Alameda County CommunityConnection

November/December2017



New Director for Health Care Services Agency

On October 24, the Board of Supervisors appointed Colleen Chawla as the Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) Director. She was selected after a national recruitment that sought the best candidates to fill this key leadership position.

Colleen's appointment is effective December 18.

Colleen is currently the Deputy Director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, overseeing a department with an annual budget of \$2.1 billion and more than 8,000 employees.

She has served as the Deputy Director since 2011. She joined the San Francisco Department of Public Health in 1999 after seven years with the AIDS Project Los Angeles. From

2005 to 2010, Colleen served as the Director of State Government Relations for two publicly-traded biotechnology companies.

A graduate of the University of Southern California with a bachelor's degree in history, Colleen also has a master's degree in Public Administration/Health Services Administration from the University of San Francisco.

She and her husband are longtime Oakland residents.

"We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Colleen Chawla as our new Health Care Services Agency Director," said Wilma Chan, Board President and Chair of the Health Committee.

"As a seasoned public sector executive, Colleen has direct experience overseeing the full continuum of safety net health care services including two hospitals, and a commitment to deliver high quality, culturally responsive services to our communities."

Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator, added, "We congratulate Colleen on her appointment and look forward to her joining the County's strong executive leadership team. We also extend our sincere gratitude to Rebecca Gebhart for serving as the HCSA Interim Director for almost two years and continuing to assist through the transition."

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Alameda County Firefighters Respond to Wine Country Wildfires and Hurricane Disasters

Alameda County firefighters were spread thin this fall: as they kept pace with calls from every corner of the community, they also contributed ample time and energy to help with responses to the wildfires in the Napa/Sonoma wine country and the monster hurricanes that tore through Texas and Florida.

"We are paying it forward," said Alameda County Fire Chief David Rocha. "We help other communities in times of disaster, because we want them to come help us when something happens here that requires extra assistance."

Mechanics and Technicians from the William J. McCammon Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD) Vehicle Maintenance Facility in Dublin worked extended hours to evaluate and repair vehicles and communications equipment for the response to the wildfires. Dispatchers at the Alameda County Regional Emergency Communications Center also worked round-the-clock to assist with coordinating the wildfire response, in addition to managing their normal day-to-day responsibilities. Congressman Eric Swalwell stopped by the Mc-Cammon facility in late October to thank the Fire Department for its efforts.

Ten Alameda County firefighters were part of the Task Force 4 team sent to Texas in late August following Hurricane Harvey and the floods that inundated areas in and around Houston. The team spent more than a week involved in search and rescue efforts.

Most task force members flew home to the Bay Area on September 4, though 28 members of the team had to take a longer way home – driving back from the Lone Star State with the rescue boats and other equipment they had brought to aid the hurricane response.

The caravan of East Bay firefighters had just crossed into New Mexico when they received a call asking them to turn around – and to join the emergency response to Hurricane Irma in Florida. The contingent, supplemented with colleagues flown out to the Florida area (including nine Alameda County firefighters), ended up spending more than a week helping with the storm recovery in Orlando, Fort Myers and the Florida Keys.

Along with building good will with colleagues from other communities, Rocha said the hurricane deployments were extremely valuable to his team. "Being part of these large-scale operations provide us with great experience that will be extremely valuable when we are asked to coordinate the response to a major disaster here at home."

County Supports Those Affected by Wine Country Fires, Las Vegas Shootings

The Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund continues to accept contributions to support neighbors impacted by the devastating wildfires in the Sonoma/Napa wine country and the people affected by the horrific mass shooting in Las Vegas.

We reactivated our **Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund** in late summer to enable Alameda County employees and people in the community to make voluntary cash and/or online donations to benefit the victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, which struck the Texas and Florida areas. In October, the Board of Supervisors officially extended support from the Fund to those directly impacted by the wildfires, Las Vegas shooting and Hurricane Maria, which devastated Puerto Rico and other parts of the Caribbean.





