

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR MEETING OF: April 1, 2025

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**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
**From:** Assistant City Manager/City Clerk  
 Mayor Zollman  
**Subject:** Consideration and Direction to Mayor or his/her Designated Representative for Voting for Various Boards and Committee Vacancies at the April 10, 2025 City Selection Committee and Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Board Meeting

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council provide Direction to Mayor or his/her Designated Representative for Voting for Various Boards and Committee Vacancies at the April 10, 2025 City Selection Committee and Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Board Meeting. City of Sebastopol will be host for the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Sonoma County Mayors’ and Councilmembers’ Association Board of Directors and the City Selection Committee is a collaboration of all Sonoma County cities with a goal of creating a united front to represent the strongest voice possible in support of city interests. The City Selection Committee and the Board of Directors for the Sonoma County Mayors’ and Councilmembers’ Association and the General Membership conducts meetings bi-monthly. On April 10, 2025, the City Selection Committee and Mayors and Councilmembers Board of Directors will make appointments to upcoming vacancies on various committees.

The Board of Directors of the Association shall be comprised of the Mayors of the member cities and the officers of the Association. The officers of the Association shall have no vote unless they are Mayors. In the event a Mayor is unable to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors, he/she shall designate another member, who must be a regular member of the Association, to serve as the representative, by letter delivered to the Secretary of the Association at the time of such meeting or prior thereto. In lieu of a letter being provided prior to each meeting, cities may instead provide a letter to the Chair City at the beginning of each term designating the approved alternates for their city. By such a letter, a Mayor may designate another councilperson to serve as his/her representative on all occasions when the Mayor is absent, or only for a particular meeting or meetings. The representative shall enjoy the same voting privilege during the Board of Directors’ meeting as would the Mayor he/she represents. In the absence of such a letter, no one shall be entitled to act as the representative of a Mayor. If there are no letters of interest, the by-laws of the Sonoma County Mayors’ and Councilmembers’ Association allows for nominations from the floor at the meeting.

The City Council approved the Designated Voting Delegate and Alternate(s) to Vote in the Mayor's Absence for the 2025 Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers City Selection Committee Meetings and Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Board and General Membership Association Meetings in the order as listed below:

1. Mayor Zollman
1. Vice Mayor Jill McLewis
2. Councilmember Phill Carter
3. Councilmember Neysa Hinton
4. Councilmember Sandra Maurer

A letter was submitted to the Chair City indicating the Designated Voting Delegates in accordance with the by laws for the Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association.

The remaining 2025 General Membership meetings are listed below for information.

April 10

City of Sebastopol

June 12

City of Sonoma

August 14

Town of Windsor

October 9

City of Cloverdale

**BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:**

The City Selection Committee and the Mayors and Councilmembers Association, which includes all the Sonoma County cities, fills vacancies on various local or regional Boards or Commissions when the terms of office expire or upon resignation. The Chair of the City Selection and Mayor and Councilmembers Association requested letters of interest for the openings listed below. Letter(s) of interest submitted are listed under each Opening.

Below is the final count for letters of interest received. The County has determined that the Measure H Oversight Committee appointments will be made by the Board of Directors. The letters will still be reviewed by each City Council and every Mayor will vote for their recommendation at the MCA Board meeting. There are two seats up for appointment. The two seats that are determined by the MCA Board will ultimately be appointed by the BOS. The Council will provide direction for two appointments from the following letters submitted.

**Measure H Oversight Committee – 2 Seats.** 3-year term starting in May. \*Note – you must be an independent County resident; active fire chiefs, active fire directors, County employees, or spouses to any such individuals may not serve on the committee. Meeting schedule details are pending.

Letters Received:

Jeff Okrepkie, Santa Rosa

Evelyn Mitchell, Healdsburg

Sandra Lowe, Sonoma

Neysa Hinton, Sebastopol

Jill McLewis, Sebastopol

**OTHER APPOINTMENTS:**

**North Bay Division LOCC, Executive Board – 2 Seats** (to fill expiring terms of Susan Harvey of Cotati and Janice Cader Thompson of Petaluma) 1 primary seat and 1 alternate seat. 2-year term starting in April.

Letters Received:

Susan Harvey, Cotati

Janice Cader Thompson, Petaluma

Stephen Zollman, Sebastopol

**Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Citizens Advisory Committee – 2 Seats** (to fill expiring terms of John Shribbs of Petaluma and Kevin McDonnell of Petaluma). 2-year term starting in April.

**Letters Received:**

John Shribbs, Petaluma

Marjorie Morgenstern, Cloverdale

Karen Nau, Petaluma

**Additional Direction Required:**

Recently, on January 31, 2025, the Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers City Selection called a special meeting for voting on an item for the California Coastal Commission for nominations to be submitted to the Senate Rules Committee. Due to the urgency of the special meeting, there was not enough time for the Council to consider direction to the Mayor for this meeting. In instances where there isn't sufficient time for the City Council to provide direction to the Mayor or Voting Delegate for voting on urgent items, such as was the case with the recent special meeting for the California Coastal Commission nominations, it is recommended that the Council authorize the Voting Delegate or their alternate(s) to have the authority to cast votes at a City Selection or Board Meeting on behalf of the City. However, this should be contingent upon a subsequent report back to the full Council to ensure transparency and accountability on the decisions made. This approach would provide flexibility for voting in time-sensitive situations.

**Staff Analysis:**

There is no staff analysis for this item. City Council should discuss letters of interest and provide direction.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:**

This item has been noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to schedule meeting date. The City has also used social media to promote and advertise the City Council Meeting Agenda Items.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact associated with providing direction to the Mayor or Voting Representative.

**RESTATED RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council Provide Direction to the Mayor or Voting Representative for Voting at the City Selection Committee Meeting and the Mayors and Councilmembers Board of Directors Meeting of April 10, 2025. It is also recommended that if late nominations are received, that the City Council direct the Mayor or Designated Voting Representative to:

1. Have the authority to vote on these late nominations or recommendations at the City Selection Committee and Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Board of Directors Association Meetings; or
2. Abstain from Vote; or
3. Direct that late nominations be returned to all Cities for review and recommendation to voting designate/alternates.

And

It is also recommended that the Council authorize the Voting Delegate or their alternate(s) to have the authority to cast votes at a City Selection or Board Meeting on behalf of the City in a situation where there is not enough time to allow for Council direction.

**CITY COUNCIL OPTIONS:**

There are no options as the Council has appointed voting representatives for these meetings to vote on items associated with the City Selection, Board and General Membership meetings.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Letters of Interest:

APPROVALS:

Department Head Approval: Approval Date 3-24-2025

CEQA Determination (Planning): Approval Date: 3-24-2025

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines.

Administrative Services (Financial): Approval Date: 3-24-2025

Costs authorized in City Approved Budget:  Yes  No  N/A

Account Code (if applicable)

City Attorney Approval Approval Date: 3-24-2025

City Manager Approval: Approval Date: 3-24-2025

February 14, 2025

Sonoma County Mayors' & Councilmembers' Association

**Re: Measure H Citizen's Oversight Committee – Letter of Interest**

Honorable Mayors and Councilmembers,

I am writing to express my strong interest in serving on the Measure H Oversight Committee and to seek your recommendation for this critical role. As someone who has firsthand experience with the devastation of wildfire and has dedicated years to recovery, resiliency and public safety efforts, I believe I am uniquely qualified to provide oversight and strategic guidance for Sonoma County's fire initiatives.

In the aftermath of the 2017 Tubbs Fire, which destroyed my home and forever changed our community, I co-founded *Coffey Strong*, a neighborhood-led recovery group that became a model for disaster response across the country. Through this work, I gained extensive experience navigating government processes, advocating for residents, and ensuring that recovery efforts remained transparent, efficient, and community driven. I have traveled the United States sharing this experience from Colorado, Paradise & Oregon to most recently Los Angeles.

Since then, I have continued my commitment to disaster resilience and public service as a Santa Rosa City Council Member, where I serve as Chair of the Public Safety Subcommittee. In this role, I have worked closely with local, state, and federal agencies to secure resources for fire prevention, emergency preparedness, and long-term recovery. I have also been a strong advocate for expanding firefighting resources, improving evacuation planning, and ensuring that communities across Sonoma County have access to critical disaster response funding.

Additionally, I am a founding board member of the Santa Rosa Fire Foundation, an organization dedicated to supporting firefighters and enhancing wildfire prevention and emergency response efforts in our region. Through this work, I have gained valuable insight into the challenges facing our fire agencies and the opportunities we have to improve public safety through strategic investment and community collaboration.

My background in both community leadership and public policy equips me with the knowledge and perspective needed to serve effectively on the Measure H Oversight Committee. I understand the importance of responsible fiscal management, clear communication with the public, and ensuring that the investments made through Measure H truly enhance the safety and resilience of our communities.

I would be honored to contribute my experience and leadership to this important committee. I respectfully ask for your recommendation and support as I seek this appointment, and I welcome any opportunity to discuss how we can work together to strengthen Sonoma County's disaster preparedness and response efforts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jeff Okrepkie  
Councilmember, City of Santa Rosa  
[jokrepkie@srcity.org](mailto:jokrepkie@srcity.org) | 707.531.0056

CC: Santa Rosa City Council and City Manager



# CITY OF HEALDSBURG

MAYOR EVELYN L. MITCHELL

401 Grove Street  
Healdsburg, CA 95448-4723

Phone: (707) 431-3317  
Fax: (707) 431-3321

Visit us at [www.healdsburg.gov](http://www.healdsburg.gov)

February 24, 2025

Clerk of the Board  
County of Sonoma, Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Dr., Room 100A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Attn: Kyreen Gonzalez, [Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org)  
Cc: Lauren Berges, [scmcaclerk@gmail.com](mailto:scmcaclerk@gmail.com)

## RE: Appointment to the Measure H Oversight Committee

Dear Honorable Mayors and Councilmembers:

I am writing to express my interest and request your support for my appointment to one of the two Measure H Oversight Committee seats appointed by the Sonoma County Mayors & Councilmembers Association.

Measure H has given us an opportunity to make transformational investments in fire prevention and protection. I believe my skills and experience align well with the goals of the Measure H Oversight Committee.

Serving on the Healdsburg City Council for the last six years, a city with its own independent Fire Department, I have developed a keen understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing our first responders. I have learned first-hand, through the numerous fires that have affected Healdsburg in the last several years, the toll fires take on a community. My dedication to public service employees and my ability to work collaboratively with diverse teams make me confident I can bring an energetic perspective to the Committee. My goal would be to work in partnership with Sonoma County's cities and fire districts to ensure they are empowered to develop local and regional strategies to best meet the goals of Measure H and, ultimately, to best enhance the safety of our communities.

As a Finance/Accounting Professional, with over twenty years of experience in finance, I bring a deep understanding and knowledge of what it means to provide transparency and ensure fiscal accountability. These skills will be invaluable when reviewing the receipts and expenditures and the annual reports from each Agency's use of Measure H.

It would be an honor to put my experience to work for you on the Measure H Oversight Committee and I humbly ask for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray rectangular background. The signature reads "Evelyn L. Mitchell" in a cursive script.

Evelyn L. Mitchell, Mayor  
City of Healdsburg

No. 1 The Plaza  
Sonoma, California 95476-6618  
Phone (707) 938-3681 Fax (707) 938-8775  
E-Mail: [cityhall@sonomacity.org](mailto:cityhall@sonomacity.org)



Aswan, Arab Republic of Egypt  
Chambolle-Musigny, France  
Greve In Chianti, Italy  
Kaniv, Ukraine  
Patzcuaro, Mexico  
Penglai, China  
Tokaj, Hungary

March 6, 2025

Clerk of the Board  
County of Sonoma, Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Dr., Room 100A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
**Attn:** Kyreen Gonzalez, [Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org)

Dear Board Members:

I respectfully request your support for my appointment to the Measure H Oversight Committee.

As a Councilmember and past Mayor, I have had the opportunity to work closely with the Sonoma Valley Fire District and Chief Akre. Sonoma is unique in that we contract with the district rather than having a city-run fire department. As we all know, Sonoma Valley is home to some of the most fire-prone areas, as identified in the recent Cal Fire report. Ensuring strong fire prevention and emergency services remain the top concern of our residents.

For the past two years, I have also had the privilege of serving on the LAFCO Board, where I have been involved in discussions on multiple fire district consolidations. This experience has given me a deep understanding of fire district needs throughout the county. Additionally, at the state level, I have worked alongside the California Professional Firefighters on key statewide ballot measures to increase funding for fire districts.

I am confident that my experience at the local, county, and state levels will allow me to contribute valuable leadership to the Oversight Committee, strengthening our collective efforts to keep Sonoma safe, prepared, and well-funded.

I would sincerely appreciate your support in endorsing my candidacy. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss my qualifications further. I can be reached at (707) 337-3796 or via email at [smarchele@gmail.com](mailto:smarchele@gmail.com).

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your support.

Best regards,

Sandra Lowe  
Councilmember

c: Lauren Berges, [scmcaclerk@gmail.com](mailto:scmcaclerk@gmail.com)





March 14, 2025

**City of Sebastopol**

Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmember's Association  
c/o Mary Gourley

Re: Request for Appointment to the Measure H Oversight Committee

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I seek your support for my appointment by the Mayor and Councilmembers of Sonoma County to the Measure H Oversight Commission. It would be my honor to serve and represent our nine cities and our citizens on this oversight committee that has responsibility to review annual audits. These annual reports will include positions, equipment, and facilities funded, including activities related to fire prevention ensuring compliance with requirements of the Measure H sales tax.

I have been an elected councilmember in the City of Sebastopol since 2016. During that time my expertise in budgeting includes having served on my city's annual in-depth budgeting process for 5+ years. I also have served on various sub-committees related to our fire department over the past eight years as we discussed moving from a city department to joining the neighboring fire district of Gold Ridge Fire Protection District. Through this process, I have grown in my knowledge related to fire departments and believe this uniquely qualifies me as the right fit for one of the two appointments representing Sonoma County cities on this new oversight position.

I will come to this appointment position with experience in both city managed fire departments as well as a deep understanding of fire districts. The nine Sonoma County cities are almost equally split between the two types of structuring. Currently, the cities of Healdsburg, Petaluma, Rohnert Park and Santa Rosa have municipal fire departments, and the cities of Cloverdale, Cotati, Sonoma and Windsor are part of various fire districts. I currently sit on the Sebastopol Fire Sub-Committee and have spent hours in committee working on Sebastopol's plan to go from a municipal fire department run by City of Sebastopol to becoming part of the Gold Ridge Fire District. Sebastopol is going through the LAFCO process currently hoping to finalize the re-organization process with Gold Ridge Fire District by July 1, 2025.

Measure H funding is so important to our community and effort to increase fire services. Estimated at 62 million each year, annual reporting and oversight of these new dollars is a promise to the community and ourselves. With the past fires we have faced in recent years locally, not to mention throughout the State of California., additional dollars help us fund needed expansion of services due to changing climate conditions. The tax measure revenue with oversight assures funds to vital fire protection services and additional personnel and building upgrades help our community have the funds needed to provide vital fire services.

It would be my honor to have your support for appointment to the Measure H Oversight Committee, and I respectfully ask for your vote.

Sincerely,

Neysa Hinton  
Councilmember, City of Sebastopol  
[nhinton@cityofsebastopol.gov](mailto:nhinton@cityofsebastopol.gov)  
(707) 890-1753



Lauren Berges &lt;scmcaclerk@gmail.com&gt;

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**Measure H Oversight Committee**

1 message

**Jill McLewis** <jmclewis@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Fri, Mar 14, 2025 at 10:54 PM

To: Lauren Berges &lt;scmcaclerk@gmail.com&gt;, Mary Gourley &lt;mgourley@cityofsebastopol.gov&gt;

Honorable Mayors, Vice Mayors, and Councilmembers:

I'm writing to express my interest in serving on the Measure H Oversight Committee. Working on this committee would be an extension of the work I've been doing as a member of the Sebastopol/Gold Ridge ad hoc committee which has been considering and now working toward consolidation after a number of years. This work has allowed me to gain a deep understanding of finances, staffing, equipment, and facility needs of fire departments. I am well-versed in the budgeting process and understand the complexities involved in managing fire districts. Additionally, my familiarity with levels of call service, the safety our community deserves, and the impact of these factors on consumer insurance rates equips me with a comprehensive perspective on the operational and financial challenges facing our fire services.

Moreover, I've gained significant experience with the consolidation and LAFCO process. This experience has really given me a clear understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with merging resources and improving service delivery. I believe this background uniquely positions me to provide valuable oversight and guidance as part of the Measure H Oversight Committee.

I am committed to ensuring that Measure H funds are used effectively and transparently to strengthen our fire services and enhance public safety. It would be an honor to serve and contribute my experience and insights on the committee.

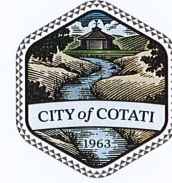
Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,  
Jill McLewis  
Vice Mayor  
City of Sebastopol

# City of Cotati

Sonoma County, California

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February 24, 2025

2025 Chair City, City of Rohnert Park  
Sonoma County Mayors' and Councilmembers' Association  
130 Avram Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
**Attn:** Lauren Berges, MCA Clerk [scmcaclerk@gmail.com](mailto:scmcaclerk@gmail.com)

**Re: Request for Reappointment to the North Bay Division LOCC Executive Board**

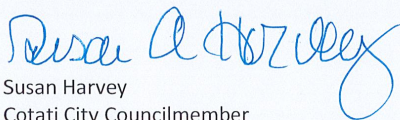
Dear Honorable Mayors and Council Members,

I am submitting this letter to you to advance my candidacy for reappointment to the above position by the Mayors' and Councilmembers' Association Board of Directors.

I have enjoyed representing Sonoma County on the NB Division LOCC Executive Board since 2010. It was my pleasure to represent Sonoma County as President of the NB Division LOCC Executive Board for 2022. During my tenure, as President, I began monthly coffee chats to allow Division members more opportunities to connect and share ideas about subjects impacting our communities. I strive to ensure that the programs are appropriate and timely for our cities. I have been active in the planning for the programs, participated in League events and shared information on League work that impacts our cities. I continue to support the needs and concerns of our communities in meetings with our legislators. It has also been my honor to represent the NB Division on multiple Policy Committee's which help provide input to various bills that move through the legislation.

I respectfully ask for your support of my request for reappointment.

Sincerely,

  
Susan Harvey  
Cotati City Councilmember

Cc: Kevin Patterson

201 W. Sierra Ave, Cotati, CA 94931 | (707) 792-4600 | [www.cotaticity.gov](http://www.cotaticity.gov) | @cityofcotati



**Janice Cader-Thompson**  
Councilmember

## CITY OF PETALUMA

POST OFFICE BOX 61  
PETALUMA, CA 94953-0061

March 8, 2025

Lauren Berges, MCA Clerk

RE: North Bay Division LOCC, Executive Board Appointment

Dear Mayor and Council members,

I am asking your support by reappointing me for the North Bay Division of LOCC, Executive Board. As a board member I will continue to advocate on Local revenues, Climate Change, Infrastructure, Homeless and Housing and Legislative updates. As past President of the North Bay League Division, 2002, my theme was Working Together. I will continue working with my colleagues in the North Bay to strengthen our voice.

I would appreciate your support to re-appoint me to the North Bay Division LOCC, Executive Board. If you have questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,  
Janice Cader Thompson  
707 774-5912

*Petaluma City Hall  
11 English Street  
Petaluma, CA 94952*

*Phone (707) 778-4345*

*E-Mail:  
jcadertompson@cityofpetaluma.org*



**Stephen Zollman**  
Mayor

**City of Sebastopol**  
7120 Bodega Avenue  
Sebastopol, CA 95472  
[www.cityofsebastopol.gov](http://www.cityofsebastopol.gov)

March 5, 2025

Chair Giudice  
Sonoma County Mayors' and  
Councilmembers' Association  
130 Ayram Avenue  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
Attn: Lauren Berges, MCA Clerk  
[scmcacleark@gmail.com](mailto:scmcacleark@gmail.com)

**Re: Appointment to North Bay Division  
LOCC, Executive Board**

Dear Chair Giudice and Mayors and Councilmembers' Board Members,

I am excited to submit this letter of interest for an appointment to North Bay Division LOCC Executive Board.

I have served on the Cal Cities Revenue and Taxation Policy committee and am starting my second year on the Community Services Policy Committee. Through these policy committees, I have learned a lot and have developed connections that could elevate the work of our division.

The mission of our division states that we are to develop regional informational programs and carry out grassroots activities to support specific legislative, regulatory or ballot measure goals. Under our new Administration, it is important that our programming and grassroots efforts are relevant and serve the needs of our marginalized

communities, especially our brown and trans communities. Continuing my intersectional work, I have developed contacts within these communities that could help shape our programs. Those programs could then help mobilize legislative efforts.

Representation continues to matter. To my knowledge, I am the only elected who is a Veteran and remain one of only two queer electeds. I also come from a city that is not on the 101 corridor. Geographical diversity is an important part of diversity.

It would be an honor to serve. If anyone has questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Signed

Stephen Zollman

Sebastopol Mayor

szollman@cityofsebastopol.gov

2/15/25, 9:54 PM

Gmail - letter of interest for AGOS Advisory Committee



Lauren Berges <scmcaclerk@gmail.com>

**letter of interest for AGOS Advisory Committee**

2 messages

**John Shribbs** <jshribbs@cityofpetaluma.org> Sat, Feb 15, 2025 at 5:51 PM  
 To: Lauren Berges <scmcaclerk@gmail.com>  
 Cc: Peggy Flynn <PFlynn@cityofpetaluma.org>, Kevin McDonnell <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org>

**Attn:**  
 Lauren Berges, MCA Clerk [scmcaclerk@gmail.com](mailto:scmcaclerk@gmail.com)  
 2025 Chair City, City of Rohnert Park  
 Sonoma County Mayors' and Councilmembers' Association  
 130 Avram Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Lauren et al,  
 I am interested in continuing my work with the Ag and Open Space Advisory Committee for another 2-year term.  
 I am currently vice chair of the committee and, if I continue, will probably be nominated for one of the three executive committee positions.

My background includes a PhD in Horticulture, MS in Pest Management, BS in Biology, and Teaching Credential for teaching science in public high schools. My PhD thesis was on groundcover management in apple tree orchards and have worked in cotton, road and transmission line vegetation management, multiple horticulture crops, sugar beets, and riparian/wetland habitats. I have also been involved with local environmental nonprofits for over 25 years including Friends of the Petaluma River and Petaluma Wetlands Alliance. I also helped found ReLeaf Petaluma and am on their board and we achieved planting our 2000<sup>th</sup> tree recently. Currently I am the chair of Maintenance and Restoration for PWA Board and actively working on improving our public Petaluma wetlands.

My work experience includes about 25 years in the pesticide industry and 17 years teaching high school science. I built a native plant nursery and permaculture outdoor classroom at Casa Grande HS while teaching there. During my 12-year tenure doing research for an international AgriChem corporation, I worked on international herbicide development with emphasis on the corn and soybean markets.

I want to advance the opportunities that AG and OS can provide. Please consider me for another 2-year term.  
 John

**Kevin McDonnell** <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org> Sat, Feb 15, 2025 at 7:53 PM  
 To: John Shribbs <jshribbs@cityofpetaluma.org>, Lauren Berges <scmcaclerk@gmail.com>  
 Cc: Peggy Flynn <PFlynn@cityofpetaluma.org>

Good on you. I'm glad you're applying. I will likely not apply for Ag & OS this cycle.

Kevin

**From:** John Shribbs <jshribbs@cityofpetaluma.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2025 5:51 PM  
**To:** Lauren Berges <scmcaclerk@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Peggy Flynn <PFlynn@cityofpetaluma.org>; Kevin McDonnell <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org>  
**Subject:** letter of interest for AGOS Advisory Committee

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**Dear Selection Committee,**

I am writing to express my strong interest in joining the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Citizens Advisory Committee. As someone deeply passionate about land conservation and agricultural preservation, I would be honored to contribute to the committee's vital work in protecting our region's open spaces and farmlands.

Growing up in Marin County, I was fortunate to live at the end of a quiet street, adjacent to a privately owned parcel of land. When that land was eventually designated as Open Space, it was a transformative moment for the entire community. The preservation not only safeguarded the natural beauty of the area but also provided a shared space for hiking, gatherings, and picnics. This experience reinforced my belief in the immense value of Open Space—not only for its scenic and recreational benefits but also for its critical role in environmental conservation.

Agricultural preservation is equally essential, as it sustains biodiversity, strengthens local communities, and supports the economy. Protected farmland fosters habitats for wildlife, enhances soil health, reduces water pollution, and ensures a reliable local food supply. Moreover, it sustains countless jobs within the agricultural and food sectors, reinforcing the importance of preserving these lands for future generations.

I am eager to play an active role in safeguarding Sonoma County's Open Space and farmland, ensuring that these invaluable resources remain protected for years to come. Agriculture is at the heart of our region's identity, and as a key contributor to the nation's food and wine industries, Sonoma County must continue to uphold its legacy of sustainability and responsible land stewardship.

I would be honored to serve on this committee and contribute my perspective, dedication, and experience to further its mission. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to support this important work.

**Sincerely,**

Marjorie Morgenstern  
Councilmember, City of Cloverdale





# CITY OF PETALUMA

POST OFFICE BOX 61  
PETALUMA, CA 94953-0061

Karen Nau  
Vice Mayor, District 3

February 18, 2025

SCMCA City Selection Committee  
c/o Michelle Norman & Kyreen Gonzalez  
County of Sonoma, Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Dr. Room 100A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Letter of Interest

To Whom it May Concern,

Please accept my request for your support for my appointment to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. Agriculture, water, farmlands, wildlife and quality of life in Sonoma County is very important to me. I would love to have an opportunity to contribute to future decisions in this area.

Raised on a local Family Farm in Petaluma, I learned the importance of Agriculture and education of sustainable agriculture for future generations. My family's land is near the Petaluma Urban Growth Boundary, so it was very important for me to protect it by supporting the recent ballot measure to expand the UGB for another 50 years, as well as volunteering to help defeat Measure J, which would have harmed our local agricultural businesses and put our local farms/ranches in jeopardy.

In the past, I have raised awareness to the importance to our local State Parks and keeping them open to the public. My love of the community and history earned me the Petaluma 1995 Good Egg Award. Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park is one of the County's first ranchos, owned by General Vallejo. It is an example of how important Agricultural lands are to our area, and protecting and maintaining the waterways for wildlife etc.

My first term on the Petaluma City Council was 2004-2008. During that term, the City approved a 20-year General Plan. In 2022, I was elected again, as the District 3 Councilmember and, again, Petaluma is working to finalize another 20-year General Plan. Looking to the future, yet remembering the past, is important to me. Quality of life for my family, friends, and neighbors is my commitment, as I serve on the City Council. I would very much like to have an opportunity to serve on a County Committee too.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my name to this County committee. I ask for your support as a new member. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (707) 529-2487 or [knau@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:knau@cityofpetaluma.org).

Sincerely,

Karen Nau  
Vice Mayor, Dist. 3  
City of Petaluma

Petaluma City Hall  
11 English Street  
Petaluma, CA 94952

Phone (707) 778-4345  
or (707) 529-2487

E-Mail  
[knau@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:knau@cityofpetaluma.org)



February 14, 2025

Sonoma County Mayors' & Councilmembers' Association

**Re: Measure H Citizen's Oversight Committee – Letter of Interest**

Honorable Mayors and Councilmembers,

I am writing to express my strong interest in serving on the Measure H Oversight Committee and to seek your recommendation for this critical role. As someone who has firsthand experience with the devastation of wildfire and has dedicated years to recovery, resiliency and public safety efforts, I believe I am uniquely qualified to provide oversight and strategic guidance for Sonoma County's fire initiatives.

In the aftermath of the 2017 Tubbs Fire, which destroyed my home and forever changed our community, I co-founded *Coffey Strong*, a neighborhood-led recovery group that became a model for disaster response across the country. Through this work, I gained extensive experience navigating government processes, advocating for residents, and ensuring that recovery efforts remained transparent, efficient, and community driven. I have traveled the United States sharing this experience from Colorado, Paradise & Oregon to most recently Los Angeles.

Since then, I have continued my commitment to disaster resilience and public service as a Santa Rosa City Council Member, where I serve as Chair of the Public Safety Subcommittee. In this role, I have worked closely with local, state, and federal agencies to secure resources for fire prevention, emergency preparedness, and long-term recovery. I have also been a strong advocate for expanding firefighting resources, improving evacuation planning, and ensuring that communities across Sonoma County have access to critical disaster response funding.

Additionally, I am a founding board member of the Santa Rosa Fire Foundation, an organization dedicated to supporting firefighters and enhancing wildfire prevention and emergency response efforts in our region. Through this work, I have gained valuable insight into the challenges facing our fire agencies and the opportunities we have to improve public safety through strategic investment and community collaboration.

My background in both community leadership and public policy equips me with the knowledge and perspective needed to serve effectively on the Measure H Oversight Committee. I understand the importance of responsible fiscal management, clear communication with the public, and ensuring that the investments made through Measure H truly enhance the safety and resilience of our communities.

I would be honored to contribute my experience and leadership to this important committee. I respectfully ask for your recommendation and support as I seek this appointment, and I welcome any opportunity to discuss how we can work together to strengthen Sonoma County's disaster preparedness and response efforts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jeff Okrepkie  
Councilmember, City of Santa Rosa  
[jokrepkie@srcity.org](mailto:jokrepkie@srcity.org) | 707.531.0056

CC: Santa Rosa City Council and City Manager

City Manager's Office  
100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room10  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
Phone: 707-543-3010 Fax: 707-543-3030



**CITY OF HEALDSBURG**  
MAYOR EVELYN L. MITCHELL

401 Grove Street  
Healdsburg, CA 95448-4723

Phone: (707) 431-3317  
Fax: (707) 431-3321

Visit us at [www.healdsburg.gov](http://www.healdsburg.gov)

February 24, 2025

Clerk of the Board  
County of Sonoma, Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Dr., Room 100A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Attn: Kyreen Gonzalez, [Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org)  
Cc: Lauren Berges, [scmcaclerk@gmail.com](mailto:scmcaclerk@gmail.com)

**RE: Appointment to the Measure H Oversight Committee**

Dear Honorable Mayors and Councilmembers:

I am writing to express my interest and request your support for my appointment to one of the two Measure H Oversight Committee seats appointed by the Sonoma County Mayors & Councilmembers Association.

Measure H has given us an opportunity to make transformational investments in fire prevention and protection. I believe my skills and experience align well with the goals of the Measure H Oversight Committee.

Serving on the Healdsburg City Council for the last six years, a city with its own independent Fire Department, I have developed a keen understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing our first responders. I have learned first-hand, through the numerous fires that have affected Healdsburg in the last several years, the toll fires take on a community. My dedication to public service employees and my ability to work collaboratively with diverse teams make me confident I can bring an energetic perspective to the Committee. My goal would be to work in partnership with Sonoma County's cities and fire districts to ensure they are empowered to develop local and regional strategies to best meet the goals of Measure H and, ultimately, to best enhance the safety of our communities.

As a Finance/Accounting Professional, with over twenty years of experience in finance, I bring a deep understanding and knowledge of what it means to provide transparency and ensure fiscal accountability. These skills will be invaluable when reviewing the receipts and expenditures and the annual reports from each Agency's use of Measure H.

Appointment to the Measure H Oversight Committee  
February 24, 2025  
Page 2

It would be an honor to put my experience to work for you on the Measure H Oversight Committee and I humbly ask for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Evelyn L. Mitchell". The signature is written in black ink on a light gray rectangular background.

Evelyn L. Mitchell, Mayor  
City of Healdsburg

# City of Sonoma

No. 1 The Plaza  
Sonoma, California 95476-6618  
Phone (707) 938-3681 Fax (707) 938-8775  
E-Mail: [cityhall@sonomacity.org](mailto:cityhall@sonomacity.org)



## Sonoma Sister Cities:

Aswan, Arab Republic of Egypt  
Chambolle-Musigny, France  
Greve In Chianti, Italy  
Kaniv, Ukraine  
Patzcuaro, Mexico  
Penglai, China  
Tokaj, Hungary

March 6, 2025

Clerk of the Board  
County of Sonoma, Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Dr., Room 100A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
**Attn:** Kyreen Gonzalez, [Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org)

Dear Board Members:

I respectfully request your support for my appointment to the Measure H Oversight Committee.

As a Councilmember and past Mayor, I have had the opportunity to work closely with the Sonoma Valley Fire District and Chief Akre. Sonoma is unique in that we contract with the district rather than having a city-run fire department. As we all know, Sonoma Valley is home to some of the most fire-prone areas, as identified in the recent Cal Fire report. Ensuring strong fire prevention and emergency services remain the top concern of our residents.

For the past two years, I have also had the privilege of serving on the LAFCO Board, where I have been involved in discussions on multiple fire district consolidations. This experience has given me a deep understanding of fire district needs throughout the county. Additionally, at the state level, I have worked alongside the California Professional Firefighters on key statewide ballot measures to increase funding for fire districts.

I am confident that my experience at the local, county, and state levels will allow me to contribute valuable leadership to the Oversight Committee, strengthening our collective efforts to keep Sonoma safe, prepared, and well-funded.

I would sincerely appreciate your support in endorsing my candidacy. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss my qualifications further. I can be reached at (707) 337-3796 or via email at [smarchele@gmail.com](mailto:smarchele@gmail.com).

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your support.

Best regards,

Sandra Lowe  
Councilmember

c: Lauren Berges, [scmcaclerk@gmail.com](mailto:scmcaclerk@gmail.com)

**City Council**

Councilmember Neysa Hinton



**City of Sebastopol**

March 14, 2025

Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmember's Association  
c/o Mary Gourley

Re: Request for Appointment to the Measure H Oversight Committee

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I seek your support for my appointment by the Mayor and Councilmembers of Sonoma County to the Measure H Oversight Commission. It would be my honor to serve and represent our nine cities and our citizens on this oversight committee that has responsibility to review annual audits. These annual reports will include positions, equipment, and facilities funded, including activities related to fire prevention ensuring compliance with requirements of the Measure H sales tax.

I have been an elected councilmember in the City of Sebastopol since 2016. During that time my expertise in budgeting includes having served on my city's annual in-depth budgeting process for 5+ years. I also have served on various sub-committees related to our fire department over the past eight years as we discussed moving from a city department to joining the neighboring fire district of Gold Ridge Fire Protection District. Through this process, I have grown in my knowledge related to fire departments and believe this uniquely qualifies me as the right fit for one of the two appointments representing Sonoma County cities on this new oversight position.

I will come to this appointment position with experience in both city managed fire departments as well as a deep understanding of fire districts. The nine Sonoma County cities are almost equally split between the two types of structuring. Currently, the cities of Healdsburg, Petaluma, Rohnert Park and Santa Rosa have municipal fire departments, and the cities of Cloverdale, Cotati, Sonoma and Windsor are part of various fire districts. I currently sit on the Sebastopol Fire Sub-Committee and have spent hours in committee working on Sebastopol's plan to go from a municipal fire department run by City of Sebastopol to becoming part of the Gold Ridge Fire District. Sebastopol is going through the LAFCO process currently hoping to finalize the re-organization process with Gold Ridge Fire District by July 1, 2025.

Measure H funding is so important to our community and effort to increase fire services. Estimated at 62 million each year, annual reporting and oversight of these new dollars is a promise to the community and ourselves. With the past fires we have faced in recent years locally, not to mention throughout the State of California., additional dollars help us fund needed expansion of services due to changing climate conditions. The tax measure revenue with oversight assures funds to vital fire protection services and additional personnel and building upgrades help our community have the funds needed to provide vital fire services.

It would be my honor to have your support for appointment to the Measure H Oversight Committee, and I respectfully ask for your vote.

Sincerely,

Neysa Hinton  
Councilmember, City of Sebastopol  
[nhinton@cityofsebastopol.gov](mailto:nhinton@cityofsebastopol.gov)  
(707) 890-1753

7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, California 95472 Tel. 707.823.1153 Fax. 707.823.1135  
[www.cityofsebastopol.org](http://www.cityofsebastopol.org)

3/16/25, 11:06 AM

Gmail - Measure H Oversight Committee



Lauren Berges &lt;scmcaclerk@gmail.com&gt;

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**Measure H Oversight Committee**

1 message

**Jill McLewis** <jmclewis@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Fri, Mar 14, 2025 at 10:54 PM

To: Lauren Berges &lt;scmcaclerk@gmail.com&gt;, Mary Gourley &lt;mgourley@cityofsebastopol.gov&gt;

Honorable Mayors, Vice Mayors, and Councilmembers:

I'm writing to express my interest in serving on the Measure H Oversight Committee. Working on this committee would be an extension of the work I've been doing as a member of the Sebastopol/Gold Ridge ad hoc committee which has been considering and now working toward consolidation after a number of years. This work has allowed me to gain a deep understanding of finances, staffing, equipment, and facility needs of fire departments. I am well-versed in the budgeting process and understand the complexities involved in managing fire districts. Additionally, my familiarity with levels of call service, the safety our community deserves, and the impact of these factors on consumer insurance rates equips me with a comprehensive perspective on the operational and financial challenges facing our fire services.

Moreover, I've gained significant experience with the consolidation and LAFCO process. This experience has really given me a clear understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with merging resources and improving service delivery. I believe this background uniquely positions me to provide valuable oversight and guidance as part of the Measure H Oversight Committee.

I am committed to ensuring that Measure H funds are used effectively and transparently to strengthen our fire services and enhance public safety. It would be an honor to serve and contribute my experience and insights on the committee.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,  
Jill McLewis  
Vice Mayor  
City of Sebastopol

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/?ik=8cbee50ff6&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f:1826638367924046131&simpl=msg-f:1826638367924046131> 1/1