

Dear Mr. Arneson,

My name is Julian Portilla. I live at 148 Hidden Pines Circle in Richmond. I am writing to express my interest in participating on the Andrews Community Forest committee. I am an avid hiker, biker and nature lover. My wife and I enjoy hiking in the ACF throughout the year. I am also a mediator with over 20 years experience of bringing people together to discuss complex issues. I have followed the discussions on the ACF and find myself concerned over the impact that the disagreements on how to manage the ACF will have on the relationships between members of our community who feel passionately about conservation, recreation and the trade-offs that each require.

I believe there is actually a great deal of common ground among those involved and I would like to contribute to the process highlighting common concerns and proposals to make decisions that will benefit our community.

I also think that local participation in civic duties is the best way to maintain a strong and healthy democracy. While issues at the national level can feel distant and daunting, engaging neighbors and fellow residents of Richmond feels like a useful contribution to the health of our local government and sense of community.

Please consider my participation in the committee.

Sincerely,

Julian Portilla

c. 802 399 0241