Dr. Arezoo Khodayari, Ph.D.

Altadena Town Council Statement of Qualifications

Altadena is more than the place my family calls home. It is where we bought our first house, where our son was born and is growing up, and where we have built our lives surrounded by beautiful hiking trails, wildlife, and a wonderful community. I am running for the Altadena Town Council to help protect what makes Altadena special, support our recovery, and build a safer, healthier, and more resilient future.

I am an immigrant, a mother, an educator, and an environmental engineer. For over a decade, I have served as a professor at Cal State LA, conducting research in pollution control, water quality, environmental contamination, and urban sustainability. I am also a NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory affiliate, collaborating with NASA scientists. My research and efforts to expand educational opportunities for historically underrepresented students have been featured in *Nature* and the *Los Angeles Times*. I hope to bring this experience and a practical, collaborative approach to serving Altadena.

The Eaton Fire made these issues deeply personal. Our family was displaced for approximately nine months, navigating environmental testing, cleanup and remediation, rebuilding, insurance challenges, school disruptions, and uncertainty about returning home safely. During this time, I helped neighbors understand their environmental reports whenever possible. The experience also led me to earn my California Lead Inspector/Assessor certification, equipping me to better support residents navigating environmental contamination and recovery.

Despite these challenges, we witnessed extraordinary kindness, generosity, and neighbors supporting one another. This experience reinforced my belief that **community is not simply where we live; community is what we build together.**

My commitment also extends to children and education. My son attends Altadena Arts Magnet, reflecting our belief in public education and investing in our community. I also volunteer as a Tiger Den Leader for first-grade Cub Scouts, helping children develop confidence, curiosity, teamwork, responsibility, and a spirit of service.

If elected to represent Census Tract 4601, I will listen to residents, communicate openly, and advocate for practical, evidence-based solutions centered on three priorities:

1. A Safer, Stronger, and More Resilient Altadena
Support safe rebuilding, strengthen wildfire preparedness, advocate for resilient infrastructure, and help families navigate recovery while preserving the unique character and beauty of our neighborhoods.

2. A Connected Community Where Every Voice Matters
Listening to residents, promoting open communication and transparency, improving access to reliable information and resources, and fostering a welcoming, inclusive community. Advocate for safe, accessible spaces and opportunities where children and families can connect, build friendships, and thrive.

3. A Healthier Environment and a Sustainable Future
Promote environmental health, responsible rebuilding, and access to trustworthy, science-based information about soil, water, and potential contamination. Advocate for protecting Altadena's natural spaces, hiking trails, and wildlife for generations to come.

Altadena is near and dear to my heart. Our family has experienced the uncertainty of displacement and the challenges of rebuilding, but also the remarkable strength and generosity of our neighbors. **I believe in Altadena, in its people, and in what we can accomplish together.** I would be honored to serve as your Town Council representative and help ensure Altadena remains a safe, healthy, vibrant, and supportive place to call home.