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March 18, 2026

**MEMO**

**TO:** City of Sacramento  
City Council, Personnel and Public Employees Committee

**FROM:** Chandra Chilmakuri, Board Chair

**RE:** Applicants for Seat B of the Natomas Basin Conservancy Board of Directors; considered at the 3/24/2026 11:00am Personnel and Public Employees Committee meeting.

Councilmember Rick Jennings, Chair  
Councilmember Lisa Kaplan, (Vice Chair)  
Councilmember Karina Talamantes (Vice Mayor)  
Councilmember Mai Vang

P&PE Committee members:

You will be entertaining candidates for an empty seat on the Board of Directors of the Natomas Basin Conservancy. It appears this will be on the agenda for the March 24, 2026 P&PE Committee meeting.

There are two pressing matters that cause us to share with the P&PE Committee the Conservancy's view on this important appointment. The two issues include:

- 1.) the need for a "financial expert" on the Board, as well as
- 2.) the threat confronting the Conservancy by some 8,000 acres of urban development proposed outside the Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan's (NBHCP) 17,500-acre Permit Area.

One of the candidates before you is Kevin McRae, CPA. In our view, he is the only candidate that meets the skill set needed given these needs.

Moreover, he has a demonstrated knowledge of the NBHCP, which is very complex. He is clear on how the City's interests are impacted by Conservancy efforts to implement the NBHCP. Finally, he served the Board of Directors with distinction some years ago, so we can attest to how hard he works to represent these important needs.

He is many times over the "financial expert" the Conservancy is desperately in need of. The City benefits when represented on the Conservancy's Board of Directors by a financial expert, especially one who is a CPA. It is the most prominent of the "best practices" for non-profit organizations, and even the U.S. Internal Revenue Service's Form 990 and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are at issue on this point.



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John R. Roberts  
*Executive Director*

But also important is that few understand the threat level facing the Conservancy with respect to fairly massive proposed urban development outside the NBHCP Permit Area. As we have written and circulated publicly, the Conservancy is confronted with a potential “death knell” based on what we’re aware of in this regard. If ever there was a time when the Conservancy needed a steady and experienced hand, one who could quickly and easily see the threat level and guide the Board in the right direction, it is Kevin McRae.

We believe this is an extraordinary once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get a Board member with this skill set.

Thanks in advance for whatever consideration you can give this issue.

C: Doug Libby, Vice Chair, Conservancy Board of Directors  
John Roberts, Executive Director, Natomas Conservancy

