

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

375 Beale Street, Suite 510, San Francisco, California 94105 tel 415 352 3600 fax 888 348 5190

State of California | Gavin Newsom – Governor | info@bcdc.ca.gov | www.bcdc.ca.gov

September 10, 2020

TO: Commissioners and Alternates

FROM: Lawrence J. Goldzband, Executive Director (415/352-3653; larry.goldzband@bcdc.ca.gov)
Andrea Gaffney, Senior Bay Development Design Analyst (415) 352-3643;
andrea.gaffney@bcdc.ca.gov)

SUBJECT: Role Changes and Appointment of New Design Review Board Members(For Commission consideration on September 17, 2020)

Recommendation Summary

The staff recommends that the Commission approve the appointment of urban planner Kristen Hall and architect Andrew Wolfram to the Commission’s Design Review Board (Board). The staff further recommends that urban planner Karen Alschuler and landscape architect Cheryl Barton, current Board members, serve as Alternates to the Design Review Board. The staff and the Design Review Board recommend that current Board Member Jacinta McCann be appointed as the Board’s Chair, replacing Ms. Alschuler.

Staff Report

The Design Review Board (Board) is an advisory body 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 former board 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.”

In December 2018, the staff began succession discussions with the Design Review Board, which led to the transition of Roger Leventhal from Board Member to Alternate, and the appointment of Bob Battallio to the Board in the Spring of 2019. During further discussion, **Karen Alschuler**, Chair of the Commission’s Design Review Board, informed the staff of her



desire to resign as a Board member and serve as a Board Alternate. Ms. Alschuler is an urban planner and has served on the board since 1994; she assumed the role of Chair in 2016. Board Member **Cheryl Barton** has also volunteered to become an Alternate. Ms. Barton is a landscape architect who was appointed to the Board in 2004.

The staff is extremely grateful for their service over the past 26 years, during which Ms. Alschuler and Ms. Barton advised the Commission, the staff, and permit applicants, and shared their expertise on urban planning and landscape architecture. Over the years, the public has been fortunate to have Ms. Alschuler and Ms. Barton help shape the design and appearance of the Bay shoreline in a manner that creates a beautiful and equitable place.

With Ms. Alschuler's and Ms. Barton's transition to Board Alternates, the staff recommends appointing **Kristen Hall**, an urban planner and **Andrew Wolfram**, an architect to the Design Review Board. The staff believes the Board would benefit from the advice of an urban planner and an architect, both of whom have extensive waterfront design experience.

Kristen Hall is an urban designer and city planner specializing in complex urban infill projects in politically challenging landscapes. Ms. Hall holds a Master of City Planning and Urban Design from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Tulane University. Her work centers on creating equitable, sustainable, resilient, and adaptive projects. Ms. Hall has worked across many different scales and contexts to develop masterplans, write guidelines, coordinate public outreach, lead problem-solving collaborations, and create implementation strategies for communities, including the Mission Rock Redevelopment and the Potrero Power Station Design for Development plan. Ms. Hall's core area of expertise is delivering projects that require innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and stakeholder engagement.

Andrew Wolfram is an architect advocating for building regeneration, urban architecture, and place-making and its power to advance responsible development. Mr. Wolfram holds a Master of Architecture and Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University. In his 25 years of practice, he has promoted the value of historically-significant sites and their role in providing cultural vitality to our cities and neighborhoods. He led the transformation of some of the Bay Area's most significant historic landmarks into vibrant and relevant new uses, including: the Ferry Building and Pier 70's Building 2. Mr. Wolfram's passion and expertise around preservation has been manifested in his post as member of the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission from 2012 to 2020, including the most recent five years as the Commission's President.

Attached is a resolution that the staff has prepared, thanking Ms. Alschuler and Ms. Barton for advising the Commission over the past decades on issues related to public access shoreline appearance and design. As a result of their insightful advice, the public enjoys a wide range of high-quality access to and along the shoreline of the San Francisco Bay. With the Commission's approval, we will forward the resolutions to Ms. Alschuler and Ms. Barton.

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

Board Members

Jacinta McCann, Chair (Landscape Architect)
Gary Strang, Vice Chair (Architect & Landscape Architect)
Bob Battalio (Coastal Civil Engineer)
Kristen Hall (Urban Planner)
Tom Leader (Landscape Architect)
Stefan Pellegrini (Architect)
Andrew Wolfram (Architect)

Board Alternates

Roger Leventhal (Civil Engineer)
Karen Alschuler (Urban Planner)
Cheryl Barton (Landscape Architect)

If approved by the Commission, these new roles would go into effect at the next Design Review Board meeting to be held on October 19, 2020.

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RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE

Karen Alschuler

September 17, 2020

Whereas, Karen Alschuler, of Perkins & Will, has served on the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission’s Design Review Board since 1994 without compensation and without complaint; and

Whereas, Ms. Alschuler has a background in urban planning and is known throughout the State of California for her expertise and leadership in waterfront master planning; and

Whereas, Ms. Alschuler has valuable expertise in the development of major waterfront mixed-use projects in the San Francisco Bay Area; and,

Whereas, Ms. Alschuler’s sensible and pragmatic advice to BCDC permit applicants has informed the design of many shoreline projects and resulted in an improved and enjoyable connection to the Bay; and,

Whereas, Ms. Alschuler has provided informed guidance to development teams on how to improve shoreline public access within the historical context of the site; and,

Whereas, Ms. Alschuler will vacate her 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 Ms. Karen Alschuler for her generous and distinguished public service over the past twenty-six years.

R. ZACHARY WASSERMAN, Chair



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RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE

Cheryl Barton

September 17, 2020

Whereas, Cheryl Barton, of the Office of Cheryl Barton, has served on the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Design Review Board since 2004 without compensation and without complaint; and

Whereas, Ms. Barton has a background in landscape architecture and is known throughout the State of California for her expertise and leadership in thoughtful landscape design; and

Whereas, Ms. Barton has valuable expertise in the development of waterfront park projects in the San Francisco Bay Area; and,

Whereas, Ms. Barton's sensible and pragmatic advice to BCDC permit applicants has informed the design of many shoreline projects and resulted in climate-adaptive planting and appropriate programming; and,

Whereas, Ms. Barton has provided informed guidance to applicants on how to improve public access to the Bay; and,

Whereas, Ms. Barton will vacate her 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 Ms. Cheryl Barton for her generous and distinguished public service over the past sixteen years.

R. ZACHARY WASSERMAN, Chair

