

Background:

A copy of the proposed membership for the Workforce Investment Board is on file with the Clerk of the Board.

The Board of Supervisors is requested to approve a resolution appointing Jose Obregon, Director, Sonoma County General Services to the Workforce Investment Board for an initial term of one year.

Mr. Obregon is a key player in the County's green and sustainable energy efforts, with direct responsibility in implementing the provisions of AB811 and other energy efficiency initiatives, such as a Local Government Partnership with PG&E; implementing the County Comprehensive Energy Program; overseeing and implementing the County's Energy Independence Program; pursuing large scale solar installations on county facilities to create zero net energy islands; crafted and will be implementing "green building" mandates for all new County construction projects; partnering with the car manufacturers to build a fleet of plug-in hybrids and total electric vehicles and paralleling that effort with a partnership with technology companies that are developing and implementing the charging infrastructure network required supporting this new mode of transportation and collaborating on a holistic and multi-county building retrofit program.

The Workforce Investment Board's Energy and Green Committee, convened in July of this year, is currently evaluating labor force demands and career paths for 'Green Collar' jobs in Sonoma County. The committee has been influential in Sonoma County's successful grant application for the California Clean Energy and Workforce Training Program, and as the program evolves, it will continue to function in an advisory role. Ultimately, the Workforce Investment Board seeks to ensure that Sonoma County has a workforce capable of filling the jobs necessary to promote local renewable energy development, climate change strategies, and sustainable building initiatives. It would benefit greatly from the addition of Mr. Obregon's perspectives.

Mr. Obregon is being recommended for appointment not only as the director of General Services for the County of Sonoma, but as a representative of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, thereby qualifying him for a business seat.

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) regulations established that the Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and its Youth Education & Employment Services Council would serve as policy oversight bodies for its employment and training programs. The law requires that appointments to these bodies be made by local elected officials. In accordance with the established written agreement between the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and the WIB, the WIB reviews and approves candidates' applications for membership and forwards its recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for final approval and appointment.

Federal and state requirements mandate most categories of WIB membership and the minimum number of members required in those categories, with the additional requirement of maintaining a majority of business members. As authorized under the federal Workforce Investment Act and California's SB-293, membership of the Sonoma County WIB presently comprises fifty-five members, including 28 business members, 5 members from educational institutions, 7 local labor organization members, 3 community based organization members, 2 economic development agency members, and 10 representatives of required partners of Sonoma

County's one-stop, Job Link. Members are not appointed by supervisorial district, but on a county-wide basis, and must have a high degree of policymaking and hiring authority within the organizations they represent. In addition, the WIB seeks members who have expertise in Sonoma County's important or emergent employment sectors, such as health care, hospitality, and green technology or who provide workforce-related services to employers, employees or job seekers.

Recommendation:

Approve resolution appointing Jose Obregon, Director, Sonoma County General Services to the Workforce Investment Board for an initial term of one year.

Attachments: Resolution.

On File With Clerk: Proposed WIB membership.

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote: