council Member  
Cathie Brown, former Mayor  
John Shirley, former Mayor

**Fremont City Council**

Bill Harrison, Mayor  
Gus Morrison, former Mayor

**Newark City Council**

Al Nagy, Mayor  
Luis Freitas, Council Member  
Ana Apodoca, Council Member  
David Smith, former Mayor

**Pleasanton City Council**

Jerry Thorne, Mayor  
Cheryl Cook-Kallio Council Member  
Kathy Narum, Council Member  
Jerry Pentin, Vice Mayor  
Karla Brown, Council Member

**Livermore Area Park and Recreation**

Bob Coomber, Director  
May Alice Faltings, Director  
Steve Goodman, Director  
Beth Wilson, Director

**Zone 7, Alameda Flood and Water Conservation District**

Jim McGrail, Director  
Sarah Palmer, Director  
Dick Quigley, Director  
Angela Rameriz Holmes, Director

**Dublin San Ramon Services District**

Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold, Director

**Dublin School Board**

Pat Kohnen, former Board Member

**Union Sanitary District**

Pat Kite

**Other Friends**

Nancy Feeley  
Donna Olsen  
Bill & Bev Copeland  
Connie Campbell \n  
Steve & Cherie Jo Patenaude

Many of my individual supporters are environmentalists. Their organization does not endorse.

19. How will you fund your campaign?

I will fund the campaign with small donations for supporters along with personal funds. It will be an inexpensive campaign using my ballot statement, the Fremont Newark League of Women Voters voter pamphlet and targeted ads, mailings and a web site depending on available funds

20. Why should the Sierra Club endorse you? Would you use the endorsement in your campaign material?

I have a long history of public service in Alameda County and have solid relationships with city council members, special district members and park users in ward 5. I'm not afraid to face hard issues and I'm willing to listen to all points of view before making decisions. My services on the Local Agency Formation Commission keeps me very well informed on county wide issues. I believe in the absolute quality of life the EBRPD brings to Alameda and Contra Costa Counties . I an a known quantity and would appreciate your endorsement.

I would be honored to use the Sierra Club endorsement in my campaign materials.

21. Will you sign the Sierra Club's pledge regarding the use of its name and logo if you are endorsed? (See Below) Please note that a candidate cannot be endorsed if he or she refuses to sign the pledge.

Yes,

22. Please attach a CV showing your educational background and work history.

Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education University of Houston.

Public school teacher

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board.

Livermore City Council

Alameda County Recycling Board

Wheels

Alameda County Congestion Management Agency Board

**Current:** EBRPD since 1999

Local Agency Formation Commission since 2007.

Just reappointed to represent special district.

Recreation teacher, LARPD.