

## **Sierra Club**

### **Questionnaire for 2010 City Council Race**

#### **General Approach**

As a Councilmember, we would be working with you to help Alameda develop environmentally, equitably, and economically. As long as economic growth equates to material growth requiring materials from outside of the local area, such as large homes and automobiles and other possessions, there will be a tension between economic development and environmental stewardship. What will you do to promote sustainable and equitable economic development for Alameda and the surrounding region? (Provide details of examples of your commitment to the environment in the general information section below)

*From my involvement with the development of the new library to my tenure on the Planning Board, I have a documented history of championing sustainable development and environmental stewardship. As a member of the Library Building Team (LBT), I worked hard to ensure that the new library became the first LEED-certified public building in Alameda, with sustainable design features including floor-vent air conditioning to conserve energy, bicycle lockers and showers for employees, and insulation made of recycled blue jeans. I was also one of a minority of LBT members who wanted solar panels installed on the library's roof. Although we lost that battle, we insisted that the roof be designed to support the weight of solar panels. And soon, some of the federal stimulus dollars the City received will be used to install solar panels on the library roof. Yes!*

*We need to safeguard the environment as we plan for the future. As a member of the Planning Board, I led the charge for the City to adopt green building codes and Bay-Friendly Landscaping ordinances. The Planning Board recently approved the proposal of VF Outdoors, parent company of North Face, Jansport, Vans, Eagle Creek and Lucy, to locate its corporate headquarters in 5 LEED Platinum-certified buildings that will house 650 employees, 25-30% of whom will commute by ferry from San Francisco, some who already live in Alameda and others who may buy homes here, demonstrating that economic development and environmental stewardship are mutually attainable.*

#### **Regional Development**

1. Do you think it is important that Alameda consider regional issues when developing Alameda Point, such as regional jobs housing balance, housing for those who cannot afford to pay market rate rents, water supply and regional transportation systems? What would you or your major supporters like to see developed at Alameda Point? (Bill Smith)

*Yes, I think it is very important that Alameda consider regional issues when developing Alameda Point. My vision for Alameda Point is a fiscally and environmentally sustainable, transit-oriented, pedestrian and bicycle-friendly mixed-use development that includes a variety of housing types, with highest density residential located within 1/4 mile of the ferry terminal and transit hub; commercial/light industry/manufacturing uses; retail and recreational uses.*

2. Alameda has an outstanding solid waste recycling program and has worked well with CASA to implement it. What do you think can be done to improve our solid waste recycling program and do you think the City will meet the County's landfill waste reduction goal (Ruth Abbe)

*In 1990, Alameda County voters set an ambitious goal of reducing county-wide landfill waste by 75% by 2010. By 2008, Alameda County had reduced landfill waste by an estimated 67%, thanks in large part to our city's solid waste recycling program. I believe that it is possible for the City of Alameda to meet its goal by the end of 2010 by doing more to publicize and enforce the Plant Waste Ban in landfills implemented by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority in April.*

3. A number of citizens and civic groups, most notably the League of Women Voters, are concerned about a number of actions taken or proposed very recently either by the City staff alone, or by Council members. Do you share some of these concerns, and whether or not you share them, how do you think they could be best addressed? (Jon Spangler)

*I would need more specific information or examples to answer this question.*

4. The US Fish and Wildlife Service refused to accept the runway area from the Navy to create a Wildlife Refuge. The Veterans Administration has, however, at least preliminarily, expressed a willingness to accept responsibility for this land, including remediation of the toxics. Do you have a preference as to which federal agency accepts the runway area and an adjacent dump site from the Navy? Do you support the establishment of a National Wildlife Refuge for the runway area and dump site? (Arthur Feinstein)

*Alameda Point needs a National Wildlife Refuge to protect the Least Tern colony from predators, and toxic remediation needs to continue. I would support the efforts of whichever federal agency offers an acceptable solution to these issues. I believe the Veterans Administration proposal for administrative offices, a clinic and columbarium offers potential for job creation — and perhaps a partnership with Alameda Hospital — and would also offer badly needed services for our veterans and their families, but I do not favor locating these uses in the area of the proposed National Wildlife Refuge.*

5. Alameda Point Environmental Restoration (Dale Smith)

Alameda Point is a Superfund site and the Navy plans to leave some contaminated materials in place and impose deed restrictions, some in perpetuity, on the land when it is transferred. Based on what you've heard:

- What percentage of the base has been transferred or is ready for transfer? 0%
- What percentage still requires remediation or is in remediation?
- *It is currently estimated that of the 845 acres identified as needing cleanup investigations and work: 13% is still being investigated, 32% is through investigation and the final remedy will soon be selected, 33% is undergoing final site cleanup, and 22% needs no*

*further environmental work. All remedial actions at Alameda Point are projected for completion between 2011 and 2017. (Alameda Point Focus, Summer 2010)*

- Are residential standards the same as unrestricted use?

*No.*

The toxics at Alameda Point pose potential hazards to both people and other living things. Do you think existing cleanup standards are adequate? Do they protect other living things as well as humans? (Dale Smith)

*The level to which toxic waste will be remediated and the cost of that clean-up has been a longstanding point of contention between the City and the Navy. I side with the City on this subject.*

#### 6. Alameda energy policy (Al Weinrub)

- What would be your plan for dealing with the impact of Oakland Airport being under water in a few decades, as shown in San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission maps ([http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/planning/climate\\_change/maps/16/cbay\\_east.pdf](http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/planning/climate_change/maps/16/cbay_east.pdf))?

*As a City Councilmember, I will focus on finding more ways that Alamedans can work to slow and reverse the effects of climate change.*

- How would you create major transportation hubs with high-density housing, especially low-income housing?

*Please see my response to Question No. 1 above.*

- What are the biggest barriers to green job development in low-income communities and how would you overcome these barriers?

*I believe that the biggest obstacle to green-collar job development in low-income communities is the lack of accessible training programs. To combat this problem, I would seek out pre-existing organizations like the Oakland Green Jobs Corp to partner with the College of Alameda and provide technical training and certification in our high schools.*

- What characteristics must a business development project have for you to consider it sustainable economic development that would benefit the local community?

*I recently commented that the VF Outdoors project “set the bar high” in terms of sustainable development and I hoped we would see many more projects like it. I favor business development projects that feature a variety of sustainable elements — siting, building materials, energy efficient design elements — and encourage multi-modal transportation and bring jobs and revenue to our city.*

- What roles will alternative energy sources such as hydropower, geothermal power and solar power play in Alameda's future? What is the City doing and what more could it do to conserve energy?

*Alternative energy sources must play a major role in Alameda's future to make us a more sustainable community. Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) already uses 62% renewable energy sources, including geothermal, solar, wind and landfill gas. Additionally, AMP continually seeks partnerships with renewable energy harvesting sites around Northern California, such as the Landfill Gas locations in Pittsburg and Half Moon Bay that were added in 2008. As a City Councilmember, I would support some still experimental technologies, like AMP's 4 kilowatt solar photovoltaic installation which continues to give us data about the feasibility of a large-scale solar photovoltaic system in Alameda. The City could do more to conserve energy by continuing to provide public education, for example, the excellent workshops presented by CASA, and information provided in the AMP newsletter.*

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

a. Please identify pro-environmental actions you have taken either as a private individual and/or public official in your career and any environmental or civic organizations active on environmental or environmental justice matters in which you have been active.

*In addition to the information provided in my previous responses, I ride my bike as often as I can for transportation, running errands, shopping and relaxing. I have 2 clotheslines in my backyard that I use whenever it's warm enough and/or windy enough to dry clothes. We recently landscaped our backyard, using old bricks that were removed from the foundation of our 1881 Victorian home, and installed drip irrigation to water our plants. And we reduce, reuse and recycle.*

b. Please attach any written environmental campaign material or platform plank.

*In October 2009, I wrote a guest blog on Lauren Do's site, Blogging Bayport, encouraging Alamedans to choose bikes or walking rather than driving, especially locally, whenever possible, and how city officials can make our little island even more bike-friendly. Here's the link:*

[www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/inalameda/detail?entry\\_id=48695](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/inalameda/detail?entry_id=48695)

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c. Why should the Sierra Club support your candidacy?

