

Task Force on the Environment Applicant

Dr Alexandra Tower

Application Date: 05/11/21

INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

Current or prior service on city boards/commissions:

None.

Community activities:

Board Member, Team Santa Monica (swim club); Volunteer Site Captain, Coastal Cleanup Day; Board Member, The Bay Foundation; collaborating with Heal the Bay to develop a Restorative Aquaculture program with SMC.

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

I have my masters degree in Marine Biology and my PhD in Environmental Physiology of plants, both from UCLA. I have been teaching about the environment - marine and terrestrial - since 1991. I have worked closely with Heal the Bay over the years. I've just completed captaining the Bay St site for Coastal Cleanup Day, and I have most recently initiated student internships at the Pier Aquarium in Education and Community Outreach, and in Aquarium Science and Life Support. At SMC, I am responsible for the development of the student club called Plastic Free SMC, I have Chaired the SMC Academic Senate Environmental Affairs Committee, the Student Affairs Committee and for the last few years, I have been Chair of the Global Citizenship Committee, which oversees projects on sustainability and Study Abroad, among other things.

Goals:

To be of service to the city where I spend the vast majority of my life. To do everything I can to help us get to a sustainable future. I want to provide a more positive future for future generations, and I believe that Santa Monica is at the forefront of the sustainability movement. If given the opportunity, I would be honored to join the SM Task Force in the hopes of helping to set the bar in urban environmental policy.

Vision:

Over the years, the Task Force on the Environment has advised the city in making great strides toward a sustainable future, creating a solid foundation from which to continue the forward momentum in environmental policy. I want to see the city further address issues stemming from the disposables economy, improve coastal water quality from storm water and dry season runoff. I also want to see the city further emphasize landscaping with the beauty and water use-efficiency in California native plants. Finally, I believe that the city can continue to improve upon the use of renewable energy, as well as decentralizing the electrical power grid. In a time of so much unwelcome news about the planet, I choose hope. Never before have we had so much technology, historical data or will power to turn things

around. I look forward to participating in expanding the leadership role in sustainability and environmental restoration that the City of Santa Monica currently holds.

Personal Qualities:

From team sports in college to problem solving as a member and Chair of a number of committees, I possess these criteria. What inspires me to work hard is not only my love for the natural environment, but also thinking creatively about how to accomplish a common goal.

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: Professor

Business name: Santa Monica College

Business address: 1900 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405

Business phone: 3104344888