

STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster

JNB 2
12/10/2024
TN

Date: December 10, 2024

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Jason Caudle, Chief Executive Officer, Lancaster Energy
Chenin Dow, Assistant Director

Subject: Appointments to the Board of Directors of the First Public Hydrogen Authority.

Recommendation:

1. Appoint five board members to the First Public Hydrogen Authority Board of Directors, as outlined in this staff report.
2. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to finalize and execute any related documents in a form approved by the City Attorney.

G.C. Section 84308: No

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Background:

Together with fellow renewable energy innovator the City of Industry, the City of Lancaster is seeking to form the world's First Public Hydrogen Authority (FPH₂). The Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for First Public Hydrogen Authority outlines the process for the establishment of FPH₂'s inaugural Board of Directors. The responsibility for five of these initial appointments rests with the City of Lancaster, while the City of Industry will appoint one additional board member.

Below are the proposed members of the Board to be appointed by the City of Lancaster, along with their qualifications:

➤ **R. Rex Parris, President of the Board of Directors**

City of Lancaster Mayor R. Rex Parris is an exceptional, innovative leader, known around the globe for his commitment to renewable energy. With a strong sense of dedication to

public service, he tirelessly works towards enhancing the quality of life for the residents of Lancaster, transforming the City into a beacon of progress, sustainability, and prosperity.

➤ **Aura Vasquez, Board Member**

Aura Vasquez is an environmental and social justice advocate known for her work with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). Appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti in 2017, she became the youngest and first immigrant to serve on the Board of Commissioners.

➤ **Jack Brouwer, Board Member**

Dr. Jack Brouwer is a prominent figure at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), holding multiple leadership roles. He serves as the Director of the Advanced Power and Energy Program (APEP) and the National Fuel Cell Research Center (NFCRC). Additionally, he is a Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering with a joint appointment in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

➤ **Joël Barton, Board Member**

Joël Barton retired as a prominent Business Manager/Financial Secretary of IBEW Local 11, representing over 11,000 members. He completed the IBEW/NECA apprenticeship at the top of his class, and advanced through roles like journeyman wireman, foreman, and project manager. Barton's union leadership started in 1997, culminating in his election as Business Manager/Financial Secretary in 2018, along with roles as Secretary/Treasurer for the California State Association of Electrical Workers and a member of the Executive Board of the California State Building and Construction Trades Council.

➤ **Tanya Peacock, Board Member**

Tanya Peacock is a distinguished leader at Eco Engineers, where she plays a pivotal role in advancing sustainable energy solutions. With over a decade of experience in the renewable energy sector, Tanya has been instrumental in developing and implementing strategies that drive decarbonization and foster innovation in clean energy projects. Her expertise in regulatory compliance, carbon management, and sustainability initiatives has positioned her as a key figure in shaping the future of eco-friendly energy practices.

Each proposed Board Member brings a wealth of expertise in the renewable energy space and will lend both credibility and unique insights as the team seeks to build and strengthen this nascent organization.

With the Lancaster City Council's approval, Mayor R. Rex Parris will serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors for its inaugural six-year term. Similarly, the City of Industry will select a representative to serve as Vice Chair for the inaugural six-year term. Following this term, or upon the existence of a vacancy, the Board shall hold an election at which a Chairman and/or Vice Chair shall be selected by a majority vote of the Board for a four-year term.