

## ***Residents for Responsible Desalination***

### **2020 Candidate Questionnaire**

For election to be held on **November 3, 2020**

**Please return your response via email to by September 15, 2020.**

Candidate: Natalie Moser, 9/15/20  
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[www.Nataliemoser4HB.com](http://www.Nataliemoser4HB.com)

#### **1. Please tell us why you are running for election to the Huntington Beach City Council.**

I am a proud mom of two kids who attend local schools, a homeowner, a business owner, an appointed member and chairperson of the HB Human Relations Task Force, and a committed community leader.

I am running because I want to serve our community. I care deeply and I have the experience, curiosity, and moral imagination and leadership to make a real difference, and because the bottom of the ballot is just as important as the top of the ballot.

We need public servants that have an unswayable moral compass and who are savvy, smart, and can't be distracted.

I will provide a voice of reason and common sense, a fresh approach from someone who wants to work together and find a way forward through active listening and good planning that represent the needs of our community.

#### **2. What is your vision for the City?**

In this moment, we are met with many concurrent and unprecedented challenges (including COVID-19, public health and safety challenges, a polarized community, homelessness, economic shortfalls, job loss, etc.). But, the crack is the place where the light gets in. I know from personal experience that disruption and discomfort can bring opportunities for awareness, transformation, healing, and resilience.

Who's going to mobilize us to work together? To bridge the divides? And, to make the difficult choices?

Who do we want to be as a city, as a community? My friend, Pastor James Pike from Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, recently said that, "We belong to one another." How would we act if we believed that to be true?

Let's reimagine our story together. Then, let's make that a reality through solid, evidence based policy and collaboration.

Together, we can address challenges including an evidence-based approach to emergency response, fire, and public safety; our community & business recovery and economic development— through and beyond the pandemic. Together, we can address the social issues that affect our collective quality of life. We can build an inclusive and engaged community through dialogue, we can address homelessness (including addressing public safety issues, building a shelter that provides wrap-around services and human dignity, creating permanent supportive housing, mental health services, addressing trauma, drug rehabilitation, and prevention). We can create a positive brand for our city and take pride in and beautify our community through innovative efforts to

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keep it clean and improve its appearance. We can prioritize and take care of our infrastructure, our environment and our beautiful coastline for future generations.

As a community, we might disagree about many things, but we must agree on basic principles including how we deal with one another. Let's join together to achieve our common goals and truly become ONEHB.

We have the opportunity to elevate rational, evidence based, and compassionate voices in the community.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve my community and make my kids proud. I believe that brighter days are ahead and, that with the right leadership at all levels of our government, together, we can do hard things and achieve our common goals.

#### **3. What public boards, committees, and/or commissions, non-profits have you served on in the last five years?**

I have a wide range of volunteer experience—from scouts to schools to community support. I am a founding board member for the McKenna Claire Foundation for Pediatric Brain Cancer and am myself a cancer survivor. Appointed to the City of Huntington Beach Human Relations Task Force in 2017, I am currently Chairperson and received the 2020 Diverse Community Leader Award from OC Human Relations. I've also been involved in organizing and advocating on homelessness issues in the city as a leading member of Homeless United HB. Finally, I'm proud to have delivered food weekly for eight weeks via the HB Connects program, supporting vulnerable senior populations in HB during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

From an environmental standpoint, I have supported organizations including the Sierra Club and Surfrider Foundation and I'm a monthly donor to the California League of Conservation Voters and a part of their Climate Voter Movement. I've participated and coordinated beach and wetlands cleanup events for our school and worked as a project lead for the wetlands cleanup for the Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council's Annual Community Day of Service.

I'm proud to have received the endorsements from both the OC League of Conservation Voters and from Sierra Club among many other received endorsements.

#### **4. Do you feel that the current or near future water needs of Huntington Beach require the construction of a local seawater desalination plant?**

No, I do not feel that the current or near future water needs of Huntington Beach require construction of a local seawater desalination plant. In 2018 Orange County produced a Water Reliability Study that says "... this region can even manage potential shortages that occur only about once every 20 years with conservation mandates alone." There is an opportunity to focus on groundwater replenishment and other options that are less expensive and have a reduced impact on our environment if we are concerned about a lack of clean water. Resources and energy could go to other options such as rapid recycling of wastewater, a focus on efficiency and conservation, and the capture of stormwater.

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And, the Orange County Water District has indicated that there's been limited interest from its 19 member agencies in signing up for the more expensive desalinated water.

Desalination plants like the proposed Poseidon plant are “energy intensive, produce expensive water and exact a toll on the ocean environment.”

**5. Did you support the approval by the City of Poseidon’s Environmental Impact Report, Conditional Use Permit, and other permits to construct and operate a seawater desalination plant in our city?**

a. Why or why not?

No, I do not support the approval by the City of Poseidon’s Environmental Impact Report, Conditional Use Permit, and other permits to construct and operate a seawater desalination plant in our city. The Environmental Impact Report “missed important connected actions, such as the reality that nobody wants to buy Poseidon’s expensive water — given the abundance of cheaper water that is already available — and that there is no plan to distribute the water in the local pipeline distribution systems.”

**6. Do you support the continued use of the abandoned AES Power Plant's open-ocean intake and outfall pipes to serve the Poseidon desalination plant’s operational needs?**

a. Why or why not?

No, I don’t support the continued use of the abandoned AES Power Plant's open-ocean intake and outfall pipes to serve the Poseidon desalination plant’s operational needs because the open ocean intake sucks up plankton, fish larvae and other organisms that are a vital part of the sea’s food chain.

**7. Do you feel that the probable costs of Poseidon's desal water would require such measures as public subsidies and/or participation by water districts in blending expensive water with cheaper water to bring down the cost of desalinated water?**

Yes, I do feel that the probable costs of Poseidon’s desal water would require measures such as public subsidies and/or participation by water districts in blending expensive water with cheaper water to bring down the cost of desalinated water. Per an OC Register article from May of 2020, “The desalted water is estimated to cost about \$1,800 an acre foot, which is enough for about three families for a year. Current groundwater costs about \$600 an acre foot while water imported currently costs about \$1,100 an acre foot.” A choice to pump the desalinated into the groundwater would result in a price increase for all customers in the area.

And, “With Poseidon pursuing a plant that would produce at least 50,000 acre feet a year, that worst-case scenario would leave customers on the hook to pay for more expensive water they didn’t need — costing customers nearly \$400 million over 30 years, according to the report.” (<https://www.ocregister.com/2020/05/15/regulators-express-concerns-about-huntington-beach-desalination-project/>)

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- 8. Have you solicited or received campaign contributions from Poseidon Water, Poseidon Resources, Brookfield Infrastructure Partners, an affiliated PAC, association, OC-WISE, OCTax, OC Taxpayers, members of the Board of Directors, or senior management, either directly or indirectly?**

No.

- a. If yes, who have you solicited and how much have you raised or intend to raise from such sources?