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11/27/07

November 16, 2007

The Honorable Henry T. Perea, President  
Fresno City Council  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Councilmember Perea:

This letter is to express my interest in appointment by the City Council to the Street Impact Fee Appeals Board. The term of the Council's appointee to this board (one of five board members) ends in January 2010.

My interest in serving on the Appeals Board stems from my deeply held and long-standing interest in urban growth policy. While an undergraduate at Harvard, my coursework included graduate-level study in urban planning and planning law. Upon my return to Fresno in 2003, I worked at the Redevelopment Agency for a year, and later joined the board of the Downtown Association, where I took an active role in advocacy on downtown infrastructure issues, in addition to spearheading community events. My work in the Legislature this year included writing Assembly Bill 997 (Arambula), which would have targeted bond funds for infill-related infrastructure and land use planning toward communities where, among other things, current growth patterns threaten farm production on agricultural land. Having now returned to Fresno from Sacramento, I plan once again to take an active role in downtown revitalization efforts.

The adoption of a robust street fee policy and fee structure in August was a historic accomplishment of the City Council and staff, in consultation with the building industry, and is a milestone in the implementation of the City's 2025 General Plan. As you know, the adopted policy anticipates appeals of the imposed fees both by explicitly identifying five eligible bases for appeal, and by creating the Appeals Board. Proper implementation of the new fee policy will call for a careful review of these appeals by the board in light of the Council's adopted guidelines and other requirements of law and regulation. I am excited at the prospect of playing a constructive role in this important process.

I look forward to answering any questions that you or your Council colleagues may have about my qualifications for and interest in serving on the Street Impact Fee Appeals Board. The attached resume includes my complete contact information. Thank you for your consideration of this appointment.

Sincerely,

ELLIOTT BALCH



# ELLIOTT W. BALCH

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Fresno, CA 93704  
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## Work Experience

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER JUAN ARAMBULA** Fresno, CA  
**District Director** Nov. 2007 to present

Supervisor of four district office staff with responsibilities for constituent casework, events and outreach, media relations, and policy input from local stakeholders. Continuing policy work in natural resources and related fields.

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER JUAN ARAMBULA** Sacramento, CA  
**Legislative Aide** Nov. 2006 to Nov. 2007

Capitol office lead in policy areas including natural resources/environment (including water and air quality), agriculture, utilities, and housing. Researched and prepared speeches and background materials on the Member's bills in these areas, and maintained essential communication with legislative staff and statewide stakeholders. Wrote and saw to passage AB 783, a bill to aid water systems in small, disadvantaged communities. Analyzed legislation and advised the Member on floor votes. Drawing on unique district experience, frequently recommended key constituents to contact for policy input.

**VOICES FOR EXCELLENCE IN FRESNO UNIFIED** Fresno, CA  
**Campaign Consultant** Sept. to Nov. 2006

Created campaign website and was responsible for creating and sending email news to the community. Trained and supervised students hired to make calls to voters, as well as volunteers. Wrote and edited copy for campaign brochures, press releases, and phone scripts. Oversaw the campaign sign program. Designed several candidate brochures.

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER JUAN ARAMBULA** Fresno, CA  
**District Representative** Dec. 2004 to Sept. 2006

Responsible for policy areas including economic development, natural resources, agriculture, transportation and land use for the District Office, and provided input on these issues to Capitol staff. Organized new and recurring community events. Developed and maintained the Member's website. Developed the Member's e-newsletter and compiled it for monthly publication. Managed the Member's public email account. Wrote speeches and sometimes delivered them on Member's behalf. Primary writer of press releases. Occasional constituent casework and supervision of interns.

**JUAN ARAMBULA FOR STATE ASSEMBLY** Fresno, CA  
**Campaign Consultant** Oct. to Nov. 2004

Fresno area coordinator for "Get Out the Vote" effort on Election Day. Responsible for recruiting volunteers to phone and walk precincts during October and for GOTV. Volunteered for several months contacting voters before being selected for campaign headquarters staff. This was Arambula's first run for the Legislature; he won by over 15%.

**REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF FRESNO** Fresno, CA  
**Intern/Consultant** Oct. 2003 to Oct. 2004

Created draft residential Design Standards for inner-city neighborhoods to guide infill development. Presented Standards to neighborhood committees and other groups for comments. Created pro forma operating budget for proposed Wilberforce University Fresno campus. Prepared request for proposals from developers to renovate historic "Warehouse Row." Extensive documentation and research on potential redevelopment project sites.

## Education

### HARVARD UNIVERSITY

A.B., *cum laude* in Physics in 2003. Harvard College Scholarship for academic distinction, and Dean's List. Benjamin Teel Memorial Prize for contributions to life in Adams House. Adams House Arms awarded upon graduation.

### EDISON HIGH SCHOOL

*Summa cum laude* valedictorian in 1999. Yearbook editor-in-chief, math team captain, and 14<sup>th</sup>-highest scorer in California Academic Decathlon, a statewide scholastic competition. AP Scholar with Distinction and a National Merit Scholar.

## Recent Activities

**DOWNTOWN ASSN. OF FRESNO**  
**Board Member** 9/05-12/06

Chair of the second season of Fulton Plaza Thursdays, a monthly downtown "street fair," in 2006. The second season drew larger crowds, and was the first to be run on a balanced budget. As a member of the board's Executive Committee, helped guide the organization through staff turnovers in 2006. Represented the Association on the City's Downtown Transportation Infrastructure Study committee in 2006. A leading participant in 2006 community discussions on the future of downtown's Fulton Mall.

### SIERRA CLUB TEHIPITE CHAPTER

Wrote the Chapter's 2004 comments on the state High Speed Rail EIR. As Acting Political Chair, created candidate questionnaires for local, state, and federal races in Nov. 2004, and was responsible for recruiting candidate interview panels, conducting interviews, eliciting Executive Committee approval of endorsements, and publicizing those endorsements to Chapter membership and the media.

## Other Skills

*Languages.* Fluent Spanish, basic French  
*Interests.* Woodworking, hiking, making ice cream, studying urban growth policy