*I have a clear and consistent record of finding the balance between economic development and sustainable design, like the environmentally friendly design of VF Outdoors Corporate Headquarters and the Main Library, both of which have or will contribute significantly to the community. As a Councilmember, I will continue to pursue these same common sense policies to guide my decisions. I would be delighted to receive the Sierra Club's nomination for my Alameda City Council candidacy.*

**Candidates**

Mayor

Tony Daysog  
Douglas deHaan

Council (2 seats)

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft  
Rob Bonta

Marie Gilmore  
Kenneth Kahn  
Frank Matarrese

Adam Gillitt  
Tracy Jensen  
Beverly Johnson  
Jeff Mitchell  
Jean Sweeney  
(i) Lena Tam

**CANDIDATE AND CAMPAIGN INFORMATION**

a. Briefly describe the major bases of support you hope to gather for your campaign. What other endorsements have you received so far? From whom else (individuals, groups) will you be seeking endorsements?

*I am honored to be endorsed by Congresswoman Jackie Speier. I am currently in communication with other elected officials and organizations regarding their endorsements. Locally, I have been endorsed by a wide variety of individuals who are active in many worthwhile civic activities. Some examples — with organizations listed for identification purposes only — Bill Sonneman, AEF; Niel Tam, School Board; Rosemary Reilly, Meals on Wheels; Lucy Gigli, BikeAlameda; Joyce Mercado, CASA; Robb Platt, President, Board of Realtors; Walt Jacobs, Victor Jin & Dianne Richmond, local realtors; Kevis Brownson, AAPS; Del Blaylock, small business owner; Ron Silberstein, small business owner and biofuel advocate; Patrick Kenney, small business owner & Boy Scout leader; Diana Kenney, educator; Dawna Dowdell, Kiwanis; Nick Cabral and John Piziali, long-time West End residents.*

b. What level of time commitment do you expect to devote to Alameda city business?

*I will spend as much time as it takes to be fully prepared to consider and decide the issues that come before the City Council. This is how I have always approached my service on the boards and commissions on which I have served — the Library Building Team, Alameda Hospital Board of Directors, City of Alameda Healthcare District Board of Directors, Economic Development Commission and Planning Board.*

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c. Please provide electronic, telephone, and physical addresses for the campaign.

*www.marilyn4alameda.org*

*510-523-3138*

*903 Grand St.*

*Alameda, CA 94501*

**The Sierra Club can:**

1. Endorse.
2. Engage in actions short of endorsement, which can allow a candidate to identify supporters by their Club titles or use Club mailing lists for mailings. The Club may describe the candidates' records in newsletter articles or in campaign materials mailed to the nearly 600 Alameda Sierra Club members.
3. Oppose.
4. Remain neutral. The Club may describe the candidates' records in newsletter articles.



**SIERRA CLUB ENDORSEMENT PLEDGE (REQUIRED FOR INTERVIEW)**

A few candidates have misrepresented action short of endorsement in their literature or statements to the press as a Sierra Club endorsement. Others, while not endorsed, have quoted selectively from Sierra Club articles to suggest Club support for them or opposition to their opponent. To protect the validity and credibility of the Sierra Club endorsement, we ask each candidate seeking our endorsement to sign the following pledge:

- (1) I understand that a Sierra Club endorsement requires a two-thirds vote by two or more volunteer leader committees, and that Sierra Club rules prohibit reporting on individual committee votes to prevent misrepresentations of a Sierra Club endorsement prior to completing the full endorsement process.
- (2) I will not misrepresent a Sierra Club endorsement for my campaign or any other campaign or issue.
- (3) I will not quote the Sierra Club, Sierra Club leaders, or Sierra Club publications, nor will I identify supporters of my campaign by their Sierra Club affiliation, without first obtaining written permission by an authorized Sierra Club representative.
- (4) This pledge covers all employees, campaign consultants, and others representing or retained by my campaign, and I will take all necessary actions to insure that others acting on my behalf will not violate this pledge.

[NOTE TO BILL SMITH — If you print this questionnaire, I will sign it when we meet Wednesday evening.]

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Sought: City Council of Alameda

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_