

Housing Methodology Committee (HMC) Member Bios

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Susan Hollingsworth Adams

Councilmember, City of Rohnert Park

Councilmember Susan Hollingsworth Adams was elected to the Council in 2018. She has been Volunteer of the Year at Lawrence E. Jones Middle School (LJMS); Chair of the Committee to Protect C-RP Schools; Parent Volunteer Coordinator at LJMS; Vice Chair of RCHS Cougar Boosters; Vice Chair of the Rohnert Park Parks & Recreation Master Plan Committee; and Member of the Rohnert Park Chamber of Commerce. She moved to Rohnert Park with family in 1961, holds a Bachelor of Arts from Brigham Young University, and works as Director of Operations at Art Hollingsworth Insurance Services.

Jesse Arreguín

Mayor, City of Berkeley

Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguín was elected in November 2016, and is Berkeley's first Latino Mayor and the youngest in a century. Throughout his public service he has made building and preserving affordable housing and preventing displacement a top priority. Mayor Arreguín is currently the Vice President of ABAG, and he serves on the Bay Area Regional Collaborative, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Alameda County Transportation Commission and the East Bay Community Energy Board.

Rick Bonilla

Councilmember, City of San Mateo

Councilmember Rick Bonilla has been a member of the San Mateo City Council since 2015. Since 2001, Rick has been a member of numerous commissions and committees in the city of San Mateo. Currently, Rick is a member of the Board of Directors at various entities, including Peninsula Clean Energy, South Bayside Waste Management Authority, Housing Endowment and Regional Trust, and Commute.org.

Monica Brown

Supervisor, County of Solano

As the Supervisor for District 2, Monica Brown brings her background as a classroom teacher of 39 years and a former Trustee at Solano Community College to her position as a Supervisor. Ensuring that we have a highly trained workforce and a thriving Community College with a strong Career and Technical training component were top priorities for Monica as a teacher and a Trustee. Monica taught for 30 years at Green Valley Middle School, as well as numerous summers at Armijo High School and two summers at Benicia Middle School.

Diane Dillon

Supervisor, County of Napa

Supervisor Diane Dillon was born and raised in Napa and has lived in St. Helena for almost 30 years. She has been an active community member her entire life; she cares about helping people and is passionate about protecting the scenic resources and agricultural industry of Napa County. Diane actively practiced law in Napa County from 1981 to 2002, including serving as deputy city attorney for the City of Calistoga, which increased her understanding of the governing challenges of our small towns.

Pat Eklund

Councilmember, City of Novato

Councilmember Pat Eklund serves on the Board for the Cities, Counties and Schools Partnership—a joint effort between the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties, and California School Boards Association, where she served as President twice. Pat also serves on the Environmental Quality Policy Committee for the League of California Cities and on the Executive Board of ABAG, where she represents the 11 cities throughout Marin County; she also serves on ABAG’s Regional Planning Committee and Administrative Committee.

Neysa Fligor

Councilmember, City of Los Altos

Councilmember Neysa Fligor is a Member of the Los Altos City Council and was selected to serve as the Santa Clara County Cities Association representative on the ABAG Regional Planning Committee. Prior to Neysa’s election to the Los Altos City Council, she served as a Director on the El Camino Healthcare District Board, Member of the El Camino Hospital Board, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and Member of the YWCA Silicon Valley Board. Neysa obtained her law degree from Georgetown Law and has experience working in the public, private and tech sectors.

Julie Pierce

Vice Mayor, City of Clayton

Vice Mayor Julie Pierce has served on the Clayton City Council since 1992, serving four times as mayor. On the regional level, Julie is actively involved in protecting local control as the region undertakes state-required planning for future growth. As a 20-year member of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, serving twice as chair, Julie has been working on transportation, land use and growth management policy issues to benefit the people of Contra Costa for 25 years. Julie is also Vice President of the ABAG Executive Committee, where she is a respected, effective voice for allowing cities to plan in ways that are suitable for their own residents. Julie also represents the Contra Costa cities on the ABAG Regional Planning Committee.

Alternates:

John Vasquez

Supervisor, Solano County

Supervisor John M. Vasquez was elected to the Solano County Board of Supervisors in 2003 to represent the 4th District, which covers the cities of Vacaville and Dixon and the Northern part of Solano County. This diverse district includes some of the richest farmland in the State. Supervisor Vasquez recognizes that cities and counties can work together to address the need for affordable and mixed-income housing. John also views city-centered development around transportation centers as a key component in future residential growth.

JURISDICTION STAFF

Josh Abrams

Baird + Driskell Community Planning, Staff to 21 Elements

Josh Abrams is a city planner who lives in the housing weeds. He spends many of his days wrangling San Mateo jurisdictions to work together.

Michael Brilliot

Deputy Director, Citywide Planning, City of San Jose

Michael Brilliot is a Deputy Director in the City of San Jose's Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement. He leads the Citywide Planning team, which focuses on the General Plan and long range planning, station area planning, urban village planning, policy development to address the housing crises, and the zoning ordinance. This team is currently focused on retrofitting suburbia into walkable, urban great places.

Ellen Clark

Planning Manager, City of Pleasanton

Ellen Clark is the Planning Manager/Deputy Director of Community Development at the City of Pleasanton. Prior to joining the City of Pleasanton, Ellen held positions in community development at the Town of Moraga and Town of Mammoth Lakes, and as a planning consultant, including managing or contributing to several housing element updates.

Forrest Ebbs

Community Development Director, City of Antioch

Forrest Ebbs has nearly 20 years of experience in the fields of City Planning and Community Development and has served as the Community Development Director for the City of Antioch since 2015. Forrest has also served as Planning Director for the City of Stockton and Senior Planner for the City of Monterey, among other experiences. His professional interests include efficiency of public administration, practical planning solutions, and reinvestment strategies for developing communities.

Mindy Gentry

Planning Manager, City of Concord

Mindy Gentry is currently the Planning Manager for the City of Concord, where she oversees planning and housing, including the development of the 2,300 acre Concord Naval Weapons Station. She is a land use planner with over 14 years of experience working for local governments, with a focus on current development and long-range planning. She has processed large, complex development applications and managed updates to the General Plan, Housing Element, and various Specific Plans.

Paolo Ikezoe

Senior Planner, City and County of San Francisco

Paolo Ikezoe is a Senior Planner with the San Francisco Planning Department's Citywide Division Housing Team. His work has included various legislative efforts to increase housing capacity as well as citywide engagement and outreach around housing. Paolo received his Master's in City Planning from UC Berkeley in 2012.

Darin Ranelletti

Policy Director for Housing Security, City of Oakland

Darin Ranelletti is the Policy Director for Housing Security in the Oakland Mayor's Office, where he works to promote safe, healthy, affordable and stable housing in Oakland. Previously, he worked for 15 years in the Oakland Planning and Building Department, most recently as the Deputy Director, where he oversaw the Bureau of Planning, including the preparation of long-range policy plans and the review of development projects, and served as the City's Environmental Review Officer.

Jane Riley

Comprehensive Planning Manager, Sonoma County

Jane Riley is an experienced, AICP certified planning manager working in local government. With a proven history of moving forward successful planning and housing policy initiatives, she is driven by the need to get out of our own way to solve the housing crisis.

Elise Semonian

Planning Director, Town of San Anselmo

Elise Semonian has served as the Planning Director for the Town of San Anselmo since 2015. Prior to working for San Anselmo, Elise worked as a planner for the Town of Ross and City of Mill Valley. She has a BA in Political Science from CSU Chico and a law degree from the University of San Francisco, and is an inactive member of the State Bar of California.

Aarti Shrivastava

Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director, City of Mountain View

Aarti Shrivastava has a background in architecture and urban planning. She has managed planning departments in several dynamic Silicon Valley cities and is the Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director for the City of Mountain View.

Vin Smith

Community Development Director, City of Napa

Vin Smith has worked in the planning field since 1989 for various communities, including Moreno Valley, City of Napa, City of Petaluma, City of Mill Valley, and County of Napa. Between working for Petaluma and Mill Valley, from 2000-2014 Vin owned and operated Smith, Sickler & Associates, managing entitlement and development projects primarily in Napa, Sonoma and Marin Counties. Vin's current position as the Community Development Director for the City of Napa has him overseeing the Planning, Housing, Code Enforcement, Building and Parking divisions of the Community Development Department.

Matt Walsh

Principal Planner, Solano County

Matt Walsh has worked in both Current Planning and Long Range Planning for over 20 years. He is currently a Principal Planner, primarily working on Long Range and Policy Planning assignments with some supervisory duties for major current planning applications.

Alternates:

Jennifer Carman

Development Services Director, City of Morgan Hill

Jennifer Carman has served as Development Services Director in the City of Morgan Hill since 2017. Prior to that, she served as Planning & Environmental Services Director for 4 years in Goleta (Santa Barbara County) and 10 years as Development Services Manager in the City of El Cerrito. Cycle 6 will be her fourth Housing Element cycle and she looks forward to working with the methodology committee.

Andrew Crabtree

Community Development Director, City of Santa Clara

Andrew Crabtree is the Director of Community Development for the City of Santa Clara, overseeing long-range and current planning, building, code enforcement and housing programs. He has over 20 years of experience working in Silicon Valley, including prior tenures with the cities of San Jose and Morgan Hill. His educational and professional background is focused on land use planning, and he has been involved with the preparation of multiple housing elements and RHNA allocation proceedings.

David Feinstein

Principal Planner, City of Fairfield

Dave Feinstein is the Planning Division Manager and Interim Director of Community Development for the City of Fairfield. He has worked as a planner for the City of Fairfield since 1995, and has participated in the two previous RHNA cycles.

Noah Housh

Community Development Director, City of Cotati

Noah Housh, Community Development Director for the City of Cotati, manages Planning, Building, Code Enforcement and Housing services for the City. Noah has worked in several small and medium sized cities in the Northern San Francisco Bay Area. Prior to entering public service, Noah worked for several building contractors with a focus on residential and commercial construction. In his role as Community Development Director, Noah has overseen the permitting and inspection process for a variety of residential, commercial and industrial projects. As an advocate for affordable housing and streamlined development review processes in general, Noah is always looking for opportunities to improve the review and construction process for communities where he works.

Milan Nevajda

Deputy Planning Director, Sonoma County

Milan Nevajda's experience in the public sector includes rural, suburban, and urban communities as well as regional entities. His professional background includes service with New England jurisdictions and consultancies before coming to California to work for the M Group. Milan has provided contract planning services to several Northern California cities, including Petaluma, Santa Rosa, and the County for the Airport Area Specific Plan update. Mr. Nevajda possesses the professional, organizational development, business administration, and policy skills needed to lead the Planning Division, which plays a key role in supporting economic development and ensuring opportunities for the public to participate in land development activity in Sonoma County.

STAKEHOLDERS

Anita Addison

Chief of Planning and Strategic Advancement, La Clinica de la Raza

Anita Addison, MCP, MPH, is the Chief of Planning and Strategic Advancement for La Clinica de La Raza, one of the largest community health centers in the Bay Area, serving more than 90,000 patients a year in Alameda, Contra Costa, and Solano counties. Anita is responsible for strategic planning, facilities development and operations, fund development, and grants management. She is currently on the boards of Capital Link and Community Vision (formerly Northern California Community Loan Fund). Anita holds master's degrees in city and regional planning and public health from UC Berkeley and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Stanford University.

Amanda Brown-Stevens

CEO, Greenbelt Alliance

Amanda Brown-Stevens is CEO of Greenbelt Alliance, working throughout the Bay Area to protect the region's iconic natural areas and encourage climate-smart development. Prior to this role, Amanda oversaw Resilient by Design—an unprecedented collaboration between local communities, design professionals, and other stakeholders to bring innovative design solutions to sea level rise impacts around San Francisco Bay. Amanda has helped communities throughout California pass public finance measures, raising hundreds of millions of dollars in new funding for open space and essential infrastructure.

Rupinder (Ruby) Bolaria Shifrin

Manager, Housing Affordability Initiative, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

Ruby Bolaria Shifrin manages the housing affordability program at the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI). Prior to CZI, she worked in real estate development, managing multifamily mixed income development projects in San Francisco for Fivepoint (formerly Lennar Urban) and has experience in commercial real estate at JLL. Ruby also worked internationally at the Housing Department in Johannesburg, South Africa, where she managed an in-situ upgrading pilot project.

Paul Campos

Senior Vice President of Governmental Affairs & General Counsel, Building Industry Association of the Bay Area (BIA)

Paul Campos oversees the BIA|Bay Area governmental affairs staff, manages the association's litigation activities; acts as a resource for members on land use, planning and environmental issues; and works with the California Building Industry Association on state legislative and regulatory issues. He has testified before the United States Senate on behalf of BIA and the National Association of Home Builders on land use and environmental issues. Paul has been with the association since 1993. He earned a B.A. with highest honors from UC Berkeley and graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School.

Jonathan Fearn

Senior Director, Development, Greystar Development

Jonathan Fearn is responsible for entitlements and design development for projects in Redwood City and Santa Clara. In addition to obtaining discretionary approvals, his primary responsibilities include due diligence, forecasting and budgeting, initial land and site planning, architecture and design, government relations, and community outreach. Jonathan is a member of the Oakland Planning Commission, was previously a Technical Committee member of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Committee to House the Bay Area (CASA), and a founding member of ConnectOakland, an advocacy group created to reimagine the I-980 corridor within Oakland.

Victoria Fierce

Co-Executive Director, California Renter Legal Advocacy and Education Fund (CaRLA)

Victoria Fierce is the other half of the California Renters Legal Advocacy and Education Fund, a public impact litigation non-profit that sues California suburbs to enforce state housing laws. When not in court, she is a community organizer with East Bay for Everyone, an organization that fights to ensure the right to the city for all who call the East Bay home.

Russell Hancock

President & CEO, Joint Venture Silicon Valley

Russell Hancock is President & CEO of Joint Venture Silicon Valley, a position he has held since 2003. In this role, Dr. Hancock is best described variously: as a civic leader, community gatherer, institution builder, social entrepreneur, and outspoken advocate for regionalism. Since taking the helm of Joint Venture he has quadrupled the size of the organization; assembled a potent board filled with mayors, CEOs and university presidents; built strategic partnerships; recruited a highly talented staff; and launched initiatives that are delivering measurable results to the region.

Welton Jordan

Vice President, Real Estate Development, EAH Housing

Welton Jordan is a senior vice president of real estate development at EAH Housing, a 50+ year old affordable housing nonprofit organization. He is responsible for the strategy and execution of the organization's overall housing development program and \$1.4 billion pipeline. He leads a team of 20 real estate development professionals in California and Hawaii, the two states with the greatest need for affordable housing. Mr. Jordan has more than 15 years of experience in real estate development and has worked with various private and public funding sources to build affordable/family, market rate, mixed income, mixed use, workforce and permanent supportive housing. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics with a minor in Finance from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and earned a Master of Arts in Economics from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Brandon Kline

Associate Director of Environmental Programs, San Francisco State University

Brandon Kline, associate director of environmental programs at San Francisco State University, is an environmental attorney, and a past-recipient of the Green Energy Institute energy law fellowship at Lewis and Clark Law School. He served as a California Executive Fellow in the Governor's Office, assisting the Deputy Chief of Staff and Secretary of Legislative Affairs with legislative negotiations leading to the passage of AB 32 (the California Global Warming Solutions Act) during the Schwarzenegger Administration; he subsequently joined the Governor's Office of Planning and Research as a summer law clerk during the Brown Administration, assisting with legislative enactments and revising the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. Prior to joining SF State, he served under the president of the University of California, handling stakeholder engagement and institutional advocacy for ten campuses, five medical centers, and two national labs. In 2016, he was named as a Presidential Leadership Scholar because of his commitment to energy security and developing bipartisan solutions to decarbonizing the nation's electricity grid.

Jeffrey Levin

Policy Director, East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO)

Jeffrey Levin has over 35 years' experience in the field of affordable housing and community development. As EBHO's Policy Director, he works with member and allied organizations and individuals on regional land use and housing planning, housing elements, gentrification and displacement, local housing policies such as inclusionary zoning and impact fees, and equitable development. Prior to joining EBHO in 2013, he worked for the City of Oakland for over 28 years, including 15 years as Housing Policy and Programs Manager, where he worked closely with many public and private organizations at the local, regional, state and national level. He completed his undergraduate work at UC Berkeley, and holds a Master's Degree in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning from UC Berkeley. He served on the Housing Methodology Committee for both the 4th and 5th Housing Element Cycles.

Scott Littlehale

Senior Research-Analyst, Northern California Carpenters Regional Council

Scott Littlehale is Senior Research-Analyst for the Northern California Carpenters Regional Council, where he leads a team that researches the development & construction industries. He has analyzed the costs of producing below-market-rate housing in California as well as the social and economic impacts of prevailing wage and apprenticeship policies. Littlehale earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree with distinction and departmental honors at Stanford University and passed Ph.D. candidate qualifying exams in Political Science at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. A California native, he has lived in Richmond, CA since 2001.

