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MONTEREY BAY AIR RESOURCES DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

Monterey Bay Air Resources District Board Announces Appointment to the Hearing Board Monterey, California – September 10, 2024

On August 21st 2024, the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) Board of Directors approved the appointment of Leslie J. Girard as a Public Member of the MBARD Hearing Board.



Leslie J. Girard

Leslie Girard received his B.A. from San Diego State University in 1978, majoring in Political Science with a minor in Economics, and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1981. He started work as a Deputy City Attorney in the San Diego City Attorney's Office following graduation from law school.

Initially starting in the Criminal Division of the office, Les advanced to civil advisory work and subsequently to the Litigation Division, where he worked for 11 years specializing in land use and other complex cases, writs, and appeals. He returned to civil advisory work in 1994 as Chief Deputy City Attorney for Legislative and Public Affairs.

In 1996 Les was appointed to the position of Assistant City Attorney for Special Projects. In that capacity he worked on assignments at the designation of the City Attorney. During the years 1998 through 2003 Les was primarily involved as a principal in the negotiation and implementation of the City's Ballpark and Redevelopment Project. From September of 2003 through 2004, he was acting Executive Assistant City Attorney, responsible for the on-going operations of both the Civil and Criminal Divisions of the City Attorney's Office.

In September of 2005 Les joined the firm McKenna, Long & Aldridge LLP in San Diego working in the Government Affairs practice group. Desiring to return to public service, Les joined the Monterey County Counsel's Office in June of 2008 as Assistant County Counsel, and in 2012 was appointed Chief Assistant County Counsel. In that capacity he assisted the County Counsel in overseeing all operations of the office. In addition, Les advised the Local Agency Formation Commission of Monterey County, the Monterey Bay Air Resources District, and the Carmel Valley Recreation and Park District.

In October of 2019, Les was appointed County Counsel by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. In that capacity, and in addition to the duties he had as Chief Assistant, he discharged the duties of a County Counsel as prescribed in the California Government Code, and the duties of County Risk Manager as set forth in the Monterey County Code. Most importantly, Les helped the County navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing the various health related legal issues it presented.

After 42 years of legal practice, and 40 years in public service, Les retired in December of 2023. He currently spends time with his wife of 32 years and their two adult sons, travelling and otherwise enjoying retirement.

The Hearing Board is a quasi-judicial panel authorized to provide relief from MBARD regulations under certain circumstances. Below are the current Hearing Board members.

Member Name	Designation	Term Expiration
Michael Guth, Chair	Attorney	April 30, 2025
Daniel Dodge, Jr.	Public Member	December 20, 2026
Vacant	Registered Engineer	Vacant
Vacant	Medical	Vacant
Leslie J. Girard	Public Member	August 21, 2027
Vacant	Alternate Public Member	Vacant

The Hearing Board meets on an as-needed basis and a quorum of three members is required to hear petitions. Members serve a three-year term with the opportunity to renew their membership.

Hearing Board applications are being accepted for three open seats: Medical Professional, Professional Engineer, Alternate Public Member. Please visit our website at <https://www.mbard.org/mbard-invites-applications-for-appointment-to-the-hearing-board> to apply or contact Sirie Thongchua, Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Boards, at (831) 718-8028 or sirie@mbard.org for more information.

Richard A. Stedman
Air Pollution Control Officer