The wildfires in neighboring communities affected our workforce significantly. Alameda County donated ample resources to the wildfire response – including firefighters, mechanics and health care personnel who were deployed to the scene. Many employees also used vacation time to volunteer for the disaster response.

Go to <u>http://acgov.org/government/news/disaster.htm</u> to make an online donation or to obtain more information. Information about the Disaster Relief Fund is also at ACGOV Cares (<u>http://acgovcares.org/</u>), our ongoing effort to engage employees and residents about volunteerism and other opportunities to strengthen our communities.

Alameda County Announces 2017 Arts Leadership Awards Winners

The Alameda County Arts Commission is honoring eight people with the 2017 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the local arts community. The winners were honored by the Board of Supervisors in connection with the County's celebration of National Arts and Humanities Month in October. This year's winners are:

Denny Stein and **Mary Bobik** (team) of Fremont, representing Supervisorial District 1. Denny and Mary are co-leaders of the Fremont Art Association, Fremont's oldest cooperative art gallery, working studio, and shop in Fremont.

Carol Zilli of Fremont, District One: Carol is the founder and executive director of Music for Minors II in Fremont, which provides music enrichment for nearly 5,000 elementary school students annually in 30 public schools in south and east Alameda County.

Ami Ferreira of Fremont, District Two: Ami, also known as Tsunami, is an arts educator with All The Way Live Foundation in Hayward. She also is a national champion in classical ballet and lyrical dance and holds national and world titles in artistic roller skating.

Greg Morozumi and **Elena Serrano** (team) of Oakland, District Three. Greg and Elena are the Principal Co-Founders of the EastSide Cultural Center in Oakland, which brings together artists and community organizers of color to improve the quality of life.

Catherine Ndungu-Case of Pleasanton, District Four: Catherine is the founder and CEO of Cheza Nami Foundation in Pleasanton, which fosters youth appreciation of African culture through dance, drumming and play.

Joyce Gordon of Oakland, District Five: Joyce is founder and owner of Joyce Gordon Gallery in Oakland, which exhibits art reflecting the social and cultural diversity of the Bay Area. She also runs a nonprofit bringing arts programming to underserved youth.

County Administrator Honored by the Oakland Chamber of Commerce

Alameda County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi was one of four women chosen by the Oakland Chamber of Commerce to be honored at its first-ever **East Bay Women in Business Awards** presentation.

The awards, presented on October 6, celebrate women who contribute to the betterment of our community while acting as leaders in their field. Muranishi, an Alameda County native who has served as the County's Chief Executive since 1995, is the first recipient of the award in the Public Service category.

Muranishi has gained a national reputation for strong fiscal management that has allowed the County to thrive – even in difficult economic times that have battered local government budgets. She has championed a transformative Culture of Innovation in which the County has leveraged technology and creative collaborations to operate more efficiently and better respond to residents' rapidly changing needs.

Leading a County of more than 1.6 million residents, Muranishi has also forged public-private partnerships that are spurring economic development and bringing government together with stakeholders in business, labor, philanthropy, nonprofits and community leaders to enhance transparency and tackle pressing issues.



County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi (third from left) celebrated with other women leaders at the first-ever East Bay Women in Business Awards. Photo courtesy of Oakland Chamber of Commerce

In 2016, the County Administrative Officers Association of California (CAOAC) cited Muranishi's many achievements in selecting her to receive the CAOAC's First Annual County Administrator/County Executive Distinguished Service Award.

The Oakland Chamber's first-ever East Bay Women in Business Awards are the result of nearly 20 years of efforts by the Chamber to promote the social and economic empowerment of women through its East Bay Women in Business program.

Others selected for the Chamber's first East Bay Women in Business Awards were Barbara Morrison, CEO and President of TMC Financing; Julayne Austin Virgil, CEO of Girls Inc. and Claire Shorall, Manager of Computer Science for the Oakland Unified School District.

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2017 Alameda County Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive & Design Competition

A record 16 County departments participated in the 2017 Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive and Design Competition, bringing new levels of compassion and creativity to the County's annual flourish of holiday giving. This year's 7-week Stone Soup drive unleashed a typical outpouring of support from the entire County team. Employees opened their wallets and held raffles and bake sales to raise contributions. They also accomplished striking feats of creativity by building thought-provoking displays - focused on the theme of hunger - using cans, sacks and boxes of donated food. In total, this year's Stone Soup effort collected over 10 tons of food and \$11,000 in cash contributions to help the Alameda County Community Food Bank provide tasty, nourishing meals to residents struggling to put food on the table. Once again, the Food Drive thrived on friendly competition between County departments and the creative flair of employees who built eye-catching displays to engage visitors to County buildings - and to inspire acts of giving by the public as well. The creations will be on display through December 19, then will be dismantled and provided to the Food Bank. The County's cash donations will provide many nutritious meals to the community, as the Food Bank can convert every \$1 contributed into \$6 worth of food items to feed the hungry.





Assessor's Office



Community Development Agency



Probation Department

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2017 Alameda County Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive & Design Competition

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"We are always seeking ways to inspire our employees to be innovative and to act in the spirit of community service," said Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator. "Our Stone Soup Food Drive and Design Competition is proving to be a perfect way to bring these elements together in a meaningful way every holiday season. It's a joy to see." It's the fifth straight year that Alameda County has used the old fable of Stone Soup – which celebrates generosity and collaboration in difficult times – to bring an inspired spin to its annual holiday food drive to support the Food Bank. This year's Stone Soup drive included a first-ever display by the Probation Department, which involved youth from the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center in creating a thoughtful display centered around a "Garden of Hope" and "Tree of Promise" to communicate the themes of opportunity, returning citizens and wraparound services. Such feats of creativity were repeated throughout the County organization, as departments delivered remarkable displays that included a

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Board of Supervisors



Human Resource Services



General Services Agency



Health Care Services Agency

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2017 Alameda County Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive & Design Competition

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"Pac-Man"-themed creation by the Information Technology Department and a pair of showpieces thanking first responders for their recent heroism in fighting the Napa/Sonoma wine country wildfires.

The Board of Supervisors illustrated their commitment to high-quality child care for all with a display showing a girl at play on a slide made of cereal boxes, while the Department of Human Resource Services skillfully arranged donated cans of beans and macaroni boxes into a traditional Christmas hearth. To learn more about the annual Stone Soup competition, go to

http://acgovcares.org/#stonesoup. To learn more about the Alameda County Community Food Bank and to contribute to its efforts to feed the less fortunate in our community, go to http://www.accfb.org.



Information Technology Department



Public Works Agency



County Administrator's Office



Auditor-Controller Agency



Registrar of Voters Office

Nominations Sought for 25th Annual Women's Hall of Fame

Nominations are being accepted for the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, which in 2018 will celebrate its 25th year of honoring extraordinary women making a difference in the community. Honorees will be celebrated at the **25th Annual Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon and Awards ceremony on Saturday, March 24, 2018, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland.**

For its 25th Anniversary, the Women's Hall of Fame is accepting nominations in a new category: **Emerging Leader**, which will celebrate young women representing a new generation of leaders. In 2018, women will be honored in this and 12 other categories: Business and Professions; Community Service; Culture and Art; Education; Environment; Health; Justice; Non-Traditional Careers; Science, Technology, Engineering; Sports and Athletics; Philanthropy and Youth.

The deadline to submit nominations in any of these 13 categories is January 22, 2018. Go to **http://www.acgov.org/whof/** to submit a nomination today.

More than 200 women have been inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame since its inception in 1993. In addition to honoring extraordinary women leaders from Alameda County, the program raises funds for youth scholarships and helps support local nonprofit community partners serving women, youth and families.

The Women's Hall of Fame is a countywide event held in conjunction with National Women's History Month in March.

"We are excited to celebrate our 25th Anniversary by honoring more women leaders than ever before," said Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator and Women's Hall of Fame Co-Chair. "We also expect to have unprecedented impact in helping young women achieve their dreams and supporting local organizations performing heroic work in our communities."