Fernando Martí

Co-Director, Council of Community Housing Organizations

Fernando Martí is co-director at CCHO. He was a founding member of the SF Community Land Trust, and currently serves on the board of environmental justice organization PODER. He is a licensed architect, with joint graduate degrees in Architecture and City & Regional Planning from UC Berkeley (2000), was a Rose Architectural Fellow (2003-6), and has taught studios in the design and financing of affordable housing at UC Berkeley and USF. Previously he worked as an affordable housing developer at Mission Housing, urban designer at Urban Ecology, and architect at JSW Architects and at Asian Neighborhood Design.

Rodney Nickens, Jr.

Policy Manager, Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California (NPH)

Rodney Nickens is the Regional Policy Manager at the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California (NPH) in San Francisco where his work focuses on leading NPH's regional affordable housing advocacy work at MTC and ABAG and BART, building advocacy coalitions across the Bay Area, advocating for public agencies to prioritize public land for affordable housing, and conducting innovative policy research to make the Bay Area a more affordable and equitable place to live, inclusive of low-income and very low-income communities of color. Before joining NPH, Rodney worked at Public Advocates, where he provided leadership on a number of affordable housing campaigns, working directly with housing lawyers, community organizers, and low-income tenants to advocate for aggressive implementation and enforcement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule in exclusionary communities. Rodney has also worked as a Legislative Consultant in the California State Senate, as a Field Organizer for Stacey Abrams' 2018 gubernatorial campaign, and as a Legal Extern at the California Department of Justice in the Office of the Attorney General.

Bob Planthold

Government & Community Advocates Strategies, Inc.

Bob Planthold is a senior with a lifelong disability who has raised 2-1/2 kids. Much of his 33 years of advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities & seniors has dealt with transportation & housing. He has served as member and officers of the access advisory committees for many Bay Area transit systems, as well as on various MTC committees, and received awards from CalTrans, MTC, and California Walks. He also was a member of SF's Comprehensive Housing Advisory Committee, during which the disability community's advocate-members made several suggestions that were either ignored by or rejected by the members who were city bureaucrats or housing providers.

Matt Regan

Senior Vice President, Public Policy, Bay Area Council

Matt Regan is Senior Vice President of Public Policy at the Bay Area Council, focusing on Housing & Land Use. He has lived in the Bay Area for 25 years and currently resides in Pleasant Hill with his family. Matt has a Law Degree from Middlesex University in London.

Carlos Romero

Urban Ecology

Carlos Romero is a housing development and land use consultant for non-profit and community based organizations. Over the past 30 years he has been involved in almost every aspect of developing and operating community housing and economic development organizations as a founder, board member, project manager, and executive director. He is a city councilmember in East Palo Alto serving as Mayor in 2011 and as chair and vice chair of the former EPA Redevelopment Agency. He is presently vice-chair of the ABAG Regional Planning Committee, and sits on the San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board. Carlos has extensive experience as a community organizer in low-income neighborhoods, having worked on a multitude of grassroots organizing projects ranging from the incorporation of East Palo Alto and establishment of rent control, to civic participation for immigrants and environmental justice campaigns.

STATE PARTNERS

Megan Kirkeby

Assistant Deputy Director for Fair Housing, California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD)

Megan Kirkeby is the Assistant Deputy Director for Fair Housing with the California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) Housing Policy Division. She oversees the state's role in the regional housing needs assessment and fair housing initiatives. Prior to joining HCD, Megan served as the Policy Director of the California Housing Partnership, a state-created non-profit working on housing sustainability and preservation issues; Policy Associate for the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California; and interned with PolicyLink as the Community Equity Intern, analyzing infrastructure disparities in low-income unincorporated communities of color.

Alternates:

Tom Brinkhuis

California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD)

Tom Brinkhuis is a Housing Policy Specialist for the Data and Research Unit within the division of Housing Policy Development, where he works on a variety of data needs for the division. During his 6 years with HCD, Tom has worked on housing element reviews, RHNA, annual progress report data, grant programs, GIS, and has provided technical assistance for numerous stakeholders.

Kevan Rolfness

California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD)

Kevan Rolfness is an analyst with the California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) Housing Policy Division. He currently assists with the SB 2 Planning Grant Program and the regional housing needs assessment. Prior to HCD, Kevan received a master's in public policy from the McGeorge School of Law while also working as a planning intern at the San Joaquin Council of Governments.