



# County Supervisor Diane Burgis, District 3

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

October 4, 2022

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Delta Protection Commission

Delta Counties Coalition

California Identification System Remote  
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Dougherty Valley Oversight Committee

East Contra Costa County Habitat  
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First 5 Children and Families Comm.

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ABAG Executive Board, Second Alt.

ABAG General Assembly

Bay Area Counties Caucus

Contra Costa Transportation Authority

CSAC Board of Directors

San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority

Local Agency Formation Commission

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta  
Conservancy Board

Greetings Future Contra Costa County Supervisors, Staff and Residents!

First let me say it is truly a privilege to represent the residents of Contra Costa County on the Board of Supervisors, as the Supervisor for District 3. I have lived here most of my life and attended Alhambra high school in Martinez. Go Bulldogs, Class of 1983! To those serving the county in the future I say Thank You!

On behalf of District 3 residents, I am honored to contribute to the 2022-time capsule honoring the dedication of the new Contra Costa County Administration Building.

As we closed the time capsule that you are opening today, we will be opening the time capsule that honored the 1964 dedication of the previous Contra Costa County Administration Building. Interestingly that was a year before I was born. I wonder about those folks that will be opening this time capsule and how will life be for you? I'm struck by the idea that so much has changed since then but alas, many of the challenges they faced then are many of the same challenges we face today.

Today in 2022 as a society we are experiencing political divisions, social unrest, racial inequality, challenges to women's rights, high numbers of folks struggling with homelessness, the impacts of climate change on the environment, water shortages, changing weather patterns, longer and more damaging wildfire seasons, outbreaks of war and gun violence. Today we even hear the threat of nuclear war coming out of Russian. All this happening while coming out of the Covid Pandemic- at least we hope we are coming out of it.

We have our work cut out for us today and in the future! While I recognize and name so many things that is going on that is troubling, I am still hopeful and optimistic. There are good people in the world, common sense and logic still resonates, and the world has turned around in the past.

With all of that in mind, allow me to share a little bit about this place in East Contra Costa that we call home, its wonders, its opportunities, and its challenges.

It is important to note that we along with the rest of the world are rebuilding and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic that shut down all but the most essential operations in March 2020. We hope that the worst is past us and that we can take the lessons learned and build back better than before. I am proud of the work we did in being proactive in the early days of the pandemic. I KNOW that many people lived because we did things right. We are Contra Costa County strong!

District 3 is one of the fastest growing areas in Contra Costa County, home to approximately 222,000 of the 1,165,927 Contra Costa County residents. It includes the communities of Antioch (112,641), Brentwood (65,483), Oakley (43,014), and the unincorporated Bethel Island, Byron, Discovery Bay, Knightsen, Marsh Creek areas in East Contra Costa County. Messages from each of the communities are included in the time capsule, along with a map of the district.

Eastern Contra Costa County is a diverse region in every way! We have beautiful open spaces, densely populated urban areas, and sleepy residential communities. There is so much potential in this part of the county and Bay Area. We have a many untapped amenities that I imagine, and hope will be taken advantage of in a smart way in the future. Between our waterfront, our Byron Airport, the workforce, and the innovation that is a part of the Bay Area I hope that things will be thriving in East Contra Costa County.

We have a rich rural and agricultural heritage and legacy. In 2022, we continued work on an update to our Agricultural Land Use Policy to reflect the needs of the community and further promote and incentivize both agricultural sustainability and economic vitality. Ideas such as farm stays, Bed & Breakfast and farm to table restaurants are some of the ideas we are looking to expand our county ordinance in order support within our agricultural communities.

Harvest Time is a hub for our farmers in Brentwood. Harvest Time promotes the quality of and brings awareness to the local U-Pick farms, roadside stands, and agricultural retail businesses in the Brentwood area. Harvest Time and its members purpose is to promote ag-tourism opportunities and experiences for visitors to the area, as well as offer a unique educational experience about farming and its history. There are currently 68 family farms in Harvest Time.

Natural resources and beauty abound, with Mt. Diablo the most notable focal point for all areas of the county. Thanks to Save Mount Diablo, more than 89,000 acres of open space has been protected from development. East county is home to many parks and preserves, such as the Los Vaqueros Reservoir watershed and surrounding East Bay Regional Park District preserves, including Morgan Territory Regional Preserve, Vasco Caves Regional Preserve, and Round Valley Regional Preserve, Big Break Regional Shoreline. The new Marsh Creek State Park, formerly known as Cowell Ranch State Park, and Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, are among the open spaces that stretch to the north. The open spaces controlled by cities, the East Bay Regional Park District, Mount Diablo State Park, and various regional preserves now adjoin and protect most of the elevated regions of the mountain.

I am so proud of the work I have been involved with the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy, a joint exercise of powers authority formed by the Cities of Brentwood, Clayton, Oakley and Pittsburg and Contra Costa County to implement the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP or Plan). The heart of the conservation strategy is a system of new preserves linked to existing protected lands to form a network of protected lands outside the area where new urban growth has been planned to occur. The conservation strategy is designed to create a Preserve System that will:

- Preserve approximately 23,800 - 30,300 acres of land for the benefit of covered species, natural communities, biological diversity and ecosystem function
- Preserve major habitat connections linking existing protected lands
- Enable management of habitats to enhance populations of covered species and maintain ecosystem processes

As of the end of 2021, the **Preserve System** is comprised of **43 properties**, totaling over **12,600 acres of conserved land**. All but one of the acquisitions were completed in partnership with the East Bay Regional Park District.

Contra Costa County lies at the heart of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary and the future of this nationally significant resource substantially influences the future of the County. Restoring the health of the Delta protects the Bay which is linked to the long-term success of the County as a whole.

A healthy Delta requires sufficient water supply of good quality along with habitat for healthy populations of fish and other native aquatic, terrestrial and avian species, both migratory and year-round. A healthy Delta would protect people and property (through strong levees, comprehensive emergency response and a water supply of good quality). A healthy Delta would promote economic health of the region and sustain agriculture (managed for habitat and food production), recreation activities (recreational fishing, boating, camping, hiking) and commerce (industry, ports, shipping and commercial fishing). Reestablishing healthy fish populations in the Delta would also mean current restrictions on water diversions could be relaxed resulting in improved water supply reliability.

The Delta became federally recognized as a National Heritage Area (NHA), defined as a place where natural, cultural, historic, and recreation resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape. This designation is a step in the right direction as it could serve to significantly benefit the future of the Delta. Contra Costa County continues to highlight the importance and distinctiveness of the Delta inhabitants, environment, and history, serving to expand the constituency that cares about the Delta's future. I am proud to serve on the Delta Protection Commission and will serve as Chair of the Commission for the next two years starting in 2023 as well as the Delta Stewardship Council

## **PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES - WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2022**

- Continue to recover from COVID pandemic
  - The County continues to invest ARPA and other one-time funds to assist individuals, families and small businesses in recovery. As I write, with declining case rates and more testing and vaccinating options, our County Health Services is moving into a new phase of COVID response.
- Protect the Delta, and water resources
  - We all share in the obligation to restore, maintain, and protect the Delta, including water including water supplies, water quality, levees, the estuary, and the people. Moving forward, we believe the strategic approach should move away from fighting nature and, instead, be based on solutions that work with nature. It's known as "Engineering with Nature", and it is the intentional alignment of nature and engineering process to efficiently and sustainably deliver economic, environmental, and societal benefits through collaboration. This is occurring now, and we should identify ways to contribute.
  - Illegal Dumping has an impact on the quality of our drinking water, and it disproportionately impacts marginalized communities. Working with our assemblymember and Alameda County, we piloted a program to increase fines and our ability to hold bad actors accountable.

- Promote public safety
  - In July 2022, with the annexation of East Contra Costa Fire Protection District into Contra Costa Fire Protection District, one of my long-time priorities to provide sustainable fire, rescue and emergency services to all areas of the County was achieved.
  - In May 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved an increase of 34 new deputies to patrol and cover the unincorporated areas improving the ratio of deputies to 1,000 residents from .76 to .96.
- Continue to bring services to East County, in addition to the Family Justice Center which opened in 2019.
  - Contra Costa County East County Service Center (Technology Way)
  - East County Youth Center
- Improved library access, and broadband infrastructure
  - Established a library foundation to raise funds to improve access to library services throughout the County
  - Moving Broadband for All effort forward
    - According to the recent data, nearly 22,000 Contra Costa County Residents predominantly in unincorporated county areas currently have little or no access to high-speed internet/broadband.
    - A lack of broadband infrastructure is an issue for many reasons including
      - Being a barrier to economic development
      - Unreliable network during emergency
      - Creating inequities in education
    - Right now, the opportunity exists for Contra Costa to lead the effort to close the digital divide and bring high speed broadband internet to all parts of the county which is vital.
- Encourage economic development and job creation
  - We sit in the center of the Northern California mega-region, the world's 5th largest economy with Contra Costa being the 9th largest county by population and 4th wealthiest with a workforce that is highly skilled and over 40% college educated.
  - We are uniquely positioned as a prime location for autonomous vehicle and emerging aviation technology development with resources like GoMentum station, 5,200 developable acres at the Concord Naval Weapon Station and two county-owned regional airports.
  - We have worked hard to bring emerging technologies to Byron and Buchanan airports, and that interest continues to grow even during shelter-in-place.
  - Phase 1 of a new hangar and hangar/mixed office use development at Byron Airport is moving forward with tenants occupying the first two spaces in Fall 2020.
  - Shortly before the pandemic started the county completed an MOU with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks to join the Pan-Pacific UAS Test Range Complex, which provides companies with access to diverse testing environments and more direct access to the FAA for regulatory approval of flight operations.