The next group of Women's Hall of Fame inductees will be announced in early 2018.

Doing Battle with Hunger

The Board of Supervisors recognized **National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Month** in November and took time to commend an innovative partnership that is helping to alleviate the problem of food insecurity for students and others across the County.

"Hunger and homelessness are affecting many residents of Alameda County," said Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan, President of the Board. "In fact, they're two of the top issues facing us today."

At the November 7th Board meeting, Supervisor Chan highlighted a unique Bay Area problem: students struggling with food insecurity and homelessness due in part to the steep costs of housing and higher education. She also honored a partnership through which the County, the Alameda County Community Food Bank and the UC Berkeley Food Security Committee are working to address the problem.

Pictured at right are, left to right, Liz Gomez of the Food Bank, Rashon Seldon of the Social Services Agency, Ruben Canedo of the UC Berkeley Food Security Committee and Supervisor Chan.





Artists Chosen for "Community Identifier" Projects in Ashland/Cherryland, Castro Valley and San Lorenzo

Three local artists have been selected to create "community identifiers" on freeway overpasses in a project sponsored by the Alameda County Arts Commission.

The "community identifier" artworks will be placed on overpasses that mark prominent entrance points to the unincorporated Alameda County communities of Ashland/Cherryland, Castro Valley and San Lorenzo.

The project will create artistic gateway markers on freeway overpasses to help support a positive and welcoming environment for the community and visitors. It is anticipated that the artists will begin handpainting the Community Identifiers in late spring of 2018.

The artists chosen for the project are Nico Berry for Ashland/Cherryland, Robert Minervini for Castro Valley, and John Wehrle for San Lorenzo. The artists and their designs were chosen by three separate selection committees of local residents.

Each Community Identifier will feature the name of the community along with other design elements. Nico Berry's design celebrates Ashland and Cherryland with vibrant images of leaves from the Oregon Ash tree and blossoms of the Cherry tree. Rob Minervini's design honors Castro Valley through a panoramic landscape that features Lake Chabot and the Bay. John Wehrle's design celebrates San Lorenzo through images of the San Lorenzo Creek including the depiction of water, Sycamore tree leaves, and other natural elements such as a dragonfly, turtle, duck, and butterfly.

The Community Identifier Project concept was developed through community interest and support. In August 2016, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors designated this as an official project of the Alameda County Arts Commission.

The freeway overpasses identified for the Community Identifier Projects are under the control of the California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans).





Image of Community Identifier proposal design for Ashland/Cherryland by selected artist Nico Berry



Image of Community Identifier proposal design for Castro Valley by selected artist Robert Minervini.

The overpasses are the I-238 Highway Overpass at Mission Blvd / E. 14th Street in Ashland/Cherryland, the I-580 Highway Overpass at Redwood Road in Castro Valley, and the I-880 Highway Overpass at Hesperian Boulevard in San Lorenzo.

For more information about the Community Identifier Projects, contact the Alameda County Arts Commission at (510) 208-9646 or visit <u>www.acgov.org/arts</u>

Canine Inspection Team Protects Local Agriculture

The Community Development Agency's Agriculture Canine Inspection Team continues to intercept unmarked parcels containing agricultural commodities infested with harmful exotic pests that can damage agricultural and natural environments both locally and around California.

Recently, Agricultural Biologist and Canine Handler Lisa Centoni and her canine partner, Cosmo, detected a package of kaffir limes from Florida containing two deadly citrus plant diseases and invasive insects. The Alameda County Canine Inspection Team found the unmarked package during their routine parcel inspections at the Oakland Post Office. County Agricultural Inspectors examined the package, and found the shipment to be in violation of multiple quarantines and contaminated with insects and possible diseases. The kaffir limes were identified as having Citrus Canker (Xanthamonas axonopodis pv citri), Huanglongbing (Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus), and two types of invasive scale insects.

Citrus Canker is a bacterium that causes lesions on citrus fruit and leaves, and fruit production decline. The disease is widespread in citrus-producing regions of the world, including Florida, but has not been found in California.

Huanglongbing (HLB) is also a bacterial disease of citrus. HLB, also known as citrus greening or yellow dragon disease, restricts the flow of nutrients within the plants causing blotchy yellowing of leaves, asymmetrical-bitter fruit, and stem dieback. Insects carrying the disease have been found in several areas of California, including areas of Oakland and Fremont. Quarantine zones have been established in these areas to restrict movement of the pests.



Lisa Centoni and Cosmo

Protecting California's \$47 billion agriculture industry from invasive pests is a primary responsibility of California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the California County Agricultural Commissioners. With the increased movement of commodities and the ease of travel, California's first line of defense against invasive pests is inspecting agricultural commodities as they enter the State and reacting to new pests before they become established.

Cosmo and Lisa are one of 14 Agriculture Detector Dog Teams throughout the State. The Dog Teams enhance the inspection of plant products entering California at parcel facilities. For more on the California Dog Team program, visit <u>https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/dogteams/index.html</u>.

Honoring Leaders in Fight Against Homelessness

On October 24, Supervisor Keith Carson took time to commend two local organizations for their leadership in the fight against homelessness in Alameda County. Carson honored **Bay Area Community Services** and **Roots Community Health Center** for their efforts to end the cycle of homelessness and to help men and women transition off the streets and into permanent housing.

Carson, who serves as President of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), also thanked the two organizations for hosting a delegation of CSAC staff in September and helping to educate the group about local challenges presented by homelessness and homeless encampments. "Through these visits, our delegation was able to learn about two programs that are making a major difference and should be replicated in each of California's other 57 counties," Carson said. In picture at right, Supervisor Carson is flanked by Jamie Almanza, Executive Director, Bay Area Community Services (left) and Aquil Naji, Chief Operating Officer of Roots Community Health Center (right).



Alameda County Wins Three Merit Awards from California State Association of Counties

Alameda County is receiving three Merit Awards in the California State Association of Counties' (CSAC) 2017 statewide awards program honoring innovation and best practices in county government.

"This year's winners reflect the creativity and hard work being displayed by all our County departments to provide the best service possible to our residents," said Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator.

This year's Merit Award winners are:

The Alameda County General Services Agency for leading a Climate Corps Fellowship program that has hosted 36 fellows since 2010. The program trains the next generation of climate protection leaders by providing extensive on-the-job experience as fellows help the County achieve its ambitious climate action goals.

Alameda County's Information Technology Department (ITD) and Human Resource Services Department, for the County's new Automated Employee Onboarding System. The Automated Employee Onboarding System has transformed County employee hiring practices by converting what was a paper-based process into a simplified, digital platform – reducing labor costs and use of paper and other resources.

The Alameda County Social Services Agency for its One-Touch Customer-Centric Distributed Work Model, which leverages technology to simplify the benefits application process and other services. The project includes staff cross training to minimize "hand-offs" of customers from one employee to another during eligibility assessments and same-day application processing. New Cal WIN-integrated Self Scanning Kiosks allow clients to scan, upload and view case documents, as well as schedule appointments.

Alameda County Joins **"We Are Still In"** Climate Coalition, Urges Other Counties to Join

Alameda County has joined **We Are Still In**, bringing the County's historic commitment to climate action to the national stage. **We Are Still In** is a coalition of more than 2,300 local governments, states, businesses, investors, and universities representing more than 127 million Americans and \$6.2 trillion of the U.S. economy.

At the UN Climate Change Conference starting November 6, 2017 in Bonn, Germany, the subnational commitments made by the members of **We Are Still In** and related initiatives will be shared with the international community. These aggregated commitments demonstrate that entities in the United States will aim to fulfill our national pledge to cut greenhouse gas emissions despite the federal government's intention to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement. Alameda County is fulfilling its pledge to advance climate leadership nationwide made in the Resolution to Reaffirm Climate Action Commitments and Support the Paris Climate Agreement adopted this June.

"We are following through on our promise to advance climate leadership across the nation," said Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator. "We have created a tool kit to assist other counties to sign on, which is available at <u>https://www.wearestillin.com/news/</u> counties-toolkit. More counties' voices need to be heard."

Alameda County has long been taking action to prevent and prepare for disruptions caused by climate change. The County launched East Bay Community Energy to provide a greener electricity choice for residents and businesses, was recently recognized for having the fourth greenest fleet in North America, and has installed 3.5 megawatts of onsite solar power systems. As a signatory, Alameda County will remain engaged in the international effort to hold global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy.

"As more severe heat waves scorch the Bay Area, deadly wildfires devastate California, and intensified hurricanes cause destruction in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico, the need for climate leadership is urgent," said Supervisor Keith Carson. "Alameda County stands with affected communities and calls on other counties to speak out. We are still in."

Thousands Turn out for "Stroll and Roll" in Niles Canyon





Equipped with hiking shoes, bicycles or other non-motorized contraptions, an estimated 10,000 people turned out on September 30 for the second "Niles Canyon Stroll & Roll," a 7-hour celebration of the Good Old Outdoors for which scenic Niles Canyon Road was closed to automobiles – and pedestrians were given exclusive access to the remote, winding thoroughfare.

The event – co-sponsored by CalTrans and Alameda County Supervisors Scott Haggerty and Richard Valle – helped raise public awareness to a proposal to build a recreation trail through Niles Canyon to improve public access to its stunning natural expanses.

Proposals for a public trail through Niles Canyon are driven by the canyon's breathtaking scenery, which is accessible only via Niles Canyon Road, a winding two-lane portion of State Highway 84. Bicyclists have repeatedly called for a trail due to safety concerns related to sharing the narrow roadway – which includes no shoulder space in some sections - with automobiles. Recreation enthusiasts point out that hiking access to the Canyon is limited and that a trail would provide a vital link between trail networks in the Tri-Valley and Alameda County's bay-front corridor.

> The September event showed there's more than a few folks who would relish the idea of improved access to the Canyon.





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Fall Academies in Full Swing









Alameda County's two award-winning Academy programs – the Citizens Academy and the Youth Leadership Academy – kicked off their latest fall sessions in September, upholding a tradition of effective civic engagement to educate residents and build support for critical County services.

In late September, 53 adults taking part in this year's Citizens Academy paid a visit to the County's Office of Emergency Services in Dublin. They toured the County's Emergency Operations Center – command central for any regional response to a major disaster – and heard detailed presentations from Alameda County Fire Department and Sheriff's Office officials.

They also climbed aboard a County fire truck and spent some quality time with a Search and Rescue Team that included a lovable black Labrador prized for his olfactory abilities.

Similarly, more than three dozen local high school juniors and seniors are getting an unusual inside glimpse at County government by taking part in the latest Alameda County Youth Leadership Academy.

On October 14, youth participating in the program took part in a stimulating panel discussion with four County Department heads that focused on crucial career decisions and the challenges of leading agencies providing pivotal services in large, diverse communities.

The panelists urged Youth Academy members to stay engaged and to always ask questions, because important life lessons sometimes appear in unexpected places.

"My first job was at Togos (sandwich shop) and I learned a lot there that continues to help me today," County Counsel Donna Ziegler told the group.

"Kentucky Fried Chicken!" added Rebecca Gebhart, Interim Director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, nodding in enthusiastic agreement.

A big thanks to the many County departments participating in this year's Academies, including the District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, County Administrator's Office, Fire Department, General Services Agency, Health Care Services Agency, Information Technology, Probatiion, Public Defender, Registrar of Voters, Social Services Agency and East Bay Economic Development Alliance.







Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Wilma Chan, President, District 3; Richard Valle, Vice President, District 2; Scott Haggerty, District 1; Nate Miley, District 4; Keith Carson District 5

County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi