

Carmen Ramírez
Mayor Pro Tem

City Council

300 West Third Street
Oxnard, California 93030
City (805) 385-7430
City Fax (805) 385-7595
carmen4oxnard@gmail.com



January 21, 2014

Michael Allen, Clerk of the Board
Members of the Santa Barbara County
Board of Supervisors

RE: Nomination To Coastal Commission, PUBLIC HEARING, ITEM 3, 1-21-14

Dear Clerk Allen, and Members of the Board of supervisors.

Please find attached via electronic submission, documents concerning my respectful request for appointment to the California Coastal Commission. Unfortunately I am unable to attend the hearing on January 21, 2014 due to a long-standing family commitment out of the area.

I am currently serving as Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Oxnard, having been elected in 2010 to a four-year term. I have the support of the Mayor of Oxnard, Tim Flynn as well. I also serve on BEACON with two of your Board Members, Supervisors Wolf and Carbajal. Last week, on January 17, I was nominated as a potential appointee to the Coastal Commission by the Ventura County City Selection committee, along with Port Hueneme Councilman, Jon Sharkey. In fact I actually applied for appointment with the Governor's office Governor Brown when former Coastal Commissioner Brian Brennan retired from his seat on the Ventura City Council in early December 2013.

I have a strong interest and track record of protecting our California coastal resources and have long been active in promoting proper development and public access to our beaches and ocean. I am very aware that impacts to our coast do not respect county or city borders. Prior to becoming a member of the Oxnard City Council I worked with many residents and organizations of my own city and county, as well as people and organizations from Santa Barbara through Malibu to protect our shared coast. I also have as one of my main council priorities the restoration of the unique coastal wetlands in Southern California, the Ormond Beach Wetlands, at Oxnard, which pose a significant opportunity for economic, educational and scientific development for our city and region. I am also dedicated to working towards complete remediation of the Halaco Metal Recycling facility toxic waste dump, which unfortunately is located immediately adjacent to Ormond Beach. It is now designated by the EPA as a superfund site but will take much attention from the public as well as elected officials. These and other issues, including erosion of our beaches, public access and more are among my major concerns.

I also believe that the Coastal Commission should engage the residents and civic leaders in a more even matter than has been the case in the past. In my own city of

Carmen Ramírez
Mayor Pro Tem

City Council

300 West Third Street
Oxnard, California 93030
City (805) 385-7430
City Fax (805) 385-7595
carmen4oxnard@gmail.com



Letter to Santa Barbara County Supervisors
January 20, 2014
Page two

Oxnard, there is a great deal of trepidation about encounters with the Coastal Commission, even to achieve a protective result. This is unfortunate. I believe that my history and reputation as an advocate as well as a problem solver could help to heal some of these issues.

Although, I am not an official constituent of Santa Barbara County, I pledge if appointed to work with you to well represent your interests in a healthy and vibrant Santa Barbara coast, as well as that of the entire Central Coast from San Luis Obispo to the Los Angeles County line.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration for this position. Please contact me if you have any questions at all at (805) 890-7088.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Carmen Ramírez

Carmen Ramirez

Maria Carmen Ramirez

MARIA CARMEN RAMIREZ, (known as Carmen) is a public interest lawyer who has served the community since she was admitted to practice in December of 1974, graduated from Loyola School of Law, Los Angeles in May 1974. She was elected to a four-year term on the Oxnard City Council in November 2010. She is currently serving as Mayor Pro Tem, appointed in 2013 by the actual Mayor, Tim Flynn.

Oxnard is the 19th largest city in California with a population of approximately 200,000 persons and is located in Ventura County on the coast between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.

She also maintains a private legal practice in the City of Oxnard, focusing on consumer matters, Social Security Disability cases as well as immigration.

Raised in the City of Pico Rivera in the San Gabriel Valley of Los Angeles County, Carmen Ramirez is one of seven siblings. Ms. Ramirez has lived in Ventura County since 1978 and resides in Oxnard. She speaks, reads and writes Spanish fluently and has traveled extensively in Latin America.

Oxnard City Council Committees

As a member of the Oxnard City Council, she serves on the city's Transportation Policy Committee, the Financial Policy Task Force, the Cultural Arts Committee, and the City Wide Enhancement Program.

She was also appointed to serve on the Ventura County Animal Regulation Commission and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District where she was Chair for 2013.

Commission on State Mandates

On April 13, 2012, Governor Edmund G. Brown appointed Ms. Maria Carmen Ramirez to the Commission on State Mandates. The Commission determines whether or not state legislation requires reimbursement to school districts and local agencies for the costs of new programs or increased levels of service mandated by state government.

As Executive Director of Channel Counties Legal Services

From 1975 until 1998, Ms. Ramirez worked in legal aid programs in Los

Angeles, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. For 16 years she was Executive Director of Channel Counties Legal Services Association, based in Oxnard that served the legal needs of the poor of both counties. Her responsibilities included overseeing litigation, financial planning, grant management, fundraising, personnel matters, board, community, government, and labor-management relations. Ms. Ramirez has represented hundreds of clients in cases involving education, housing, consumer rights, employment, and government benefits such as Social Security Disability.

Professional Accomplishments

In June 2005, she was elected to the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California for a three-year term, representing the attorneys of five counties, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. She has served on the statewide Executive Committee of the Bench Bar Coalition, which promotes the needs of the public to access to justice as well as the budgetary needs of the California judicial system before the California legislature.

In 1998, Ms. Ramirez served as President of the Ventura County Bar Association and remains active in the Volunteer Lawyers Services Program Committee and the Lawyers' Referral and Information Service Committee.

Actively Involved In the Community

Ms. Ramirez is active in many aspects of the Oxnard and greater Ventura County communities, including as board member of the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF), a trustee of the Colleges of Law for Santa Barbara and Ventura County, a member of the Ventura County Civic Alliance, the past president and current board member of the bilingual Ventura County theater company, Teatro de Las Américas and board member of the Center for Civic Education, a national program, headquartered in Calabasas, California.

In past years, she served as president of El Concilio Del Condado De Ventura County, the Ventura County Women Lawyers' Association, Ventura County Mexican American Bar Association, and Studio Channel Islands Art Center in Camarillo.

Award and Recognitions

Ms. Ramirez has been honored by numerous awards, including the Ben E. Nordman Public Service Award of the Ventura County Bar Association, the

Ventura Chapter of Rotary's Paul Harris Award, and the El Concilio del Condado de Ventura Community Service Award, the Human Rights Award of the Baha'i of Ventura.

She was named Woman of the Year for the 35th Assembly District in 2003 by Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson and in 2009 as Senator Fran Pavley's Woman of the Year for California Senate District 23. On March 27, 2012, she received recognition for Women's Leadership from the Multicultural Programs of California State University Channel Islands in Camarillo. In May 2010, she received the "Exemplary Service in the Promotion of Literacy" by the Ventura County Council of the International Reading Association.

Volunteer Work

Her volunteer work includes focuses on environmental justice and sustainable development in Ventura County, the clean up of Halaco Metal Recycling Plant, an EPA designated Super fund site, located on Oxnard's Ormond Beach and promoting fair and comprehensive immigration reform.

Previous Employment

From 1998 to 2007, she coordinated the Ventura Superior Court's Self-Help Legal Access Center, located in the Colonia area of Oxnard, serving primarily the Spanish-speaking community. From 2008 until July 2009, she was the Community Planning Director for Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy, which worked on community issues involving environmental, economic and social justice in Ventura County.