

Utilities Advisory Commission Application

Submitted on	5 March 2024, 1:16am
Receipt number	40
Related form version	8

Personal Information

Name	Abraham Bagherjeiran
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Cell Phone Number	
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Home Phone Number	
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Email Address	
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Are you a Palo Alto resident?	Yes
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Address	
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City	
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Postal Code	
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Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members?	No
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Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for?	Yes
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Fair Political Practices	Yes
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California state law requires board/commission members to file a disclosure of financial interests ([Fair Political Practices Commission](#), [Conflict of Interest Form 700](#)).

Do you/your spouse have an investment in, or do you or your spouse serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to:

1. Engage in business with the City;
2. Provide products or services for City projects; or
3. Be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission?

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto?	No
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How did you learn about the vacancy on the Utilities Advisory Commission?	City Website
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Consent to Publish Personal Information on the City of Palo Alto Website

Read the code, and check only ONE option below:

I request that the City of Palo Alto redact my home address, phone numbers, and email address from the attached Board and Commission Application prior to posting to the City's website.

Personal and Job Experience

Occupation

Applied Researcher, Artificial Intelligence

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

I am a Sr Director of Applied Research at eBay where I lead e-commerce search ranking. I have a PhD in Computer Science and specialize in machine learning. I am a member of the Association of Computing Machines, and industry professional group. I was an adjunct faculty member of Northeastern University, Silicon Valley, in the computer science department. For my undergraduate degree I minored in Electrical Power Technology. I own an electric vehicle and am a residential customer of the Palo Alto utilities.

Please describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations, including dates and any offices held.

I am President of the Palo Verde Elementary PTA.

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Utilities Advisory Commission and what experience would you bring to the position?

I am a regular customer of the Palo Alto utilities. I bring a strong analytical background to decisions. As a customer, I am interested in lowering costs while improving the quality of service.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting, you can view archived videos from the Midpen Media Center.

Archived videos are available from the [Midpen Media Center](#).

I am interested in the standing goal of preparing the gas supply for winter. I was hit with a \$4000 gas bill in January 2023 and would very much like to do what I can to make sure something like that does not happen again.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Utilities Advisory Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?

I would like the commission to change usage calculations to be more accurate, especially in light of fluctuating supply prices.

4. Utilities Advisory Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection.

[The Utilities Strategic Plan \(2018\)](#)

[The Long Term Electric Acquisition Plan \(2012\)](#)

[The Gas Utility Long-term Plan \(2017\)](#)

[Urban Water Management Plan \(2021\)](#)

[Ten-Year Electric Energy Efficiency Plan and Ten-Year Natural Gas Energy Efficiency Plan \(2012\)](#)

[Sustainability and Climate Action Plan \(SCAP\)](#)

[Fiber-to-the-Premise Master Plan \(2015\)](#)

I have signed up for the fiber to home project a few years ago and am familiar with that plan.

If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.

Please confirm that you have read the Boards and

Yes

Signature

Name of signatory: Abraham Bagherjeiran



[Link to signature](#)

Date Completed

03/05/2024

Utilities Advisory Commission Application

Submitted on	17 March 2024, 11:19pm
Receipt number	44
Related form version	8

Personal Information

Name	Ambika Pajjuri
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Cell Phone Number	
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Home Phone Number	
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Email Address	
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Are you a Palo Alto resident?	Yes
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Address	
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City	
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Postal Code	
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Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members?	No
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Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for?	Yes
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Fair Political Practices California state law requires board/commission members to file a disclosure of financial interests (Fair Political Practices Commission , Conflict of Interest Form 700).	No
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Do you/your spouse have an investment in, or do you or your spouse serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to:

1. Engage in business with the City;
2. Provide products or services for City projects; or
3. Be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission?

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto?	No
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How did you learn about the vacancy on the Utilities Advisory Commission?	Community Group
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Consent to Publish Personal Information on the City of Palo Alto Website

Read the code, and check only ONE option below:

I give permission for the City of Palo Alto to post to the City's website the attached Board and Commission Application intact. I have read and understand my rights under Government Code Section 6254.21. I may revoke this permission at any time by providing written notice to the Palo Alto City Clerk.

