

Speaker Bios

Supervisor Susan Adams

Dr. Susan L. Adams represents the 1st District on the Marin County Board of Supervisors. She has a master's degree in nursing at UCSF as a maternity clinical specialist and a women's health nurse practitioner. She graduated from the doctoral program at UCSF in 1998. Supervisor Adams serves as Director of Emergency Services, and sits on a number of boards and commissions including the Children's Health Initiative Task Force, the Marin County Disaster Council, the Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Task Force, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), the Association of (SF) Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the ABAG regional planning committee (RPC) and the state and national associations of counties (CSAC and NACo) serving as Chair on the Medicaid Committee of NACo.

Maite Duran

Originally from Ecuador, Maite Duran received her BA in Cultural Anthropology at UC Santa Barbara and a Masters in Latin American Studies from CSU Los Angeles. She has worked as a bilingual family counsellor, case manager and Spanish language instructor for local non-profit and educational institutions in Marin County. Currently, Maite is the Community Leadership Coordinator at Canal Alliance, primarily working in collaboration with Canal youth and families to organize and facilitate community change.

Amy Ackerman, J.D.

Amy Ackerman is a consulting attorney working with the National Policy and Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity at Public Health Law and Policy, where she drafts model ordinances, contracts, and other legal policy tools to help communities promote healthy eating and active living. Prior to joining PHLN, she worked as a senior deputy city attorney at the San Francisco City Attorney's Office. As a deputy city attorney, she drafted legislation, served as general counsel to various City commissions and departments, including most City departments serving children and their families, and represented the Department of Human Services in child abuse and neglect cases from intake through appeal. She also served as Director of Training, developing and supervising delivery of a comprehensive training program for all deputy city attorneys addressing both substantive areas of law and practice skills. Ms. Ackerman is a graduate of Brown University (magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa) and Stanford University School of Law.

Miles Gordon

Miles Gordon is the coordinator of The Gardens Project of North Coast Opportunities in Mendocino County, California. The Gardens Project facilitates the development of new community supported and school based gardens and coordinates a continuously expanding Gardens Network of community and school gardens throughout Mendocino County. He has served as a Ukiah High School bilingual social studies teacher, a teacher trainer, and coordinator of the California Mini-Corps migrant education program at Mendocino College. He is currently serving as president of the Mendocino County ReLeaf board, and is the owner of a producing organic farm.

Francesca Vietor

Francesca Vietor is the President of The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). The SFPUC sets policy for the City and County of San Francisco's water, wastewater and municipal power services. Francesca also serves as the Interim Program Officer for the Environment at the San Francisco Foundation. Francesca has been a dedicated voice and advocate for the environment for more than two decades. Some of her previous positions include President of the Urban Forest Council, Chairman of the Mayor's Environmental Transition Team, President of the Environmental Commission for the City and County of San Francisco, and Director of the City and County's Department of the Environment. In 2004, She co-founded 1000 Flowers, a national woman's voter registration and mobilization effort which registered and activated over 20,000 women in 47 states. Her other not-for-profit positions included Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network and the Chez Panisse Foundation. Past and present Board appointments include Bioneers, Bluewater Network, Center for Environmental Health, Commonweal, Environmental Working Group, Goldman Fund, International Rivers Network, Neighborhood Parks Council, Presidio Alliance, Save the Bay and Slide Ranch, among others. Francesca lives in San Francisco with her six year old daughter, Chiara.

Tom Lai

Tom Lai has been with the Marin County Community Development Agency for the past 18 years with over 14 years in the Current Planning program where he managed permit reviews and code compliance. He is currently the Assistant Director for the Agency where he helps oversee the Planning, Building and Safety, and Environmental Health Services Divisions. Tom graduated from U.C. Berkeley with an undergraduate degree in Architecture and a Masters in City Planning.