

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

Staff Report – Item 15

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Mitch Sears, Executive Officer
Alisa Lembke, VCE Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: Consider Appointment to vacant At-Large seat on Community Advisory Committee

DATE: September 14, 2023

RECOMMENDATION

Consider appointment to vacant At-Large seat on Community Advisory Committee (CAC), in Class 3 of Committee members, with a term that expires in June of 2024.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In June 2023, Staff received Kristin Jacobs resignation from her At-Large seat on the CAC because she moved out of VCE's service area. Ms. Jacob's term would have expired in June 2024 ("Class 3"). The consecutive term for Class 3 would be from July 2024 to June 2027. Advertisement and solicitation for applications to fill the At-Large and unincorporated Yolo County positions have continued on the website, social media and word of mouth.

The selection criteria for an At-Large position are:

Recruitment/Selection Guidelines

Ideal candidates for At-Large CAC seats possess subject matter expertise/experience related to the goals contained in the VCE Strategic Plan, including:

- Energy Sector (e.g. procurement)
- Community engagement
- Environmental justice
- Agricultural Sector
- Grid reliability and sustainability
- Decarbonization

Candidates that represent historically underrepresented communities in VCE's service territory and/or are historically underrepresented in Energy Sector professions are encouraged to apply for the CAC in general and specifically the At-Large CAC seats.

Professional Sectors that tend to intersect with VCE activities include but are not limited to those listed below. Ideal candidates for At-Large CAC seats possess professional experience in one or more of the following sectors:

- Legal (specialties in energy sector/regulatory)
- Financial (banking, accounting, auditing)
- Energy (procurement, regulatory, planning, engineering)
- Agricultural
- Community Engagement/Outreach/Customer Service (community organizing, legislative, public relations, marketing)
- Research (energy sector, decarbonization)

Note: Consideration of diversity in subject matter expertise/experience to avoid overrepresentation of a single area of importance (e.g. financial sector), was included by the Board as an overall factor.

Staff have received one application for the At-Large position: Danielle Ballard. She is a VCE Customer, a City of Woodland resident, and works in the agricultural sector. She has a degree in environmental science and is passionate about sustainability and has an understanding of farming and the local agriculture industry.

CONCLUSION

Based on the selection guidelines and materials submitted by the applicant, Staff recommends the Board consider appointing Ms. Ballard to the vacant At-Large seat, in the “Class 3” of Committee members, with a term that expires in June of 2024.

Attachment

1. CAC At Large Application (Danielle Ballard)



Received on:

August 2, 2023

Return to:

Valley Clean Energy
604 Second Street
Davis, CA 95616

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APPLICATION

PERSONAL DATA SHEET

Name: Ballard Danielle [redacted] Are you at least 18 years old? Yes
Last First Middle

Home Address: [redacted] Woodland, CA [redacted]
Number/Street City/State/Zip

Email Address: [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
Daytime Phone Evening/Weekend Phone

Business Title or Occupation: Pest Control and Sustainability Manager

Company/Organization: Bullseye Farms

Address: [redacted] Woodland, CA [redacted]
Street Address City, State and Zip

Which Valley Clean Energy jurisdiction do you reside in?
 City of Davis City of Woodland County of Yolo (Unincorporated) City of Winters

If you do not reside in Valley Clean Energy's jurisdictions, please include a separate statement to address why you are applying for this committee.

Are you seeking to fill an At-Large Seat? Yes No

Background Information:

Why do you wish to serve as a member of the VCE Community Advisory Committee?

I would like to serve as a member of the VCE Community Advisory Committee because I have been wanting to get more involved in my community and this opportunity seems like a great fit. I live and work in Woodland and I care about the future of this community and the continuously improvement of making this community and world a better place. Agriculture is one of the major local energy consumers and I am interested in bringing the perspective of the agriculture community and its needs to VCE.

My degree is in environmental science and I am passionate about sustainability and taking mindful steps to incorporate those practices in my life. I see the value in both cleaner energy and community choice and I have been enrolled in the program since it has been available to customers. I am excited about the opportunity to learn from and engage with other industry professionals who have similar interests and common goals.

What experience/perspective would you bring to the committee? Please reference the professional sector and related professional experience below for At-Large member applications in this section.

I believe I offer an interesting mix of both government and private experience in the Agricultural Sector. From 2015 to 2020 I worked at the Yolo County Agriculture Department. In my role there I mainly worked in pesticide use enforcement. I had the opportunity to work with many farmers and industry members in the community. The part of the job that I enjoyed the most was being able to educate people and help them get into compliance with the frequently changing regulations. This position helped me to better understand and respect farming and agriculture. I really enjoyed feeling like I was able to be helpful and make a difference by simplifying and explaining expectations to farmers, while keeping employees, the community and the environment safe.

In 2023, I accepted a new adventure at a local farm in Woodland. In this position I work to keep us in compliance not only with the Agriculture Department, but with other government agencies. I make an effort to communicate with community members about our farming practices and to be a resource if people have questions about our operation. We have an excellent team of educated and experienced people who have been a great resource for me and it has been a wonderful learning experience. Many of my coworkers sit on other boards and this helps provide me with information and insight into what is going on locally and statewide.