Personal and Job Experience

Occupation

Product Management leader: A Product Management leader, I recently left my job at Amazon and am currently on a sabbatical. In ~9 years of experience at Amazon, I built products and teams at multiple organizations at Amazon (Amazon Retail, AWS and Amazon Devices) and we brought delightful products to market ranging from Amazon Echo (Alexa) to Augmented Reality experiences like virtual try-on of Lipstick using ML. Previously I worked at Itron on smart meter networks and demand forecasting. As a leader of the Product organizations I led teams with first defining the vision and then bringing the big picture concepts to life with robust prioritization (using data driven inputs from customers and clarity on business differentiation), collaboration with stakeholders across the organization and building the optimal strategy and right go to market. As a Palo Alto resident of over 15 years, I am looking to give back to the community through volunteering my time and apply my expertise gained through the corporate world.

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

My professional education includes an MSEE degree from Columbia University and have taken various technical, product management and branding courses.

My most recent corporate work experience is at Amazon, where I was a GM that led product teams (product management, design and program management) at various orgs within Amazon over the last 9 years.

Relevant Professional Experience:

- I have completed the Board Readiness program administered by Neythri (<https://neythri.org/>) and am prepared to join non-profit and corporate boards as a director and advisory board member. I am also an advisory board member at a stealth startup.
- Prior to Amazon, I was an Entrepreneur and Product Management professional at various startups (Inquus/OpenStudy, KidSenz, Itron/Silver Spring Networks, 2Wire, Airvana). My work at Itron on smart meter networks and demand forecasting gave me insights into Utilities and related regulation.

Please describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations, including dates and any offices held.


I have been an active participant in volunteer organizations at school. I believe we need to get more women into STEM and leadership roles and some of my volunteer activities are reflective of this passion. A few activities I have been involved include:

- A registered Girl Scouts volunteer since 2012 to present
- Currently volunteer for Space Cookies, a girls-only high school FRC (FIRST Robotics) robotics team.
- 2012-2024, Advisory Board member at WomenStartup, a Bay area organization focused on the empowerment of women entrepreneurs in technology, helping them grow and succeed in the technology sector.
- 2011 - 2015 - Volunteer at YMCA Project Cornerstone

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Utilities Advisory Commission and what experience would you bring to the

I am passionate about leveraging my experience to contribute to a sustainable future. Palo Alto's Utilities Advisory Commission particularly

position?	interests me. My skills can be valuable in advising the City Council on long-range planning for our utilities, including water conservation and environmental impact. This aligns with my desire for innovative solutions. My proven ability in developing and implementing plans, coupled with my interest in sustainability and prior experience at Itron that pioneered smart meters for utilities, makes me a strong candidate. I'm eager to contribute!
2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting, you can view archived videos from the Midpen Media Center. <small>Archived videos are available from the Midpen Media Center.</small>	I am interested in the issue that was discussed when presenting the recommendation to amended Palo Alto CLEAN Program Rules and Requirements, Handbook, and Power Purchase Agreement. It was clear that there is a need to make it easy to sell power generated from Solar programs and to entice more participants for the Clean Programs. I am interested in improving the program and potentially revamping it to attract more participants
3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Utilities Advisory Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?	My goals would include making it easier to participate in the Palo Alto CLEAN program for apartments and buildings with options for Solar roofs. These establishments could decide to add a solar roof if the program is enticing. Another goal would be to evaluate improving the Fiber-to-the-Premise projects by intentionally combining them with other projects like Storm Water System upgrades and new infrastructure projects.
4. Utilities Advisory Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection. The Utilities Strategic Plan (2018) The Long Term Electric Acquisition Plan (2012) The Gas Utility Long-term Plan (2017) Urban Water Management Plan (2021) Ten-Year Electric Energy Efficiency Plan and Ten-Year Natural Gas Energy Efficiency Plan (2012) Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (SCAP) Fiber-to-the-Premise Master Plan (2015)	I do not have direct experience with these plans but have led and participated in rigorous planning and roadmapping of products and services in my corporate job each year.
If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.	
Please confirm that you have read the Boards and Commissions Handbook. <small>View the Boards and Commissions Handbook.</small>	Yes
Signature	Name of signatory: Ambika Pajjuri  Link to signature
Date Completed	3/17/2024

Utilities Advisory Commission Application

Submitted on	17 March 2024, 11:09pm
Receipt number	41
Related form version	8

Personal Information

Name	Chris Tucher
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Cell Phone Number	
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Home Phone Number	
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Email Address	
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Are you a Palo Alto resident?	Yes
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Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members?	No
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Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for?	No
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Fair Political Practices California state law requires board/commission members to file a disclosure of financial interests (Fair Political Practices Commission , Conflict of Interest Form 700).	No
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Do you/your spouse have an investment in, or do you or your spouse serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to:

1. Engage in business with the City;
2. Provide products or services for City projects; or
3. Be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission?

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto?	No
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How did you learn about the vacancy on the Utilities Advisory Commission?	Palo Alto Weekly City Website
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Consent to Publish Personal Information on the City of Palo Alto Website

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Personal and Job Experience

Occupation

Consultant & board member

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

Education: Harvard Business School, MBA
Consultant to healthcare and electric battery start-ups
Boards:
-Kirkwood Mountain Public Utility District
-Embarcadero Media Foundation (i.e., Palo Alto Weekly news group)

Please describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations, including dates and any offices held.

In 2024, I was elected to the board of the Kirkwood Mountain Public Utilities District (five candidates, one empty seat, on the public ballot Nov'23 in Alpine County, CA). The KMPUD is responsible for delivering power, water and waste-water services to all residential and commercial customers in Kirkwood, as well as snow removal services. This ties in with my commitment to community service and my interest in utilities, especially electricity.

In 2024, I was appointed to the new non-profit board of Embarcadero Media (aka Palo Alto Weekly). This ties in with my keen interest in local journalism (I began my career as a reporter and a newspaper publisher) and my commitment to the Palo Alto community.

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Utilities Advisory Commission and what experience would you bring to the position?

After a career in tech and health-tech, I've recently begun working in the field of energy and public utilities, with a special interest in electric grid modernization. Since first applying for UAC in 2023, I subsequently ran for and won a seat on the board of the public utility district in Kirkwood, CA (near Tahoe), which provides electric, gas, water and waste-water services to all residential and commercial customers of this Lake Tahoe community (Vail Corp. is the largest customer), in addition to snow removal services.

My top interest on the commission would be issues around energy usage, power sourcing and the electrical grid. That said, my interest extends to all aspects of Palo Alto utilities, including gas pricing, fiber-broadband plan and water management.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting, you can view archived videos from the Midpen Media Center.

Archived videos are available from the [Midpen Media Center](#).

Grid modernization: There seems to be lack of clarity around several key issues, just a few of which are:

-Timeframe appears to be 5yrs to completion (residential areas), but only after a 2yr planning phase, so that completion isn't until 2030. Is that unreasonably long?

-Household load 15+ years in future: Do we have solid assumptions and scenarios for load trends? Might load actually fall as "self consumption" and microgrid storage rises?

-How do important future technologies like grid-level battery storage or vehicle-to-grid fit into CPAU's modernization plan?

-What it will take for CPAU to persuasively educate residents on implementing solar and "self consumption" methods (e.g., battery, grid forming inverter) in their homes?

Grid modernization and CPAU's planning process -- incl. transmitter

upgrades, staffing challenges, load monitoring -- are important to me because (1) the cost will be vast (\$80M+?) and (2) our grid will be vital to enabling the city's sustainability goals.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Utilities Advisory Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?

I realize the commission has a broad set of goals. I'll just call out two:
1) Ensure CPA has a good plan for grid modernization, based on well-reasoned assumptions, flexible scenarios, and clear short-term milestones. We need a "grid for tomorrow" that can support more robust transmission and better load management to allow for, among other things, hourly renewable energy matching (not year-end true-ups); smart use of battery storage (incl. Solar+Storage PPAs); vehicle-to-grid two-way charging and the complex billing issues that accompany it.
2) Enable CPA to hit its 2030 energy and sustainability goals ... because today, in my view, the community seems not to have much confidence, or clear understanding of how, we will do that.
I think I can help toward these goals because I have executive leadership experience, because I have at least a modest understanding of the technical and budgetary aspects, and because I can communicate well.

4. Utilities Advisory Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection.

[The Utilities Strategic Plan \(2018\)](#)
[The Long Term Electric Acquisition Plan \(2012\)](#)
[The Gas Utility Long-term Plan \(2017\)](#)
[Urban Water Management Plan \(2021\)](#)
[Ten-Year Electric Energy Efficiency Plan and Ten-Year Natural Gas Energy Efficiency Plan \(2012\)](#)
[Sustainability and Climate Action Plan \(SCAP\)](#)
[Fiber-to-the-Premise Master Plan \(2015\)](#)

I have read and reviewed these documents but have no other experience with them.

If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.

Please confirm that you have read the Boards and Commissions Handbook.

View the [Boards and Commissions Handbook](#).

Yes

Signature

Name of signatory: Chris Tucher



[Link to signature](#)

Date Completed

03/16/2024

Utilities Advisory Commission Application

Submitted on	2 March 2023, 9:02am
Receipt number	33
Related form version	6

Personal Information

Name	Richard Craig
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Address	
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City	
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Postal Code	
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Cell Phone Number	
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Home Phone Number	
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Email Address	
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Are you a Palo Alto resident?	Yes
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Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members?	No
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Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for?	Yes
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Fair Political Practices	No
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California state law requires board/commission members to file a disclosure of financial interests ([Fair Political Practices Commission](#), [Conflict of Interest Form 700](#)).

Do you/your spouse have an investment in, or do you or your spouse serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to:

1. Engage in business with the City;
2. Provide products or services for City projects; or
3. Be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission?

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto?	No
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How did you learn about the vacancy on the Utilities Advisory Commission?	Palo Alto Weekly
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Consent to Publish Personal Information on the City of Palo Alto Website

Read the code, and check only ONE option below:

I give permission for the City of Palo Alto to post to the City's website the attached Board and Commission Application intact. I have read and understand my rights under Government Code Section 6254.21. I may revoke this permission at any time by providing written notice to the Palo Alto City Clerk.

Personal and Job Experience

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

Technical Education: BS Berkeley Physics, PhD UCLA Electrical Engineering
Technical Work Experience: 5 years Laser Research, 5 years Laser product engineering
Management Experience: 25 year managing (CEO & President) multiple public and private companies in areas related to light. For two of these companies the primary value was improved energy efficiency of lighting. Vast experience dealing with Government agencies in many different roles. Comfortable with all aspects of budgets and finance. Skilled at listening to complex problems.

Company/Employer Name

Retired

Occupation

Technical Manager

Is your Company/Employer your current one or last?

Last Employer

Please describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations, including dates and any offices held.

No current involvement in civic organization.

Application Questions

1. What is it about the Utilities Advisory Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why?

We face difficult and interesting problems. I view this opportunity as a way to contribute to solutions.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting, you can view archived videos from the Midpen Media Center.

Archived videos are available from the [Midpen Media Center](#).

I currently have two areas of interest. The need to phase out natural gas and the move to the all electric household seems both quite important and very tricky to fairly execute. I want to know more. Palo Alto has been talking about fiber optic access for as long as I have lived here (33 years). I would love to see progress on this topic.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Utilities Advisory Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?

My goals are very generic, improve the vision and working of my city. I cannot take a position on specific projects without more learning.

4. Utilities Advisory Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection.

[The Utilities Strategic Plan \(2018\)](#)

[The Long Term Electric Acquisition Plan \(2012\)](#)

[The Gas Utility Long-term Plan \(2017\)](#)

[Urban Water Management Plan \(2021\)](#)

None

[Ten-Year Electric Energy Efficiency Plan and Ten-Year Natural Gas Energy Efficiency Plan \(2012\)](#)
[Sustainability and Climate Action Plan \(SCAP\)](#)
[Fiber-to-the-Premise Master Plan \(2015\)](#)

If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.

Please confirm that you have read the Boards and Commissions Handbook.

View the [Boards and Commissions Handbook](#).

Yes

Signature

Name of signatory: Richard Craig

Handwritten signature of Richard Craig, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by 'C - L'.

