

Emily Smet



To whom it may concern,

I am a Sacramentan residing in ARFCD Division 2 and I would be honored to be appointed to the American River Flood Control District board as an at-large trustee. As an environmental scientist with years of experience working directly with water districts and resource conservation districts, I offer the expertise and knowledge needed to help safeguard Sacramento from the impending effects of climate change. My driving philosophy is to think globally and act locally, and I hope to carry this sentiment forward in this position as the board works together to maintain local levees and best serve our community.

I earned my Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Management with an emphasis in Watershed Sciences at UC Davis. There, I developed a passion for environmental reform and climate mitigation that has driven my professional and advocacy endeavors ever since. As one of the most levee-dependent cities in the United States, Sacramento is uniquely vulnerable to the ever-growing risks of climate-driven catastrophic flooding. I have a deep respect for the ARFCD's critical responsibility to oversee and manage levee maintenance to minimize flood risk and ensure the safety and sustainability of our iconic River City.

In addition to my passion for California's water resources, I offer unique knowledge of the core administrative and funding mechanisms that special districts rely on in California. As a Project Manager and grant administrator for the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD), I have extensive experience working with and for special districts, securing private, local, state, and federal funding to support their operations, and navigating the unique challenges that these entities face. As a trustee of the ARFCD, I plan to put this knowledge to work in service of the District's flood response, education, and levee maintenance efforts. In an era where state and federal funding is increasingly at risk, I believe diversifying funding sources is essential, especially as climate change increases flood risk and potential levee damage.

Further, I have experience in advocacy and local politics, specifically as a champion for marginalized people such as the unhoused, working class, and LBGT community. As a transgender woman and community organizer I wrote a resolution and organized a coalition of local partners to make Sacramento a sanctuary city for transgender individuals and gender affirming healthcare. I've also worked during devastating storm events to help our unhoused neighbors survive torrential rain, high winds, and falling trees - providing food, tarps, and hand warmers to the most desperate people at the most desperate time. From my advocacy, I have come to understand that marginalized communities are often hit first and worst by climate disaster. Thus to protect marginalized communities, as a trustee I plan to continue ARFCD's goals to mitigate climate disaster through routine levee maintenance and to build resilient communities along the American River through education and open space access.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Emily Smet

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Education:

University of California, Davis

- B.S. in Environmental Science
 - Emphasis in Watershed Sciences
 - Minor in History

Mark Whisler Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute

Graduated Spring 2024

- Education in the skills needed to sit on a local board or commission

Work Experience:

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD)

Agriculture and Watersheds Program Coordinator

Aug. 2022 -Mar. 2023

Agriculture and Watersheds Project Manager

Apr. 2023 - Present

Sacramento, CA

- Administered 5 block grants, including timely invoicing and reporting
- Administered \$1,000,000 in direct-to-farmer drought relief grants
- Managed monthly educational series, disseminated new information to agricultural technical assistance providers
- Coordinated multi-organization teams on grant applications
- Planned and facilitated workshops and sessions at yearly conferences

California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP)

AmeriCorps CivicSpark Fellow

Aug. 2021 - Aug 2022

Sacramento, CA

- Oversaw the creation of two water conservation programs, partnering with several local water districts in the state of California
- Created an online education program for nursery staff to better market native plants

Putah Creek Council

One Creek Seasonal Restoration Technician

Mar. 2021 - Aug. 2021

Winters, CA

- Coordinated with partner agencies, landowners, and stakeholders within the Putah Creek Watershed to support habitat restoration
- Gained familiarity with native plants and their coexistence with urban and agricultural settings

ASUCD Unitrans Transit System

Shop Office Clerk

May 2019 - Aug. 2021

Davis, CA

- Synthesized and organized information from transit operators to mechanics via work order creation and tracking, aptly managing the maintenance of over 50 transit buses
- Assisted with payroll for a staff of over twenty employees, ensuring the smooth operation of one of the highest-ridership transit systems in California
- Oversaw hiring, training, and supervision of employees in the office clerk position

Dynamic Systems Inc.

Seasonal Inside Sales Representative

May 2017 - Sep. 2018

El segundo, CA

- Created price quotations on a federal contract
- Provided tailored assistance to federal clients, delivering consistent and efficient customer service