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

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Parks Commission Application

Soraya Zepeda

District: 1
Initialed Application: Yes

Applicant

First Name: **Soraya**
Middle Initial:
Last Name: **Zepeda**

Employment

Occupation: **Early Childhood Lab School Director**
Job Title: **Associate Director**
Employer: **Sierra Armien Funk**

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 a recent graduate from the University of California, Davis with a B.A. in Sociology (Law and Society) and a B.S. in Community and Regional Development (Policy, Planning, and Public Service). The Sociology courses I have taken have examined systemic issues that create barriers to fair treatment for marginalized communities, while my Community & Regional Development classes have explored how policies, planning, and collaborative approaches can create safer, sustainable, and inclusive communities. Throughout my studies, I conducted qualitative research using interviews, observations of community development issues, and ethnographic research with community members and local leaders in Daivs, California. The skills I learned through these experiences further motivated me to apply them in my hometown and foster a greater social, cultural, and civic environment in Monterey County, particularly in Salinas. I wish to serve on the Parks Commission specifically because my studies have taught me the principles and skills necessary to develop, sustain, and improve our parks, especially as an

avid user of the parks throughout Monterey County.

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

The County of Monterey Boards, Committees, and Commissions would benefit from greater youth involvement and understanding by broadening representation to reflect our growing and evolving population. As a recent college graduate who has worked extensively with youth, I strongly believe that my academic understanding of inclusive and accessible communities, my experience conducting research and communicating with diverse stakeholders, and my ability to support staff through research and collaboration have prepared me to be a valuable member of this commission. As a member of the Parks Commission, I would be one of the younger members, and I believe this perspective is necessary for a community to thrive, as all voices play an important role in creating an inclusive and successful community. During my time on this commission, I wish to advocate for inclusive and sustainable parks, communicate effectively with diverse individuals and address their specific needs, and promote community building and outreach throughout Monterey County.

How did you hear about the position?:

Supervisor Luis Alejo's Instagram post

Please identify any specialized accommodations needed for equal participation:

N/A