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Page 1: Questionnaire

Q1 Candidate Information

Candidate Name: Donna Meyers
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Q2 What office do you seek to be elected to?

Santa Cruz City Council

Q3 Please choose the option best describing your candidacy: **Open Seat**

Q4 Do you identify as LGBTIQ? **Yes, I am a lesbian**
 Is there anything else about your identity that you'd like us to know?:
 My wife and I have been married and out for 32 years

Q5 Are you a member of the GLBT Alliance? **Yes, I am currently a 2018 member!**

Q6 Please describe your qualifications for the elected position you seek. Include your main issues, priorities if elected, key endorsements, plus anything else that you'd like our members to know about you and your candidacy.

I am running for Santa Cruz City Council because I believe I have the skills and experience to address the pressing issues facing the City and I will bring a collaborative approach for a positive future for Santa Cruz. I am a biologist and have worked in environmental conservation and restoration for 25 years. My work has included bringing \$30 million in grant funding for environmental and community-benefit projects in the Monterey Bay area. I have honed experience in government policy and finance that I will apply to the priorities of our community. I have a BA in Biology from UCSC and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. I began my career in local government at the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments in 1993. I founded and was the Executive Director of the Coastal Watershed Council from 1995-2002. I was an Analyst for the City of Santa Cruz City Manager's Office in 2002-2005 and served as the Regional Water Quality Coordinator for the West Coast National Marine Sanctuary Program from 2005-2006. I

2009 and served as the Regional Water Quality Coordinator for the West Coast National Marine Sanctuary Program from 2009-2000. I was Director of Conservation for the Big Sur Land Trust from 2006-2012. I have owned my own consulting company helping local government and nonprofits work on environmental and community benefit projects since 2012. My volunteer work includes being Chair of the City Parks and Recreation from 2016 to present. I am currently Chair of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History and have been a board member since 2011. I also serve on the Santa Cruz Measure E Fiscal Oversight Committee and was previously on the City of Santa Cruz Water Commission. I was previously appointed to the California State Watershed Advisory Committee. My professional background has prepared me to start working as an effective City Councilmember from day one. I believe in working to understand and diagnose issues and then build coalitions that can deliver solutions and create long-term policies that better our community. Transparency and community engagement are important for our residents to keep apprised of what is being proposed and how residents can engage but we also must accomplish projects for our residents. My first priority is setting a clear and transparent path forward on housing availability and affordability for our community. Housing is critical to a thriving community and lack of housing impacts local businesses, schools and the nature of neighborhoods. We have to find solutions for our workforce, for families and seniors, and for those who may need additional support. I believe we must start in our downtown on creating housing in the immediate future. I will work to secure housing funding if available through the state to get our residents housed securely and affordably. I support the Housing Solutions Initiative on the 2018 ballot. I will support and expand our local economy including new sectors such as recreation and adventure tourism, local food and agriculture, technology, arts, alternative transportation, and environmental solutions to climate change including environmental restoration. I believe in investing in developing opportunities for our local business districts such as downtown, the westside, eastside, Seabright and lower Ocean and Beach Flats by reaching out and understanding what is needed by local business. I will also address impacts to local businesses from homelessness and crime through continuing to press for comprehensive approaches for these serious issues in our business districts and checking in to see if City policy and activities are being effective. The place I will work hardest is at the neighborhood level where every resident's life is affected daily. I will be available to neighbors and help them to navigate City Hall to find solutions for issues as well as to chase creative ideas. Neighborhoods are the center of our well-being and I know they are the most important place for engagement and community building. I will meet with neighbors regularly to hear directly how things are going. I believe we are on the verge of a having a better understanding related to homelessness and social services needs in Santa Cruz County and the projects and policy approaches that can be effective. I look forward to being part of the team of elected leaders that will solve one of the most pressing issues not just locally but statewide. We have to solve this issue as it does relate to all of the priorities I have outlined above. I can help do this by making sure City policy is focused on solutions, and that the City, with its partners, are securing state and federal funding as available. I am endorsed by the following current and previous electeds: Santa Cruz County Supervisors Ryan Coonerty, John Leopold, Zach Friend and Bruce McPherson; Santa Cruz City Mayor David Terrazas, Vice-Mayor Martine Watkins, Councilmember Cynthia Mathews, City Councilmember Cynthia Chase; Santa Cruz City School Board Trustee Deb Tracy-Proulx and Santa Cruz Port Commissioners Dennis Smith, Toby Goddard and Geisreiter; Former City of Santa Cruz Mayors Hilary Bryant, Katherine Beiers, and Mike Rotkin and Councilmember Pamela Comstock; former School Board member Mathew Farrell; Organizations: Santa Cruz Police Officers Association; Orange County League of County Voters. Community Members and Business: Betsy Allen, Cyn Baskin, David Green Baskin, Marta Beckwith, Laurel Bell, Chris Berry, Bev Blach, Heather Boruta, Laurie Broderick-Burr, Teresa Buika Leopold, Christine Bunting, Cathy and Tom Brown, Toni Campbell, Susan and Peter Canepa, Gus Ceballos, Alan Crarer, Brit Charlebois, Angela Chestnut, Bryan Cockel, Don Croll, Rachel Dann, Toni Danzig, Julia Davenport, Ami Davis, Gage Dayton, Tanya Diamond and Ahiga Snyder, Alison Ender, Pat Dellin, Geoffrey Dunn and Siri Vaeth, Liz Engfer, Jen England, Gail Evans, Andy Fisher, Matt Freeman, Robert de Freitas, Soonil Gillett, Groundswell Coastal Ecology, Margaret N. Gordon, H. Robert Harper, Birdie Hunter, Laura Hartwick, Gregg Jacobsen, Rick Jones, Bonnie Keet, Gabe Keet, Patrice Keet, Robert Keet, Keshav Kumar, Jim Lang, Owen Lawlor, Margaret Leonard, Kirk and Laura Lenington, Steve Mandel, Amey Mathews, Bill Mathews, Bill Maxfield, Katherine McCamant, Mary McCarthy, Christine McGavin, Heidi McRae Ashton, Maggie Duncan Merrell, John and Cory Meyers, Casey Meyers, Cameron Meyers, Guy Mitchell, Stacey Mitchell, Jane Mio, Barbara Novelli, Jane Orbuch, Lisa and Rafael Ortiz, Gail Michaelis-Ow, Gary Patton, Susan Pearce, Noreen Pera-Schwartz and Jim Schwartz, Natasha Perry, Jenny Putt, Leslie and, David Plumlee, Carrie Pomeroy, Michel Protti, Rosemari Reimers-Rice, Dougald Scott, Virginia Scott, Clare Shiels, Tina and Ken Slosberg, Dannettee Shoemaker, Naomi Silber, Laura Smith, Adam Spickler, Robert Stephens, Dr. Andrea Struble, Mark and Kristin Sullivan, Monica Terrazas, Davon Thomas, Delana Thompson, Judy Thompson, Walt Wadlow, Neville Wallace-Wells, Craig Waltz, Randy Widera, Linda Wilshusen, Connie Wilson, Richard Wohlfeiler, Marc Zammit, Michaela Zwinakis

