

Katy Miessner for Vallejo City Council 2018

2018 Council Candidate Mare Island Questions:

1. If elected, what would you do to address the Community Facility District fee issues that have been raised by Mare Island homeowners?

With more businesses moving to Mare Island, it is a great opportunity to examine and consider restructuring the CFD. The original idea of the CFD was to not make Mare Island a burden to the rest of the Vallejo community. As I understand, when that was instituted, it was considered that the Island would be revitalized much more quickly. I do think the cost of the Blue Bridge should be borne by more than just Mare Island residents as it is used as a thoroughfare. I would like to pursue a CAL TRANS contribution because the traffic on the Blue Bridge is directly related to capacity on Highway 37, and I don't see that changing for years to come. I know that we cannot tax the federal agencies on Mare Island but I would still like to see in-lieu payments pursued. I already started that conversation with our Congressman's office and with the City of Vallejo. It didn't seem likely, but the new spotlight shining on the Federal Government's lack of support of the cemetery (apparently the VA cares for other military cemeteries), there may be renewed interest in an in-lieu fee that could help all of the expenses charged to the CFD.

2. If elected what plans do you have to enhance business development on Mare Island?

We have such an opportunity right now and we need to stay the course. Right now, the City is installing new water, sewer and high-speed fiber optic capacity to North Mare Island via River Park. The barracks were recently torn down, removing an enormous blight at Mare Island's front door. I know that parcelization is an issue to sale of buildings on the South Island, and that has been a council priority this year.

3. If elected, what other ideas do you have to enhance the overall quality of life on Mare Island?

I want to continue the revitalization or destruction of dilapidated buildings, and for those buildings occupied that don't look good, I want to see the tenants/owners take better care of them. Considering the CFD, frankly, when you travel through the island, you have to go through areas that don't look great. Not all the old buildings are historic and they don't all contribute to the historic district, and likely should be torn down. That said, there are historic buildings that I will fight from being torn down. Who would have thought that Building 65 et al, could look so great! Success breeds success.

4. Are there any other things you would like Mare Island voters to know about you and your positions?

There are so many needs in Vallejo and addressing them requires a balanced approach. Folks may not always agree with my decisions but I can be depended on to study all sides and make what I consider the best decision/take the best option, considering everyone's needs.

This is the 21st century and so much has changed since the Navy left. The world is different and we have opportunities to bring in great industries – artisanal manufacturing that still requires people and not robots, businesses that raise (and already have raised) a great profile for Vallejo. Businesses that create upward mobility for the residents of Vallejo, especially young people. It's our time.