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### **1. Motivation -- Why did you choose to run for the Park District Board?**

As an East Oakland resident, I grew tired of the disparity in allocation of resources within the parks District. MLK Shoreline Park had several major tragedies in the past year alone, and as an environmental activist who has worked with the Sierra Club Tree Committee, I have taken proactive steps to combat climate change in my community. As a “millennial”, many assume that I lack the experience and qualifications to hold office, but given my current role as Senior Financial Analyst at Planned Parenthood and Board Treasurer of Community Learning Center Schools in Alameda, I believe that I not only have the youthful passion, and commitment to sustainable practices, but also the fiduciary background necessary to play a role in governing the Parks District. I was a large supporter of Senator Bernie Sanders, and I am thankful for his contributions in pushing the Democratic platform to focus more on environmental issues such as climate change. The Green Party is perhaps the most vocal when it comes to this issue, and on the issue of preservation of our parks and advocating on behalf of inspiring the next generation of climate activists, I am clearly the best candidate to represent Green party voters in Ward 4 and throughout the East Bay Regional Park District.

### **2. Program and Priorities -- Elected office provides the opportunity to proactively lead by placing new ideas on the agenda for consideration and development. What are some specific ideas you intend to pursue if elected? What do you believe are the main priorities for the Park District Board?**

I typically would never advocate for the removal of trees, but I must advocate for fire prevention and public security. I support removing Eucalyptus trees while simultaneously actively restoring biodiversity and native plants, which is naturally less prone to catching fire based on the evolution of species like California Oak. We need to create a Climate Change task force comprised of Board members, community activists, Parks employees, and community members. We need to proactively inspire the next generation of engineers, scientists, and environmental conservationists. The Parks District cannot combat Climate Change alone, but we can build a model which can build momentum and inspire other similar municipalities throughout our nation to adopt more sensible policies amidst the clear threat of climate change. As an East Oakland resident in the Flatlands, I understand the threat of sea level rise, and I am proud to be the most vocal candidate on this issue.

### **3. Qualifications -- Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of EBRPD Director.**

I attended the University of California, Berkeley. My environmental activism catalyzed when I moved into a student living cooperative in which we advocated for food justice, fighting carbon emissions, and seeking efficient ways of reducing waste. While at UC Berkeley, I led protests alongside notable groups like By Any Means Necessary (BAMN) in which we took to the streets of Downtown Berkeley to bring awareness to the issue of accessibility in higher education. There

is a clear connection between higher education and educating the next generation of climate activists, and I am proud of my work as a student. I then went on to deliver the UC Berkeley commencement in 2013 in which I spoke about my work addressing civil rights issues such as bringing national attention to the issue of homophobia. I have made it my priority to ensure that my occupation matches my true calling, which is why I have work experience as an educator, business analyst, financial analyst, and consultant. I grew up with two parents who were both born abroad. I know what it takes to empower our community as I was able to come from humble beginnings to achieving my educational goals and my passion to give back to my community and inspire the next generation. I not only have a clear record of advocating on the right side of history, but my professional experiences in budgeting, forecasting, financial management reporting, financial analysis, compliance reporting, internal controls, accounting, and business management will serve me well in this role.

#### **4. Recreation and Conservation -- What balance do you favor between recreational access/development and protection of wildlife, creeks, and lands?**

I understand recreation as I bike, jog, hike, and swim in my free time. However, the Mission of the Parks District must always come first. We must preserve our parks for perpetuity, which is why I have been very clear on my stances. For example, on the issue of Tesla Valle, I will do everything in my power to prevent the use of Parks' land from becoming terrain or off-road vehicles. On the issue of Measure AA, I supported Measure AA and advocated on behalf of its passing at our primary in June. I believe that we can achieve a balance between recreation and perpetual preservation of our Parks, but I also believe that such a balance can only be achieved when we prioritize the mission of the parks district above all else.

#### **5. Vegetation Management**

##### **a. What do you think the EBPRD policy regarding the use of pesticides / herbicides on park district property should be and why? How would you propose to modify current park district policies?**

Before we use any pesticides / herbicides, we need to evaluate the ethics of the companies and institutions we conduct business. At a personal level, I have been very outspoken against companies in the biotechnology sector, which have played a role in devastating local economies and subsistence farmers amidst an ever expanding world of development and urbanization. I also believe that we must evaluate the potential health risks that come about from the use of pesticides and herbicides. Our parks are interconnected with public health in that the chemicals we use have direct environmental consequences, which transpire into our daily lives. I support evaluating the commercial agreements we have with our vendors as well as expanding the use of environmental impact studies while simultaneously providing public forums in order to promote public engagement on every course of action the parks District and its governing board take.

##### **b. What approaches do you support for managing eucalyptus and other non-native or high-fire-risk species on park district property?**

We must remove the eucalyptus trees. As an Oakland resident, I know people who lost their homes. We lost \$1.5 billion and 25 lives. For the 25 lives we lost, we will never be able to quantify that monetary life in any financial ratio or metric. Public safety and mitigating the risk

of fire is at the top of my platform. However, simultaneously, we must actively expand biodiversity in our parks. Whenever we remove a eucalyptus tree, we must plant multiple trees to counter balance our net tree gains upon each fiscal year. I advocate for net tree growth in that our Parks should continually have a surplus of trees year over year rather than a running deficit. As a Financial Analyst, I would develop metrics and Parks' Goals in order to evaluate and communicate to the public exactly how we are proactively fighting carbon emissions and climate change. As shown in the \$1.5 billion lost in the Oakland hills Fire, we must prioritize mitigating the risk of any future fire.

**6. Grazing Program -- There are concerns that the District's grazing program does not provide the oversight to meet the District's own goals of enhancing botanic and biotic diversity, reduced erosion and improved water quality. What steps would you take to meet these goals? What is the 'optimum level' of grazing compatible with both biotic diversity and recreational uses of the parks?**

We must actively introduce biodiversity by working with local groups like the Audobon Society while prioritizing water quality and reduced erosion. The Chabot Gun Club was shut down unanimously by this Board in March. However, the environmental impact resulting from lead contamination, in my opinion, has not been thoroughly evaluated. Our immediate priority should be to evaluate the effects of lead contamination on water quality and enacting policies in place to not only proactively maintain current metrics on water quality and erosion but improving water quality and effectively reducing erosion. Combatting erosion can be done by actively planting grass, shrubs, and improving drainage within our parks. I seek to allocate resources for natural drainage especially in parks like Redwood Regional in which I often find myself trekking through copious amounts of mud due to an inadequate system of drainage. However, the difficult task is building drainage infrastructure that is harmonious with the environment and local biodiversity. I believe such a system is possible to improve and develop, and I would investigate all ways of combatting erosion and improving water quality.

**7. Dog Leash Law - What do you believe the EBRPD's policy should be regarding a leash law for dogs on district lands? Please explain your answer, including the issue of compatibility of off-leash dogs and park wildlife.**

I advocate on behalf of expanding community outreach through education and community services. Part of my vision is to educate dog owners on the importance of why dogs should be kept of in certain areas or remain on leashes in others. Dogs have been known to harm endangered species like the Red Tailed Frog, and in areas in which endangered species are vulnerable, dogs should be prohibited. Conversely, I do not believe that we should criminalize dog owners by imposing harsh fines. I have always stood on the philosophy that education is the solution to most of our problems, and I will apply that same philosophy to this issue.

**8. Altamont Wind Turbines -- EBRPD owns land at Altamont Pass that includes a wind farm. How would you attempt to reduce bird kills at the turbines on the district's land and help solve the larger problem of bird kills by the turbines Altamont?**

In my evolutionary biology coursework under prominent PhDs, I recall the UV sensitivity in regards to how varieties of bird species perceive their surroundings. I have always advocated for innovation, and I believe that if that has not yet been invented, that we must allocate funding in

Research and Development for evaluating the impact UV lighting might hold in preventing the deaths of birds. We could effectively solve this solution worldwide if we can discover a sustainable practice using UV lighting as a method to prevent bird kills. If we can implement such a strategy, then we can set a national and international precedent.

**9. Public Participation -- Though EBRPD spends millions of dollars annually on its public relations department it continues to receive criticism for being out-of-touch with supportive grassroots organizations and activists that are occasionally critical of District policies and operations. What policies would you help implement to foster communication and inclusiveness with those that have much to contribute?**

My platform is the most progressive on the issue of working with non-profit organizations, grassroots organizations, local government, and local organizations to work together in a coordinated effort to tackle many of the issues we are all attempting to solve. I have always stood by the philosophy that there is power in numbers, and if we can work together in a coordinated strategy, we tackle every issue negatively impacting our citizens. Government should be working in the best interest of its citizens and not on any personal desires to secure a “safe seat” between ambitious elections. I would head a sub-committee in which we are actively welcoming any organization to engage with us in conversation on issues impacting our communities. There are just 7 board members overseeing 120,000 acres of land, and though it has been historically a difficult feat to remain transparent, we must no longer utilize excuses. By adopting policies which promote and expand transparency, launching sub-committee to actually listen to the public and respond to their issues, and working in partnership with our allies, we can take a different approach to this legitimate criticism.

**10. Expansion and Development -- Should EBRPD focus its efforts on continuing to expand its land holding to protect open space from future development, or should it focus on just doing a good job of maintaining its current parklands?**

We must balance both goals. We all know that there is a housing crisis in the Bay Area, but our parks can never be compromised to address our growing population and the housing crisis. Therefore, we must proactively protect open space from future development while maintaining our parklands. By actively showing the public our dedication to preserve our lands, we send a message to the public in that our parks will continue to remain for future generations.

I do support in-fill housing in lands not governed by the parks district, while advocating for community spaces and cooperative community gardens in which land is collectively shared for a variety of purposes. Though in-fill housing of non-Parks’ land and cooperative land for community gardens are not directly relevant to the position, I would still do everything in my power to work with every organization striving to advance our community.

**11. Balance of Mountain Bikers and Equestrians -- Historically, mountain bikers are neglected and given the short end of the stick in conflicts with equestrians on trails. What will you do to promote mountain biking in the parks so that these users actually feel welcome and are given the maximum amount of trail usage possible?**

We must balance recreation with the biodiversity of our parks as well as safety for our hikers. At Redwood Regional, there are many steep hills in which mountain bikers could devastatingly harm hikers. In such areas, I do not advocate for mountain biking. However, in areas which do

not pose a direct risk to local flora and fauna, especially endangered varieties, I am open to exploring expanding mountain bike trails. We want everyone to feel welcome in our parks. As an openly gay person of color, I can probably understand this best out of all candidates in my race. I have always stood by the philosophy of all-inclusion, and I would do my best to balance welcoming Mountain Bikers amidst the inevitable constraints of ensuring the perpetual preservation of our lands by overseeing environmental taskforces on this issue.

**12. Endorsements -- Who has endorsed you so far? Who do you expect to endorse you?**

I have been endorsed by mayors such as Mayor Trish Herrera Spencer, Councilmembers like Kriss Worthington of Berkeley, school board members like Shanthi Gonzales of OUSD, and organizations such as the East bay Stonewall Democratic Club. I am awaiting notification, but I expect to have the following: Sierra Club and the East Bay Young Democrats.

**13. Campaign Funding -- How much money do you currently have for this race? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from? Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept (if any).**

I have received pledged donations exceeding \$10,000, but I need to raise at least \$60,000 to win in this race against my opponent who is very established and has much name recognition. I am throwing major fundraisers, and I would be honored to have the help of the Green Party to throw a specific Green party fundraiser.

**14. Anything Else? -- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?**

I have attended numerous Green Party events like the Brand New Congress, which is comprised of many former Bernie Sanders supporters who have switched their affiliation to the Green Party to support Dr. Jill Stein's candidacy. I admire Dr. Jill Stein, and every political ideology assessment shows that my views actually align with the Green Party. When it comes to environmental issues and combatting climate change, I stand with the Green Party. I believe that I am well justified to receive the Green Party's endorsement and as EBRPD Director for Ward #4, I would be honored to seek Green Party's counsel.