

SBCAG STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee

MEETING DATE: September 16, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 6

STAFF CONTACT: Lauren Bianchi Klemann

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Review the recommended nominees of the ad-hoc committee of the SBCAG Board of Directors to appoint Carson Link to fill an “At-Large” member vacancy on the Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee to a four-year term beginning September 2021 to September 2025.
- B. Review the recommended nominees of the North County Subregional committee to appoint Mark Funkhouser and Eric Melsheimer to fill two, “North County” member vacancies on the Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee to a four-year term beginning September 2021 to September 2025.

DISCUSSION:

SBCAG staff is seeking the appointment of Mark Funkhouser, Carson Link, and Eric Melsheimer to fill three vacancies on the Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee, as recommended by an ad-hoc committee of SBCAG Board of Directors and the North County Subregional Committee. Carson Link is being recommended for appointment to an “at-large” member along with Mark Funkhouser and Eric Melsheimer to serve as North County members on the committee. If appointed, the three potential committee members will begin a four-year term of service that will start September 2021 and conclude September 2025.

Two “at-large” member terms held by Christy Nordgren and Geoffrey Slaff were expiring September 2021 on the Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee. Geoffrey Slaff was reappointed by the SBCAG Board on July 15, 2021. Nordgren, elected to the Buellton Union School District Board of Trustees, was not eligible for reappointment which created a vacancy on the committee. The SBCAG Board of Directors approved a process on June 17, 2021, to fill the vacant “at-large” member position on the Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee. The process included an open recruitment for applicants and the formation of an ad-hoc committee to review and interview applications. The ad-hoc committee was comprised of the Chair of the Board of Directors, Holly Sierra (Mayor, City of Buellton), North County Subregional Committee Chair, Bob Nelson (County Supervisor, 4th District), and South Coast Subregional Committee Chair, Paula Perotte (Mayor, City of Goleta).

An open recruitment for applicants took place for more than two weeks from July 30, 2021 to August 16, 2021. The process resulted in eight eligible applicants eligible serve as “At Large” member representatives on the Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee. On August 25, 2021 the ad-hoc committee met to conduct interviews of the eight applicants. Of those interviewed, Carson Link distinguished himself to be recommended for appointment.

Carson Link, resident of Lompoc, stood out to the committee as a Lompoc native and community advocate. Professionally, Mr. Link serves as a district representative for Senator Monique Limón focused on transportation related issues and is often traveling from Lompoc throughout Santa Barbara County. Additionally, Link previously worked for United Way coordinating outreach to the Central Coast's homeless population. He expressed interest in community engagement and is excited to represent countywide interests on the committee, should he be appointed by the Board.

On September 8, 2021 the North County Subregional Committee approved the nomination of Mark Funkhouser and Eric Melsheimer for appointment to serve as North County members on the Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee following a the open recruitment and a North County Subregional Committee ad-hoc interview process that took place on September 1, 2021.

Mark Funkhouser, resident of Santa Maria, distinguished himself as a public transit user, International Facility Management Association regional leader, California State Licensed Contractor and in his professional role as the Director of Sustainability for Chumash Casino Resort serving as the face behind the Tribe's green initiatives. Funkhouser expressed excitement to represent North Santa Barbara County needs and has the support from the Chairman of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians to fully participate as a member of the committee.

Eric Melsheimer, resident of Orcutt, stood out because of his unique volunteer and professional expertise. Specifically, Melsheimer has experience serving on the Orcutt Union School District Measure G Citizens Oversight Committee, community ambassador with Allan Hancock College, and in his professional expertise as an Engineer with degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Aeronautics and Astronautics. Melsheimer is comfortable reviewing financial statements, audit reports and is a 25-year resident in North Santa Barbara County who is familiar with the benefits of several Measure A projects and programs.

The ad-hoc committees remarked on the high-quality and enthusiasm of all the applicants to serve on the Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee. Service on the committee is voluntary and requires the personal time and commitment of all appointees. The next meeting of the Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee will take place on Thursday, October 21, 2021 that will include the annual review of the Measure A audit.

