

Memorandum

To: EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

EAC Business Meeting:
March 11-12, 2025

From: STATE AGENCIES' EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Reference Number: Tab 12, Action

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Subject: Election of 2025 Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Recommendation:

Interagency staff recommend that the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) nominate members for the offices of Chair and Vice Chair, offer candidates the opportunity to provide speeches, and conduct an election for the Chair and Vice Chair positions consistent with the Committee's adopted Charter.

Issue:

In December 2024, the inaugural Committee Chair and Vice Chair completed their one-year term, and the seats of Chair and Vice Chair are currently vacant.

Per the Committee Charter, the term of the Chair is one year, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. The term of the Vice Chair(s) is one year, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. The duties of the Chair are to preside at the Committee meetings. The duty of the Vice Chair is to preside at any Committee meeting when the Chair is absent.

Elections of officers shall take place during the first Committee-only meeting of the calendar year. Any Committee member may nominate themselves or be nominated by another Committee member. Officers shall be elected by majority vote of the Committee members present at the time of the election.

Members will nominate themselves or others, offer speeches, and conduct elections for the two leadership positions.

Background:

The Committee Charter allows the Committee to proceed with a structure consisting of one Chair and one Vice Chair. Committee members interested in serving as Chair or Vice Chair for 2025 were asked to submit a statement of intent with the following information:

- What the member will bring to the position
- The member's goals or vision for the Committee in 2025
- Additional information to help members make an informed decision about the Committee leadership.

If a member is unable to submit a statement of intent by the requested deadline of February 20, 2025, they can notify the Committee during the meeting that they would like to be considered for Chair or Vice Chair and will subsequently be included in the list of candidates during voting.

Three members expressed interest in these leadership positions. The candidates and their statements are provided here for reference.

List of Candidates and Their Statements of Intent:**1. *Martha Armas Kelly (Chair or Vice Chair)***

Greetings Members of the Commission and EAC Committee,

First of all thank you the opportunity in your consideration for Chair or Vice Chair of the EAC. I have served one year as your Vice Chair and I am very proud of our outcomes but feel that there is much work that can be done. I personally have been part of the evolving experience of being part of our leadership. We have had to learn together and as your potential Chair or Vice Chair I feel I have learned a great deal about the nuances of not only the EAC but also the Transportation Commission. I have been part RFP reviews and have helped with initiatives by providing input regarding our most impacted communities.

I am a community leader and advocate providing outreach in Environmental Justice for the greater San Joaquin valley as I reside in Merced, California. My knowledge is not limited to just the plight of the Central Valley but I have lived in various areas of California. I have seen and lived in the disparity and need of many of our Northern and Southern cities. Each community has its own intrinsic value and understanding this is critical because there has often been a "cookie cutter" approach to projects and we must help sustain movement to better outcomes for our communities. I know the commitment and feel that I have the capacity to attend all meetings, which is very important for representation of the EAC.

The EAC is very much a part of influencing decisions that are leading to equitable, safe, and accessible outcomes in transportation for all Californians. I have served in the capacity of Vice chair and have led with intention as well as inclusion. I support the work that the EAC has developed by being part of not only the vision and mission statement team, but also serving as Chair the Safety and Climate ad-hoc committee. I know that my colleagues who have served on this committee have shown equal competency as we all have strived

in the last two years to bring the EAC to excellence. The work of my experience as Vice Chair was successful only on the shoulders of those supported me. I give you all great thanks and now I ask for the opportunity to be your Chair or Vice Chair with the thought and intention to bringing our work to fruition by creating an environment of strong and inclusive leadership. I have been supportive of the shared leadership model, and it is my hope to continue this model. Never has there been a time where our presence is needed in this space. We must stand as the voice of reason, inclusion, and most of all equity for all Californians. I respectfully ask for your vote, and it is my hope to bring our committee into a successful two years.

Thank you,

2. Keri Akemi-Hernandez (Chair or Vice Chair)

I will bring prior experience serving as Chair for the Napa Housing Commission and as Vice Chair for the Napa County H.E.A.C.

3. Ana Gonzalez (Vice Chair)

I'd love to be considered for Vice Chair for many reasons, in my tenure on the EAC I have learned so much about the complexities of transportation and the intersectionality with other government agencies, staff needs so much support and collaboration from us. With that, with my experience in other leadership roles from different boards I am confident I can bring consistency and a safe environment of inclusion for all voices to be heard to achieve equitable transportation goals and implementation of policies and budgets, especially in communities that desperately needed the most.