

Email sent to candidates:

Dear <Candidate Name>,

Redwood City Neighbors United (RCNU) is a grassroots nonprofit organization representing over 450 members of the community opposed to development on the Redwood City salt ponds. We care about what's best for our city, and we believe that responsible growth focuses development on our downtown and along transit corridors, near jobs, shops and restaurants – not on the isolated Cargill salt ponds.

As a candidate for City Council, your views on issues related to developing on the salt ponds are very important to our members and many other Redwood City voters. Although Cargill/DMB Pacific Ventures withdrew their initial Saltworks Project, they advised the City that a new development plan for the salt ponds will be submitted in the future. For this reason, we would appreciate your response to the questions in the attached document so that voters can make an informed decision.

Thank you in advance for your time and participation. RCNU will not be endorsing individual candidates. All the candidate responses will be provided in their entirety to RCNU members and interested members of the press, as well as being posted on the RCNU website (www.rcnu.org).

Please send your completed questionnaire to council2013@rcnu.org by Friday, September 20th. You may type your answers directly into the attached Word document and send to us if you prefer. If you have any questions regarding the questionnaire, please contact RCNU at the above email or at 650-503-3726 (leave message – we will return your call ASAP).

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you again!

Redwood City Neighbors United Council Election Subcommittee
Alice Kaufman
Gail Raabe
Julie Abraham

Redwood City Neighbors United

2013 City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Dear Candidate for City Council:

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Candidate Name:

1. Redwood City has plans to grow significantly over the next few years, and the way in which that growth is directed will shape our city for years to come. The 2010 Redwood City General Plan envisions a revitalized downtown area with housing located near our existing transit hubs and entertainment and retail venues, while conserving our open space areas and protecting the community's quality of life.

Do you agree with our community's vision for building housing in the urban core and not in designated open space areas? If not, how would you describe where you see our city's growth progressing?

2. According to Redwood City's General Plan EIR, key traffic corridors, including Highway 101, Woodside Road and Whipple Avenue, are already at or near capacity and do not have excess capacity to absorb a significant influx of new cars from development on the salt ponds. Recent plans for improving traffic flow through the Highway 101/Woodside Road interchange did not incorporate any development on the salt ponds. If a development is allowed, the limited traffic relief for current commuters and Seaport industries from these improvements could be short-lived, or traffic through the interchange could end up worse than current conditions.

If elected, would you approve a development project on the salt ponds that significantly increases traffic impacts on current Redwood City commuters and nearby industries? Please explain your answer.

3. Sustainability and protection of our land, air and water are becoming increasingly important. By concentrating growth in the core of our city, we conserve energy, reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, and maintain our open spaces for the benefit of wildlife, the enjoyment of hikers and other recreational users, and for restoration of Bay tidal marsh. Scientific studies have shown that marshlands can provide valuable protection for residents and businesses from flooding and sea level rise, and provide effective mitigation for global warming by absorbing carbon from the atmosphere.

Moving forward, what are your views on the best way to protect Redwood City's natural resources and mitigate for climate change?

4. In 2009, the City Council voted to accept the initial Saltworks development application and begin a lengthy environmental review process even though the project had no clear plan in place for supplying water for the projected residents. Water supply options the developer

proposed included a complicated Kern County agricultural water transfer with an expiration date. A desalination plant located on the Redwood Shores Peninsula also surfaced as a potential option.

In the future, should the City Council accept and review a project application for a development that has no clear plan in place for water, or a water supply plan that could increase future costs to Redwood City ratepayers? Please explain your answer.

5. According to the Pacific Institute, San Mateo County already has more property at risk of inundation from sea level rise (estimated to be worth \$24 billion) than any other county in California, and it will cost taxpayers significant amounts of money in coming years just to protect already developed infrastructure. To address the regional adverse impacts of climate change, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) recommends that:

“...undeveloped areas that are both vulnerable to future flooding and currently sustain significant habitats or species, or possess conditions that make the areas especially suitable for ecosystem enhancement, should be given special consideration for preservation and habitat enhancement and should be encouraged to be used for those purposes.” (Bay Plan Climate Change Policy #4)

Cargill’s Redwood City salt ponds are a good example of an undeveloped area (no existing infrastructure) vulnerable to future flooding, and requiring construction of new levees for flood protection. In the 1999 report, *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals*, regional scientists determined that these salt ponds are especially suitable for ecosystem enhancement, where managed ponds and restored tidal marsh could increase valuable wetlands for waterfowl and expanded habitat for nearby endangered species.

Do you agree with BCDC’s policy discouraging building in undeveloped areas vulnerable to future flooding and suitable for ecosystem enhancement? Please explain why or why not.

6. All of the Redwood City Cargill salt ponds are designated as “Open Space” in the General Plan and are zoned “Tidal Plain”. In addition to salt making, parks, public recreation and restoration to tidal marsh are all permitted uses. Commercial/residential development is currently not allowed.

If you were elected to the City Council, would you approve a change in the City's current General Plan and zoning to allow development on the salt ponds? Please explain your answer.

Thank you again!

Redwood City Neighbors United
Council Election Subcommittee

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