Declaration of Intent:

Desire to Serve as a Trustee on the American River Flood Control District Board for Matthew Nielsen

April 2019 Vacancy

In early 2006, I had the opportunity to visit New Orleans and inspect the damage caused by failed levees following Hurricane Katrina. The destruction and human tragedy I witnessed were beyond words, forever changing the face of one of America's most unique cities. I know disasters like New Orleans are possible here in Sacramento, one of the highest flood risk areas in the nation. I'm seeking appointment to the American River Flood Control District (AFRCD) because my experiences as a meteorologist and as a leader in the Sacramento community have prepared me to serve on the Board.

As a scientist, I strongly believe in the work of AFRCD and would be honored to be a part of the Board's charge to protect and maintain the over 40-miles of levees in Sacramento. As you know, climate change is no longer just an inevitability, it is the reality for Californians. I have been working to address climate change for over a decade, and my experiences in meteorology and risk management would greatly benefit our region. In fact, I have been working on flood zone mitigation for nearly a decade. I hold an advanced degree in atmospheric science from Colorado State University and have an undergraduate degree in Physics. I currently work in the catastrophe risk management field and have had a focus on quantifying flood risk for the past 8 years. Through my work with catastrophe risk quantification, I have developed experience in communicating to audiences with a wide range of technical and political knowledge. I've had the opportunity to work with officials from FEMA, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and academic institutions such as the Institute for Building and Home Safety, all having their own unique challenges and experience levels.

This vacancy needs to be filled with someone who is aware of the Board's efforts and can start immediately. There is not adequate time for onboarding; thus, the person selected should already know about the Board and the responsibilities of trustees. As an active member of the Sacramento community, I have become familiar with the ARFCD Board through meeting attendance, developing relationships with trustees on the current Board, and working on flood resiliency. I spent time considerable with candidates during the 2018 Board elections, allowing me the opportunity to understand some of the dynamics of the position and the issues facing the Board. My knowledge of the Board and its priorities will allow me to be a contributing and engaging participant from the moment I am sworn into office.

My community experience would aid me in collaborating with stakeholders and finding a common solution on budget and funding for levee management and repair projects. As PAC Chair of Stonewall Democrats, I have firsthand experience working with local leaders; as well as managing various and often conflicting viewpoints. I am eager to serve my community, and the ARFCD allows me to bring my expertise in catastrophe risk analysis, asset management, and communications to bear on maintaining the resiliency of our home city.

My motivation to serve as a Trustee is fueled by my passion to create more resilient cities. The ARFCD Board is a key component to the long-term success to the Sacramento region, and I would be honored to serve.

Matthew J. Nielsen

325 10th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 (970) 420-1653
matthewjnielsen@gmail.com

SPECIAL SKILLS

- Excellent leadership, strategy, and communication skills
- Goal oriented, analytical, and detailed
- Quick learner; easily picks up new disciplines and skills
- Highly adaptable to dynamic situations
- Identified as a 'key talent' by Talent Management Team at RMS

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Director, Global Governmental and Regulatory Affairs Oct 2014 to present
Risk Management Solutions, Inc, Newark, California.

- Owns the strategy and relationship-building efforts between RMS and state regulators, legislators, and the federal government
- Leads government relations in the Americas, inclusive of the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America
- Responsible for garnering acceptance by regulators for RMS models across the Americas
- Provides education and training to regulators on RMS products and services
- Works with Rating Agencies, such as AM Best, Fitch, Moody's, S&P, and Demotech to facilitate understanding and acceptance of RMS models and solutions
- Partners with the client facing organization to understand key markets and regulation, removing barriers for RMS product adoption
- Work with legal organizations and lobbyists to identify legislative and regulatory priorities globally

Director, Model Product Management Sept 2005 to Oct 2014
Risk Management Solutions, Inc, Newark, California.

- Accountable for the product management, business development, and commercial success of a suite of North America Climate Hazard models, including: U.S., Canada, Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Perils include tornadoes/hail/straight-line winds, winter storms, hurricanes, inland floods, and wildfires.
- Responsibility for managing the west coast division of the Model Product Marketing Team, responsible for climate hazard and earthquake models throughout North, South, and Central America.
- Act as the media spokesperson for climate hazards, including live press coverage for Hurricanes Gustav, Ike, and Irene; provided many written articles and interviews for severe thunderstorms, including the Tuscaloosa and Joplin tornadoes of 2011.
    - Press coverage includes live TV interview on Reuters, articles in the USA Today, Canadian Underwriter, Insurance Journal, and other local news media outlets.

Main areas of responsibility involve product management of the entire catastrophe solution lifecycle, including:

- Synthesizing market feedback to create business cases and market requirements documentation

- Creating methodology and technical documentation for clients and prospects
- Designing product acceptance criteria and tests to ensure deliverables meet market requirements
- Presenting technical subject matter to both technical and non-technical audiences in a variety of formats (presenting at conferences, boardroom style meetings, teleconference and Webex presentations, etc)
- Producing compelling marketing collateral and targeted prospect lists for new and upgraded solutions
- Developing pricing proposals for new products based on value proposition to the client
- Liaison between client facing teams, scientific model developers, and software engineers
- Developing Event Response strategy for real time catastrophe management
- Responsible for recruiting new analysts for the Product Management Organization
- Providing regulatory support through direct interactions with state regulatory agencies (e.g. Maryland Insurance Association, Louisiana Department of Insurance, The Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodologies, individual legislators, etc)
- Resolving model issues and providing technical support

Public Presentations:

- Have conducted hundreds of presentations about risk modeling, climate perils, and other natural and manmade risks. Audiences include all levels of the insurance industry (cat analysts to actuaries to CEOs) from conference rooms to board rooms; government officials including regulators and legislators; the general public; and academic forums.

Graduate Research Assistant 2003 to 2005

Colorado State University, Department of Atmospheric Science, Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere, Fort Collins, CO.

- Developed a microwave satellite retrieval for detecting water vapor over land using the Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit-B
- Presented research at 13th Conference for Satellite Meteorology and Oceanography in Norfolk, VA, and Symposium on Validation/Calibration at Univ. of Wisconsin
- First author for journal publication "AMSU-B Antenna Pattern Corrections"
- Retrieved water vapor and temperature profiles using microwave optimal estimation retrieval
- Performed short range synoptic and meso-scale forecasting
- Attended two week colloquium on Global Positioning System

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Experience with mapping software including ArcGIS
- SQL for database manipulation and data extraction
- Microsoft Office Products (Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Word)

EDUCATION

- M.S. in Atmospheric Science (Remote Sensing), Colorado State University, 2005.
  Thesis: "The Remote Sensing of Water Vapor Over land Using the Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit-B (AMSU-B)"
- B.A. in Physics with Minor in French, Cum Laude, Ripon College, Ripon, WI, 2002.