Please list your previous and present governmental and civic experience. Indicate when, position and duties:

My previous experience working for the government was with the Yolo County Agriculture Department from 2015 and 2020. My position was as an Agricultural Biologist/Inspector and my main duty was pesticide use enforcement. I oversaw any pesticide related issues within the county. This included agricultural, structural and even home use of pesticides. Some of my duties included inspecting pesticide applications, creating and giving presentations on pesticide safety and investigating pesticide complaints and illnesses.

List any special training or experience you have that you feel would benefit your committee service:

I believe my experience in both the government and private sector offers a unique viewpoint that would benefit the committee. As a government employee I went to public meetings and served on leadership committees in my department where we tried to increase employee engagement. This required buy in from employees and creative strategies for participation. I also have experience presenting in front of small and large groups. My experience in my current role has allowed me to see the business side of farming and all that goes into growing various crops: almonds, walnuts, pistachios, tomatoes, sunflowers (seed), cucumbers (pickles), wheat, alfalfa and corn. Through my position at Bullseye Farms, I have gained knowledge about farming practices and created excellent connections with other farmers and professionals in the industry. All of this experience has given me good insight into the local agriculture industry and what needs we have to be successful.

Do you have any interests or associations which might present a conflict of interest?
If yes, please explain:

I do not have any interests or associations that present a conflict of interest.

What do you feel are your most important qualifications?

One of my most important qualifications for this position is my knowledge of the agriculture industry and the connections I have within my large scale organization and community to understand the needs of agriculture. My exceptional interpersonal skills, strong work ethic, and team mentality are some additional qualifications that make this position a natural fit for me. I also feel I am a good candidate because I am extremely dependable and reliable. I am eager to learn more about VCE and contribute my knowledge to benefit my community.

What do you see as some of the significant issues facing the community in the next few years that might pertain to Valley Clean Energy's Community Advisory Committee?

One significant issue I see facing the community in the next few years is how we meet our energy production goals to support the needs of our customers. With higher electrical demands, we must ensure we have enough power through diversification of energy sources, and the ability to store renewable energy. Another potential hurdle I see is how we can change the public perception of why people should chose VCE. Many people are willing to adopt more sustainable practices, especially if there is no additional cost. Finally, an issue I see down the road is how we are going to handle the waste from expired renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar. We are focused on renewable energy production, but I think we also need to have a plan in place for how this technology will be decommissioned in the future.

What do you hope to accomplish as a committee member?

My goals as a committee member are not specific at this point and I believe they become more defined as I am more involved, if I am selected for this role. Overall, I hope to be a strong representative from the agricultural sector and to provide valuable information and a different perspective from the other committee members.

I am aware of the obligations and responsibilities of this committee and am willing and able to fulfill this commitment should I be appointed: (Initial here:)

Please attach your resume or any additional information or statements which you feel would be helpful to the Valley Clean Energy Board of Directors in reviewing your qualifications.

AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE

I understand that in connection with this application for appointment, the information contained herein will be made available to the general public upon request. I further understand that if appointed, I may be required to take the oath of office and may be subject to requirements for filing financial disclosure statements.


Please Sign Here

8/2/2023
Date

NOTE: This document is a public record and may be disclosed/released pursuant to the California Public Records Act.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
Applications will be kept on file for two years. This application will expire on: **August 2, 2025**
Date of appointment by the Valley Clean Energy Board: _____
Length of term: _____
Is this a re-appointment? _____



DANIELLE BALLARD

████████████████████ | ██████████ | Woodland, CA ██████████

Summary

Hardworking agricultural professional who is knowledgeable about farming practices, sustainability and pesticide safety. Ambitious and dedicated individual with exceptional interpersonal skills and the desire to become more engaged in the community.

Skills

- Strong Interpersonal Skills
- Problem Solving Abilities
- Dedicated and Driven
- Dependable and Reliable
- Project Coordination
- Team Building
- Records Management
- Proficient in Word, Excel and PowerPoint

Experience

Bullseye Farms | Woodland, CA
Pest Control and Sustainability Manager
09/2020 - Current

- Manage pesticide program for 18,000 acre farm.
- Work with pest control advisors and employees to ensure pesticides are being applied timely and correctly.
- Manage farm food safety and sustainability plan and oversee related audits.
- Create farm nitrogen management plan.
- Work with neighbors to inform them about farming practices, upcoming pesticide applications and ground work.
- Prepare grant applications and proposals to initiate new sustainability efforts for business sustainability.

Yolo County Agriculture Department | Woodland, CA
Ag & Standards Inspector
09/2015 - 09/2020

- Interpreted, explained and enforced applicable laws, regulations and procedures.
- Performed pesticide use inspections on farmers within Yolo County.
- Created and presented information about pesticide regulations to small and large groups/organizations.
- Performed illness investigations and investigated drift and odor complaints.
- Actively participated in YES committee to help encourage employee engagement within the department.

Education and Training

Humboldt State University | Arcata, CA
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science, Policy
12/2012

- 4.0 GPA
- Graduated summa cum laude
- 2009-2012 - Presidential Scholar
- 2012 - Zimride Grant awarded by HEIF Committee