



County of Monterey
Valerie Ralph
CLERK OF THE BOARD
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Big Sur Byway Organization Application

Daniel Perlstein

Initialed Application: Yes

Applicant

First Name: **Daniel**
Middle Initial:
Last Name: **Perlstein**

Employment

Occupation: **professor**
Job Title: **Professor Emeritus**
Employer: **retired from University of California**

Interests and Experiences

Able to attend meetings regularly and devote the time necessary to fulfill duties as a member?

Yes

Currently serving on a County of Monterey Board, Commission, Committee or other Community Advisory Group?

No

Has served on an advisory group before?

No

Please tell us about yourself and why you want serve:

I have been active in community, labor and public affairs all my adult life, especially in matters of peace, civil rights, environmentalism and education. For two decades I was a professor of Educational history, policy and politics at the University of California, Berkeley. Much of my work focused on the ways policies interact with the hopes and activities of people in the institutions and communities policymakers seek to shape. Living now in Big Sur I am committed to bringing those same energies here. I serve on the Mid-Coast Fire Brigade, on the Henry Miller Memorial Library Board of Directors, and on the Bixby Canyon Homeowners Association Board, am a docent at Point Lobos and help staff the fire tower at Chews Ridge. I have seen the Byways Organization effectively bring stakeholders together, build consensus and foster practical solutions to real problems. I believe I can contribute to these efforts.

Please state the reason you would like to be a member of this board committee/commission/district:

As long as Route 1 has been open, competing pressures have shaped Big Sur. People (both tourists and residents) who come to experience the lonely and wild beauty of the coast by their very presence threaten the things they seek. And, the road that brings them is itself ever threatened by the very landscape forms it opens up. While these tensions have existed for close to a century, climate change and the number of cars on the highway have heightened the challenges for the road and the region. One example: this Memorial Day Weekend, the solid block of cars parked from Monastery Beach to the Highlands Inn and then the 45-minute backup of cars stopped at the Rocky Creek construction site inhibited any experience of nature. The challenge of balancing access to Big Sur with the preservation of the rural and wild vistas people are hoping to access was ably conveyed in Big Sur Coast Highway Management Plan. Indeed, the fact that so much of the Plan's analysis remains fresh signals that the need for efforts "to preserve, protect and, where possible, restore all of the area's important and highly valued qualities while ensuring the continued safe and efficient operation of the highway" is undiminished today and will remain undiminished in the future. I have witnessed the Byways organization helping address problems in Big Sur and believe that with my experience in schools, labor and community organizations I can contribute to it.

How did you hear about the position?:

I have regularly attended the Byways meetings, and vacancies were a matter of public record. Martha Diehl told me that she would be serving as the at-large representative, and that the central Big Sur slot was open.