BACKGROUND:

The Measure A Investment Plan and Ordinance provides an estimated \$140 million in matching funds to make local and U.S. highway 101 multimodal improvements from Santa Barbara to Mussel Shoals. The plan also provides an estimated \$455 million each in North County and South Coast for transportation projects and programs to build safer walking and bike routes to schools, increase senior and disabled accessibility to public transit, increase options for carpool and vanpool programs as well as local street improvements such as pothole repairs and synchronized traffic signals.

The voter-approved Measure A Ordinance requires creation of a Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee "...to help ensure accountability to voters regarding the expenditure of funds and to assist the ... [SBCAG Board of Directors] in ensuring that all provisions, requirements and voter mandates specified in the Investment Plan and Ordinance are properly carried out." The ordinance requires the appointment of an 11-member committee by the SBCAG Board of Directors. Four members are nominated by the North County Subregional Committee, four members are nominated by the South Coast Subregional Committee, and the remaining three are "at-large" appointments. Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee member terms are four

years in accordance with the by-laws. The initial terms were staggered by two years so that committee membership turn-over was spaced out.

The Measure A Citizens Advisory Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the SBCAG Board of Directors and is comprised of an appropriate balance of transportation users representing the geographic, social, cultural, and economic interests in the county. Employees and elected officials of local governments in Santa Barbara County, employees or policy board members of transit districts in Santa Barbara County, and persons with a personal financial interest in a project or program in the Investment Plan, are ineligible to serve as representatives (Measure A Ordinance 5 section 22.A.).

The above recommended actions are not a "Project" under the California Environmental Quality (CEQA) Act under CEQA Guidelines section 15378.

COMMITTEE REVIEW:

An ad-hoc committee of the SBCAG Board of Directors recommended Carson Link for consideration as the "at-large" member for appointment by the Board of Directors.

The North County Subregional Committee approved a nomination of Mark Funkhouser and Eric Melsheimer for appointment by the SBCAG Board of Directors.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Mark Funkhouser Measure A Citizens Oversight Application
- B. Eric Melsheimer Measure A Citizens Oversight Application
- C. Carson Link Measure A Citizens Oversight Application
- D. Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee Bylaws
- E. Roster of current members with demographic information

ATTACHMENT A



■ 260 North San Antonio Road., Suite B ■ Santa Barbara, CA ■ 93110
■ Phone: 805/961-8900 ■ Fax: 805/961-8901 ■ www.sbcag.org

Application for Appointment* Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee

Thank you for your interest in being considered for appointment to the Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee. The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments encourages civic-minded individuals who represent a balance of transportation users and geographic, social, cultural, and economic interests in the county to serve on the Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee.

(Print clearly or type responses)

Name: _____
FIRST MIDDLE (optional) LAST

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Mobile/Cell: _____

Current/Previous Employer: _____

Occupation/Title: _____

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

SBCAG must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 to receive federal aid through the U.S. Department of Transportation. In order to comply with this requirement, SBCAG seeks to understand the demographic information of members in transit-related, non-elected planning boards, advisory councils or committees, or similar bodies.

**Employees and elected officials of local governments in Santa Barbara County, employees or policy board members of transit districts in Santa Barbara County, and persons with a personal financial interest in a project or program in the Measure A Investment Plan are ineligible to serve as representatives on the committee.*

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee?

2. What professional skills and abilities would you bring to the committee, and how would they benefit the Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee?

3. What is your profession? Please describe your experience, including the number of years in the profession.

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4. What would you hope to accomplish by participating in the Measure A Citizens Advisory Committee?

5. In what part(s) of the County do you live and work?

6. In what community activities or organizations have you participated (transportation related or other)?

Submission of this application does not guarantee you will be selected to serve. Appointees serve without compensation and are not considered to be SBCAG employees for the purposes of benefits, such as worker’s compensation, health insurance, etc.

Return a completed application via U.S. Postal Service:

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
Attn: Lauren Bianchi Klemann, Government Affairs / Public Information Manager
260 N. San Antonio Road, Suite B, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

OR, electronically via email:

lbianchiklemann@sbcag.org

THIS APPLICATION IS A PUBLIC RECORD AND SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE