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## Citizens' Advisory Committee

Memo-21-18

Meeting 21-05

September 27, 2021

To: Citizens' Advisory Committee

From: Caroline Hernandez, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Subject: Elect Citizens' Advisory Committee Representative to the Joint Ad Hoc Committee for Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Access

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### **REVENUE/COST**

There is no cost associated with this item.

### **BACKGROUND**

On January 14, 2021 the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Authority) Board of Directors (Board) approved the creation of a Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Access (JEDIA) Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) to be comprised of three Board members and three Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) members. This Committee was tasked with creating and drafting a plan that would incorporate JEDIA principles to inform future practices, policies, and programs that support the Authority's mission of connecting people to nature.

On January 25, 2021, the CAC voted to elect Kathy Sutherland, Raj Bhanot, and Frank Cancilla as CAC representatives to the newly formed Committee, with Loren Lewis elected as an alternate. The three CAC representatives joined Board members Helen Chapman, Dorsey Moore, and Shay Franco-Clausen on the Committee. To date, the Committee has met four times; in May, July, August and September.

### **DISCUSSION**

CAC member Frank Cancilla stepped down from his position on the Committee prior to the July meeting. Loren Lewis was then called up from his alternate position to assume Mr. Cancilla's role as a CAC representative. This action left the alternate position vacant.

The August meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum of members, the September meeting was adjourned early due to loss of quorum, and CAC member Raj Bhanot has been unable to attend any meetings due to personal conflict.

Given the remaining meetings in 2021 scheduled for October 20, November 17, December 15, and the importance of completing the objectives of the Committee, staff has strategized options to assist in achieving quorums at future meetings.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the CAC elect a member to replace Raj Bhanot on the Committee as a strategy to help achieve quorums at future meetings and accomplish the objectives set forth by the Committee.