



City of Santa Barbara

City Council

SantaBarbaraCA.gov

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Meagan Harmon
Councilmember

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Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
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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

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

MEAGAN HARMON

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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