[Link to signature](#)

Date Completed

03/02/2023

Utilities Advisory Commission Application

Submitted on	22 February 2024, 12:14pm
Receipt number	39
Related form version	8

Personal Information

Name	Sean Holman
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Cell Phone Number	
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Home Phone Number	
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Email Address	
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Are you a Palo Alto resident?	Yes
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Address	
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City	
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Postal Code	
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Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members?	No
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Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for?	Yes
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Fair Political Practices

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Do you/your spouse have an investment in, or do you or your spouse serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to:

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2. Provide products or services for City projects; or
3. Be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission?

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto?	No
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How did you learn about the vacancy on the Utilities Advisory Commission?	Community Group City Website
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Consent to Publish Personal Information on the City of Palo Alto Website

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Personal and Job Experience

Occupation

Technology (Software)

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

I have a BS in Computer Science from the Univ. of Maryland. While my background is in software engineering, I have worked for 10+ years with public utilities and cities on energy sustainability (primarily during my time at Opower). I am now working with a company called Kaluza focused on helping energy retailers to change their business model and serve their customers to support a carbon neutral future.

Please describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations, including dates and any offices held.

Duveneck PTA

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Utilities Advisory Commission and what experience would you bring to the position?

One of the things I love about Palo Alto is our community based approach. I care deeply about our shared energy future, data security and my community here in Palo Alto. We have the means to do great things here and I'd like to help serve that purpose. Our energy systems are rapidly evolving and as an engineer I am fascinated to learn and consider how to make the best choice for the people in our community and our planet.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting, you can view archived videos from the Midpen Media Center.

Archived videos are available from the [Midpen Media Center](#).

Recent issues of particular interest to me are our cyber security and data protection strategies (as an engineer with background working on these topics) and the Electric Grid Modernization plan. I think the plan is the key to having a strategy for electrification but also for creating an equitable future grid.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Utilities Advisory Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?

I am particularly interested in evolving a long term strategy that adapts to the changes needed for further electrification and that supports programs that considers the needs of all members of the community including renters (like myself) and lower income households.

4. Utilities Advisory Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection.

[The Utilities Strategic Plan \(2018\)](#)

[The Long Term Electric Acquisition Plan \(2012\)](#)

[The Gas Utility Long-term Plan \(2017\)](#)

[Urban Water Management Plan \(2021\)](#)

[Ten-Year Electric Energy Efficiency Plan and Ten-Year Natural Gas Energy Efficiency Plan \(2012\)](#)

[Sustainability and Climate Action Plan \(SCAP\)](#)

[Fiber-to-the-Premise Master Plan \(2015\)](#)

From my work with Opower I am familiar with utility strategic plans and integrated resource plans. We were particularly focused on building energy efficiency programs and metrics into those plans.

If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.

[Sean.Holman.Resume.pdf](#)

Please confirm that you have read the Boards and Commissions Handbook.

View the [Boards and Commissions Handbook](#).

Yes

Signature

Name of signatory: Sean Holman



[Link to signature](#)

Date Completed

02/22/2024

PRODUCT MANAGEMENT LEADER

Extensive product management and team leadership experience ranges from start-up companies to Fortune 500. Strong track record of building products that yield breakthrough results, contributing to exponential company growth, and assembling top-performing teams.

- Deep passion for leading the development of technology products that make a difference in the lives of consumers.
- Strategic, data-driven decision-maker who combines a big-picture vision with executable steps for product success.
- Trusted technical expert on cloud platforms, data engineering, machine learning (ML), software development, and IoT.
- Polished communicator with a strong ability to deliver compelling presentations to a variety of targeted audiences.
- Respected leader, coach, and mentor who can lead, hire and empower teams.

Highlights:

Workday: Led the strategy and launch of Workday on Google Cloud Platform (GCP).

Lacuna Technologies: Pioneered a groundbreaking, open-source cloud platform for mobility.

Verizon: Key catalyst driving launch for some of the first 5G solutions in major cities nationwide.

Opower: Rollout of Opower data platform, growing to \$150M+ ARR, at 30+ utilities.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

WORKDAY – Pleasanton, CA – 2022-2023

Leading cloud provider of HCM and Financial Management solutions for mid to large enterprises.

Principal Product Manager

Led the global, multi-cloud platform product strategy, delivery (expanding from AWS to GCP), and cloud-native development effort of the secure, scalable foundation services supporting the delivery of all Workday's applications.

- ◆ **Delivered the first release of Workday Cloud Platform 2.0 on schedule, coordinating efforts across teams including 100+ engineers** and enabling the company to deploy their applications on Google's Cloud.
- ◆ **Responsible for monthly executive strategy and review meetings of the program of delivery.**
- ◆ **Balanced managed and built features to achieve a scalable, cost-effective platform** based on Kubernetes Resource Model, GitOps, Istio, Consul, managed MySQL/Postgres, Kafka, Redis, ArgoCD, OPA, and CoreDNS.

LACUNA TECHNOLOGIES – Palo Alto, CA – 2018-2021

Start-up company providing digital solutions for cities and transportation agencies to manage their public infrastructure.

VP of Product

Directed all product management functions as one of the company's founding employees. Created and guided the product strategy, engaged directly with key customers, and executed the product launch, with a goal of creating a new product and new market segment for a ML-based transportation management, geospatial data and visualization platform.

Hired, onboarded, and led the Product Management and UX Design teams, incorporating Agile methodologies and setting a high bar for our development process. Worked with large cities on transforming their transportation management infrastructure and processes via the Lacuna product.

- ◆ **Built, architected and launched LADOT's transportation management cloud platform (using AWS Lambda, Postgres, Redis, and Kafka) in under 6 months**, achieving under-budget results and managing the deployment of 35K+ eScooters and 1B+ data points, during initial rollout.
 - ◆ **Played key role in raising \$33M+, building Product and Engineering to 20+ team members and growing the company from a concept to a functional product** used in L.A., Miami, and other major cities.
 - ◆ **Teamed with other Lacuna executives to found and empower a new open-source foundation** (Open Mobility Foundation) for collaboration between L.A. city transportation leaders and the private sector. Authored many of the foundational Mobility Data Specification (MDS) API standards.
 - ◆ **Pioneered a curb management system for LAX Airport**, leveraging MDS standards and machine learning to predict demand as well as reduce operating losses.
 - ◆ **Accelerated key technical partner engagements with Amazon, Microsoft, NASA, UPS, Lyft, and others.** Engaged in discussions with each partner, presenting path to overcoming significant challenges and achieve buy-in.
-

VERIZON – San Jose, CA – 2016-2018
Currently at 121M+ subscribers as the largest wireless carrier in the U.S.

5G Solutions Strategy & Engineering Manager

Retained by Verizon following its purchase of Sensity to accelerate product development on multi-access edge computing. Founded an engineering team and provided leadership for the Sustainable City Solutions Group. Formulated and deployed solutions using ML, Kubernetes, computer vision, real-time sensors, and vehicle-to-infrastructure technologies.

- ♦ **Awarded patent for an interface to aggregate real-time curb usage and availability data.** Applied for patent based on work with MapQuest, securing a patent to benefit Verizon on immediate and future goals.
- ♦ **Launched some of the first 5G solutions in major cities in partnership with Intel, Samsung,** and others, including New York, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Washington DC, and Seattle.

SENSITY SYSTEMS – Sunnyvale, CA – 2014-2016

Specializing in a smart lighting IoT network and API developer platform NetSense that enables conversions to energy-saving LEDs.

Director, Solutions Architecture

Hired to lead the Solutions Architecture function and team. Managed multiple global partner integration and deployment activities with Cisco, Verizon, and GE. Assisted cities in leveraging LED lighting solutions to save energy and create an open IoT sensor platform in 35+ cities, including Dubai, Copenhagen, Tel Aviv, Guangzhou, Seattle, and Kansas City.

- ♦ **Contributed to the \$350M acquisition of Sensity Systems by Verizon** through role as Technical Expert in the Verizon partnership. Delivered demonstrations that highlighted the viability of Sensity's product offering.
- ♦ **Accelerated the launch of 30+ new U.S. and international deployments with Cisco Systems,** working closely with cities to ensure successful rollouts and mitigate/resolve issues.
- ♦ **Spearheaded a 50+% reduction in pilot scoping and delivery times** while leading the expansion to international deployments.

OPOWER – 2008-2013

Software platform that helps the world's largest utilities transform their customer experience and facilitate energy savings.

Director, Solutions Architecture (2011-2013)

Customer Success Manager (2009-2011)

Data Engineer (2008-2009)

Hired as the company's 12th employee and progressed rapidly through increasingly responsible positions. As Director of Solutions Architecture, built and managed a global Solutions Architecture team within the Sales organization as the business grew from \$1M to \$150M ARR. Served as the primary customer point of contact and managed the program design/measurement functions. As Data Engineer, accelerated and scaled ETL process, data QA and deployment timelines.

- ♦ **Spearheaded launch of Opower platform at 16 utility partners (initially worth \$30M+),** including Exelon, EDF, and National Grid. Redefined the company's demos and product storytelling to customers.
- ♦ **Created a scalable ETL process and data pipelines** to ingest utility data and automate data quality analysis.
- ♦ **Reduced implementation times by 35%** through rollout of a project management system.

ADDITIONAL POSITIONS:

Software Engineer, ATG (2007-2008) – Developed click-to-call technology that powered online sales conversions at leading companies, including Amazon, Best Buy, American Airlines, Dell, TD Bank, and 500+ additional companies.

Team Leader, U.S Department of State (2003-2007) – Led software deployments onsite at 20+ embassies and consulates.

Software Engineer, Sun Microsystems/ Scient / Aspex (1999-2003) – Focused on Java and web application development and managed production Oracle databases. Customers included MLB, Chase, Verizon, DoD and others.

EDUCATION & SKILLS

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science – UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND – College Park, MD

Professional Training – Kubernetes and Cloud Native Associate, Deep Learning Specialization (Andrew Ng), Coursera

Technology Skills – Systems Architecture, API Design, ETL/ELT, Enterprise Software, Authentication, applied ML, TensorFlow, IoT, Kubernetes, PostgreSQL, Redis, PostGIS, BigQuery, JavaScript/Typescript, Python, Go, Java, Google Cloud Platform, AWS Lambda, Jira, Git, ArgoCD

Patents/Honors – Patent: Obtainment and display of real-time information for a set of block-faces. Issued Mar 16, 2021; Banneker Key Scholarship (full merit-based academic scholarship)

Utilities Advisory Commission Application

Submitted on	18 March 2024, 1:40am
Receipt number	45
Related form version	8

Personal Information

Name	Utsav Gupta
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Cell Phone Number	
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Home Phone Number	
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Email Address	
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Are you a Palo Alto resident?	Yes
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Address	
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City	
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Postal Code	
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Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members?	No
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Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for?	Yes
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Fair Political Practices California state law requires board/commission members to file a disclosure of financial interests (Fair Political Practices Commission , Conflict of Interest Form 700).	No
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Do you/your spouse have an investment in, or do you or your spouse serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to:

1. Engage in business with the City;
2. Provide products or services for City projects; or
3. Be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission?

Excluding your principal residence, do you or your spouse own real property in Palo Alto?	No
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How did you learn about the vacancy on the Utilities Advisory Commission?	Email from the City
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Consent to Publish Personal Information on the City of Palo Alto Website

Read the code, and check only ONE option below:

I request that the City of Palo Alto redact my home address, phone numbers, and email address from the attached Board and Commission Application prior to posting to the City's website.

Personal and Job Experience

Occupation

Startup Co-CEO

Please list your relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, and professional registration. If describing work experience, please include company/employer name and occupation.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, JD, 2015
UC San Diego, BS in Bioengineering: Biotechnology and BA in Political Science, 2011

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

Co-CEO, Filarion, Inc. - working in spatial computing and artificial intelligence, 2021-present
Previously a patent litigator at Tensegrity Law Group and Dechert LLP from 2015-2021. One litigation involved understanding internet service provider technology.
Student Counsel, Appellate Litigation Clinic, Georgetown University Law Center, 2014-2015
Clerk, United States Senate Judiciary Committee, 2013

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS

California Bar
Patent Bar
Admitted in the following U.S. courts: Federal Circuit, Ninth Circuit, Northern District of California, Central District of California

Please see LinkedIn for further information:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/utsavgupta/>

Please describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations, including dates and any offices held.

Board of Visitors, Georgetown University Law Center, 2023-current
South Bay Chair, Northern California Alumni Board, Georgetown University, 2019-current

SELECTED PREVIOUS COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Member, SF Bay Area IP Inn of Court, 2017-18
Board of Governors, Georgetown University Alumni Association, 2014-15
President, South Asian Law Students Association at Georgetown Law, 2014-15
Georgetown International Environmental Law Review (now Georgetown Environmental Law Review), 2014-15
Director of Alumni Initiatives and Delegate, Student Bar Association at Georgetown Law, 2014-15
Board, Student Intellectual Property Law Association, 2014-15
President, Associated Students of UC San Diego, 2009-2010

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Utilities Advisory Commission and what experience would you bring to the position?

I'd like to help as I can with the city's FTTP plans. The UAC has done a great job leading this effort. I am excited for Phase 1 and the planned Dec 2024 start. Once available, how can we best encourage residents to use the service and meet our projected take-rate, so that we can expand the service to remaining residents? I have litigated networking and internet service patent disputes and have some understanding of the technology.

My interest also extends to water quality. Palo Alto has excellent water. How can we explore options to continue to improve the health of our water, particularly to address any trace contaminants that may pose health risks, such as forever chemicals and microplastics? On microplastics, there have been proposals to help reduce their infiltration into the water supply, including by Samsung at CES 2023 with filters compatible with their washing machines (clothes are a large source of microplastics). What options are there and what can we do as a city?

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting, you can view archived videos from the Midpen Media Center.

Archived videos are available from the [Midpen Media Center](#).

The SCADA and AMI cybersecurity presentation that came before the Commission on February 7, 2024, was of particular interest, where I was happy to see there is a focus on being prepared for *when* a cyberattack happens. Along with my technology interests, I have had an appreciation for cybersecurity and how to secure endpoints like user devices (that is, how to prevent attacks on the human layer). Having witnessed these sophisticated phishing attacks successfully unfold against sharp and technologically colleagues, these issues will only become harder to prevent and more prevalent with the distribution and democratization of generative artificial intelligence.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Utilities Advisory Commission achieve, and how would you help in the process?

I would like to see FTTP eventually offered to every resident in Palo Alto. High-bandwidth applications are the future. It has always astonished me that large, commercial ISPS provided legacy service despite Palo Alto as a center of innovation in the Silicon Valley. I even investigated running my own fiber installation to this condo building downtown, or using a line-of-sight 1G or 10G microwave dish connection from 3000 El Camino (Palo Alto Square) (unfortunately, no line-of-sight). To help achieve reaching everyone, I believe I can help be an advocate for FTTP and why our residents should use community fiber. including performance aspects like cost, shared vs unshared connections, latency, bandwidth, jitter, reliability, and most importantly upload speeds.

4. Utilities Advisory Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection.

[The Utilities Strategic Plan \(2018\)](#)

[The Long Term Electric Acquisition Plan \(2012\)](#)

[The Gas Utility Long-term Plan \(2017\)](#)

[Urban Water Management Plan \(2021\)](#)

[Ten-Year Electric Energy Efficiency Plan and Ten-Year Natural Gas Energy Efficiency Plan \(2012\)](#)

[Sustainability and Climate Action Plan \(SCAP\)](#)

[Fiber-to-the-Premise Master Plan \(2015\)](#)

Having an interest in community fiber, I have reviewed the FTTP Master Plan a few times from curiosity. I have also reviewed the City of Palo Alto Special Meeting on September 19, 2022, at that time concerning FTTP and the corresponding UAC Sub-Committee Recommendations presentation and corresponding report "Joint Study Session With City Council and Utilities Advisory Commission (UAC) Regarding Fiber-to-the-Premises Efforts."

If you'd like to provide any additional documents, please upload below.

Please confirm that you have read the Boards and Commissions Handbook.

View the [Boards and Commissions Handbook](#).

Yes

Signature

Name of signatory: Utsav Gupta



[Link to signature](#)

Date Completed

03/18/2024