

# **STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION ON A CONTRACT WITH RESOURCES LEGACY FUND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORS**

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SF BAY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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# BACKGROUND

## EJ Advisors

- In 2021 BCDC launched an Environmental Justice (EJ) Advisors program to help the agency implement its Environmental Justice and Social Equity policies.
- 6 individuals from frontline communities around the Bay were selected to serve as advisors.

## Resources Legacy Fund

- RLF is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that partners with leaders in philanthropy, communities, government, science, and business to promote smart policies and secure equitable public funding for the environment, climate change resilience, and healthy communities.
- RLF has supported the EJ Advisors by funding \$6,000 annual stipends for 6 EJ advisor in 2021 and 5 in 2022. They will fund 3 annual stipends in 2023.

# EJ Advisors



Julio Garcia



Violet Saena



Selena Feliciano



Anthony Khalil

# EJ Advisors' Foundational Values

- Respect and protect communities whose voices have not been, and still are not, included in policy conversations
- Ensure that BCDL's decision-making processes are robust, meaningful, and equitable
- Prevent harm before it starts
- Honor the work that has been accomplished and learn from previous mistakes

# EJ Advisor Goals

- Advance and recommend to the Commission how best to embed equity and environmental justice principles throughout BCDC's programs, policies, and processes.
- Work with BCDC staff and the Commission to develop metrics to track the implementation of such changes.
- Encourage Commission appointing authorities to select Commissioners and Alternates who reflect the diversity of Bay shoreline and inland communities.
- Increase strategies for a more diverse workplace at BCDC.
- Develop a permitting and planning model that better incorporates meaningful and robust community engagement during development and permitting processes, especially in areas most vulnerable to rising sea levels

# Advisors Accomplishments

- EJ in Permits
- Racial Equity Plan
- CBO Mapping Tool
- “Toxic Tours”

# **Contract Details (Through FY 23-24)**

BCDC Contribution: Up to \$74,000

RLF Contribution: \$18,000

EJ Advisors Stipend: \$10,000/year

Additional Opportunities:

- Bay Adapt Implementation Committee
- Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan Advisory Group
- Local Community Events

# Policy Alignment

- Executive Order N-16-22 Embedding Equity Action Plan
- BCDC's Strategic Plan
- Racial Equity Action Plan
- Continued EJ Advisors Program Development



# Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize its Executive Director to enter into a contract of up to \$74,000 with the Resources Legacy Fund to administer stipends to BCDC's EJ Advisors, pending approval from the Department of General Services.

# THANK YOU



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<https://bccdc.ca.gov/ejwg/environmental-justice-advisors.html>