

REVIEWED

By City Clerk's Office at 7:42 am, Jun 15, 2021

Clean Beaches & Ocean Parcel Tax Citizens Oversight Committee Applicant

Jim G. Kennedy

Application Date: 06/15/21

Reside in Santa Monica: yes

If yes, number of years: 3 1/2

Registered to vote in Santa Monica: yes

Hold an elected position: no

If yes, please specify:

INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

Current or prior service on city boards/commissions:

I have no current or prior Board or Commission service experience.

Community activities:

Since 2007, I have been an active Board member of the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters, supporting environmental candidates and making environmental issues a priority in elections.

Since 2014, I have served on the environmental non-profit Board of the Friends of Ballona Wetlands, that preserved this public land and is working to restore habitat for a wide range of wildlife.

In 2017, I joined the Sierra Club's Conservation, Water, Political Committees of the Angeles Chapter, working to elect candidates with strong environmental credentials and ballot measures that contribute to sustainability.

From 2004-2007, I served on the Board of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats to advance our mission in youth engage and to empower their voices in civic discourse and elections, often helping tenants and landlords reach mutually agreeable solutions.

In 2011, I joined the Los Angeles City Attorney's Dispute Resolution Program, providing free mediation service to help individuals and groups come to mutually agreeable solutions.

Since 2013, I have been a regular volunteer for the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, as part of critical step to being able to provide services to those living in our communities.

Since 2013, I have been a member of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition Neighborhood Bike Ambassadors, educating and advocating for bicyclists' rights and greater investment in our region's alternative mobility infrastructure.

From 2007-2016, I was a delegate to the California Democratic Party's State Central Committee, building consensus on platform issues, choosing our leaders, and holding them accountable.

Qualifications, experience, education, and technical or professional requirements:

For the past 15 years, I have worked for elected officials at the local, state, and Federal levels. I have applied my understanding of government to working on public works projects throughout Los Angeles County. I engage in the full cycle of community relations, from outreach to facilitating dialogue to increase public involvement, and from project development to implementation to maximize public benefits.

I have experience with environmental advocacy work. I have had oversight responsibilities to coordinate the approval process at the government affairs level for watershed collection and treatment systems. These projects involve various levels of community and environmental mitigation from traffic and noise to water quality and habitat protection. I continue to expand public support for water reclamation and recycling infrastructure investments as critical steps towards securing our region's reliability and sustainability.

I have been a part of protecting and restoring the Santa Monica Bay Watershed by having served as an alternate Board member on the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission. I have also worked with the City of Los Angeles on Prop O stormwater filtration and TDML projects. I helped expanded the "Cool Cities" U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Initiative into a South Bay regional partnership to combine cities' resources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions more effectively. As part of my efforts to advocate for and implement energy conservation and alternative energy programs, I led an organizing effort to stop a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal from being built in the Santa Monica Bay and prevent the repowering of the Redondo Beach AES power plant because of its ocean water cooling system.

As a past candidate for a water district and my continued effort to get other environmental candidates elected to water board throughout Los Angeles County, I have been advocating for expanding water conservation, reclamation, and recycling. I support increasing our regional capacity to capture rainwater, a critical step towards securing our groundwater reliability and sustainability. And I have been working to protect our aquifers from industrial pollution and other sources of contamination. In continuing to build community support for the additional infrastructure investments in local water supply capacity, I clarify economic and environmental values for offsetting imported water with recycled water.

I have been a long-time Board member of the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters. That effort helps to make the environment a priority in local elections. I have also served on the Board of the Friends of Ballona Wetlands to preserve and revitalize this damaged ecosystem. In addition, I have volunteered as a mediator in the Dispute Resolution Program of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office.

For the construction of the Expo Light Rail Phase II, running from Culver City to Santa Monica, I worked as a construction communication manager. The tasks included keeping all stakeholders informed about project progress while overseeing ongoing mitigation monitoring. I hope to use this skill set as part of this commission's mission to restore a healthier balance between the urban environment and the natural ecosystem by working to keep the public informed about increasing water conservation, while gaining support for expanding recreation opportunities, while educating on what more we all can do to protect wildlife and marine habitat.

I have a B.A. in Economics from the College of William & Mary and a M.Sc. in Development Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. I have worked as an economic analyst on market structures, developing quantitative models with databases designed to track market trends and participants. This can be an important background in the oversight process of reviewing proposed capital and operating expenditures from Measure V funds and accounting for Measure V capital and operating expenditures.

Goals:

I understand the Clean Beaches & Ocean Parcel Tax Citizens Oversight Committee

mission is to make sure Measure V funds are being used as effectively as possible to keep our Bay and beaches as clean as possible while maintaining the balance between recreation and wildlife. I have a background in bringing together neighbors, environmental groups, businesses, and local officials. By increasing public involvement, I hope to help contribute to more accurate, achievable, and sustainable solutions. I appreciate the importance of capital improvement infrastructure projects for protecting the health of the community and the environment. By serving on this oversight committee, I hope to bring my understanding and perspective to the decision-making process to continue to innovate and explore what more can be done under current resource limits and other constraints.

Vision:

I believe Santa Monica continues to have the ability to lead the way on progressive environmental policy. My hope is that I can bring to this oversight committee my regional experience of best practices on these types of water projects. I also want to explore ways Santa Monica can integrate its funding with other resource opportunities to leverage the ability to do even more to clean the water and beaches for the benefit of the entire Bay and watershed.

Personal Qualities:

Creating a collaborative environment that is inclusive of all contributing points of view is important.

Especially when the objective is to balance implicit biases and various competing interests. Having dealt with wetland restoration issues throughout the Los Angeles region, I saw the need to expand the conversation from a parochial, one-off approach to a wider experience that captures the best practices and experience our region has to offer from multiple wetlands restoration projects. This form of coalition building brings organizations together to advocate collaboratively and collectively to support wetland restoration projects that follow agreed upon principles to maximize every opportunity for comprehensively and scientifically restoring degraded wetlands. And now the Wetlands Restoration Principles Coalition (WRP) has 19 non-profits working in their individual wetlands and river areas with shared resources and experiences. This then becomes a source to other organizations to help with their project. The result is a bigger-picture approach to providing wildlife habitat, clean water, and recreational opportunities to more places. This is important in our region because too often projects and people get siloed from each other and beneficial conversations are cut-off by artificial barriers.

Will you be able to commit the necessary time to perform your duties if appointed to the board?

yes

How did you learn about the vacancy in this board or commission? (select all that apply)

Word of Mouth- Council or Board/Commission member, City Staff, neighborhood groups, etc.

BUSINESS INFORMATION

Occupation: Public Affairs

Business name: Scout Ventures

Business address:

Business phone: 310-220-9329