

APPLICANTS FOR GEZ ENVIRONMENTAL/EJ SEAT

WEST CONTRA COSTA APPLICANTS

NIT OUNNIYOM

Lives in San Pablo, works in Richmond

Employer: Social Security Administration

Occupation: Social Insurance Claims Specialist

BA, UC Berkeley in Development Studies

EJ Experience:

Long-time volunteer as a youth and adult member of Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) including being a youth researcher for the Laotian Community Survey Research Project, serving as Laotian Organization Project volunteer, and as an APEN adult member working on Just Transition issues; worked in the Laotian Community Archival Resilience and Engagement (CARE) project with the Laotian faith community and in the Lao Immigration Forum.

SHOSHANA WECHSLER

Lives and works in Kensington

Employer: Sunflower Alliance

Occupation: Volunteer and Coordinator, Sunflower Alliance

BA, UC Berkeley, English; MA, Amer Literature, U of Texas; MA and Ph.D, British and Amer Literature

EJ Experience:

Long time full-time EJ and climate activist in the Contra Costa industrial belt. Co-Founder of Sunflower Alliance to address refinery issues, and member of 350 Bay Area; advocated before Bay Area Air Quality Management District; member of Sierra Club Bay Chapter Energy Committee; works closely with CBE and APEN. Chair of Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission.

PETE SRIVAROM

Lives in Pinole, works in Richmond

Employer: City of Richmond

Occupation: Assistant Planner, Richmond Community Development Department

BS, UC Davis, Environmental Science and Management

EJ Experience:

Planner for City of Richmond with background in Environmental Science where he reviews and processes development permits to insure consistency with City's General Plan goals

for sustainability, walkability and climate resilience. Worked for local EJ non-profit Urban Tilth as their project manager to build an urban farm in a low income pollution impacted community and volunteer with East Bay Regional Park District in habitat restoration and cleanups.

ERIKA SIAO

Lives in San Francisco, works in Richmond

Employer: Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)

Occupation: Staff Researcher

BA, UC Berkeley, Political Economy; MA, Geography, Univ of British Columbia

EJ Experience:

Long-time advocate of climate and EJ issues and lived experience of pollution growing up in Beijing, China. As CBE staff researcher, works with low-income immigrant and communities of color on pollution issues; supports Richmond community members on Just Transition and health access issues. Worked on research projects on climate impacts on immigrant populations and urban greening.

CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA APPLICANTS

JIM BLAIR

Lives in Martinez, works in Pleasant Hill

Employer: Diablo Valley College

Occupation: Director of College Advancement

BA, San Jose State, Environmental Politics and Policy; JD, Lewis and Clark Law School

EJ Experience:

Served as a consultant on water law and policy to Native American Tribes in Western US and empowered them to negotiate with local water agencies for tribal water right; represented Owens Valley Tribal Water Commission in negotiating water issues with LA Department of Water and Power; member of Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce and helped co-found Diablo Valley Tech Initiative; helps community college students in academic and career advancement.

EAST CONTRA COSTA APPLICANTS

WILLIAM GOODWIN

Lives and works in Pittsburg

Employer: Self-employed

Occupation: Housing Policy Consultant

Diablo Valley College

EJ Experience:

Worked on the East Contra Costa County Community Leadership Network to create an Equity Agenda for East County cities; active in the East County Clean Air Coalition to improve air quality in Antioch, Pittsburg and Bay Point; helped create a working group to leverage Community Air Protection incentives and increase opportunities for disadvantaged communities; serves on Bay Area Air District's Bay Areawide Community Advisory Council where he provides input in Air District plans and policies.

DELON CRAFT, SR.

Lives in Antioch, works in Pittsburg

Employer: STS Academy (Education and youth services non-profit)

Occupation: Executive Director

Child Development, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

EJ Experience:

Executive Director of non-profit in East Contra Costa County which provides resources and support to a lower income disadvantaged community of color; former educator where he designed curricula and programs to link environmental literacy to STEM pathways and civic engagement; collaborated with school districts, community college and universities to design/implement programs to prepare students for STEM, energy and related careers.

CECILIO FERNANDO MILLS, JR.

Lives in Pittsburg

Employer: Trelis (Cybersecurity firm) and UC Berkeley

Occupation: Senior Director, Education Services; Local Green & Sustainability Developer and Instructor at UCB's School of Innovation Management & Berkeley Extension)

BS, Cal State East Bay, Business Administration; MA, Chapman University, Educational Leadership and Teaching Credential

EJ Experience:

Completed Green Dots Training Program at Laney College focused on sustainability, environmental awareness, and community-centered green practice; works with Youth on Route which supports EJ advocacy and youth leadership; participates in the Build It Green – Small Green Development Council and hosted community workshops in sustainable growing practices.

ROSENE NGUYEN

Lives in Oakley

Employer: Retired City of Modesto and Bay Area Air District employee

Occupation: Retired Integrated Waste program manager and Air Quality Chemist

MS, San Francisco State, MS in Chemistry

EJ Experience:

Worked with communities as an Air Quality Specialist at Air District to develop dust mitigation plans and air monitoring issues; oversaw operations of solid waste management programs working with the community; and worked with EJ groups on grants and zero waste plan development.

