



ACADEMY LEADERSHIP

Developing Leaders Who Deliver Results

Honorable Governor Jerry Brown
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Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Appointment of Newport Beach Council Member Ms. Leslie Daigle to the Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana region

It is with absolute conviction and no hesitation that I recommend Council Member Leslie Daigle from Newport Beach to the Water Quality Control Board. Having worked with the Board on a number of projects during my time with the Army Corps of Engineers in Los Angeles (2007-2010) and interacted with Ms. Daigle on a number of high visibility projects, I have no doubt that she is precisely what you, and the region, need in a board member.

My personal interaction with Ms. Daigle involved two very difficult projects, both of which highlighted the types of skills that she will bring to her service on the Board. On the first one, Leslie served as the Newport Beach City Council's lead advocate to secure bi-partisan support and federal funding for the completion of the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Restoration Project (UNBERP). This project continues to serve as an example of what sustainability looks like through a combination of enhanced water quality, wetland restoration, and environmental enhancement. Migratory birds enjoy the enhanced features – as do the humans who appreciate the value (economic *and* environmental) the bay adds to the region.

The second project was the initiation and full funding for a dredging project of the main Newport Harbor navigation channel. Ms. Daigle may have been the one person who did not embrace the status quo. Rather, she kept pushing the system and challenging others to "find a way." In the end, she developed a federal/local partnership, identified funding, and established a partnership with the Port of Long Beach for the sustainable disposal of contaminated sediments.

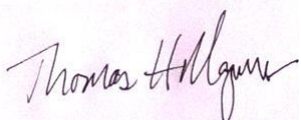
Quite frankly, this is a woman who does not understand the word, “No!” At the same time, she does not limit her thinking to either/or propositions. She will harness every bit of energy, unify disparate parties, and find a way to “Yes!” She will seek win/win, no matter the difficulty of the issues. Whether on these projects, or in her monumental efforts to develop and fund the renowned Bay Science Center and its state of the art water quality testing lab, a partnership between the Department of Wildlife, City of Newport Beach, and Orange County, Ms. Daigle is an innovator, a communicator, and a leader.

Ms. Daigle has a love for nature, an appreciation for science and sustainability, and an unparalleled energy level. She finds and applies limited resources in a logical and sustainable manner. Even during the last few years of economic challenge, she has helped increase the financial reserves of the city, helping them earn a rare and coveted Triple AAA credit rating from the three major national rating agencies. As a policy maker, Leslie ensures the prudent use of water resources – leveraging her intimate understanding of our region's most precious resource.

If I was building a team, I am fully aware that the State of California has no shortage of talent. But, if I was picking one person to not only be on the team but to shape its direction, help articulate its vision, align resources, and build the sort of enduring partnerships that are fundamental to success – I'd pick Leslie. She is a tireless and fearless leader with a passion for excellence. I am honored to call her a friend and have been fortunate to call her a teammate. She made me a better leader and was the driver of success for our team.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if I can provide any further information. I can be reached at (760) 267-1335 or email:

tmagness@academyleadership.com

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas H. Magness". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light pink rectangular background.

Thomas H. Magness
Colonel (retired), US Army
Academy Leadership