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Talia Baker, CPARB Administrative Staff
Engineering & Architectural Services
Washington State Department of Enterprise Services

RE: Letter of Interest for CPARB Chair

Dear CPARB members,

I respectfully submit my letter of interest to continue serving as CPARB Chair. It has been a privilege to serve this past three years with and for you. I would be honored to continue bringing us together, in collaboration to make productive progress on the many tasks underway.

As CPARB Chair and along with our Vice Chair, I facilitate respectful meetings where we work together as a board - grounded in our shared commitments. We start on time and end on time, and I manage our meetings to keep it within the 3 hours duration. Thank you for our partnership, in service to the state legislature and our industry. I understand the importance of listening, learning, and bringing the diverse perspectives to improve public contracting and RCW39.10, and access for all. Our DES support staff and I have made improvements to our CPARB website, our board and committee meeting agendas and minutes, so that information is more readily accessible – for both CPARB members and others who are interested in our work. We now have consolidated calendars, visual dashboard of key activities/deliverables to keep us on track and link to the reference documents.

While I have been a member of the board for 5 years, my involvement in CPARB spans over a decade: first as CPARB Port proxy in 2005, then participating in many subcommittees and serving on the PRC for three years. While PRC Chair, I ensured that owner certifications and project applications were conducted per RCW39.10 with fellow committee members. It's been a pleasure to work together and build consensus amongst the many stakeholders, find common ground, and develop workable policy solutions that advance our industry for the public benefit. CPARB subcommittees that I actively participated in over the last 18 years include:

Business Equity/Diverse Business Inclusion

Heavy Civil GC/CM - completed

GC/CM Best Practices

IPD Best Value Task Force- completed

Board Development

RCW 39.10 reauthorization - completed

Data Collection - completed

Prompt Pay - completed

Design-Build Statute Review - completed

Best Value selection - completed

Design-Build Best Practices - completed

Bidder responsibility - completed

As a licensed Civil Engineer and Certified Construction Manager, I bring 36 years of horizontal and vertical construction experience from the Maritime, Aviation, Transportation and Environmental Remediation industries. I am the Chief Engineer at the Port of Seattle, responsible for internal design, BIM, construction management oversight of major construction projects, Project Labor Agreements, and Apprenticeships, survey and mapping, and construction safety. Our 5-year CIP is over \$5 billion.

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More than half of my career has focused on delivering projects using RCW 39.10 alternative delivery methods (General Contractor/Construction Manager, Design-Build, Progressive Design-Build, and Job Order Contracting). My breadth of industry knowledge from both the public and private sector is a benefit to CPARB as we continue to bring many diverse voices together, to most effectively deliver projects for the entire state of Washington. As a public sector leader, I believe in mentoring, coaching, and leading project teams in order to create a culture of inclusivity and prepare owners for successful alternative delivery. To that end, I also participate as a trainer to improve our entire industry.

Related specifically to DEI, I currently serve on the DBIA DEI Subcommittee for the NW Region locally and have worked to educate and improve diversity and inclusion for our construction industry. In addition to engaging in DEI leadership work for many years within Washington State, I also Co-Chaired the National League of Cities Race Equity and Leadership (REAL) committee. On these committees, we are uplifting voices not heard previously, addressing inequities and removing barriers to opportunities and access. We provide opportunities for peer support and develop case studies and best practices to create shared resources.

We have many construction projects to deliver in Washington state, and it is critical that our public works opportunities are accessible to all and that we nurture and grow diverse businesses and workers. Success will depend on our ability to cultivate and sustain small, women, veteran and minority-owned businesses in partnership with general contractors, prime designers, and labor. I am proud of our work to pass new legislation for small works provisions and adding a new small business certification, as well as our work to review HB 1621 and make needed legislative revisions. Our upcoming work on prompt pay within BE/DBI, GC/CM Best Practices and the WSDOT Task Force are important for our industry's continued improvement. I believe my highly collaborative leadership style helps advance the board's work in the most inclusive and respectful way.

I remain committed to the important work we are doing as a board, both the work itself and in how we best work together respectfully and inclusively. The Port of Seattle understands and continues to support the level of time required to successfully serve in this important leadership role. Thank you and I appreciate your consideration of my continued service as CPARB Chair.



Sincerely,

Janice Zahn, PE, CCM, EMPA

Chief Engineer

Port of Seattle