

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 37th 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'.

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