

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

July 22, 2021

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors
FROM: SBCCOG Steering Committee
RE: Metro Service Council Vacancy

Adherence to Strategic Plan:

Goal D: Organizational Stability. Be a high performing organization with a clear path to long-term financial health, staffing continuity and sustained board commitment.

BACKGROUND

The SBCCOG Board just recommended to Metro three appointees to fill expiring terms on the Metro Service Council. Since that time, we have been notified that Luis Duran who has served on the Metro Service Council since July 2017 as a Hawthorne resident and LA County land use planner who rides transit daily will be moving to San Diego for a new job opportunity. His term expires on July 2023.

Additionally, Richard Montgomery who was just selected in June has found that he cannot serve on the Metro Service Council and he has resigned.

There were very good candidates during the recent selection process for the Metro Service Council. Therefore, staff would recommend that you fill the vacancy from that list which included Angie English, Bob Wolfe, Anna Yeuter and Charles Michel Deemer.

There were two candidates that did not get appointed who had the most votes from the Selection/Interview Committee. They were Charles Michel Deemer and Bob Wolfe.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend Charles Michel Deemer be re-appointed to the Metro Service Council for a 3 year term and Bob Wolfe be appointed to fill the two year unexpired term of Luis Duran.

- Mr. Deemer is willing to accept a re-appointment and he has the strong support of Torrance Mayor Furey. He is a Torrance Environmental Commissioner and a transit rider.
- Mr. Wolfe is also willing to serve as well and he had letters of endorsement from several people. Her is a Hermosa Beach Civil Service Board Commissioner, a member of the Metro Community Advisory Council and a transit rider.

Charles Michel Deemer, Torrance

Occupational experience:

August, 1994 to present
Self-employed - Bookkeeper & tax preparer, Gardena

January, 1981 to August, 1994
Paul J. Smith, P.A. E.A.
In November, 1992 he sold his entire practice to Dean Clayton Woo, C.P.A.
Duties were all aspects of book-keeping year-round, additionally during January-April prepared personal income taxes including several with out-of-state returns.

August, 2001-November, 2010
Quest Securities, Inc., NASD/ FINRA licensed Series 7 & 63 - Securities broker

October, 1992-November, 2000
Baraban Securities, Inc., NASD/ FINRA licensed Series 7 & 63 - Securities broker

January, 2013 to present
Torrance Environmental Quality & Energy Conservation Commissioner

January, 2004-January, 2013
Torrance water Commissioner

Education:

West High School
Torrance, California
1970-1974

El Camino College
Torrance, California
June, 1974-May, 1977
Business Major

California State University
Long Beach campus
September, 1977-May, 1980
Major: Finance & Accounting
Minor: Geography

For the past 6 years, I've enjoyed being a member of Metro's South Bay Service Council. I would appreciate having the opportunity to continue during so for the next 3 years. I'm quite active in the monthly meetings seeking information & clarification from the presenters.

One of our duties/responsibilities is to do line rides to evaluate Metro buses/drivers. While I've adopted Line 344, I've ridden over a dozen other Metro Lines these past 6 years making evaluations & seeing many interesting sights in Los Angeles County.

In both Metro's NextGen study & Torrance Transit's current & previous route studies going back over 10 years, I've made several suggestions & comments about possible bus route changes & service times. I was also quite involved when The City Council was doing their studies for the construction of the Torrance Transit Terminal now being built on Crenshaw Blvd.

Bob Wolfe, Hermosa Beach

(endorsed by Senator Allen, Supervisor Hahn, Hermosa Beach Councilmembers Massey and Armato)

STATEMENT FOR SOUTH BAY SERVICE COUNCIL

I renew my application for a position on the South Bay Service Council.

I am a prop bono appellate attorney, and currently serve as a commissioner on the Hermosa Beach Civil Service Board. I am one of Supervisor Janice Hahn's four appointees on the countywide Metro Community Advisory Council (CA), and the only CAC member from the South Bay. I grew up in the area and attended Inglewood High School.

I am an active transit user, both on Metro bus and light rail lines and on various municipal transit systems, including Beach Cities Transit, Torrance Transit and GTrans, as well as the Big Blue Bus and Culver CityBus. I use public transit to traverse the region, including Downtown L.A., the West side, Long Beach and the mid-city and Hollywood.

My interest in transit began in the 1970s when I worked on a federal court lawsuit, *Keith v. Volpe*, which challenged the original plans for the Century Freeway (I-105). The lawsuit resulted in a consent degree, spearheaded by federal judge Harry Pregerson, that gave rise to the Green Line and the Harbor Freeway transitway, among other benefits. I co-authored an op-ed article for the *L.A. Times* in August 1981 on the subject.

I have been a community advocate on transportation issues pertaining to the South Bay, including the Green Line extension to Torrance, the Green Line interface with the Crenshaw / LAX line, the northern extension of the Crenshaw / LAX line to West Hollywood, and the Sepulveda Pass corridor project.

