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**Application for Appointment to Board, Commission, Committee, Task Force or Position**

Applicants appointed by the Board of Supervisors will be required to take an oath of office. All applications will be kept on file for one year from the date of application.

**Public Records Act**

Applications are public records that are subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act. Information provided by the applicant is not regarded as confidential except for the addresses and phone numbers of references and the applicant's personal information including home and work addresses, phone numbers and email address.

**Form 700 Conflict of Interest Code**

[California Fair Political Practices Website](#)

Please note that appointees may be required by state law and county conflict of interest code to file financial disclosure statements.

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Planning Commission: Submitted

**Category of Membership for Which You Are Applying**

Commission

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**Profile**

Kara

First Name

L

Middle Initial

Brunzell

Last Name

  
Email Address

  
Home Address

  
Suite or Apt

Napa

City

CA

State

94559

Postal Code

**Which supervisorial district do you reside in? \***

☒ District 1

To find your supervisorial district go to <https://www.countyofnapa.org/2051/Find-my-supervisor-and-district> and enter your address.

Home: 

Primary Phone

Brunzell Historical  
Employer

Principal/Architectural Historian  
Job Title

Architectural Historian  
Occupation

## Education/Experience

MA Public History CSU Sacramento BA History UCLA

## Name and occupation of spouse within the last 12 months, if married. (For conflict of Interest purposes)

Phil Barber, journalist




## Resume

  
Upload a Resume

Letter of Recommendation or Supplemental  
Attachments

## Professional or occupational license, date of issue, and expiration including status

## References: Provide names and phone numbers of 3 individuals who are familiar with your background.

David Graves  Anna Chouteau  Cindy Watter 

## Community Participation

### Please explain your reasons for wishing to serve and, in your opinion, how you feel you could contribute.

Living in Napa County since the 1990s has given me a deep appreciation for this special place and its people, and has taught me the value of community service. My professional background working in land-use planning has give me a strong understanding of the functions of municipal governments and the regulatory context that governs project development. As a homeowner and business owner, I also understand the perspective of project proponents and landowners. I am experienced at brokering win-win compromises and as a Planning Commissioner would be oriented toward environmental protection, maintaining our water supply for the future, equity, and maintaining an environment that allows agriculture to thrive sustainably. I have previously served the community in many volunteer roles including: as a COVID testing site worker during the pandemic, as a Napa County Library adult literacy tutor, on the Rock the Congress organizing committee, as a tutor as well as an after school enrichment teacher at NVLA elementary school, and on the St. Helena Nursery School Board of Directors. I am ready to turn my energy and attention toward service to the broader countywide community. I have the skills, background, values, and attention to make a positive contribution to Napa County Planning Commission.

## Nature of activity and community location

Napa County Planning Commission

Other County Board/Commission/Committee on Which You Serve/Have Served

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Public Actions that may impact Credit Rating (List all court or other public administration actions impacting your credit rating within the past ten (10) years)

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### Electronic Signature Agreement

I meet the criteria required to serve in this position.

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☒ Yes ☐ No

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

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☒ Yes ☐ No

Please Agree with the Following Statement

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By checking the "I agree" box below, you agree and acknowledge that 1) your application will not be signed in the sense of a traditional paper document, 2) by signing in this alternate manner, you authorize your electronic signature to be valid and binding upon you to the same force and effect as a handwritten signature, and 3) you may still be required to provide a traditional signature at a later date.

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☒ I Agree

Electronic Signature (First M. Last)

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Kara L. Brunzell

Date

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January 7, 2023

## **KARA BRUNZELL**

**Owner/Principal Historian (2012 – Present)**

**Brunzell Historical LLC**

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### **EXPERTISE**

Kara Brunzell has practiced as a Historian and Architectural Historian in cultural resource management and historic preservation since 2007. Kara established Brunzell Historical to provide built environment compliance and historic landmark nomination services in 2012. She has served as a consulting historian and project manager on historical research investigations for federal, state, and local governments. She is proficient in the recordation, inventory, and evaluation of historic resources using the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) guidelines. Her expertise includes preparing reports and making recommendations pursuant to Section 106 compliance for transportation and telecommunications projects. Kara is experienced in applying the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to both large-scale survey projects and individual historic-period resources, as well as application of California Public Resources Code 5024.5 to state-owned historic buildings. She has prepared many successful NRHP nominations for both individual properties and historic districts. Kara qualifies as a Historian and Architectural Historian under the United States Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (as defined in 36 CFR, Part 61).

### **EDUCATION**

California State University, Sacramento, MA, Public History  
UCLA, BA, History

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

HUD's Office of Environment and Energy: Historic Preservation and HUD, May 2014  
California Preservation Foundation Workshops:  
    The Environmental Benefits of Reuse, August 2011  
    Preservation Ordinances, April 2011  
    The Use and Application of the California Historical Building Code, July 2009

### **SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE**

**Architectural History Effects Investigations for Telecommunications Projects, Ace Environmental LLC, (2019-current).** Kara manages and authors determinations of effects studies for proposed cellular antenna installation and expansion projects located on historic-period buildings or within historic districts throughout California. Project impacts on historic properties are assessed in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for Colocation of Wireless Antennas, effective March 2001 and the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for Review of Effects on Historic Properties for Certain Undertakings Approved by the Federal Communications Commission (March 2005) as well as subsequent relevant Report and Orders. The reports assess whether the proposed undertakings would result in direct or visual effects to historic properties. Since 2019, Kara has assessed more than one hundred telecommunications sites throughout California in Alameda, El Dorado, Los Angeles, Orange, Placer, San Bernardino, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Ventura counties as well as in Reno, Nevada.

**Section 106 Compliance, Roadway Improvements for Traffic Signal Installation at the Corral Hollow Road and Linne Road Intersection Project County, Tracy, San Joaquin County, California (current).** Kara is managing preparation an assessment of the built environment resources (two rural-residential properties) in the Area of Potential Effects, an agricultural/commercial area southwest of Tracy. She has overseen field review, photo-documentation of built environment in the Area of Potential Effects, preparation of California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 forms, evaluation of the recorded resources for NRHP and CRHR eligibility, and prepared a Historic Resources Evaluation Report for Caltrans review.

**Section 106 Compliance, State Route Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus-on-Shoulder Improvements—Freedom Boulevard to State Park Drive—and Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Project, Santa Cruz County, California (2020-current).** Kara is managing preparation an assessment of the built environment resources (a railroad, park, NRHP-listed hotel, and several historic-era residential and commercial buildings) in the Area of Potential Effects in Aptos. She has overseen field review, photo-documentation of built environment in the Area of Potential Effects, preparation of California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 forms, evaluation of the recorded resources for NRHP and CRHR eligibility, community consultation with interested local parties, a Historic Resources Evaluation Report and is preparing a finding of adverse effect.

**Historic Standards Review, Proposed Downtown Station Project, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California (2022).** Kara reviewed a proposed six-story building for conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards For the Treatment of Historic Properties and Santa Rosa Design Guidelines pursuant to CEQA and local regulations. The subject property was vacant but located within the Railroad Square Historic District and adjacent to the West End Historic District, and potential indirect impacts to both districts were therefore assessed.

**Section 106 Compliance, Highway I-80/ Central Avenue Interchange Improvement Project, Phase 2, City of Richmond, Contra Costa County, California (2022).** Kara managed preparation of an assessment of the built environment resources (five historic-era residential and commercial buildings) in the Area of Potential Effects and a Historic Resources Evaluation Report for Caltrans review. She oversaw field review, photo-documentation of built environment in the Area of Potential Effects, preparation of California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 forms, and evaluation of the recorded resources for NRHP and CRHR eligibility.

**Section 106 Compliance, Redwood Complex Ignition-resistant Construction Project (2021 – 2022).** Kara oversaw streamlined assessment of roughly 25 historic-era properties enrolled in a roof replacement project managed by Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) and funded by FEMA HMGP and CalOES. Hello funded grant project to provide rebates to homeowners in the high and very high fire hazard severity zones in Mendocino County

**Historic Standards Review, Proposed Alterations to Castanada Adobe, Sonoma, Sonoma County, California (2015 and 2021).** Kara and assisted with the conversion of the NRHP-listed Castanada Adobe from residential to commercial use in 2015, reviewing architectural plans for conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. She worked with the property owners and their architects to ensure the alteration in use would not have a negative impact on the historic integrity of the 1830s-era adobe. When alterations were planned in 2021, Kara again reviewed the project for conformance with the standards.

**Historical Evaluation and Historic Standards Review, Casa Bella (Monroe Ranch), Kenwood, Sonoma County, California (2021).** Kara evaluated the 1911 Prairie-style Monroe Ranch House in Kenwood for NRHP, CRHR, and County of Sonoma eligibility. The property was recommended eligible for its architecture and historic associations. A proposed project was assessed for conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

**Historical Evaluation of the Snow Mountain Ditch, Nevada County, California (2021).** Kara evaluated the c1853 water conveyance infrastructure for historical significance pursuant to CEQA. The structure lacked significance under the criteria and was recommended ineligible for the NRHP and CRHR.

**Historical Evaluation of the Clark Ranch near Table Bluff, Humboldt County, California (2021).** Kara evaluated the historic-era rural-residential complex for architectural and historical significance pursuant to Section 106. The property lacked significance under the criteria and was recommended ineligible for the NRHP and CRHR.

**Historical Evaluation of the former Adler Planing Mill, Sonoma, Sonoma County, California (2020).** Kara evaluated a house on Spain Street in downtown Sonoma for architectural and historical significance pursuant to CEQA. The house was originally one of several buildings associated with the historically significant lumber business on the site but was recommended ineligible for the NRHP and CRHR listing because it lacked integrity.

**Historical Evaluation of the Natomas Cross Canal, Sutter County, California (2020).** Kara evaluated the 1912 – 1915 flood control feature for historical significance pursuant to CEQA. The study revealed that the structure is significantly associated with to context of flood control and reclamation and it was recommended eligible for listing on the NRHP and CRHR as a contributor to the NRHP-eligible Reclamation District 1000 Rural Historic Landscape District.

**Interlake Tunnel Project: Monterey County Water Resources Agency; Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, CA (2017-2020).** Kara evaluated San Antonio and Nacimiento Dams in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties for NRHP and CRHR eligibility. She produced a historic context of the water resources agency and chronologies of development for the two dams, both of which were recommended ineligible for historic listing.

**Section 106 Compliance, I-80/Ashby Avenue Interchange Improvement Project, Berkeley, Alameda County, California (2019).** Kara prepared an assessment of the built environment resources (a radio station and tunnel) in the project study area for inclusion in a Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report for California Department of Transportation review. She conducted a field review, recorded buildings in the project area of potential effects on California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 forms and evaluated the recorded resources for NRHP and CRHR eligibility.

**Caritas Village Historical Evaluation Report, Impacts Assessment and Mitigations, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California (2015 – 2018).** Kara prepared a historical resource evaluation of the old General Hospital block pursuant to CEQA for the proposed 128-unit Caritas Village affordable housing project. Several of the existing buildings were contributors to Santa Rosa's St. Rose Historic Preservation District; others had been constructed during the historic period but not previously evaluated. General Hospital (1919) was evaluated under the CRHR and NRHP criteria along with a warehouse, an apartment building, and eight single-family residences. The apartment building and the oldest of the houses were determined eligible as district contributors by the study; the other resources evaluated lacked significance or integrity. Kara assessed project impacts under CEQA as well as Santa Rosa Design Guidelines for the resources in the project area as well as adjacent historical resources and recommended mitigations for the impacts of demolition.

**Historical Evaluation and Review of Proposed Project for the Denman Creamery, Petaluma, Sonoma County, California (2017).** Kara acted as Architectural Historian on an Architectural/Historical evaluation of the Denman Creamery, a historic dairy ranch complex in Petaluma that is listed on Sonoma County's Register of Historical Resources. She also produced a report documenting a proposed project on the property's conformance to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.