



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

April 5, 2019

Rex Bohn, Chair
Members of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
825 5th Street, Room #111
Eureka, California 95501

Dear Chair Bohn and Members of the Board:

I am writing to express my interest in being nominated for appointment to the North Coast District seat on the California Coastal Commission. Given my well-rounded experience I think you will find that I am a well-qualified for this position.

I did not apply when this first came open, as I knew another individual I was supportive of had thrown his hat in the ring. In addition, I was in the early stages of my year as president of the California State Association of Counties and needed to consider what my workload might look like. Now several months into my term, I realize I have the ability and the capacity to fulfill the duties of a Coastal Commissioner as well as continue my year as CSAC president. Hence, my renewed interest in this coastal commission seat.

To provide a little history, I actually applied for the vacant coastal commission seat when I was first elected to the board of supervisors approximately eight years ago. In hindsight, I realize now that I was completely in over my head. Even though I had served in city government for 10 years in a coastal community, I had a great deal to learn regarding land-use issues of a larger magnitude. Given the experience I have gained over these last eight years serving as a county supervisor, I believe now that I am well prepared for this position.

I bring with me a wide breadth and depth of knowledge, having benefited from not only my 18 years of local government in three different positions (all representing a coastal community), but also my experience at the state level being co-chair of CSAC's coastal counties working group and serving as an officer in the organization.

I have always prided myself on the ability to look at all sides of the issues and make reasoned decisions. My 30-plus years in the restaurant business was great training ground for being an elected individual because you learn how to work with anybody and you know how to accommodate others needs and concerns while not diminishing the results.

While I understand the desire and the need to protect and preserve our coastal resources, I also know that there need to be reasonable accommodations to allow jobs to thrive in coastal communities. That is a difficult balancing act but one that is definitely worth the effort.

I would like your support as I move forward with the process. I am available to have a more in-depth conversation and I am hopeful you will consider my request of support. Feel free to call me at (707) 499-5000.

Sincerely,



Virginia Bass, 4th District Supervisor
County of Humboldt

VB:kh

VIRGINIA BASS

Phone: (707) 499-5000
vbass@co.humboldt.ca.us

825 5th Street room 111
Eureka, Ca 95501

Through my 18 years of local government and over 30 years in customer service, I have developed excellent interpersonal skills and a depth and breadth of knowledge that would be valuable to the hard work the Coastal Commission does. I bring to the table an open mind and the ability to work with disparate groups and/or people to find common ground and resolution to challenging issues. I am a respected leader among county supervisors in the state, currently serving as President of CSAC (California State Association of Counties).

I look forward to the opportunity to interview for the position and invite you to reach out to me at (707) 499-5000 to answer any questions you may have.

SKILLS

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Problem-solving abilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Teamwork |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interpersonal skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Quick Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-tasking |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Critical thinking | |

EDUCATION

Graduated with the class of 1986 from Humboldt State University, Cum Laude, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration...all while working full time and raising my son.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Humboldt County 4th District Supervisor

January 2011 – Current

I work on behalf of the members of my community, which include not only the specific district I represent but also the county at large. At the highest level, I am one of 5 individuals charged with the task of running the county. I take that obligation very seriously and do my best to serve the community in every decision I make. Many issues we deal with are challenging from the respect that there is often conflicting information to consider as well as supporters and detractors on both sides of an issue. Land use is one of the areas where this seems to happen with great frequency. I pride myself on going in with an open mind and do my homework accordingly.

As a board, we are responsible for adopting ordinances, resolutions, policies and regulations governing the County for the health, safety and welfare of the current and future members of the community. We make sure county functions are carried out as efficiently as possible. We also must adopt a budget each year, which often pits departments, programs and community desires against each other, which requires the ability to work with others to accommodate concerns in a reasonable fashion that falls within our financial parameters.

Through the years I have been involved with committees which pretty much cover the spectrum including (but not limited to) economic development, homelessness, energy, mental health, hazardous materials, air quality and land use. This last year, due to my stint as president of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) I have limited my committee activity but retained my seat on LAFCO (Local Area Formation Commission). I have been an active member of CSAC's coastal

counties working group and served 3 years as co-chair. During that time, I was a participant in one of the joint local government/coastal commission meetings. I believe those meetings are valuable and should be continued on a regular basis as I found that it brought a better understanding to all concerned how important it is that we work together.

Most of all, as a county supervisor, I work hard to help my constituents deal with challenging situations regarding their neighborhoods and issues of concern community wide. I like to bring people together who normally do not care to be in the same room and help them work toward greater understand of each other's perspective which generally helps promote resolution of many issues.

Mayor, City of Eureka

December 2006 – December 2010

As Mayor, my duties were similar to that of city council with the addition of presiding over all the proceedings and only having the ability to vote to break a tie. That did not happen very often, but when it did, it was usually regarding a hotly debated, contentious item. I ran meetings in a fashion where the community felt welcome and order was maintained while affording individual community members equal opportunity to weigh in on issues. Additionally, as Mayor I took part in most things of a ceremonial nature. I served as the President of the League of California Cities Redwood Empire Division and served on the League's statewide Administration of Justice committee.

City Council Member City of Eureka

December 2000 – December 2006

Similar to my responsibilities as county supervisor, as a council member I was responsible for adopting ordinances, resolutions, policies and regulations governing the county for the health, safety and welfare of members of the community. We made sure city functions were carried out as efficiently as possible. We also adopted a budget each year and faced many of the same challenges mentioned above. Through the years I had been involved with committees which pretty much covered the spectrum. I also was involved in the League of California Cities and served on their statewide Administration of Justice committee.

Most of all, I worked hard to help my constituents deal with challenging situations regarding their neighborhoods and issues of concern community wide. I brought people together to solve problems.

Sales Representative Eli Lilly

April 2008 – October 2009

Called on physicians to educate and inform them of certain neuro-science related pharmaceuticals as well as provided them with samples. The job entailed visiting medical offices weekly that were dispersed between Booneville and Yreka. I did this while still serving as the Mayor of Eureka.

Manager/Operator OH's Townhouse

October 1976 – February 2008

The restaurant belonged to my family so, if you know anything about a family business, you name it I did it! Primarily customer service and management (financial and personnel). I believe my experience for over 30 years in customer experience trained me well for the political world of governing. That is where I learned the importance of listening to people, making sure I understood their needs and did my best to provide the service they expected and deserved. When I could not exactly deliver what they wanted, I worked to find an alternative that satisfied their needs. I found I was good at thinking on my feet finding ways to resolve difficult situations. I do this every day as a county supervisor. The one difference is that in the world of restaurants, "the customer is always right". Unfortunately, that does not always translate to the political realm