

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600, San Francisco, California 94102 tel 415 352 3600 fax 415 352 3606

March 1, 2019

TO: Commissioners and Alternates

FROM: Lawrence J. Goldzband, Executive Director (415/352-3653; larry.goldzband@bcdc.ca.gov)
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SUBJECT: Role Changes and Appointment of New Design Review Board Member
(For Commission consideration on March 7, 2019)

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Commission approve the appointment of civil engineer Robert (Bob) Battalio to serve as a member of the Commission's Design Review Board (Board). The staff further recommends that civil engineer Roger Leventhal, a current Board member, be re-appointed to serve as an Alternate to the Design Review Board.

STAFF REPORT

The Design Review Board (DRB) is an advisory board that assists the Commission in evaluating the design aspects of development projects within the Commission's jurisdiction. Commission Regulation Section 10270 describes the membership and function of the Design Review Board. The regulation states that, "[t]he Board shall advise the Commission and the staff on the appearance and design of projects for which a Commission permit or consistency determination is needed, particularly as the project affects public access to the Bay and shoreline." The regulation further states that the Board "shall consist of seven members of the design professions, including at least one architect, one landscape architect, and one engineer." In addition to the seven Board members, the Commission may also designate up to ten other members "to act as a pool of alternates to substitute for current Board members who cannot participate in any Board meeting or the consideration of any specific matter at any Board meeting."

On December 17, 2018, Roger Leventhal of the Commission's Design Review Board informed the staff of his desire to resign as a Board member and requested to continue to serve the Commission as a Board Alternate. The BCDC staff supports this request. Mr. Leventhal has served on the Board since 1997. The BCDC staff is extremely grateful for his 22 years of service, during which he has advised permit applicants and shared his civil engineering expertise on the topics of ecological restoration and environmental engineering. The Commission has been fortunate to receive Mr. Leventhal's insights and guidance over the past two decades.

With Mr. Leventhal's transition to Board Alternate, the staff recommends appointing Mr. Bob Battalio to the Design Review Board. The staff believes the Board would benefit from a coastal engineer's ability to advise on coastal processes and climate adaptation as they pertain to shoreline public access.

Robert (Bob) Battalio is a coastal engineer who currently serves as senior engineer and vice president for Environmental Science Associates (ESA). Bob holds a Masters of Engineering in civil / coastal engineering from the University of California at Berkeley and a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Summa cum Laude, 1983). He is a licensed Professional Engineer in six coastal states. His work has focused on coastal and estuarine engineering, wetland and creek restoration design, and waterfront civil engineering projects including shoreline mapping, sand budgets, wave and runup studies, design of hard and soft erosion protection, and design of shoreline retreat and realignment. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers; prior president of the California Shore and Beach Preservation Association; member of The Surfrider Foundation; and former president of the California Marine Parks and Harbors Association. Mr. Battalio also currently serves on BCDC's Engineering Criteria Review Board, to which he was appointed in 2013.

Attached is a resolution that the staff has prepared, thanking Mr. Leventhal for advising the Commission over the past several decades on issues related to ecological processes, public access, and appearance and design. As a result of his insightful advice, the public enjoys high quality access to and along the shoreline of the San Francisco Bay that is also rich in habitat value. With the Commission's approval, we will forward the resolution to Mr. Leventhal.

With the proposed changes described above, the Board composition would remain effectively the same. The current Design Review Board includes two architects, four landscape architects, one engineer, one urban planner, and has four alternate members. Four alternate Board members recently stepped down from the Board. To address the shortage of Board alternates, the staff is working to increase the number of alternates to ensure that an adequate number of Board members are available at all meetings. The staff and the Board have begun to develop a list of candidates for Members and Alternates and will bring recommendations to the Commission later this year once the candidates have been evaluated.

At this time, the staff recommends that the Commission's Design Review Board be comprised as follows:

Board Members

Karen Alschuler, Chair (Urban Planner)
Gary Strang, Vice Chair (Architect & Landscape Architect)
Cheryl Barton (Landscape Architect)
Tom Leader (Landscape Architect)
Jacinta McCann (Landscape Architect)
Stefan Pellegrini (Architect)
Bob Battalio (Coastal Civil Engineer)

Board Alternates

Roger Leventhal (Civil Engineer)

If approved by the Commission, these new roles would go into effect at the next Design Review Board meeting to be held on March 11, 2019.

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RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE

Roger Leventhal

March 7, 2019

Whereas, Roger Leventhal, of Marin County Public Works, has served on the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Design Review Board since 1997 without compensation and without complaint; and

Whereas, Mr. Leventhal has a background in hydraulics and water resources and is known throughout the State of California for his expertise and leadership in ecological restoration and environmental engineering; and

Whereas, Mr. Leventhal has valuable expertise in the development of major wetlands and shoreline restoration projects in the San Francisco Bay Area; and,

Whereas, Mr. Leventhal's sensible and pragmatic advice to BCDC permit applicants has informed the design of many shoreline projects and resulted in engineering approaches that support natural shoreline systems; and,

Whereas, Mr. Leventhal has provided informed guidance to applicants on how to improve a project's provision of public access to the Bay; and,

Whereas, Mr. Leventhal will vacate his position as a member to become an Alternate member of the Design Review Board;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission does hereby unanimously express, on behalf of the entire Bay Area which it serves, its deepest appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Roger Leventhal for his generous and distinguished public service over the past twenty-two years.

R. ZACHARY WASSERMAN, Chair