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OCT 02 2024

Dear Commissioners:

Santa Cruz LAFCO

My name is Virginia Chang Kiraly, and I am one of the special district representatives of San Mateo LAFCO. I am running to be your special district representative for the Coastal Region on the CALAFCO Board. I am honored to have the support of San Mateo LAFCO and be their nominee for the CALAFCO board.

I have the privilege and honor of serving on two special district boards in San Mateo County-- the San Mateo County Harbor Board of Commissioners and the Menlo Park Fire Protection District Board of Directors. My professional background is in financial research and investments and as a former Senior Director at the Nasdaq Stock Market. I have also been involved with advocacy work for my two elected boards and for nonprofits, such as the California State Parks Foundation Board on which I served for 12 years.

CALAFCO has a wonderful opportunity to play a bigger role in advocacy work at the state level, especially when the need for collaboration is greater than ever as our local communities deal with housing, transportation, public safety, infrastructure needs, essential services, and the like. As a fire board director and a harbor board commissioner, I understand the breadth of coastal issues from wildfires, which affect the entire state of California, to maritime issues for infrastructure needs and local economic development needs for California's fishing industry and, equally important, farming and agriculture, which are big parts of the district I represent on the San Mateo County Harbor Board. The opportunity for CALAFCO to be more involved with advocacy at the state level is one of the many reasons I would like to serve on the CALAFCO Board as the Coastal Region's Special District representative.

Of course, as CALAFCO moves forward in this strategic direction, there must be an inclusive process that has integrity and transparency. As a former member and foreperson of the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, I have ensured that good government, accountability, and transparency are part of local government. I believe in an inclusive process and independent thinking that represents the Coastal Region and will bring these qualities to the CALAFCO board.

Today, I simply wanted to introduce myself to you and let you know that I'm proud to be a candidate for the Coastal Region's Special District seat on the CALAFCO board and would be grateful for your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your time.

Virginia Chang Kiraly, MPA
Special District Representative
San Mateo LAFCO

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