BRIAN MENEGHAN

Lives and works in Discovery Bay

Employer: Self-employed

Occupation: Sales-Consultant/Owner

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Worked with Pittsburg School District to find EJ tax credits and Inflation Reduction Act energy storage credits; worked on Contra Costa Workforce Grant for advanced manufacturing and Battery energy storage system technicians; targeted participation of low-income residents in disadvantaged communities for upward mobility.

SOLANO COUNTY APPLICANTS

THERESA HADE (could be considered for a Contra Costa seat since she works in Contra Costa)

Lives in Fairfield, works in Pleasant Hill

Employer: Contra Costa Community College District

Occupation: Workforce Development Senior Program Coordinator

BS, Sacramento State Univ., Ethnic Studies; MS, Capella University, MS in Counseling

EJ Experience:

Previously worked for Solano County Workforce Development Board to arrange retraining for dislocated works/low-income adults; Now works to support Diablo Valley College’s Career Educ Program including their clean energy programs; focused on equity-centered workforce development and student support serving disproportionately impacted communities in Contra Costa; this work includes coordinating workforce pathways that prioritize equity, access and inclusion and collaborating with community partners to connect students to education, training and supports; Served on the Community Advisory

Panel for the Ecoservices Chemical Facility in Martinez representing concerns of Martinez residents.

LORENE “LORI” ALLIO

Lives and works in Vallejo

Employer: Self-employed

Occupation: Consultant on workforce, philanthropic, EJ and non-profits

BA, UC Berkeley Political Economy; MA, USC, International Relations; Ph.D; Emory University, Political Economy.

EJ Experience:

Previously worked with the Calif Rural Legal Assistance; served as Executive Director of Vivamos Mejor Mexico (environmental education non-profit) to assist indigenous rural villages in Mexico achieve environmental sustainability; active in Vallejo EJ efforts to oppose a cement facility and is a member of Fresh Air Vallejo (EJ non-profit) and helped develop EJ framework for the organization; worked at the Solano Community Foundation strengthening community engagement with an equity lens and brought equity-focused foundation grants into Solano County including distributing air purifiers to low-income families in South Vallejo’s EJ community.

LIAT MEITZENHEIMER

Lives in Vallejo

Employer: Retired Federal employee

Occupation: Retired

Application does not list any college attended

EJ Experience:

Involved with EJ issues for many years starting the a proposed LNG plant on Mare Island and then a 4-year fight over a proposed cement plant and marine terminal in South Vallejo; involved with Fresh Air Vallejo EJ non-profit as its President focusing on community health and EJ education; serves on steering committee of Vallejo Housing Justice Coalition working on housing and EJ issues; serves on executive committee of local NAACP chapter.

PAUL THIESS

Lives and works in Vallejo

Employer: Retired Pastor

Occupation: Retired Pastor

Attended UC Riverside; BA, Concordia Senior College, Philosophy and Classics; Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary; Concordia Seminary; Master of Divinity, Concordia Seminary in Exile.

EJ Experience:

Extensive experience as a community organizer in East LA, San Francisco, and Mariposa; served as an organizer and legal observer for a Rapid Response Network in Solano County; as a member of Sierra Club Executive Committee for Solano Group – worked to increase protected wetlands in San Pablo Bay, require equity in tolling across Highway 37 and increase affordable housing in Vallejo.

NATE HUNTINGTON

Lives in Oakland, work office in Oakland, work duties in Solano County

Employer: Greenbelt Alliance

Occupation: Solano Resilience Manager

BA, Claremont McKenna College, History (Urban Studies)

EJ Experience:

As Greenbelt Alliance’s Solano Resilience Manager – led educational, advocacy and policy work focused on equitable climate adaptation and climate smart communities including helping develop Greenbelt’s Resilience Hotspots initiative; involved in equitable engagement and community building as a sub-consultant for the Solano Bayshore Resiliency project; has a leadership role in Solano Together Coalition which organizes around shares values of economic and environmental health; serves on steering committee for the Vallejo table for the Great Communities Collaborative and part of the Napa-Solano Working Families Coalition.

OTHER APPLICANTS

ANDREANA MEVOLI

Lives in Alameda, Work Office in Oakland, works around Bay Area

Employer: San Francisco Baykeeper (Non-Profit)

Occupation: Staff Scientist and Field Investigator

MS, Virginia Tech, Masters of Natural Resource Management and Global Sustainability

EJ Experience:

As staff for SF Baykeeper, works extensively on monitoring water quality from industrial sites, advocates for climate resilience and Just Transition away from fossil fuels; also tests stormwater runoff from industrial sites; works on Sea Level Rise (SLR) issues and groundwater inundation at toxic sites around the Bay Area and advises on SLR adaptation projects; has partnered with many non-profits including Richmond Shoreline Coalition, Sunflower Alliance Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, and more.