

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 3, 2019

AGENDA NO. 12

PROPOSAL: Appoint Members to South Coast AQMD Hearing Board

SYNOPSIS: The terms of office for the Hearing Board Medical Member and two Public Members, and their Alternates, expire June 30, 2019. An Advisory Committee was appointed as required by law. The Advisory Committee interviewed the public member candidates at its meeting on March 28, 2019, and made its recommendations to the Administrative Committee. The Administrative Committee interviewed candidates at its meeting on April 12, 2019, and made a final recommendation. This action is to appoint two public members and their alternates to fill the new terms.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, April 12, 2019; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Appoint/reappoint the following individuals to the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board, effective July 1, 2019, with terms ending June 30, 2022:

Hon. Nate Holden, Public Member	Alternate: Gideon Kracov
Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta, Public Member	Alternate: Robert Copeland

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

DG

Background

Health and Safety Code Section 40501.1(b) requires the South Coast AQMD to appoint a Hearing Board Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) composed of one representative appointed by each of the Board members for the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino, and the City of Los Angeles.

The the two current Public Members, Patricia Byrd and Hon. Nate Holden, and their current Alternates, Robert D. Copeland and Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta, all requested reappointment. (Ms. Verdugo-Peralta requested appointment as a regular member only.)

Based on criteria developed by the Advisory Committee, the Committee members evaluated the resumes of thirty public member candidates. The Advisory Committee requested that South Coast AQMD staff also evaluate the resumes so they could consider that input. The staff that assisted were the Assistant Deputy Executive Officer of Finance and the Assistant Deputy Executive Officer of Information Management. The Committee then narrowed the candidates to a short list of public member candidates. On April 12, 2019 the Administrative Committee conducted interviews.

Proposal

After interviewing the candidates, the Administrative Committee recommended that the Board reappoint Nate Holden and appoint Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta as Public Members, and appoint Gideon Kracov and reappoint Robert Copeland as Alternate Public Members, for terms commencing July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2022. The individuals recommended for appointment were subsequently contacted, and each indicated their willingness to serve. A summary of the qualifications of each is set forth below.

Hon. Nate Holden– Mr. Holden was appointed to the position of Public Member on the Hearing Board in May 2016. Prior to his service on the Hearing Board, he served over 30 years in the public sector, as a Los Angeles City Councilman, California State Senator, and as Assistant Chief Deputy to Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. As a City Councilman, he served as Chairman of the Air Quality and Waste Management Committee and Chairman of the Transportation Committee. As a California State Senator, he served as Vice Chairman of the Public Utilities Transit and Energy Committee, where Assembly Bill 250 was heard. With this bill, the South Coast AQMD was ultimately created. Most recently, Mr. Holden served on the Environmental Justice Committee for California Attorney General Kamala Harris’ Transition Team. Before entering politics, Mr. Holden spent 17 years in the aerospace industry where he was assigned to innovative projects, including the Surveyor Lunar Landing spacecraft mission. Mr. Holden is a U.S. Army Veteran, having served in the Military Police Corps during World War II, stationed in Germany and Italy. He earned a Bachelors of Science in Applied Physics and a Master of Science in Systems Engineering from West Coast University in Los Angeles. He also received an Honorary Doctorate from the Southwestern University School of Law, as well as an Honorary Doctorate from Pacific State University.

Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta – Mrs. Verdugo-Peralta has over 35 years energy efficiency and utility experience, as well as over 20 years experience in air quality/air pollution control, rule making and small business experience and expertise, specifically with the South Coast AQMD as a volunteer on various committees and advisory groups; and as a Governing Board Member for 7 years, during which time she represented the South Coast AQMD on the California Fuel Cell Partnership, the Hydrogen Highway Advisory Committee, and the Department of Energy’s International Partnership for a Hydrogen Economy, as well as serving on the board of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of

America. Her non-profit experience includes being Founder, President and CEO of SEETA, an organization which conducts public education and outreach activities regarding energy and water conservation, air pollution issues and practices, as well as advocacy for new and more efficient technologies. Her educational background includes graduation from several colleges and universities in the fields of English, History, Psychology, Public Administration/Organizational Management, Business Management/ Marketing/Commercial & Industrial Lighting/Motors/Chillers, Energy Efficient Construction and Solar Energy, and Heating/Ventilation and Air Conditioning. Mrs. Verdugo-Peralta is the recipient of the South Coast AQMD's Clean Air Award for Citizen Promotion of Good Environmental Stewardship, among others.

Alternate Public Members

Gideon Kracov – Mr. Kracov has been a practicing attorney for over 24 years with a focus on environmental and municipal law. Mr. Kracov has served as Chair of the State Bar of California Environmental Law Section, the Governor's appointee and Chair of the California Mining and Geology Board, Chair of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control Independent Review Panel, Vice-Chair of the Los Angeles Proposition O Bond Committee, the Governor's appointee and Acting Chair of the State Committee supervising California's vehicle smog check program, and currently serves on the Los Angeles County Integrated Solid Waste Management Task Force. Mr. Kracov holds a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley and received his Juris Doctorate and Environmental Law Certificate from Berkeley Law, University of California Boalt Hall.

Robert D. Copeland. – Mr. Copeland was appointed to the Hearing Board as Alternate Public Member in June 2012, to fill an unexpired term, and reappointed in 2013 and 2016. He has been an environmental engineer with The Boeing Company since 1998, including eight years as a Senior Manager in the Environment, Health and Safety organization. Currently, he is playing a leading role in the Boeing enterprise rollout of an EHS Management Information System. Outside of work, Mr. Copeland has taken an active role in promoting environmental stewardship in his community, and was appointed by the Signal Hill City Council to serve as the chairperson of the City's Sustainability Committee in 2008. He first served as an elected official as City Clerk from 2014 to 2017. In 2017 he was elected to the Signal Hill City Council, and was appointed to serve as the Vice Mayor in March of 2019. Mr. Copeland holds a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles, an MBA from Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA, and a Juris Doctorate from Southwestern University School of Law, Los Angeles, CA.

Fiscal Impacts

Sufficient funds are budgeted each year to compensate those who serve on the Hearing Board.