



CITY OF COLUSA

APPLICATION FOR COMMISSION VACANCY

Name: JEAN-PIERRE "J.P." CATIVIELA

Address: [REDACTED] OAK STREET, COLUSA

Resident of County ☒ Resident of City ☒ Resident of Colusa Unified School District ☒

Phone: 916-[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]@cogent cc.com

I am interested in the vacancy on the following Commission:

☒ **Planning Commission – 4 year term**

Three (3) members must be residents of the City at the time of appointment and during his/her term, and shall not be officers or employees of the City. Two (2) members may be residents of Colusa County, residing within two miles of the boundaries of the City at the time of appointment and during his/her term, and shall not be officers or employees of the City.

☐ **Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission – 4 year term**

Applicant must be a resident of the Colusa Unified School District at the time of appointment and during his/her term, and shall not be an officer or an employee of the City.

☐ **Heritage Preservation Commission – 4 year term**

Applicant shall be resident of the city or residents of Colusa County if they live within two miles of the city limits at the time of appointment and during his/her term, and shall not be officers nor employees of the city.

☐ **Other/Committee:** _____

Briefly, state your interest in serving on this Commission and give a summary of your education, experience and/or qualifications that you believe would be relevant to this Commission.

Please see attached.

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CITY OF COLUSA

Are you available on the dates and times when this commission meets? ☒ Yes ☐ No

I have read and understand the responsibilities of the Commission as set forth in the Colusa City Code and agree to work to carry out these responsibilities. I further understand that I serve at the pleasure of the Colusa City Council and can be removed from this position, with or without cause, at any time.

I, the undersigned, state that I am a citizen of the United States and fulfill the residency requirements listed above, and that I wish to have my name considered for appointment to the commission indicated above.


Applicant Signature

7-11-2022
Date

J.P. Cativiela
656 Oak Street
Colusa, CA 95932
916-261-6556
jcativiela@cogentcc.com

Statement of interest

This is to express my interest in being appointed to serve the Colusa Planning Commission. I have a longtime interest in local planning matters and their importance in supporting the quality of life of communities. This interest is partially demonstrated by my previous service as a Colusa Planning Commissioner from August 2002 to early 2007.

I have a strong personal interest in preserving and enhancing quality of life for me, my family and my neighbors in Colusa and believe we all have a duty to serve our community. As I noted in my original application to serve the Commission in 2002, when evaluating the opportunities each of us have for service to our community, I believe we should carefully weigh our individual interests, temperaments and experience. For example, someone who is experienced at construction contracting might be suited to volunteer time and/or expertise toward improving public recreational facilities. Along these lines, I believe my combination of professional experience, interest and temperament are especially well suited for the Planning Commission. I cite some of this experience below.

Philosophy

I am committed to properly and conscientiously carrying out what I view as the two major responsibilities of a planning commissioner: long-term community planning (general plan) and administration/adjudication of existing ordinances related to planning and building.

With regard to long-term planning, I believe a balanced approach is critical – one that allows for sufficient housing and economic development serving the various income levels in the community, while preserving the community's positive attributes and ensuring compliance with state and federal laws. Further, I believe there is no substitute for diligent and consistent application to the task. As I was during my first term of service on the Planning Commission, I remain committed to devoting the time and effort necessary to understanding the legal framework in which we must operate, to properly and critically reviewing agenda materials, draft documents and other relevant information, to gathering needed information and asking questions where necessary, and otherwise working to meet the community's long-range objectives.

With regard to administration of existing ordinances such as zoning changes and subdivision map hearings, I believe planning decisions must be carefully weighed to consider the individual's right to enjoy and benefit from his or her property, and to balance that important right with the rights of the community and neighbors. In most cases, these objectives are met by careful compliance with ordinances. However, variances and special needs must also be considered from time to time. This requires a willingness to fully understand the issues, to listen to all the facts surrounding a specific matter, and a desire to reach an unbiased conclusion that passes legal muster, protects against unnecessary city liability and offers maximum benefit to all interested parties. I also believe the cumulative benefits – or impacts – of individual projects must be considered. I believe it is the role of

the Commission to make recommendations to the City Council on these matters during General Plan updates, and to advise the council when mid-course corrections are needed. At the same time, it is the duty of all Planning Commissioners to be cognizant of the vision for the city expressed by the majority of its elected leaders.

Education

I graduated from Blair High School in Pasadena, California, in 1981 in the top 10 percent of my class. I was a National Merit Scholar semi-finalist. I attended the University of California at Los Angeles from 1981 to 1985, majoring in history, but left college before graduating to take a job as a newspaper reporter in Gallup, New Mexico.

Experience

My most valuable experience has come from serving nearly five years as a City of Colusa planning commissioner, including work on development of a General Plan. I have also from time to time informally advocated on behalf of issues of local interest, such as the preservation of the local Department of Motor Vehicles office.

As a professional newspaper reporter and editor between 1986 and 1996 (at newspapers including The Signal in Santa Clarita, Los Angeles Daily News, Colusa Sun-Herald and Marysville Appeal-Democrat), I covered a myriad of issues in local government, including city councils, county boards of supervisors, planning commissions, school boards, and similar bodies. I am familiar with basic issues and terms related to land-use planning, such as general plans, zoning ordinances, LAFCOs, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), spheres of influence, ministerial versus discretionary permitting, conditional and special use permits, by-right uses, variances and similar matters.

From 1996 to 2000, I worked in regulatory affairs for the California rice industry, deepening my ability to grasp complex issues and regulations, and enriching my understanding of the vital role agriculture in general and the rice industry in particular play in our local economy, culture and environment.

From 2001 to 2015, I was employed as a regulatory and public affairs consultant by the Dolphin Group in Sacramento, California. I represented the California dairy industry and other clients on various matters generally related to the environment, air quality, water quality and public understanding of those issues, including through local planning policies. This has, among other things, greatly improved my understanding of CEQA. I have testified and otherwise advocated on behalf of clients before the California Air Resources Board, the State Water Resources Control Board, various Regional Water Quality Control Boards including the Central Valley Board, the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and various planning commissions, boards of supervisors, air district and water officials in Solano, Kern, Tulare, Fresno, Merced, Madera, Glenn, Colusa, Kings, Solano, Sonoma, Humboldt and San Bernardino counties.

Since 2015, I have been principal and co-founder of Cogent Consulting and Communications, Inc., (www.cogentcc.com), based in Sacramento. We are a strategic public affairs and communications firm representing numerous clients in the dairy farming and dairy products processing industries, the California almond industry, national blueberry industry, and many others connected to agriculture and food production. We are a boutique firm that employs six people and supports additional contractors.