

# Memorandum



**To:** Chair Nelson and Members of the Board **CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**Date:** March 15, 2021  
**From:** Jacquelyne Alexander, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
**Subject:** March 16, 2021 Departmental Item No. 4 regarding the California Coastal Commission South Coast Region Nominations – Update

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Below is an updated list of Board of Supervisor and City Selection Committee hearings and actions to consider nominations for the South Central Coast Region Elected Representative Position on the California Coastal Commission:

## **San Luis Obispo County:**

**San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors – Hearing scheduled Tuesday, March 16, 2021**

**San Luis Obispo County City Selection Committee – Hearing scheduled Friday, March 19, 2021**

## **Santa Barbara County:**

**Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors – Hearing scheduled Tuesday, March 16, 2021**

*Letters of interest received from Supervisor Das Williams, Santa Barbara Council Member Meagan Harmon and Guadalupe Council Member Antonio Ramirez (Attachment 1)*

**Santa Barbara County City Selection Committee – Hearing tentatively Thursday, March 18, 2021**

## **Ventura County:**

**Ventura County Board of Supervisors – Hearing held Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

*Nominated Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks (Attachment 2)*

**Ventura County City Selection Committee – Hearing scheduled Friday, March 12, 2021**

*Nominated Gabriela Basua, Meagan L. Harmon, Laura D. Hernandez and Vianey Lopez (Attachment 3)*

## **Attachments:**

- 1) Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Letters of Interest
- 2) Ventura County Board of Supervisors Minute Order
- 3) Ventura County City Selection Committee Minute Order

Thank you,

Jacquelyne Alexander, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

(805) 568-2240

# ATTACHMENT 1

**DAS WILLIAMS**  
County Supervisor, First District  
805.568.2186



**Board of Supervisors**  
105 East Anapamu Street, 4th Floor  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

## COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 10, 2021

Jacquelyne Alexander, Clerk of the Board  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Re: Nomination to the California Coastal Commission

Dear Clerk Alexander,

I submit this letter to you and my colleagues on the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to formally request that the Board consider forwarding my name to the Office of the Governor as a nominee for appointment as the South Central Coast Region representative on the California Coastal Commission.

As you are aware, I have served on the Board of Supervisors since January 2017 and was recently re-elected to a second term as Supervisor in March 2020. Prior to my service on the Board, I served half of Santa Barbara County and half of Ventura County as a Member of the State Assembly representing the 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District from 2010-2016 and also served as a Santa Barbara City Councilmember from 2003-2010. Additionally I hold a Master's Degree in Environmental Science & Management with a focus on water pollution, planning processes, and land-use law from UCSB's Bren School of Environmental Science & Management.

I have a deep understanding and respect for the Coastal Act and have long been an advocate for pragmatic approaches to protecting our coast and ensuring genuine equitable access to the coast for all Californians. As a staff member for former Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson, I worked to secure funding to preserve the Ellwood Bluffs in Goleta as recreational open space. As a City Councilmember, I advocated for funding to fix sewer overflows in Santa Barbara to reduce pollution in our oceans and participated in the restoration of Arroyo Burro, one of the largest wetlands restoration projects in the County. As an Assemblymember, I authored legislation to ensure that funding is available to cap idle wells and to authorize the Ocean Protection Council to develop an ocean acidification and hypoxia science task force to ensure that the Council decision making is supported by the best available science and further requires the Council to adopt recommendations for further actions that may be taken to address ocean acidification and hypoxia.

I believe my unique experience at three levels of government; state, county, and city; will be a tremendous asset to the Commission and make me an especially effective Commissioner. I also have a long history of working with stakeholders, often on competing sides of controversial issues, to find a meaningful path forward for all those involved. I am hopeful that my particular set of skills will be useful in achieving my ultimate goal if I am selected to be a Commissioner: to achieve the ends of the Coastal Act in a practical and timely manner and to minimize how much productive energy is lost due to bad feelings that arise between local governments, local communities, and the Commission. Thank you for the consideration. I am grateful for the opportunity to expand my public service further!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Das Williams', written in a cursive style.

Das Williams  
First District Supervisor, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

# ATTCHMENT 1



## City of Santa Barbara

City Council

[SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

[MHarmon@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:MHarmon@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

**Meagan Harmon**  
Councilmember

March 15, 2021

City Hall  
735 Anacapa Street  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93101

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 East Anapamu Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 1990  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93102-1990

Tel: (805) 564-5319  
Fax: (805) 564-5475

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Board,

I write to respectfully request your consideration for the South Central Coast Region seat on the California Coastal Commission (CCC). On the basis of this letter and the attached materials, I hope you will include my name among your nominees for appointment to the CCC.

I am a City Councilmember in Santa Barbara, where I am raising my daughter and where I practice real estate finance law. My roots on the Central Coast are deep, and my commitment to this community and our region is equally so. I grew up in Lompoc, near Vandenberg Air Force Base. Since childhood, I have had a deep reverence for our California coastline and a commitment to its preservation and enhancement. As a public servant and attorney, I have come to understand how that reverence is animated in law through the Coastal Act—a landmark piece of legislation that serves to protect a resource that is essential to the life of every Californian. Lastly, as a mom to a young child, I am acutely aware of the pressing need to balance protecting our natural environment for future generations while also working to solve the urgent crises of our time.

My tenure on the City Council has taught me that it takes creative, open, and engaged leadership to move beyond entrenched positions to find solutions to complex problems. Coastal protection, affordable housing, homelessness, job creation: each of these issues are indelibly interconnected, and each weigh heavily on our state's working families. I am committed to working within that complexity, rather than ignoring it, and to upholding our shared values while prioritizing solutions-oriented results that meet real needs.

As a practicing real estate finance attorney, I understand the kind of complex and thorny land use issues that come before the Coastal Commission. I understand the challenges of working at the intersection of the Coastal Act and private property rights—and the sensitivity to both that is required in order to be successful. My professional background, along with my decision-making experience as a member of the Santa Barbara City Council, well positions me to contribute meaningfully to the CCC from day one.

As a commissioner, I will approach the issues before the CCC pragmatically and thoughtfully, centering the needs of our state's residents, present and future, in my decision-making. I will also maintain a commitment to transparency and engagement – with elected leaders, stakeholders, and residents. The Coastal Commission should not be a “black box,” and, if appointed, I will

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work to ensure that cities and counties, as well as the residents we serve along the Central Coast feel connected, represented, and heard on the CCC.

I truly appreciate your consideration. Please reach out if I can provide any additional information or answer any specific questions you may have.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meagan Harmon', with a stylized, cursive script.

Meagan Harmon

cc: Jacquelyne Alexander, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board

# ATTCHMENT 1

## MEAGAN HARMON

+1.781.296.6080 • meagan.lane@gmail.com

A real estate finance lawyer and a member of the Santa Barbara City Council, Meagan Harmon seeks consideration for the South Central Coast Region seat vacancy on the California Coastal Commission. Santa Barbara, a world-renowned coastal city, boasts approximately three-square miles of Coastal Zone area, with 70 percent of the City's shoreline held in public ownership. In addition to being a City Councilwoman, Harmon is a lawyer in private practice, focusing on land use and real estate for multi-million-dollar project finance transactions throughout California. She has extensive international professional experience, including a year spent managing a large-scale infrastructure development project in Afghanistan. Harmon has the proven ability to withstand complex, high stress conditions while maintaining her commitment to rigorous analysis and effective leadership.

### SELECTED EXPERIENCE:

#### **CITY OF SANTA BARBARA, Santa Barbara California**

*City Councilwoman*, 2018 – Present

Represent Santa Barbara's downtown core, including the famed State Street; ensure transparency and collaboration amongst elected officials, City staff, and residents; promote responsible, sustainable land use policies, including major revisions to the City's multi-unit housing program. Member of the Finance Committee, Sustainability Committee, De La Guerra Plaza Revitalization Committee and Chair of the State Street Subcommittee (*selected*).

#### **HEPNER & MYERS, LLP, San Luis Obispo, California**

*Associate, Finance Group*, 2019 – Present

Represent clients in the provision of construction, acquisition, permanent, and mezzanine financing for commercial properties; represent developers and purchasers in the acquisition, financing, and sale of renewable energy products.

#### **MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP, Los Angeles, California**

*Associate, Finance Group*, 2015 – 2018

Represented both lenders and developers in various real estate transactions, including all types of financing, acquisitions, dispositions, joint ventures, and leasing across asset classes, including office buildings, shopping centers, condominiums, and mixed-use developments.

#### **LINKLATERS, LLP, London, England**

*Summer Associate, Project Finance Department*, 2013

Assisted on numerous international energy- and transportation-sector project finance deals, including a cross-country railroad project in Saudi Arabia. Worked alongside the head of the Islamic Finance practice group to develop Shari'ah-compliant legal products for global clients.

### EDUCATION:

#### **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, J.D., 2014**

Member in good standing of the California and Massachusetts Bars

#### **HARVARD UNIVERSITY, M.A., Middle Eastern Studies, 2010**

Concentration in customary economic markets and Islamic finance

#### **WELLESLEY COLLEGE, B.A., History and Jewish Studies, 2008**

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

*First Vice President*, Channel Cities Division, CA League of Cities – 2021 to Present

*Member*, Housing, Community and Economic Development Policy Committee, CA League of Cities – 2019 to Present

*Pro-Bono Legal Advocate* (Political Protest and Freedom of Speech Arrests), trained by National Lawyers Guild – 2014 to Present

*Member*, St. Barbara Parish, Old Mission Santa Barbara, 2017 to Present

# ATTACHMENT 1



**City of Guadalupe**  
**Administration Department**  
**918 Obispo Street**  
**P.O. Box 908**  
**Guadalupe, CA 93434**

March 14, 2021

Jacquelyne Alexander, Clerk of the Board  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Re: Nomination to the California Coastal Commission

Dear Clerk Clark:

I formally submit this letter to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and request consideration to have my name be forwarded to the Office of the Governor for possible nomination to the California Coastal Commission as the South-Central Region representative.

I have been a part of the City of Guadalupe's City Council since 2016 and have been re-elected to serve out a second term through December 2024. In December 2020, my fellow council members instilled their confidence in my professionalism by naming me, Mayor Pro Temp. In conjunction with my time as a council member, I also work as an Associate Professor of Counseling at Allan Hancock College. I hold a Master's degree in Counseling and Guidance from Cal Poly's School of Education.

My values for the coast match the California Coastal Commission's mission in which it is all of our responsibilities to protect the coastline for current and future generations. Much like the Coastal Commission's mission, I have worked alongside my fellow council members and staff to pass ordinances and budgets to keep the city business going in a financially sound direction. We have also worked hard to enhance our residents' lives by increasing our clean energy utilization and providing platforms for all residents to be a part of the decision-making policy. Bottom line, transparency is key to any representative government, and I take this as my charge in representing those who have provided me with the opportunity to do so.

My desire to see this region thrive comes from my years of being raised in Guadalupe. This hardworking community has shown me not only what it means to protect what you love but also the true meaning of the word "community." I will bring a unique blend of being able to integrate policy and law and continue to remember that people are at the core of any decision reached. My empathic nature will do just that for those if given the opportunity. Skills like these are why I know I would be able to elevate this region with fidelity and protect and enhance the natural beauty that is our shoreline for all to enjoy.

# ATTCHMENT 1

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonio Ramirez', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Antonio Ramirez  
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTACHMENT 2



BOARD MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF VENTURA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SUPERVISORS MATT LAVERE, LINDA PARKS,  
KELLY LONG, ROBERT O. HUBER AND CARMEN RAMIREZ  
February 23, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - Recommendation of Supervisor Ramirez to Approve the Nomination of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks to the California Coastal Commission; and Authorization for the Clerk of the Board to Convey this Nomination to the Governor.**

- (X) All Board members are present.
  
- (X) The following documents are submitted to the Board for consideration:  
(X) Comment letters from the Office of the Governor, Lauraine Effress and Audrey Keller.
  
- (X) Upon motion of Supervisor Ramirez, seconded by Supervisor Huber, and duly carried, the Board hereby approves recommendations as stated in the Board letter.

By:   
Lori Key  
Deputy Clerk of the Board



**BRENDEN VLAHAKIS**  
Secretary  
(805) 654-2251

**OFFICIAL  
SUMMARY  
MINUTES**

**Representatives for the**

**City of Camarillo  
City of Fillmore  
City of Moorpark  
City of Ojai  
City of Oxnard  
City of Port Hueneme  
City of Santa Paula  
City of Simi Valley  
City of Thousand Oaks  
City of Ventura**

**CITY SELECTION  
COMMITTEE**

**March 12, 2021**

**7:30 AM**

Remote via Zoom

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All agenda reports and supporting data, including those filed in accordance with Government Code Section 54957.5 (b) (1) and (2) are available from the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Office, Ventura County Government Center, Hall of Administration, Fourth Floor, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California. The same materials will be available and attached with each associated agenda item, when received, at the following website: [www.ventura.org/city-selection-committee](http://www.ventura.org/city-selection-committee)

## ATTACHMENT 3

### OPENING

1. Call to Order.

2. Roll call.

**Members Present:** Charlotte Craven for the City of Camarillo,  
Christina Villasenor for the City of Fillmore,  
Betsy Stix for the City of Ojai,  
John C. Zaragoza for the City of Oxnard,  
Steve Gama for the City of Port Hueneme,  
Carlos Juarez, for the City of Santa Paula,  
Claudia Bill-de la Pena for the City of Thousand Oaks,  
Sofia Rubalcava for the City of Ventura, and  
Janice S. Parvin for the City of Moorpark.

**Staff Present:** Brenden Vlahakis, Secretary to the Commission.

**Members Absent:** Keith L. Mashburn for the City of Simi Valley.

3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

4. Agenda Review.

Without motion the Committee hereby accepts the agenda as modified:

The Clerk of the Board has received and distributed the following changes to the Committee's materials after initial distribution on February 26, 2021:

For item 7 – Letters of interest from Laura D. Hernandez and Meagan L. Harmon have been submitted; and Letters of Nomination from John C. Zaragoza for Vianey Lopez and Gabriela Basua have been submitted.

5. Public Comments.

No one appears to be heard.

6. Committee Member Comments.

No Committee Member comments.

## ATTACHMENT 3

### CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

7. Nomination of One or More City Council Members for Appointment to the California Coastal Commission for the South Central Coast Region Seat; and Authorization for the Secretary of the City Selection Committee to Covey the Nominations to the Governor of California.

Motion: Nominate all Four Candidates; Gabriela Basua, Meagan L. Harmon, Laura D. Hernandez and Vianey Lopez.

Moved by Steven Gama, seconded by Carlos Juarez

Vote: Motion Passed 9 – 0

Yes: Charlotte Craven, Christina Villasenor, Betsy Stix, John C. Zaragoza, Steven Gama, Carlos Juarez, Claudia Bill-de la Pena, Sofia Rubalcava, and Janice S. Parvin

Absent: Keith L. Mashburn

### CLOSING

At 8:14 a.m. the Committee hereby adjourns.

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*BRENDEN VLAHAKIS*  
*Secretary*

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*JANICE PARVIN*  
*Chair, City Selection Committee*