

## 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)

#### 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)

Bill, Your idea of saving open space in Livermore so you can put 6,000 homes at Alameda Point is a bogus idea. Even your president, Kent Lewenkowki said he would not support a plan that did not have a viable traffic plan. Right off the top-anything over 1,800 homes at Alameda Point is not supportable. This is a regional issue.

From what I understand, the water allocation for the Naval Station was directed elsewhere and there is presently no real allocation of water for a huge redevelopment plan at Alameda Point. This is a regional issue

Transit options for Alameda Point would include a ferry. Any plan to move the ferry to the lagoon area it would have to anchor outside of the breakwater making it very inconvenient to most commuters. 30% of the workforce in Alameda works in San Francisco-about 1,500 workers every morning who are potential ferry riders. If each ferry held 200 people then it would mean 7 ferry trips in the A.M. Does that sound likely? This is a regional issue.

Busses may be our salvation but I wouldn't count on frequent rapid bus systems. Alameda Point doesn't lead to anywhere else. It is a dead end. AC transit can barely fund the San Pablo and International Boulevard rapid bus corridors. Those streets are not competing with cars through a tube. This is a regional issue.

Gondolas will not work

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)

This is a question I want to ask the Sierra Club. Your club indorsed the SunCal plan. That plan would take down over 200 buildings at Alameda Point. They said they would have a deconstruction plan to reuse materials ---really? I just bought CD which talks about Monterey and its urban renewal problems. Many blocks downtown were leveled --huge mountains of debris. Lots of big fires on the waterfront. All that could happen in Alameda if we don't pursue a reuse plan for most all of those buildings. Building 5 has 1 million square feet of unobstuctable space which is 50' high. That building would be a wonderful sigh tfor some company. An Aircraft manufacturing/repair company has just leased 170,000 sq ft of space at the New Brunswick ME's former Naval Air Station. Some one will see the possibilities. The Navy has no hospitals or residents on that site if the building is torn down.

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 don't do vague nor do I read minds.

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)

The jury is still out on the subject of the runways and the dump sites. The Navy is still investigating. Interesting that when Fish and Wildlife contemplated taking the land, there was no investigation but now that the VA wants it, there is going to be investigation-I wonder about the politics.

Lots of issues. There are two dump sites. One is in site 1 and a larger one in Site two. They have recommended caps on those sites in both places. I my mind that is very risky technology. Lots of questions.

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?
- What percentage still requires remediation or is in remediation?

- Are residential standards the same as unrestricted use?

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 percentages according to the Navy and the regulators is 40% ready for transfer, 35% in remediation and 25% still investigation.

The standards between the EPA (both state and federal), Water Board, and DTSC vary but for Alameda Point, very early on, they agreed on common standards. There have been disagreements based on standards that have been "negotiated" too low. We never disagree when the standard is too high.

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))?

Don't forget that Alameda Point is included in this map. The same issue covers both areas. Why would the Sierra Club want 6,000 homes in an area that is going to be under water in a few decades. It would seem that moving an airport to San Jose etc would be easier than watching 6,000 homes go under water.

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

First of all you need a transportation hub. Alameda Point is not a transportation hub. Alameda Point goes nowhere. It is a dead end. It is not and never will be a transportation hub until the Oakland cargo terminals close down and we can get another bridge on the west end. Even so why would you want a bridge to somewhere that is going to be under water in a few decades.

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

This question doesn't make much sense. Are we talking about subsidized housing over the "store" which happens to be a company devoted to solar products etc. Or we talking about locating low income people where they proposed wind energy? I am stumped. In both examples I think the people should object.

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

I don't know what a business development project is. I consider sustainable economic development a benefit if there is, for instance, reuse of the buildings at Alameda Point to

provide jobs for the people in Alameda. The building trades have really suffered and we need to get people back to work. The buildings need significant repair and renovation. There has been lots of vandalism due to the low vacancy rate. We need jobs for the people in Alameda.

9. 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?

Alameda currently has the highest percentage of their energy from renewable sources. I am not sure if the geothermal is renewable. They keep pumping water to it to make more steam but it won't last forever.

The School system has put solar panels on the schools and they have helped individuals if they want solar panels.

We could get those buildings at Alameda Point back in production to provide jobs for the 40% of the workers who drive off the island to work elsewhere.

#### 10. 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.

As a family, we have a solar passive sunspace which warms our home when we need it except Dec Jan and Feb. We only pay \$200 per year for heat and hot water.

I belong to Rotary and internationally there is a real push for clean drinking water. Lots of money has gone toward wells etc. Lots of effort to get solar cookers in areas who have a shortage of wood to prevent deforestation. Lots of methane type systems for cooking. Our biggest victory is to almost completely eradicate polio and childhood communicable diseases. We have gotten behind the effort to provide low cost mosquito nets to prevent malaria. Preventing illness and hunger is a big concern of Rotary.

Educating the women is a big part of what we do. Girls everywhere are exploited and underutilized. We want to change all that.

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

Don't have any

c. Why should the Sierra Club support your candidacy?

I would think you would be happy and grateful that I have saved 30 acres of land in Alameda for open space, trees, native plants and animals.

#### **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?

My support is coming to me in a steady stream from the people of Alameda.

I have lots of endorsements but I haven't gotten them all written down.

So far, there have been no endorsements from state or county elected officials and I don't expect any.

Signed by Jean Sweeney 4 Alameda City Council 2010 August 25, 2010