

Good morning, my name is Reid Edwards. I am sorry I am not able to join you, but I have a volunteer commitment with White Pony Express. I am a long-time resident of Contra Costa County (1963-77 and 1984-present), and am honored to be considered for the Sustainability Commission.

My experience with sustainability actually goes back to my Eagle Scout project (around 1969), which was handing out car trash bags to hang on window opening handles! A radical notion at the time. After working for the Congress, including on energy sustainability legislation, I spend the next 25 years at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory ((LBNL). There I spent many years working for funding for, among other projects, environmental remediation projects, energy efficient windows and lighting, and heat reflective roofs. My last job before retirement involved a different kind of sustainability. I worked for a company using computer modeling to assist the insurance industry in measuring natural and man-made disaster threats to communities.

Among my volunteer activities, my work with White Pony Express is directly involved in sustainability efforts. Every day except Christmas, we pick up approximately 5,000 pounds of healthy fresh food from grocery stores and restaurants, and deliver it to organizations feeding the hungry throughout our county. That is 5,000 pounds of food (and containers) everyday not going into our local landfills, and is instead helping to sustain a challenged part of our population.

In terms of working with groups and building consensus, my deepest experience was with the Berkeley and Oakland chambers of commerce. While working at LBNL, I spend over a decade on the board of directors of both organizations. I also chaired the Berkeley board for three years, and the Oakland board for two years. These were very diverse organizations of small, medium and large businesses, and non-profits, and we worked hard as a team to help move the economies of those cities forward.

Thank you for your consideration for this position, and I would be happy to provide any additional information. I could also be available in person most afternoons and evenings.