Q7 Why are you seeking the endorsement of Santa Cruz County's grassroots LGBTIQ political organization, the GLBT Alliance?

My wife Birdie and I have been residents of Santa Cruz for 35 years. My wife and I have always followed the work of the GLBT Alliance and have great respect for the work the organization does for our community. As lesbians who have been out for over 30 years we are advocates for full equality for all members of our community. I would be proud to receive the endorsement of the GLBT Alliance for my candidacy.

Q8 Please tell us about any past or current experiences or involvement you've had addressing LGBTIQ issues or work you've done to support the LGBTIQ community.

My experience working on LGBTQ issues and supporting our community has focused primarily on acting as a private citizen and with my wife through fundraising, support for fair and just policies in letter writing, attending events, and being a mentor for the young people in my life that are LGBTQ. By being out, living a life that values all people, and supporting key issues through advocacy I hope I have contributed to our community.

Q9 What historic political or civil rights struggles are you familiar with that impact LGBTIQ equality?

My wife and I have regularly attended LGBTQ events in Santa Cruz and San Francisco for over 25 years and are members and donors to the Human Rights Campaign and National Center for Lesbian Rights. I am very aware of the issues outlined in the materials and understand how state and federal policy can impact our community members. Local government is a key advocate to protect our citizens against national and state policies that seek to marginalize the LGBTQ community and others in our community. I will be a councilmember that is vigilant in making sure our community and residents are not negatively impacted by national and state laws. We also monitor and try to assist through funding and contacting state and federal electeds regarding immigration and discrimination policy and advocacy.

Q10 What is your philosophy about working with minority communities of which you are not a member, and how will this manifest in your future work with the LGBTIQ community?

I am a member of the LGBTQ community and will continue to work for our community for full equality and respect in all parts of our lives including marriage, housing, employment, healthcare and civil rights.

Q11 Please describe any programs you know of that impact the LGBTIQ community and that are governed by or funded through the elected office you are running for? Include any suggestions you may have for improving these programs.

The City of Santa Cruz is a supportive local government for the LGBTQ community. Direct support for youth and teens is provided through City programs and facilities like the Teen Center. The City also supports the Diversity Center, Family Services Agency, the Santa Cruz AIDS Project, the Homeless Services Center, and Senior Citizens Legal Services. The City's focus on youth services, health care, homeless services and housing, and family services provides a solid safety net for our community. I also am inspired by the work of the Queer Youth task Force, the Safe Schools Project, the Trans*Teen Project, and the Queer Youth Leadership Awards and the Leadership Development Program of QYTF. There are always new and creative programs though that can further help our residents and I will evaluate new opportunities to bring to our community especially in the areas of employment mentorship and LGBTQ youth services.

Q12 If elected, how would you use your position to help further issues of importance to the LGBTIQ community?

I feel the key area that must be assessed if I am elected is the erosion of civil rights of our community and direct impacts from targeted punitive policy towards our community from the national level. I will focus on keeping our community informed and to the extent necessary offer policy for further protections for the members of our community most in need. I will be active as an out member of elected local office and will look for mentorship with other LGBTQ elected colleagues throughout the state so that I can stay abreast of current thinking and emerging issues. My skills with policy will help me in making these connections and evaluating needs for our community in partnership with groups like the GLBT Alliance.

Q13 If you receive the GLBT Alliance's endorsement, will you display it in your campaign literature?

Yes, please send me the GLBT Alliance's logo (jpg file) so I can proudly announce the endorsement on my campaign literature, social media and website!
