

# RioVision Board of Directors

**RioVision Mission:** RioVision’s mission is to join together to build, revitalize, energize and beautify the Rio Vista community.

**RioVision Board of Directors:** The Board of Directors represents the interests of the community and acts as “governors” or “trustees” charged to protect the mission of RioVision. The Board of Directors must advise, govern, oversee policy, provide direction, leadership, and generally promote the organization so as to support RioVision’s mission.

## **Board Officers**

**MaryEllen Lamothe** moved to Rio Vista in 2005 and saw a charming community with many assets in need of development. She quickly became active in the Chamber of Commerce, Soroptimist International and Rio Vista Planning Commission. MaryEllen is the current **President** of the RioVision Board, having served on the team since its inception. She was instrumental in writing the application that resulted in the RUDAT study as well as serving as Project Leader for the Main Street Planter Project. MaryEllen owned a women’s clothing business on Main Street for several years and recently managed the renovation and reopening of the Hwy 12 Diner.



**Tom Surh** has been a resident of Rio Vista since 2011 when he retired and moved from Oakland, CA. Tom joined the RioVision team in 2013 and serves as the **Vice President** of the Board. A U.S. Army veteran, Tom was an attorney for legal aid, a local bar association, and in private practice with an emphasis on immigration, family law and juvenile dependency. He also served the Alameda County Superior Court as a family law facilitator, and as a judicial officer (Court Commissioner).



**Edwin Okamura** grew up in Berkeley, CA and spent his early career in advertising and technology before launching his own technology marketing agency in 2001. He moved to Rio Vista in 2004 and started a mortgage brokerage firm to address this unmet need. Edwin serves as the **Secretary** of the RioVision Board and is a member of the Rotary Club, Vice Chair of the Rio Vista Planning Commission and sits on the Board of the California Association of Mortgage Professionals. He has also served as the Executive Director for a not-for-profit business association, and has volunteered many hours to other civic and senior programs.



**Alison Turner** serves as the **Board Treasurer**. She is a Certified Valuation Analyst, has been a faculty member of the Graduate Program at Drexel University where she taught in the Accounting Department, was an adjunct professor in Accounting for CSU, Sacramento, and ran the Tax Department and was a manager of the Family Law Department of a boutique firm specializing in business valuation and litigation support. Alison is now principal of her own CPA firm in Rio Vista, specializing in complex auditing, accounting, and corporate, partnership, non-profit and estate returns. She was appointed to the RV Board in April, 2016.

### **Additional Board Members:**

**James Pezzaglia** was raised in Rio Vista, as a member of a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Rio Vista family. As an educator he was Doctor of Instruction at the San Bernardino Valley College and then entered the legal field serving as Deputy District Attorney, Contra Costa District Attorney's Office, Staff Council with Phillips Petroleum Company, and a variety of private law firms, including his own. Jim has a long history of community service to such not-for-profit organizations as Lindsay Wildlife Museum, Arts Vision Task Force, Arts Commission, and Fiscal Health Task Force of Walnut Creek. He was appointed to the RioVision Board of Directors in early 2015.



**Jeannie McCormack** was born and raised in Rio Vista. She attended Rio Vista schools and then pursued a career in anthropology and sociology. Following her undergraduate degree she joined the Peace Corps and served two years in Malawi, Central Africa, as a public health worker. After receiving a Master's degree, she spent fifteen years in Africa and the Eastern U.S. planning, implementing and evaluating micro-enterprise projects for women in Africa. Jeannie returned to Rio Vista, and her family ranch, in 1987 and has been active in local and state land-use and agricultural issues, as well as the RioVision Board. Jeannie was appointed to the Board in early 2015.



**Jenny Emigh** was appointed to the Board in early 2015.



**Ed Vitrano** discovered Rio Vista in the mid-80's, as a welcome respite after a day of windsurfing. When he was invited to become the General Manager of Trilogy at Rio Vista, his answer was easy. Since arriving in 2007, Ed has been involved in Rio Vista and the surrounding Delta region by serving on the Discover the Delta Foundation board, as Chair of the Rio Vista Recreation Commission, leader of the RioVision Signs Project, and is the City's "flag man". Ed was appointed to the RioVision Board in April, 2016.



**Arthur Darden** was raised in the San Francisco Bay area. As a child, he came to Rio Vista to fish from the river bank as part of family day trips. He served in the US Army from 1962-1966. He managed technology support groups for Research and Development teams with large corporations serving diverse industries. He retired as Operations Security Manager for a world renowned amusement park. In Rio Vista he has served as Vice-Chair of the Trilogy Emergency Action Committee educating the community on preparations for an emergency, Chair of the Access Committee addressing community access concerns, and President of the Saddle Rock Village Board of Directors. Art was appointed to the RioVision Board of Directors in April, 2016.



**Vickie Nelson** joined the board in April, 2016.



### **RioVision Executive Director/Steering Committee**

**James Wheeler** has served as the RioVision **Executive Director** since 2014 and is responsible for providing leadership to, and overseeing the activities of, RioVision projects which have been sanctioned by the Board of Directors. Jim has always lived in the San Francisco Bay Area. For many years he worked in the field of financial services and computer systems, later becoming involved in project management. During his career he ran major projects, programs, taught project management for Fortune 500 companies, and served as a management consultant. He is the past President of the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of the Project Management Institute. Jim moved to Rio Vista in 2012 and is an active member of the St. Joseph Church, Knights of Columbus.



**Donna Armanino** moved to Rio Vista in 2012 from the San Francisco Bay Area, having fallen in love with the beauty, agriculture, life style and residents of the city. For thirty years Donna worked for a large company managing sales administration, trade shows, special events and facilities, as well as volunteering at her children's schools, managing Parent Teacher Groups and organizing fundraising events. For the past two years, Donna has served as the leader of the RioVision Promotions and Communications team and has recently been appointed to the new position of **Associate Executive Director** responsible for providing administrative and other support to the Executive Director.

