



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE January 14, 2025

TITLE Approval to Appoint to the Park Advisory Committee: Susie Claxton, Ward 3, Dev Mahadevan, Ward 3, James Chang, Ward 1, Scott Bartlebaugh, Contra Costa Special Districts Association, Paul R. Detjens, Contra Costa County

DIVISION General Manager's Office

FROM Erich Pfuehler, Division Lead of Government and Legislative Affairs
Sabrina Landreth, General Manager

APPROVED Sabrina Landreth, General Manger 

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends the Board of Directors approve the below appointments to the Park Advisory Committee for a term commencing upon adoption of this resolution and ending on December 31, 2026:

1. Susie Claxton, appointment of Ward 3 Board Director Dennis Waespi; and
2. Dev Mahadevan, appointment of Ward 3 Board Director Dennis Waespi; and
3. James Chang, appointment of Ward 1 Board Director Elizabeth Echols; and
4. Scott Bartlebaugh, appointment of Contra Costa Special Districts Association; and
5. Paul R. Detjens, appointment of Contra Costa County.

BACKGROUND

Per the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) Board Operating Guidelines, Appendix C, the twenty-one-member Park Advisory Committee (PAC) is established by and for the Board of Directors to provide community perspectives and advice to staff and to the Board on the issues, projects and policies of the Park District. PAC members typically serve a two-year term ending December 31. Board approval would authorize the following to serve on the Park Advisory Committee for the remainder of a two-year term commencing upon adoption of this resolution until December 31, 2026:

Appointee Susie Claxton is to serve her third two-year term. With multiple degrees and certificates in environmental concentrations, retired Health, Safety, and Environmental Management Programs Manager, Susie Claxton dedicated her career to creating a safer, healthier, more sustainable environment in the Bay Area. A Fremont resident, Susie contributes to her community, volunteering with the Sierra Club, Ohlone Audubon Society, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Citizen Science

and Coursework, Urban Forest Friends, Tri-City Ecology Center, Niles Discovery Church Green Team Leader. Susie also serves as a volunteer docent Coyote Hills Regional Park. In her spare time, you can find Susie enjoying Quarry Lakes, Coyote Hills, Vargas Plateau, Garin/Dry Creek, Ardenwood, Alameda Creek Trail, Sunol, Hayward Regional Shoreline.

Appointee Dev Mahadevan is to serve his fourth two-year term. Dev Mahadevan has had a distinguished career, serving as both Chief Financial Officer and Chief Executive Officer in hospitals and healthcare facilities for the past 45 years. A Castro Valley resident, Dev volunteers his time with a variety of community organizations, including the H.A.R.D. Foundation Board, San Leandro Boys and Girls Club Board, and San Leandro Rotary Club. In his spare time, you can find Dev playing tennis, doing yoga, or walking around the lake at Lake Chabot Regional Park.

Appointee James Chang is to serve his third two-year term. Berkeley resident James Chang has been active in public life and the community for decades. He currently serves as a Berkeley City Council Chief of Staff and has served as a Berkeley Zero Waste Commissioner and Rent Board Commissioner, chairing the Habitability and Sustainability Committee. Through this experience, James gained a solid understanding of sustainable regional planning and the ability to navigate government bureaucracy to create real change for our community. He also served as a member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club for over six years, where he advocated for the LGBTQ community, focusing primarily on trans issues and the intersectional identities of marginalized communities. In his spare time, you can find James enjoying Tilden Regional Park and Crab Cove in Alameda.

Appointee Scott Bartlebaugh is to serve his first two-year term. An avid supporter of parklands and outdoor activities such as hiking and biking, Scott Bartlebaugh joins the Park Advisory Committee with a deep well of knowledge of trail experiences and advocacy work. Scott has been a dedicated member of community organizations such as the Bicycle Trails Council, the California Mountain Biking Coalition, EBRPD Trail Volunteers, John Muir Land Trust Stewardship Committee, EBRPD Trail User Working Group, California Trails and Greenways Conference, Bay Area Trails Collaborative, Crockett Community Services District, and the Crockett Improvement Association for many years and his enthusiasm for the East Bay community and natural lands is evident across his work. Scott believes our parks are a shared resource for all to enjoy and protect.

Appointee Paul R. Detjens is to serve his first two-year term. Paul recently retired from the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District as the Capital Programs Manager and Senior Civil Engineer. Paul has over 32 years of experience in Hydraulics, Geomorphology, GIS, Stream and Wetland Restoration, as well as deep expertise in environmental permitting and CEQA processes. He has worked closely with the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy since its inception and is a big supporter of EBRPD's long term stewardship of these mitigation lands. Before his retirement, Paul led the Flood Control District's efforts to combat climate change and sea level rise, and the District's efforts to restore the largest watercourse in the Contra Costa County, Lower Walnut Creek. The on-the-ground restoration work at Lower Walnut Creek was successfully completed in 2022 and is now in the monitoring phase. In retirement, Paul continues to serve his community by serving on the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee and the Marathon Community Advisory Panel, and by participating in other creek and watershed groups. He remains a champion for science-based solutions, public participation in governing processes, and advocacy for climate resilience and adaptation. With a diverse background, Paul brings a planner's mindset to the Park Advisory Committee and a wealth of knowledge on key

considerations for designing, developing, and maintaining public land projects. A Bay Area native, Paul earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering from UC Davis and is a Registered Professional Engineer in California. He resides with his wife Charla in Martinez, where he enjoys frequent hiking, biking and nature study in local EBPRD parks.

Statement from Susie Claxton:

The East Bay Regional Park District is a warm and welcoming part of my life. I have had the pure enjoyment of being a Docent Volunteer Educator at my beloved Coyote Hills Regional Park for nearly 10 years, and now a member of the Park Advisory Committee (PAC) for 4 years. The PAC has given me many opportunities to engage with my home City of Fremont, and the Ward 3 parks in southern Alameda County. I've hiked at Vargas Plateau, Quarry Lakes, Dry Creek Pioneer, Garin, Ardenwood Historic Farm, Pleasanton Ridge, Hayward Shoreline, Lake Chabot, Anthony Chabot (and Mission Peak, Sunol Ohlone Wilderness, Shadow Cliffs, and Del Valle in Ward 5) with friends and family. I've engaged with community members from the City of Fremont / EBRPD Liaison Committee, Black Birders Week, the Sierra Club, and the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge (CCCR) and the Save Newark Wetlands Activists. I've attended all but a few PAC monthly meetings, field trips, and Board Site Tours to offer my perspective on our important goals and objectives regarding EBRPD management and community outreach. For the coming year, I am most passionate about pursuing actions that will protect, conserve, and restore nature, especially the conservation and preservation of nature (plants, animals, soils) in our parks; increase accessibility for park users with new entrances and parking, new ideas such as rentable e-bikes, and QR coded audio park interpretation; and promote inclusion of the indigenous peoples community of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties in decision making and land management practices. I truly appreciate being appointed by Director Dennis Waespi and look forward to another two years engaging and advising through the Park Advisory Committee.

Statement from Dev Mahadevan:

I am honored and delighted to be re-appointed to the Park Advisory Committee by Director Waespi. I have served for four years and learned a great deal about the East Bay Regional Park District, how it works and the basis for making decisions about the parks in the two Counties that it serves. I have worked for more than forty-five years in Senior Executive roles in healthcare and enjoy working in mission driven organizations. I live in Castro Valley and have enjoyed Lake Chabot Park and its many trails for more than 40 years. Training for two marathons, I have probably run and hiked many trails over the years and can tell distances between certain points without a smart watch. For the last 15 years, I have also explored Cull Canyon Park and the natural swimming pool which is close to where I live in the Eastern part of the Valley. It is satisfying to contribute in some small way to provide information about the parks workings to the people using the park and to provide community feedback (anecdotal as it may be) in discussing issues at the Park Advisory Committee's deliberations. The Committee's work has also opened my eyes to other parks that my wife and I now enjoy. I look forward to serving another term.

Statement from James Chang:

Serving on the Park Advisory Committee has been a deeply rewarding experience, allowing me to blend my over seven years of government experience as a Legislative Aide for the City of Berkeley

with my broader public service as a former elected official on the Berkeley Rent Board, where I chaired the Sustainability Committee. In these roles, I have worked to advance policies promoting equity, sustainability, and access to public resources. Parks have always been vital to the health and well-being of our communities, and I am committed to ensuring that the East Bay Regional Park District continues to thrive. Looking ahead, I am excited to help shape initiatives that enhance access to green spaces, promote conservation, and strengthen community connections.

Statement from Scott Bartlebaugh:

The East Bay Regional Park District is one of our most valuable public resources. I'm honored to be appointed by the Contra Costa Special Districts Association to serve on the EBRPD Park Advisory Committee. I grew up appreciating nature and public open spaces in the Cleveland Metropark system before moving to Antioch in 1985. The EBRPD has grown and changed considerably since that time, as has the rest of the East Bay and the complexities of managing open space preservation, conservation, and enjoyment, by a large, dense, and diverse population. Serving on the PAC will help me learn more about the breadth and diversity of park district issues. The CCSDA appointment comes by way of serving on the Crockett Community Services District Sanitary Commission and previously on their board. While living in Antioch, Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve and Contra Loma Regional Park were my local parks. In 2015 my family moved to Crockett and we enjoy Crockett Hills Regional Park, Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline, and the George Miller Regional Trail frequently. I coordinate volunteer trail stewardship for the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay at Crockett Hills Regional Park and served on the EBRPD Trail User Working Group. I look forward to joining the PAC and contributing to the EBRPD as it continues to innovate and serve the East Bay in the coming years.

Statement from Paul R. Detjens:

I have been fortunate enough to live, work, and recreate within the bounds of the EBRPD for my entire life, except for a few years away at UC Davis. I am a strong believer in a sustainable, well-run Park District, so that protected lands may provide refuge for east bay residents (and important flora and fauna) in perpetuity. While I have hiked in a majority of EBRPD properties (and even backpacked through the Sunol and Ohlone Regional Wilderness Preserves), Briones Regional Park is my local go-to park to experience an immersion in nature. Spending time there provides an escape from the pressures of life, and being able to see vistas containing minimal human infrastructure is so important in these chaotic times. I have recently retired after 32 years of service to Contra Costa County, and I wish to continue my public service and give back to my community. I believe that robust public participation contributes to well-functioning government, and serving on advisory panels is the best way I know to help make that happen. I am honored to have been nominated for the Park Advisory Committee by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, and look forward to contributing for years to come.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 01 -
JANUARY 14, 2025**

APPROVAL TO APPOINT TO THE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE: SUSIE CLAXTON, WARD 3 AND DEV MAHADEVAN, WARD 3 AND JAMES CHANG, WARD 1 AND SCOTT BARTLEBAUGH CONTRA COSTA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION, AND PAUL R. DETJENS, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Park Advisory Committee (PAC) of the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) is established by and for the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the Board Operating Guidelines provides description and procedures of the PAC's composition, nomination and appointments which includes the appointment of two members by each of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Susie Claxton, appointment of Ward 3 Board Director Dennis Waespi, has been nominated to serve their third two-year term; and

WHEREAS, Dev Mahadevan, appointment of Ward 3 Board Director Dennis Waespi, has been nominated to serve their fourth two-year term; and

WHEREAS, James Chang, appointment of Ward 1 Board Director Elizabeth Echols, has been nominated to serve their third two-year term; and

WHEREAS, Scott Bartlebaugh, appointment of Contra Costa Special Districts Association, has been nominated to serve their first two-year term; and

WHEREAS, Paul R. Detjens, appointment of Contra Costa County, has been nominated to serve their first two-year term; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby approves the below appointment of Susie Claxton, appointment of Ward 3 Board Director Dennis Waespi and Dev Mahadevan, appointment of Ward 3 Board Director Dennis Waespi and James Chang, appointment of Ward 1 Board Director Elizabeth Echols and Scott Bartlebaugh, appointment of Contra Costa Special Districts Association and Paul R. Detjens, appointment of Contra Costa County, to the Park Advisory Committee for a term commencing upon adoption of this resolution and ending on December 31, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the General Manager is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Park District and in its name, to execute and deliver such documents and to do such acts as may be deemed necessary or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolution.

Moved by Director _____, and seconded by Director _____, and adopted January 14, 2025, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: