

## Elisabeth ("Liesbeth") Visscher

**Candidate for:** Marina City Council – District 4

**Occupation:** Property Manager

**Education:** Master's in Architecture

**Email:** liesbeth4marina@gmail.com

**Years in the Area:** 5

### HOUSING POLICY

**What is your position on affordable housing? Please be specific with regards to policies you support or oppose**

I support the requirements for affordable housing in new developments. I would like the City of Marina to include affordable housing, such as workforce housing and "tiny homes" in the plans for Cypress Knolls.

**Do you support modifying city policies or regulations to make it easier and cheaper to build housing? If so, what specific policy changes do you support?**

I don't have suggestions for specific policy changes but would support policies or regulations that would make it easier and cheaper to build housing because there is a huge demand, especially for affordable housing.

**Do you support requiring that "inclusionary housing" units be made permanently affordable, even upon resale? If not, please explain.**

Yes.

**Do you support requiring developers of hospitality, commercial and industrial projects that significantly increase demand for already scarce housing resources to pay housing impact fees to finance workforce housing or to build such housing themselves?**

Yes.

**How should local governments finance affordable housing?**

I think that the city of Marina does not have funds to subsidize affordable housing. The city should take advantage of any options for Federal- and State funding. As councilmember, I would like to learn how tenants are being selected for the existing affordable housing, and how buyers are being selected for affordable new homes, and how much influence the city can have on this.

**Throughout Monterey County, local governments have approved ~21,000 single family homes that haven't been built, and another ~13,000 are proposed. The median home price in Monterey County is ~\$850,000. Do you support adding more single family homes to the unbuilt pipeline or zoning for more affordable apartments, condominiums, and townhouses?**

I would like to find out why so many approved single-family homes have not yet been built, and I would like to know what this number is for Marina. I do think that affordable

apartments, condominiums and townhouses should be an important part of the Cypress Knolls development. And the city needs senior housing.

**What other housing policies do you support or oppose?**

I would need to learn more about potential housing policies, but I am in favor of any housing policies that will help low-income residents.

**WATER POLICY**

**What specific proposals do you support to ensure your community can meet its water demands without increasing the overdraft of the County's groundwater aquifers or violating the SWRCB's Cease and Desist Order regarding taking water from the Carmel River?**

I support the expansion of the Pure Water Monterey recycled water project. And I would support public, regional solutions if they don't negatively affect our water supplies, our shoreline, and our wildlife habitat, and if Marina will benefit from it. Our water company, Marina Coast Water District, is doing a good job with offering water-saving incentives for residents. I would like the county to look into ways to decrease the huge amounts of water that are being used in the agricultural industry, which is 80-90% of the total water usage.

**For Peninsula Candidates:**

**Do you support expansion of Pure Water Monterey as an alternative to building the desalination plant approved by the CPUC in 2018 but now stalled before the Coastal Commission? Why or why not? On what estimate of water demand is your position based, the estimate made by MPWMD or by Cal-Am? If you support the Cal-Am desalination project, how large should it be? Who should pay for the excess capacity from the desalination project until demand materializes for its water, Cal-Am shareholders, business ratepayers, or residential ratepayers?**

*No response from candidate.*

**GROWTH POLICIES**

**Do you support the creation of "urban growth boundaries" or expansion of the existing boundary as a way to prevent urban sprawl, and to insure that future growth is compact, efficient, and protective of the environment? If not, what measures would you support to prevent urban sprawl? If yes, will you sponsor an urban growth boundary in the upcoming year, and make it one of your top three priorities?**

Yes, I do support Urban Growth Boundaries. Marina already has this in place, there is no need to make it one of my top priorities.

**Poorly planned, non-infill commercial developments and hotels create more trips and additional vehicle miles traveled on already overcrowded roads and highways. Both residents and visitors pay the price of delay and increased pollution. What specific traffic congestion relief solutions do you support?**

I have lived my first 35 years in the Netherlands, a country that has more bicycles than people. I support safe bicycle paths and public transportation, something that I used to take for granted. I would like to see more bicycle parking options throughout the city.

### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

**Do you support roundabouts on Highway 68 and other roads? What other transportation policies or practices have you seen that local governments should incorporate?**

I support roundabouts! Public transportation needs to be improved, to get more cars off the road. It unfortunately is like the "chicken and the egg": opponents state that there aren't enough users, but we won't get more users until public transportation offers more service!

### CANDIDATE PRIORITIES

**If you are elected, what will be your top three priorities?**

Emergency: Unacceptably long emergency response times for part of the city, especially District 4. I support the construction of a 2nd fire station.

Water: I oppose CalAm's desal project (MPWSP) because it will take water from an already over-drafted basin to which CalAm doesn't have any rights, and Marina will bear all the harms and risks without any benefits whatsoever. I support the expansion of the Pure Water Monterey recycled water project.

Maintenance: The city needs to have long term maintenance plans and budgets for all its assets.

**What land use policies would you champion for the community?**

I will need to learn more about this before I can answer this question.

### CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

**What accomplishments in your career or public service are you most proud of?**

I am grateful that I was born in a country with very affordable education which enabled me to get a Master's in Architecture. When I realized that I did not want to work as an architect, I tried different temporary jobs to figure out what interested me and discovered that I like accounting. I went to school at night to get an accounting diploma. I found my "dream jobs" at the Technical Department of housing organizations where I was able to get experience in different jobs, one of them being project manager for the

implementation of a long-term maintenance program for 3,000+ rental homes. I gave up my career when I moved to the United States with my husband. While raising our children, I volunteered at the schools and worked in my home-based business, leading a team of consultants.

I do not have experience in public service but do volunteer as the chair of Citizens for Just Water.

### **Experience**

Property Management / Small business owner / Chiropractic Practice Office Manager