To further these aims, I have testified a Metro board meetings, drafted letters and petitions, and interacted with local elected leaders and their transportation staff members, as well as other involved advocacy groups.

Here are my transit priorities: (1) improve the rider experience, particularly by route location, frequency of service, ease of transfers, accessibility and safety, (2) attract new ridership and reduce VMT by making transit an efficient and reliable alternative for commuters and visitors, (3) adapt to new post-COVID realities in changing work and commute patterns and loss of funding and public confidence, and (4) focus on regional connectivity with the ever-expanding Metro and Metrolink network.

As a former appellate mediator for the California Court of Appeal, I am a strong proponent of collaborative decisionmaking and active listening.

Thank you for this opportunity to explain my interest in the Service Council and how my experience and point-of-view can further its goals.



Robert S. Wolfe
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Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
619-800-4616

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Law Offices of Robert S. Wolfe, Hermosa Beach, California.

Appellate Attorney, 2016-Present. Law practice limited solely to pro bono work; drafted successful amicus brief in *Planning & Conservation League v. Padilla*, Cal. Supreme Court No. S249859 (removing Proposition 9, "Three States" initiative, from Nov. 2018 ballot).

Court of Appeal of the State of California, Santa Ana, California.

Supervising Judicial Attorney; Senior Judicial Attorney, 1996-2015.

Supervised writs and motions department for state appellate court having jurisdiction over all civil and criminal cases Orange County; conducted court's judicial settlement program and acted as its judicial settlement officer; drafted judicial opinions as staff member for various appellate justices.

Manning, Marder & Wolfe, Los Angeles, California.

Senior Partner / Founding Partner, 1994-1995; Of Counsel, 1996

Head of appellate department (firm currently called Manning & Kass).

Morris, Polich & Purdy, Los Angeles, California.

Associate, 1976-1982; Partner, 1982-1994. Head of appellate department (firm currently merged with Clark Hill).

ORGANIZATIONS – CURRENT

Civil Service Board, City of Hermosa Beach.

Commissioner, 2019-Present. Functions as city's review board for personnel functions and civil service rules and regulations. Term expires on July 15th, 2023.

Community Advisory Council (CAC), Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Los Angeles, California.

Councilmember, 2019-present. Countywide committee, established pursuant to AB 152 (1992), to consult, obtain and collect community input on matters pertaining to Metro service and operations.

California Supreme Court Historical Society, Fresno, California.

Member, Board of Directors, 2006-present; Chair, Programs Committee.

Non-profit, headed by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, dedicated to, preserving, and promoting California's legal and judicial history.

Hillel Council UCLA, Los Angeles, California.

Member, Board of Directors, 1999-present.

Provides oversight to professional staff at private, nonprofit campus foundation at UCLA.

Public Counsel, Los Angeles, California.

Member, Board of Directors, Sept. 1996-present; Member, Executive Committee, 1997-2005. Largest *pro bono* law firm in U.S.

ORGANIZATIONS – PRIOR SERVICE

Angels' Walk L.A., Los Angeles, California.

Member, Board of Directors and Member of Advisory Committee, 1997-2005. Public-private partnership to develop tourist-oriented walkway through Downtown Los Angeles and various Los Angeles neighborhoods.

Calif. State Bar, Appellate Courts Committee, San Francisco, California.

Appointed Member, 1996-2006.

Consumer Trusts Fund, Los Angeles, California.

Member, Board of Directors, 1987-2006; Chair. Non-profit, funded by proceeds of several *cy pres* settlements, to promote consumer protection projects in California and nationwide.

Judicial Council of Calif., Center for Judicial Education & Research (CJER), San Francisco, California. **Member, Appellate Judicial Attorneys Education Committee, 2001-2001.**

Public Law Center, Santa Ana, California.

Member, Board of Directors, 2000-2015; Member, Executive Committee. Provides *pro bono* legal services to deserving groups and individuals within Orange County.

EDUCATION

University of California, Davis School of Law

J.D. 1976. Publication, "The Implementation of CEQA at the California Housing Finance Administration." Legislative Consultant, California State Senate Committee on Land Use & Planning.

University of California, Santa Cruz

A.B. 1972. Honors in Politics, General College Honors; Danforth Fellowship Nominee. Senior Thesis: "Searching the Soul for J. Robert Oppenheimer."

PUBLICATIONS

Wolfe, *Law Walk: A Legal Site-Seeing Tour of Downtown L.A. (Parts 1-3)*, CSCHS

REVIEW, Fall / Winter 2017 p. 1; Spring / Summer 2018, p. 15; Fall / Winter 2019, p. 10.

Wolfe, *Where the Color of Law is Orange: The Decisions of a Single Court Reveal Forces Shaping Recent California History* (2006) 19 CAL. LITIGATION 40.