Huang, Lampert for water board

October 20, 2006

THREE people are running for two seats on the Alameda County Water District board on Nov. 7.

We support incumbents Judy Huang and Arthur Lampert.

Huang now is serving as the board's president, and her priorities include rebuilding Delta levees, seismic retrofitting of the Hetch Hetchy system, and the Alameda Creek Fishery restoration project.

Lampert, a former Fremont City Council member, has served on the board for eight years. He also has an eye toward shoring up levees to be prepared for an earthquake, and encouraging more water conservation.

During Huang's and Lampert's tenures, the agency has proven to be well-run and efficient. It is open, accessible and responsive to the public, and has been forthcoming with relevant information when rate hikes were necessary. Most importantly, it has provided safe, reliable water.

Their challenger, Ash Bhatt, has served on the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, so he has experience with water issues, but we don't think he has made enough effort to understand local issues. For instance, he admitted to not attending any of the water board's meetings in the past year.