



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

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Planning Commission Application

Jessica Hartzell

District: 5

Initialed Application: Yes

Applicant

First Name: **Jessica**

Middle Initial:

Last Name: **Hartzell**

Employment

Occupation:

Job Title: **Director of Operations**

Employer: **TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation**

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 am writing to express my strong interest in serving on the Monterey County Planning Commission. As a resident of Carmel Valley and current Director of Operations at TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation, I am deeply invested in the thoughtful development and preservation of our region's unique character. My commitment to serving on the Planning Commission stems from my belief that we are at a critical juncture where balanced, forward-thinking planning decisions will shape the quality of life for generations to come. Throughout my career, I have witnessed how effective planning and community engagement can transform challenges into opportunities for sustainable growth. At TomKat Ranch, I've seen firsthand how thoughtful land management practices can simultaneously support environmental conservation and economic development. This experience has strengthened my conviction that Monterey County's future depends on careful planning that respects our agricultural heritage, addresses our housing needs, and preserves our natural resources. My passion for public service was cultivated

during my eight-year tenure as Field Representative for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, where I covered 22 California counties. This role taught me that the most effective governance happens at the local level, where policies directly impact people's daily lives. I believe the Planning Commission plays a crucial role in translating community aspirations into actionable development policies that serve all residents. My recent campaign for Division 5 of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District has deepened my understanding of the complex challenges our community faces, particularly regarding water resources, housing affordability, and sustainable development. These experiences have reinforced my desire to serve on the Planning Commission, where I can help craft solutions that balance growth with preservation, and innovation with tradition. I see Monterey County as a model for reasonable slow growth, where careful planning supports vibrant communities, preserves agricultural lands, and protects our environmental resources. The Planning Commission's decisions directly impact this vision, and I am eager to contribute my expertise and commitment to thoughtful, balanced development that serves all county residents. My work in non-profit leadership has shown me that the most effective solutions emerge from inclusive dialogue and data-driven decision-making. I am particularly excited about the opportunity to engage with community members, developers, environmentalists, and agricultural stakeholders to find creative solutions to our planning challenges. I would be honored to serve our community as a Planning Commissioner. I believe that by working together, we can ensure that Monterey County's growth reflects our values and secures a sustainable future for all residents.

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

I am seeking an appointment to the Monterey County Planning Commission to serve District 5 and help shape our community's future. With a deep commitment to balanced development, I aim to promote responsible growth while preserving our region's natural and cultural heritage. My background and genuine interest in local governance would allow me to effectively evaluate proposals, engage with stakeholders, and contribute to sound policy decisions that benefit our entire community.

How did you hear about the position?:

Supervisor-elect Kate Daniels