



December 16, 2008

## **County Supervisors Appoint Carole Groom as Fifth Board Member**

### *San Mateo Councilwoman Chosen to Fill Vacant District 2 Seat*

**REDWOOD CITY, Calif.** – The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted today to appoint San Mateo Councilwoman Carole Groom to fill a vacancy on the five-member panel.

The Board voted 3-1 to select Groom from a field of 11 applicants seeking to represent District 2, which includes Foster City and most of San Mateo and Belmont. Groom has served on the San Mateo City Council since 2000 and is a volunteer with a number of community-based organizations.

“Carole Groom has the knowledge and experience to hit the ground running as a Supervisor. She has proven leadership on important issues facing San Mateo County, and our Board can benefit from her knowledge, experience, and track record of listening to every voice within the community,” Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson said.

Supervisor Mark Church said Groom has significant experience as an elected official and serving on regional boards. Groom is a vice president at Mills-Peninsula Health Services and serves on the Board of Directors of SamTrans and the County’s Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART) and is also a member of the County’s Blue Ribbon Task Force on Adult Health Care Coverage Expansion.

“She has knowledge and experience and has demonstrated the ability to get the job done,” Church said.

Board President Adrienne Tissier said, “I do think Carole rises to the top. She’s done planning, she’s tackled huge budgets and has served on regional boards.”

Supervisor Rich Gordon cast the dissenting vote. He urged his fellow Supervisors to call a special election to fill the vacant seat rather than through an appointment. He said an election would engage residents in the important issues facing the County.

“There is a time for an appointment. There is a time for an election. This cycle calls for an election,” Gordon said. “Now is the time for democracy.”

The three other members, however, cited the million-plus dollar cost of holding a special election as a reason to appoint. Tissier, Jacobs Gibson and Church said the decision was difficult but the money saved by appointing the fifth member could be used for providing services at a time of growing need. “A lot of people could do a lot with \$1.7 million,” Tissier said.

The vacancy occurred when District 2 Supervisor Jerry Hill won election to represent the 19th District in the State Assembly. He resigned effective November 30 in order to assume his new office.

An elated Groom said after the meeting she hopes to tackle what she termed the three big issues facing San Mateo County: transportation, housing and health care. She hopes to meet with residents throughout the County to exchange ideas and hear priorities.

“I am ready to go to work and will work as hard as anyone can to fix these problems,” she said.

Immediately following her appointment, Groom was making plans to attend a special study session about the County’s mounting budget deficit scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.

Although officially appointed to the seat, Groom is not yet sworn into office. She plans to speak with the city attorney of San Mateo about the steps required to resign her post there and also plans to resign from Mills-Peninsula Health Services. She said she expects to start serving her term by Jan. 6, 2009, the Board’s first meeting in the new year.

Groom’s term as District 2 Supervisor ends Jan. 3, 2011. The Board members publicly thanked all of the applicants for their interest in the post.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors oversees a \$1.7 billion annual budget. The County operates a public hospital, health clinics, criminal justice facilities, 17 parks and numerous other public safety-net social services. For more information, please visit [www.co.sanmateo.ca.us](http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us)

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*Photos of Carole Groom are available by contacting Marshall Wilson.*