

Candidate Questionnaire  
Sierra Club Sonoma Group / Sonoma County Conservation Action

2010 Petaluma City Council Election

Candidate Name: Teresa Barrett

Question 1. Please describe your public service record on environmental issues, particularly membership and leadership in environmental organizations, work on environmental campaigns, public positions you have taken and environmental activities you have initiated or actively supported.

I am a member of SCCA, Sierra Club, Friends of the Petaluma River, and Greenpeace. I am the Petaluma City Council representative to Zone 2A which does a lot of creek restoration and cleanup as part of their flood control efforts. I have been a vocal and early leader in the anti-Dutra asphalt plant just outside Petaluma. I have supported Proposition F, sales tax for open space in Sonoma County. Locally I have helped lead river and creek clean up days, both in association with the California Coastal Cleanup efforts and spearheading local cleanup efforts with the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District and the Friends of the Petaluma River. . I was recently honored as the first co-recipient of the Badger Spirit Award from the local grassroots organization, Paula Lane Action Network.

Question 2. If elected to the City Council, what will be your priorities? What environmental issues would you become actively involved with once elected?

I would really like to see the city finalize our long efforts for bringing the La Cresta Ridge and Ravine and the Paula Lane open space properties into the open space system. I would also work to move forward with our river plan and our bike path system. Given the unknown outcome of the asphalt plant at the Board of Supervisors, that may become a priority if it is not defeated.

Question 3. What Sonoma County natural resources/systems (such as creek systems, wetlands or habitat) do you consider in need of protection? How can Petaluma work productively with the County to increase such protections in and around the City?

I have had the pleasure of walking the Mendota Trail and I can see what an asset such trails are, like those we have near our creeks and rivers. In my role as liaison to Zone 2A, I have worked to make sure our creeks are cleaned up, not only for flood control, but for the asset they provide residents. I would like to continue our partnership with SSCRCDD and I consider them an important asset throughout the county.

Question 4. Where will your city get its water from over the next 20 years? How do you think that Petaluma can ensure a reliable and clean water supply for its residents without jeopardizing water available for the natural environment, such as endangered salmon? Should there be a comprehensive county-wide water management plan?

We at least have “paper” water for the next 20 years and we need to continue reducing demand and increasing the use of recycled water from our new, state of the art wastewater recycling plant. There should absolutely be a comprehensive countywide water management plan. We all need to work together on more issues than just water!

Question 5. Please describe how wastewater is disposed of and re-used in Petaluma. Can this process be improved to benefit the environment

Our new state of the art wastewater facility at Ellis Creek has been recycling water for irrigation purposes and now has the capability to further distill the water for irrigation on public parks and other areas. We still need to put the delivery infrastructure in place, an ongoing process under attack by Bryant Moynihan and his cronies who have waged a non-stop onslaught on our wastewater system because they prefer a privatized system.

Can the process be improved? Absolutely and we need to continue to do that. I led the fight to begin a prescription drug take back plan in Petaluma which only survived a pilot program due to lack of funding and political will. I intend to reintroduce that effort when I am reelected.

Question 6. All the cities in Sonoma County have made a resolution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2015. What are your ideas for ensuring that your city will meet this target for municipal operations and the community at large? For example, what can Petaluma do in areas like increasing existing building efficiency and renewable energy generation?

As a long time member of the Planning Commission, and liaison to the planning commission for 3 of my 4 years on the council, I have consistently pushed for higher energy reducing standards, incentivizing zero net energy infill projects, and the adoption of mandatory green building standards in our city. I will work to make these changes in our zoning, a difficult task without an in-house planning staff.

Question 7. How can Petaluma encourage non-automobile and alternative fuel transportation, or create transportation efficiencies that will reduce trips? What is your level of participation in the SMART Train and Pathway implementation?

In reality, it by focusing development in the city center where there are easily accessible amenities. This area is also where one of our 2 SMART train depots is and we are currently in the design phase for the station area development

plan, which will encourage walkability and form-based development. I have only been peripherally involved with the SMART Train and pathway implementation, during my year as liaison to the bike and pedestrian committee. However, I have always been a strong and vocal supporter of train service.

Question 8. How has Petaluma been using Smart Growth principles and how do you see the city growing in the future? Please describe your position on mandatory Green Building standards.

As I stated above, I favor adoption of mandatory green building standards in Petaluma, and am always moving projects towards a better greener design. We have selected a design team for our SMART station planning which has an extremely strong Smart Growth foundation. Of course, it goes without saying, that we keep our UGB strong and secure!

Question 9. As a Councilmember, what would you do to support and strengthen affordable housing policies in your jurisdiction? What are some of the challenges you see in creating affordable housing opportunities for your residents? Do you have any thoughts on where affordable housing should be located?

Petaluma is the only jurisdiction within ABAG that fulfills its affordable housing policies. I am proud of that accomplishment and hope to continue it. We are currently looking at "landbanking" properties that are more affordable for later use. I believe affordable housing is best located where it can be blended into the existing infrastructure that makes it succeed: transit, grocery shopping, schools and work opportunities.

Question 10. What is your position regarding Urban Growth Boundaries? What is your position on the issue of renewing the Urban Growth Boundary that is on the ballot in the Fall?

I support UGBs and am supporting our renewal of it on the November ballot.

Question 11. How do you think biodiversity and habitat can be enhanced within Petaluma's urban growth boundary? What are your ideas for implementing a plan for the county and cities that would achieve the goal of protecting endangered species and their habitat (Endangered Fish habitat in the Russian, CA Tiger Salamander, etc)?

Question 12. Do you support the CA State Parks Initiative (Prop 21)?

Yes

Question 13. How do you plan to win the election? Please identify core constituencies and community leaders you expect will support you. How do you plan to fund your campaign? What is your FPPC number?

I plan to run on my record, I have many good endorsements including Mayor Pam Torliatt, Vice Mayor David Glass and many others. For a complete list of endorsements and qualifications, see my website: [www.barrett4petaluma.com](http://www.barrett4petaluma.com) or visit my facebook page: Teresa Barrett for City Council 2010.

Question 14. Why is an environmental endorsement important to you? If we endorse you, what are the most effective ways we can help you get elected?

Make your endorsement known to the voters of Petaluma. SSCA's endorsement means a lot to many voters in our town. Through your canvassing efforts or an email blast, or a mailer, getting the word out is the most effective thing you can do. I have order 1000 yard signs and I want them everywhere. If you endorse me it would be great if you could ask your supporters who don't already have a sign to take one!

Please include biographical information, applicable campaign literature and other information helpful in evaluating your candidacy.

My qualifications are on my website [[www.barrett4petaluma.com](http://www.barrett4petaluma.com)] and my facebook page [Teresa Barrett for City Council 2010]. Primarily I am well known in the community as the planning commissioner who put the city and the environment first, and now I am the councilmember who watches out for Petaluma's long term interests.

Thank you

(We may include excerpts from candidate responses in our communications to our members.)