

# Advisory Committee

## San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

List of Nominees for Advisory Committee  
Responses as of July 22, 2009

### **Steve Abbors**

General Manager  
MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District

*Stephen E. Abbors began his appointment as the District's new General Manager on April 14, 2008.*

*An East Bay native, Abbors earned his Bachelor's of Science and Master's of Arts degrees in Biological Sciences from California State University, East Bay. He began his professional career as a naturalist with the East Bay Regional Park District, and in 1984 accepted a position with the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), the second largest water utility in the state. As Manager of Watershed and Recreation, he guided decisions regarding land management and restoration, acquisition, and recreational use for 28,000 acres in the East Bay.*

### **Dion Aroner**

Partner  
Aroner, Jewel & Ellis

*Dion Aroner is a nationally recognized expert on the California state budget and issues concerning human services. She represented the cities of Richmond, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville and Oakland in the State Assembly from 1996 2002. She served as Chief of Staff to her predecessor, Tom Bates, where she became an undisputed expert on welfare reform, foster care, and realignment. During her tenure as Assemblywoman, she authored groundbreaking legislation on welfare and foster care reform, as well as local government finance, school finance, juvenile justice, transportation, and child care. She was appointed by the Assembly Speaker as Democratic Caucus Chair during the last two years of her time in the Assembly.*

### **Cindy Chavez**

Executive Officer  
South Bay Labor Council

*Cindy Chavez attended San Jose State University, where her love of politics and commitment to community led her to a career in public service.*

*Directly after graduating from San Jose State University, Chavez became active in the San Jose community. She worked as a budget and policy aide on health, human services and transportation issues at the Board of Supervisors. Four years later, Chavez joined the South Bay Labor Council as Staff Director. During her tenure there, she helped to create and lead Working Partnerships USA; a collaboration between business and civic groups on issues affecting working families*

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### **Patrick Congdon**

General Manager  
Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

*The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority has preserved 14,494 acres since the mid-1990s for hiking, biking, horse-riding and wildlife habitat, including land around Calero Reservoir, adjacent to Alum Rock Park and near Henry Coe State Park. It also has made grants to cities for bike paths and urban parks.*

*Darbee earned his Bachelor's degree in Economics from Dartmouth College and an M.B.A. from the Amos Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. He has also successfully completed the Nuclear Reactor Technology Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.*

*Darbee is a Director of PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company. He also is a member of the California Business Roundtable, the Financial Executives Institute, and is on the Board of the Committee on JOBS.*

### **Grant Davis**

Assistant General Manager  
Sonoma County Water Agency

*Grant Davis is responsible for management activities related to the Agency's core functions of water delivery, wastewater management, flood protection, and environmental sustainability. Prior to joining the Agency, Mr. Davis was Executive Director of The Bay Institute, a respected science based nonprofit, dedicated to protecting the San Francisco Bay Delta Watershed and improving water management in California. Mr. Davis also worked for Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey and was also an aide to State Senator Milton Marks.*

*Mr. Davis currently serves on the University of California President's Advisory Commission for the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He was a member of the Governor of California's Water Plan Advisory Commission, Chair of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture and Vice Chair of the Bay Area Water Forum. Mr. Davis received his BA in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley.*

### **Ann Draper**

Santa Clara Valley Water District

*Ann Draper is currently Assistant Operating Officer at Santa Clara Valley Water District. Prior to that position; she was Watershed Programs Assistant Officer at the District. Before SCVWD, she was Planning Director for Santa Clara County Planning, supervising long-range policy planning and implementing strategies, including land-use and zoning administrative functions. In addition to her five years with the Planning Office, Draper's extensive experience includes 10 years with the City of Sunnyvale, 10 years with the City of Fremont, and three years with the City of Santa Clara.*

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*Draper earned a Bachelor's degree in Geography with a Minor in Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a Master's degree in Urban Planning from San Jose State University.*

### **Beth Huning**

SFBJV Coordinator  
San Francisco Bay Joint Venture

*Beth Huning is the Coordinator of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, a public-private partnership to acquire, restore and enhance wetlands. She has worked for more than 20 years to promote conservation and restoration of wetlands in the Bay area and throughout the West. She holds a B.A. in Geography and is a Fellow with Stanford University's Center for Social Innovation, Graduate School of Business.*

### **Ellen Johnck**

Executive Director  
Bay Planning Coalition

*Ellen Johnck has been with the Bay Planning Coalition for nearly two decades and is active in the SFEP management committee. She represents the port interests and maritime industry and is interested in serving on the Advisory Committee.*

### **Johan Klehs**

*Johan Klehs grew up in San Leandro, He attended California State University Hayward .*

*Mr. Klehs served for 12 years in the State Assembly until 1994, when he was elected to the Board of Equalization. He was re elected in 1998. Mr. Klehs served years as Chair of the Board of Equalization and served on the Franchise Tax Board.*

### **David Lewis**

Executive Director  
Save The Bay

*As Executive Director of Save The Bay, David Lewis has been San Francisco Bay's top advocate for more than a decade. David was born and raised in the Bay Area. Prior to joining Save The Bay, he devoted 14 years to work for nuclear arms control in Washington, D.C., including in the U.S. Senate, and also worked on election campaigns across the country.*

### **Sally Lieber**

*Sally Lieber was the sponsor of AB 2954 and advocate for the Authority concept from 2007. She was termed out of the State Assembly in 2008 and is currently serving as a community advocate.*

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*Sally Lieber was elected to the California State Assembly in November 2002 to represent the 22nd Assembly District. Before her election to the State Assembly, Sally served as a Councilwoman and Mayor of the City of Mountain View and as a Santa Clara County Commissioner.*

*She has been active in a number community organizations including serving as a Board member of the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, the National Women's Political Caucus and the YWCA.*

### **Cynthia Murray**

President & CEO

North Bay Leadership Council

*Cynthia Murray is the President and CEO of North Bay Leadership Council (NBLC). NBLC represents employers located in Sonoma and Marin Counties who are working together for regional prosperity and quality of life.*

*Recently retired from the Marin County Board of Supervisors, Murray represented North Marin for eight years. As Supervisor, Cynthia's top priorities were improving mobility and reducing congestion, balancing a healthy economy with a healthy environment, ensuring the well being and quality of life for seniors and those living with disabilities, and protecting public safety.*

*Prior to becoming Supervisor, Murray served seven years on the Novato City Council, including one term as Mayor. During her tenure with the City, she headed the conversion of Hamilton Army Air Field from military ownership to private hands, and worked on the development of the Hamilton Master Plan.*

*She chairs the Bay Area Water Forum, Murray is on the Bay Area Economic Forum Board; the Bay Area Council's Water Committee, Transportation Committee and Goods Movement Committee as well as a member of Bay Biz, a consortium of business organizations in the Bay Area.*

### **Pat O'Brien**

General Manager

East Bay Regional Park District

*Pat O'Brien has been General Manager of the Regional Park District since 1988. Prior to joining the East Bay Regional Park District, Mr. O'Brien was General Manager of Southgate Recreation and Park District in Sacramento, California from 1980 to 1988 managing that District's urban and rural parkland areas in Sacramento County. Mr. O'Brien has shown his legislative skills, including the passage of Prop 12: California State Park Bond Act in 1999 and numerous other park and senior related legislative efforts. He holds a Master's Degree in Linguistic Philosophy and a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and Recreation Administration from San Francisco State University.*

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### **Curt Riffle**

Program Operations Manager, Conservation and Science  
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

*Curt Riffle was born in 1955 in Warren, Ohio. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Cincinnati, and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Harvard University.*

*In 2006, Riffle was appointed to the Board of Directors and began duties as the Ward 4 Director. He currently works for the David and Lucile Packard Foundation in the Conservation and Science Program that focuses on the purchase of land and application of ecosystem-based management principles. He is a conservation professional dedicated to public service, with over 20 years of successful experience serving on committees, commissions, and boards, including roles as a traffic commissioner for the City of Los Altos, and chair of both the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Environmental Committee. He also donated his time to the District as a Special Project Volunteer.*

*Packard Foundation bio: Riffle joined the Foundation in 2003. He is currently program operations manager where he oversees the day to day operations of the Conservation and Science Program, manages a portion of the program's staff, and is responsible for the program's PRI monitoring and evaluation. He also manages the communications activities of the program and the program's strategic opportunities and local grant-making activities.*

*Prior to joining the Foundation, he worked for the Hewlett-Packard Company for 18 years. While at HP, he worked in product line management, business operations management, and business strategy development.*

### **Patrick Rutten**

Implementation Team Chair  
NOAA Restoration Center

*Pat Rutten, a marine biologist, Pilarcitos Lagoon Committee co-chair, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration southwest regional supervisor, has extensive background in restoration activities and fishery policy and is a senior manager with NOAA.*

### **Bob Spencer**

*Robert Spencer is a recent past Principal Consultant at Willdan Financial Services (formerly Muni Financial) in Oakland and has more than 15 years of financing and consulting experience with local agencies throughout California. He is an economist with extensive experience assisting public agencies with the development of sound financial and economic policies. Much of his work is related to public services funding to serve a community's growth or revitalization. Mr. Spencer was a member and President of the Oakland Board of Education in the late 1990's and remains actively involved in Oakland education reform. He is a member and past President*

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*of the Board of Trustees of the William H. Donner Foundation Mr. Spencer holds a Masters of Public Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Colorado College.*

### **Mendel Stewart**

Project Leader

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

*Mendel Stewart holds a Bachelor of Science from Western Kentucky University and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Memphis. Mendel has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for over 21 years in several capacities. From 2000 to 2005, Mendel was the Manager of the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex and in June 2005 he became Project Leader of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex.*

### **Laura Thompson**

Project Manager

SF Bay Trail Project

*Laura Thompson is the manager of ABAG's San Francisco Bay Trail Project, responsible for coordinating the completion of a 500-mile continuous shoreline hiking and bicycling trail around San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. She has been a voice for shoreline public access for ten years, working to advance Bay Trail segments through urban areas and as part of wetland restoration projects. Ms. Thompson co-authored a book, Trail Planning for California Communities, scheduled for publication by Solano Press in August 2009. Prior to her work on the Bay Trail Project, she worked as a planner with the San Mateo County Planning Division. Ms. Thompson has an undergraduate degree in Political Science from Miami University and received her Masters of Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois in Chicago.*

### **Will Travis**

Executive Director

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

*Will Travis holds Bachelor of Architecture and Master of Regional Planning degrees from Penn State University. From 1970 to 1972 he served as BCDC's first Bay Development Design Analyst. He then spent 12 years with the California Coastal Commission where he held a number of positions, including heading the agency's offshore oil drilling permit staff, directing its public access program, and overseeing its budget and administrative functions. He returned to BCDC in 1985 as Deputy Director. He was appointed Executive Director in 1995.*

*He serves on the board of trustees of the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, the board of directors of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), the management committee of a Joint Policy Committee of four regional agencies.*