

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Phyllis McElroy

Communications Manager

communications@pscleanair.gov

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Announces New Board Chair and Vice Chair

Seattle, WA – The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is pleased to announce the election of Joseph Bushnell as the new Chair of the Board of Directors and Michelle Caulfield as the new Vice Chair. These leadership positions are effective as of April of this year. Both bring a wealth of experience and a strong commitment to equity and environmental justice.

Joseph Bushnell, who has been serving on the board since 2022. He currently serves on the Tacoma City Council representing District 5, and is notable for being the first Cambodian-American to serve on the Tacoma City Council, advocating for the wider Asian-American and Pacific Islander community. His dedication to community service began early, with over a decade in the Marine Corps, followed by extensive involvement in volunteer boards within Tacoma. Joe's leadership in a community identified as overburdened due to air quality concerns, combined with his personal experience living in South Tacoma, gives him a unique perspective on environmental challenges. Joe will lead the board on its mission to preserve, protect, and enhance air quality and public health, enforce the Clean Air Act, support policies that reduce climate change, and partner with communities to do this work equitably. His leadership and vision are expected to drive forward key initiatives and ensure the agency continues to serve the community effectively.

“I am honored to take on this leadership role within the board. My goal is to ensure our agency continues to lead on climate initiatives and supports our community in becoming self-advocates for environmental change,” said Joe. “We face significant challenges, including structuring attainable goals and building strong partnerships. I am committed to fostering a culture of collaboration and inclusivity within the board to address these challenges effectively.”

Joe's tenure on the City Council had equipped him with valuable insights into policy-making and strategic planning. His emphasis on community engagement and equity will be instrumental in guiding the board's efforts to address air pollution and climate change.



Joining Chair Bushnell as Vice Chair is Michelle Caulfield. Michelle serves as the designated representative for Mayor Bruce Harrell. She brings over 25 years of experience in the environmental and sustainability fields. Her career includes roles as a consultant and urban planner, with significant work in solid waste management and community engagement. Currently serving as the Deputy Director for the Office of Sustainability and Environment in Seattle, Michelle is passionate about the intersection between government and community.

“As Vice Chair, I am excited to deepen my engagement with the agency and contribute to our regional efforts in addressing air pollution and climate change,” Michelle stated. “I look forward to building relationships with the talented staff and elected officials on the board, and to advancing our mission with a focus on equity and community partnership as we adapt to new resources and regulations.”

Both Joe and Michelle are enthusiastic about the future of the Agency. Particularly about air quality improvement initiatives made possible by the Climate Commitment Act and the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, which represent historic investments in reducing reliance of fossil fuels.

“Our Agency sits at a crucial crossroad between air pollution and climate change,” said Joe. “We have a responsibility to ensure these initiatives are equitable and that no community is left behind.”

“We are thrilled to have Joe Bushnell and Michelle Caulfield leading our Board of Directors,” said Chrissy Cooley, Executive Director of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. “Joe’s deep connection to the community and Michelle’s extensive experience in environmental sustainability bring invaluable perspectives to our leadership team. Their combined expertise and dedication to equity will undoubtedly strengthen our efforts to tackle environmental challenges and promote sustainable solutions.”

The exemplary leadership of our outgoing chair, Megan Dunn, the foundation has been solidly laid for our continued success of the organization. Her dedication and strategic vision have paved the way for Joe and Michelle to further the mission and advance our strategic plan goals and objectives.

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PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency

1904 3rd Ave #105, Seattle, WA 98101

206-343-8800

pscleanair.gov

About the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is an air quality management agency serving King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties. Founded as a result of the 1967 Washington Clean Air Act, the Agency protects public health by adopting and enforcing air quality regulations, educating individuals and businesses about clean-air choices and sponsoring voluntary initiatives to improve air quality.

The Agency fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and does not discriminate based on race, color, sex, or national origin in its programs and activities. In addition, the Agency also assures non-discrimination on the basis of creed, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital, or veteran status. For more information, or to submit a title VI Complaint, go to www.pscleanair.gov or call (206) 343-8800.

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