- There are a total of 25 companies in some phase of actively testing or exploring testing at Byron and Buchanan Field. The county has an advantage because of its geographic proximity to emerging technology companies and its blend of simple and complex airspace environments.
- Oakley Logistics Center – first of many opportunities for warehouse and light manufacturing in East County.
- The County has invested in economic development initiatives and hired an Economic Development Manager to lead the effort to bring more good paying, high quality jobs to East County.
- Advocate for funding and other solutions to increase affordable housing to address homelessness
  - Along with Supervisor Candace Andersen, District 2, I currently serve on the Regional Impact Council or All Home with a goal of reducing homelessness by 75% by 2024. Supervisors from the 9 Bay Area counties are looking at funding sources, legislation, and other ways to increase permanent, supportive housing.
  - The county's 2022 point-in-time count, estimates that 3,093 people are staying in shelter beds or living outdoors on an average night in Contra Costa, compared to 2,295 in 2019. Approximately 35% increase.
  - Contra Costa is using every available resource. We've worked hard to increase shelter beds and interim housing, provided housing vouchers and other resources
  - During the three years since the 2019 homeless point-in-time count, Contra Costa Health (CCH) and community partners have added **hundreds of shelter beds across the county – a 30% increase – including the 172-room Delta Landing interim housing center in Pittsburg**, one of the first projects completed through the state's Homekey program.
  - Contra Costa County, along with states, counties, and areas around the world are experiencing a severe shortage of affordable housing and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the community.
  - To help bring more affordable housing to Contra Costa, the board established the Local Housing Trust Fund with \$10 million from Measure X. Measure X funds will contribute \$12 million annually to the fund, administered by county agencies in part to support acquisition, construction, preservation, and rehabilitation of affordable housing in the county.
- Enhance mental health crisis response, address racial justice and inequality, provide robust veterans services, and build nonprofit capacity.
  - In November 2020, the County in partnership with 19 cities and towns, brought together stakeholders to develop a model to reform mental health crisis response Four priority improvement areas were identified: creating an easy way for people to access behavioral health crisis help, establishing a 24/7 mobile crisis response network, creating non-police mobile crisis teams, and providing alternate destinations for those in crisis. The Board of Supervisor's invested \$5M one-time and \$20 million for future years in voter-approved Measure X funds to the A3 Model, providing services to anyone, anytime, anywhere. A3 now operates five days a week with a goal of operating 24/7 by December 2023.

- The pandemic experience brought us to increase our response to racism, bias, equity and how people are being held back, and physically suffering. We declared racism a health crisis, formed the Office of Justice and Racial Equity and have worked to give everyone additional opportunities to move ahead, to live healthier lives and to be confident that they have the same opportunities as everyone else. I will continue to push this work forward.
- I am committed to ensuring that veterans in our county have access to the resources and services that they deserve and resumed the veteran's roundtable discussion and resource fair in November 2022.
- Building capacity in our local nonprofits has been a priority since I was on the Oakley City Council. Since that time, I have hosted nonprofit roundtables, bringing together fundraising, board development, and other experts to share best practices with nonprofit leaders. The critical need for the County to enhance our collaboration with nonprofits and community-based organizations to service as trusted messengers and to fill gaps in providing services was elevated during the pandemic, and during the 2020 Census.

As you open this time capsule and review its contents, I hope that many of the initiatives that are underway in 2022, come to fruition and are making lives safer, and more equitable for all. I also hope that when this capsule is opened you are living in a less turbulent time than now, and that solutions to the problems plaguing our world in 1964 and 2022 have been found. And, who knows, maybe I'll be around to witness it.

I would be remiss if I didn't take the opportunity to acknowledge my loved ones and I hope that my sons, grandchildren, and even great grandchildren know how much I love them. The greatest roles in my life have been mom and grandma (gaw gaw), wife to Richard Clayton & the second greatest role has been to serve as a county supervisor. I served in elected office because I wanted to make the world a better place for those I love (and would have loved if I had met them) and for all of us. I hope these hopeful loving words remind you all to go out and make the world a better place.

Diane Burgis Clayton Supervisor District 3  
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors