



CLERK OF THE BOARD  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

825 FIFTH ST. EUREKA, CA 95501-1153  
PHONE: 707-476-2384 FAX: 707-445-7299

**APPLICATION TO SERVE ON THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

APPLICANT NAME: Lorna McFarlane

MAILING ADDRESS: [REDACTED] St McKinleyville 95519

TELEPHONE: Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED]

E-MAIL ADDRESS: ljm3142000@gmail.com

OCCUPATION: Se Environmental Scientist

**PERSONAL REFERENCES:**

1. Brandon Larsen
2. Priscilla Martinez-Valez

PHONE: (707) [REDACTED]

PHONE: (707) [REDACTED]

**PRIOR ADVISORY BOARD OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXPERIENCE?** No

**PLEASE WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT DESCRIBING WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED  
IN SERVING ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION.**

Since March 2024, I have had the privilege of serving on the Humboldt County Planning Commission. As this was my first term, I have learned a great deal and developed a deeper appreciation for what the County seeks to accomplish. I am seeking reappointment in 2026 because I believe I have gained the experience and perspective necessary to continue as a strong contributor to the Planning Commission.

I view my role as a moderate and practical voice, often helping to frame discussions in ways that move the Commission toward common ground. On multiple permits and within specific areas of ordinances, I have proposed solutions that strike a balance among commissioners with differing viewpoints.

**PLEASE ATTACH A CURRENT RESUME.**

DATE: 010626

SIGNATURE: Lorna Mcfarlane

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

**Applications will be accepted via email at [cob@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:cob@co.humboldt.ca.us) or by mail to  
Humboldt County Planning Commission, Clerk of the Board, 825 Fifth St., Suite  
111, Eureka, CA 95501**

For county use only.

DATE RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

# ***Lorna J. McFarlane, M.Sc.***

[REDACTED] St, McKinleyville, CA 95519  
Mobile: [REDACTED]

lorna.mcfarlane@dot.ca.gov  
[linkedin.com/in/lorna-mcfarlane-42a3a443](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lorna-mcfarlane-42a3a443)

## Education

2014–16 M.S., Biology; *California State University, Northridge (CSUN)*  
Thesis: Predicting the metabolic response of *Zebrasoma scopas* (Brush tail tang) to warming waters  
Advisor: Dr. Larry G. Allen

2008–12 B.A., Biology; Minor, Environmental Studies, *Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA.*  
Thesis: Most prevalent effects of frontal lobe damage from traumatic brain injury  
Advisor: Dr. Douglas Shedd

## Work History

2024– Planning Commissioner, At Large  
current *Humboldt County, Eureka, CA*  
Served as Planning Commissioner and seeking reappointment in 2026. Reviewed permits for consistency with County regulations, worked to ensure

2023– Senior Environmental Scientist, CA Coastal Commission Liaison  
current *CA Department of Transportation, Eureka, CA*  
Office of Planning, Caltrans  
Lead staff in the Climate Planning unit. Examples of workload include:

- Create the Comprehensive Adaptation and Implementation Plan for the Eureka Arcata corridor
- Create long-term climate resiliency plans for other vulnerable road segments in District 1
- Oversee hydraulic modeling in alignment with climate predictions
- Secure grant funding and overseeing deliverables
- Significant coordination with Humboldt and Mendocino County, local agencies, state agencies, tribes and community organizations
- Organizing and completing all climate change review for project environmental documents based on HQ guidance

Present projects (active)

2022 – Senior Environmental Planner, CA Coastal Commission Liaison  
2023 *CA Department of Transportation, Eureka, CA*  
North region Environmental Management Unit. Worked as primary contact between Caltrans North Region Environmental and the local Coastal Commission office, and lead worker to staff with projects in the Coastal Zone. Examples of workload include:

- Organized and completed all climate change review for project environmental documents based on HQ guidance
- Present projects (active permit applications, project updates) to the Coastal Commission
- Meet with Commissioners for ex-parte project updates and to facilitate Caltrans policy meetings
- Overseeing mitigation bank creation with contractor and resource agencies for one year until a mitigation supervisor was hired
- Working with multiple resource agencies to address legacy outstanding eelgrass mitigation, and to create an early mitigation opportunity for new projects

- Facilitating at least monthly coordination meetings with, and project updates to Commission Staff
- Supervision of CA Sea Grant Fellow—Coastal Policy. Past Fellows now work for NOAA and the US EPA
- Creation of FAQ manual for staff to use when working on coastal projects
- Permitting major damage and emergency projects

2017 – Marine Biology Professor, Pitzer College Study Abroad, Bocas Del Toro, Panama

2023 Taught (2019, 2020, 2022, 2023) or Assisted Dr. Baduini (2017) in a field marine biology course. Work included assisting students with individual research projects including basic experimental design, in water field supervision including dawn lionfish collection, daily lectures, assisting students with questions outside of lecture, giving graduate school and careers outside of academia advice, and helping to ensure a safe, positive and fun experience

2019 – Associate Environmental Planner, Water Quality Specialist

2020 *CA Department of Transportation, Eureka, CA*  
Environmental Engineering Unit. This was an in-place promotion and my workload built on my previous workload as an environmental planner.  
Additional tasks included:

- Lead biologist/coordinator on securing California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and Coastal Commission Approval for an eelgrass study done through the CA Sea Grant as acceptable mitigation for the Humboldt Bay Bridges project
- Working at a Senior level to address the special conditions in the Eureka-Arcata Corridor Coastal Development permit including overseeing a Senior Humboldt State University (HSU) Practicum class to create a “State of Sea Level Rise Planning in Humboldt Bay” report; recruiting a graduate student from the HSU geology department to create a vulnerability analysis
- Worked with CDFW and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) to purchase and preserve a fen near Highway 36 as mitigation
- The creation of a CA Sea Gant Fellowship within Caltrans including management approval, application and contract submittal and management, and supervising the Fellow to ensure appropriate trainings and a full workload.
- Obtained Small Habitat Restoration Water Quality Certifications for fish passage
- Submitted notices of discharges to the North Coast Regional Waterboards
- Submitted draft permit language for the Caltrans NPDES permit to the State Water Resources Control Board
- Presenting at the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation on the benefits of wildfire fuel reduction to water quality
- Presenting at the CDFW Conservation Lecture Series
- Interviewing and hiring a Student Assistant

2018 Environmental Planner, CA Department of Transportation, Eureka, CA.  
Environmental Engineering Unit. Water quality specialist working on stormwater quality issues from avoidance to mitigation for projects with water quality impacts. Additional work on 401 permits, eelgrass mitigation, unit workload and project management, fuel reduction crediting, fish passage, and talent recruitment through California Sea Grant.

2017 – Environmental Scientist, CA State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento, CA.  
2018 Standards Unit 1. Worked as the lead staff on the proposed Aquatic Toxicity Provisions

to be adopted 2019. Duties include consultation with U.S. EPA and stakeholders, CEQA analysis, project management, staff report writing, facilitating public outreach and briefing management and board members. Additional work on:

- Technical advisory panel for ballast water treatment in coordination with the State Lands Commission
- Renewal of the U.S.EPA Vessel General Permit
- Marine finfish aquaculture permit in coordination with CDFW
- Grant review and scoring
- Administrative Record and response to comments for the Mercury Amendments. Resulted in an award from the Board after adoption.
- Authored a white paper— Regional Method Comparison on Pyrethroid Use

2017 CA. Sea Grant Fellow, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento, CA  
Ocean Unit. Worked as project coordinator and environmental scientist on Mercury Amendments, and assisted in the Board adoption process of the Mercury Policy.

2016 Reef Ecology Lecturer and Dive Master, Operation Wallacea Sodwana Bay, South Africa  
Lead daily dives and lectures for college students on field ecology courses.

2015-16 Graduate Assistant and Teaching Associate, CSUN, CA.  
CSUN courses: Life in the Sea, Intro. Biology Lab, Microbiology, Animal Physiology (2015-16).

2013-14 Laboratory Technician, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA  
Cared for and bred transgenic zebrafish including: injecting embryos, cryopreservation, laboratory coordination, maintenance of records and equipment, water quality maintenance.

#### Teaching Experience

2017-23 Marine Biology Teaching Assistant, Pitzer College Study Abroad, Bocas Del Toro, Panama  
Taught (2019, 2020, 2022, 2023) or Assisted Dr. Baduini (2017) in a field marine biology course. Work included assisting students with individual research projects including basic experimental design, in water field supervision including dawn lion fish collection, daily lectures, assisting students with questions outside of lecture, giving graduate school and careers outside of academia advice, and helping to ensure a safe, positive and fun study abroad experience.

2016 Reef Ecology Lecturer/ Dive Master, Operation Wallacea, Sodwana Bay, South Africa  
Assisted in with teaching a summer undergraduate South African Reef Ecology Course including daily lectures, fieldwork, in water supervision and coordination of students though an international airport.

2016 Graduate Assistant, Life in the Sea, CSUN  
Taught weekly lectures on introductory marine biology including basic marine ecology, taxonomy and human impact on the marine environment.

2015-16 Teaching Associate, Introductory Biology Laboratory, CSUN  
Taught the weekly laboratory component the biology general education requirement.

2015 Graduate Assistant, Animal Physiology Laboratory, CSUN  
Assisted in the laboratory portion of this upper level courses. Duties included laboratory set up, vivarium collection, explanation of physiologic responses, assisting students with

dose calculations and injections.

#### 2015 Graduate Assistant, Microbiology Laboratory, CSUN

Assisted in the laboratory portion of this upper level courses. Duties included laboratory set up, culture preparation, assisting students with calculations and technique.

#### Professional Presentations

McFarlane, L. J., Arevalo A.A. 2019. Wildfires and Water Quality- Caltrans efforts to reduce the frequency and severity of wildfires by partnering with agencies like the Waterboards, to also meet our responsibility related to impaired water bodies. *CDFW Conservation Lecture Series, Sacramento, CA* [oral]

McFarlane, L. J., Arevalo A.A. 2019. Striking a balance between wildfires and water quality with state agency collaboration. *International Conference on Road Ecology, Sacramento, CA* [oral]

McFarlane, L. J., R. E. Espinoza, W. A. Bennett, and L. G. Allen. 2015. It's getting hot in here: the effects of warming waters on the metabolic rates of Brushtail Tang. *Western Society of Naturalists, Sacramento, CA* [poster]

McFarlane, L. J. 2014. The effects of sea bird guano on primary productivity of local kelp, *Eisenia arborea*. *Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies, Santa Catalina Island, CA* [oral]

McFarlane, L. J., Barkman, M. A, 2011. Do Flamingo Tongue, *Cyphoma gibbosum*, exhibit location preface on Caribbean coral? *Gerace Research Center, San Salvador, Bahamas* [oral]

#### Certifications and Trainings

##### Water Quality and Biological Resources

Environmental Academy, Design Construction Maintenance, Improving Coastal Resiliency through Vulnerability Assessments Intro and Advanced CEQA, ArcGIS Esri Technical Certification (in progress), Foothill Yellow Legged Frog Surveying, Point Arena Mountain Beaver Surveying, Wetland Delineation, Measuring the Health of Streams and Rivers in CA, College of Bioassessment Field Course, Toxicity Data Analysis, Agrochemical Transport and Fate in Surface Water and Ground Water

##### Policy

U.S.EPA NPDES Permit Writers Course, U.S. EPA NPDES Whole Effluent Toxicity Online Training, Cal EPA Aquatic Toxicity Training, Understanding the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta—An Overview of Delta Governance and Regulation, Basic TMDL Development, Adoption and Approval, Water Quality Standards and Water Quality Control Plans

##### Other

PADI Dive Master and Rescue Diver, American Heart Association CPR and AED for Health Care Providers, Divers Alert Network Emergency O<sub>2</sub> Administration, California Boating Safety, Emergency Medical Technician Training, Highly Effective Professional Writing, Advanced Meeting Facilitation

#### Awards and Honors

2017	Outstanding Achievement Award, <i>CA State Water Resources Control Board, Cal EPA</i>
2016	Sea Grant Knauss and State Fellowship Finalist, <i>CA Sea Grant</i>
2012	TriBeta National Biology Honor Society

2009-12 Excellent Writer Award, *Randolph College*  
2011-present Girl Scout Gold Award, Lifetime Member

Professional Affiliations

2017-18 California Nevada Chapter of American Fisheries Society-Executive Committee  
2017-18 California Association of Professional Scientists  
2015-present Sigma Xi, Research Honor Society, Associate Member  
2016-2017 West Los Angeles Dive Club, Vice President 2015-  
2017 Western Society of Naturalists  
2015-2017 Society for Conservation Biology, Orange County, CA chapter  
2012-2017 California Wildlife Center Volunteer  
2015-16 Women in Science, Vice President, CSUN  
2015-16 Marine Biology Graduate Student Association, Treasurer, CSUN

Additional Work History

2016 Science Writer, *MyLetter.to, Remote*  
Contributing writer to a website which assists the public contacting State and Federal representatives.  
2016 Dive Master and Sales, *EcoDive, Culver City, CA*  
Lead divers on Southern California dives and work in diving equipment sales.  
2012-13 Veterinary Technician, *Advanced Veterinary Care Center, Lawndale, CA*  
Treated emergency and specialty patients in oncology, cardiology, and internal medicine  
2012 Wildlife Care/Veterinary Intern, *California Wildlife Center, Calabasas, CA*  
Treated and rehabilitated native wildlife ranging from raptors to coyotes.  
2010 Equine Veterinary Intern, *Allaroud Equine Veterinary Care, Bedford, VA*  
Assisted with emergency and routine medical care, and office management.

### Research Experience

2016      Marine Ecology and Fish Physiology, CSUN, CA. and *Indonesia*  
2014      Marine Ecology Research, CSUN, *Catalina Island, CA*  
2014      Sea Bird Ecology Research, CSUN, *Catalina Island, CA*  
2012      Microbiology Lab Assistant, *Randolph College, VA.*  
2011      Tropical Ecology Field Assistant, *Pitzer College Firestone Reserve, Costa Rica*  
2011      Ecology Lab Assistant, *Randolph College*

### References

Brandon Larsen, *Supervising Environmental Planner, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)*

brandon.larsen@dot.ca.gov

Priscialla Martinez Valez

Kevin Church- *retired Senior Transportation Engineer, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)*

kevin.church@dot.ca.gov