

Otis Lee Sanders for East Bay Regional Park District Board, Ward 4

QUESTIONNAIRE

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

2016 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

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

I feel that I can help make a difference for the better.

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 intend to pursue maintenance and wild life management. I believe the main priorities are to watch over budget, and management of the parks.

Also, community relations, and park neighbors.

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

I have worked in the the EBRPD system for over 30 years. I've also had prior experience in land development and fire abatement.

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

I favor wildlife protection and parks development where appropriate.

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?

Minimize the pesticides use so to avoid unintentional harm. I will look at current policy and make recommendations where necessary.

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

Minimize new growth of eucalyptus with annual abatement.

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?

I believe grazing helps with fire abatement. Regarding botanic and biotic they are both needed so it must be investigated to see how they can all exist together and help prevent water erosion. Regarding optimum level if grazing where appropriate and public access are accommodated, hiking, biking, etc.

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.

Existing laws are good, we must protect wildlife, creeks, and streams while at the same time allowing dog walkers to have space. Off leash dogs should only be allowed in designated areas and/or where wildlife is not affected.

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?

A warning system that the turbines are starting to scare the birds away. To reduce birds being killed, work with the turbine company to come up with better solutions.

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?

Spend time having more meetings with those who have ideas and concerns for the parks. Their voices are very important and the parks should make every effort to be inclusive with those concerned,

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?

I think they should focus on both.

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?

Continue to look at bikers concerns, and address them based on arriving at a medium where both parties can be accommodated.

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

The current board seat Mr. Doug Siden, I'm seeking endorsements from other groups I'm currently having interviews with.

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).

\$1000.00. Fund raising. I would refuse any money for favors or other unethical means.

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

I'm committed to the Parks system, the community, and I appreciate what the Parks stand for in our environment.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire.