

**TO:** Implementation Board

**FROM:** Edmund Sullivan, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Appointment to PAC

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve the recommendation of the Executive Officer to appoint Christine Zack, to an initial four-year term on the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) representing the general public and replacing Jan Hintermeister.

**BACKGROUND:** The Implementation Board adopted Resolution I-2013-004 on September 19, 2013, specifying the composition, role, and formation of the Public Advisory Committee. The PAC is to have nine members representing the public (three members), business/development (two members), environmental (two members) and farming/ranching (two members).

Jan Hintermeister completed his current term on the PAC at the end of 2024. Christine Zack is an appropriate replacement.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** No fiscal impact to the Habitat Agency.

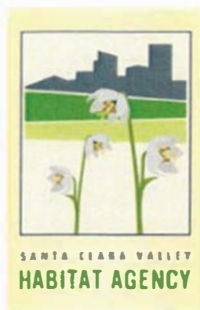
**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A – PAC Application

Attachment B – Resume

**ATTACHMENT A**

**PAC Application**



## APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

I would like to be considered for appointment to the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency. I understand that initial appointments will be for either a 2-year or 4-year term, and that the minimum time commitment includes attendance at four meetings annually, preparation for those meetings, and communication with the public about the work of the PAC.

**My contact information (Please type or print legibly):**

Name: Christine Zack

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Campbell, Ca 95008

Today's Date: 12/5/24

San Jose District`

**Other Required Information:**

I seek appointment to represent the following (select one):

Business/development\*

Environmental community\*

General public

Farming/ranching\*

If you selected a category marked with an asterisk (\*), please indicate if you are affiliated with an organization representing that interest, and if so, its name:

No  Yes - Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Please summarize your interest in the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan and in service on the PAC:

The mission of the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan resonates strongly with my professional background. My expertise in ecological monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and wildlife conservation directly aligns with the PAC's goals. Having participated in habitat restoration projects for species like the Western Burrowing Owl and San Clemente Island Loggerhead Shrike, I am uniquely positioned to contribute to the Habitat Agency's efforts in mitigating project impacts while fostering species recovery.

As a long-time resident of Santa Clara County, I have a personal connection to the landscapes and biodiversity the SCVHP seeks to protect. I am eager to lend my expertise and collaborative spirit to the PAC, working alongside a diverse group of members to advance meaningful conservation outcomes for our community.

RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO [denise.rosenberger@scv-habitatagency.org](mailto:denise.rosenberger@scv-habitatagency.org) or 535 Alkire Avenue, Suite 100, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

**ATTACHMENT B**

**Resume**

**Christine Zack**

*Environmental and Climate Education | Wildlife Conservation*  
Campbell, California, United States

**Professional Summary**

Wildlife biologist and conservationist with over a decade of experience in habitat restoration, endangered species recovery, and multi-agency collaboration. Proven expertise in leading environmental projects and community outreach. Adept at collaboration with federal and state agencies, budget management, partnership development, and public communication. Passionate about integrating science, education, and conservation to support sustainable environmental practices.

Seeking to contribute expertise in environmental stewardship and strategic planning to the Public Advisory Committee of the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency, supporting the implementation of the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan.

**Core Skills**

- Endangered species conservation
- Habitat restoration and ecological monitoring
- Public and stakeholder communication
- Multi-agency coordination (US FWS, CDFW, USGS, Water Authorities, etc.)
- Budget and grant management
- Professional writing and scientific reporting
- Environmental policy, advocacy, and outreach
- Community engagement and public education
- Strategic planning and organizational governance

**Professional Experience****Senior Education Manager**

*Environmental Volunteers*

*March 2017 – September 2024*

- Developed 45+ NGSS-aligned lessons focused on endangered species and habitat biodiversity.

- Organized community events, workshops, and training sessions to increase ecological awareness.
- Served on the DEI committee, refining internal practices and external partnerships.
- Managed public education programs for city infrastructure projects, enhancing public engagement and awareness of habitat conservation projects.

### **Board Member, Vice Chair**

*San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory*

*August 2018 – November 2021*

- Chaired the Fundraising and Development Committee, raising \$500,000 for conservation programs
- Collaborated with stakeholders to align conservation goals
- Promoted DEI training and improved board diversity
- Provided guidance on wildlife conservation, strategic planning, and budget oversight

### **Biologist**

*WRA – September 2015 to July 2016*

- Conducted biological monitoring and reporting for California tiger salamanders
- Collected ecological data and contributed to environmental assessments

### **Environmental Educator**

*Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority – January 2014 to July 2015*

- Developed and delivered environmental education programs focused on biodiversity and local ecosystems
- Managed outreach initiatives and volunteer engagement programs

### **Biologist**

*HDR*

*January 2013 – November 2013*

- Coordinated natural resource projects, including environmental assessments and habitat conservation plans
- Conducted **burrowing owl** surveys and habitat assessments and implemented restoration plans
- Prepared environmental compliance reports and restoration proposals
- Collaborated with agencies to ensure mitigation efforts met regulatory standards (CEPA, NEPA, etc.)

### Senior Research Associate

*San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance*

2008 – 2013

- Led habitat restoration projects involving threatened and endangered species in California
- Collaborated with stakeholders such as USGS, Water Agencies, and Landowners to promote sustainable conservation practices
- Coordinated permits, managed grants, and writing reports for conservation projects

#### **Key Projects: Ecosystem Engineers and Burrowing Owls**

- I worked on the Ecosystem Engineers Project in San Diego, CA, and focused on developing translocation techniques for California ground squirrels to create suitable habitats for **Western burrowing owls**. I collaborated with stakeholders such as the Sweetwater Authority, USGS, San Diego County Parks, SANDAG, and TSA to execute and monitor habitat improvement projects.
- Conducted comprehensive **burrowing owl** field studies, including nest monitoring, parental care observations, foraging behavior analysis, and habitat suitability assessments
- Played a critical role in habitat restoration efforts to promote sustainable populations of **burrowing owls** and their ecosystem contributors

### Research Fellow

*San Clemente Island Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Project*

2004 – 2008

- Participated in habitat restoration, invasive species control, and endangered species monitoring
- Collaborated with agencies, including US FWS, NAVFAC SW, and Point Blue, on habitat conservation planning

### Volunteer Activities

- **SFBBO**: Colonial Waterbird Monitoring, **Burrowing Owl** surveys, and restoring **BUOW** habitat
- **Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society**: Conducted **BUOW** surveys and environmental advocacy projects

- **Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge:** Participated in habitat restoration and biodiversity monitoring
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### Education

- **Master of Science (MS), Biology (Ecology)** – University of Saint Joseph
  - **Bachelor's Degree, Biological Anthropology** – University of California, San Diego
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### Certifications

- UC California Naturalist & Climate Stewards
  - Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG)
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### Permits

- Scientific Collecting Permit (State of California)
- US FWS 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit for San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat and Stephen's Kangaroo Rat