

# Water Efficiency Representative Candidate

## Jacob Atalla's Candidate Questionnaire

Jacob Atalla

KB Home

[jatalla@kbhome.com](mailto:jatalla@kbhome.com)

714.588.3232

### **1. Please describe in light of the responsibilities of the RESNET Board why you are the right person to be a member of the RESNET Board of Directors**

I'm VP of Sustainability at KB Home – the first RESNET Energy Smart Builder. KB Home has built 135,000 ENERGY STAR certified homes, and 10,000 solar-powered homes.

I worked on the development of KB Home's Energy Performance Guide (EPG), which is based on the HERS Index. I established KB's standard of having every home inspected and rated by RESNET-accredited raters.

KB Home has also built 15,000 WaterSense labeled and WaterSmart certified homes. KB Home won EPA WaterSense awards for the past 9 years.

Educated as an architect, I have over 30 years of architectural technology and green building experience.

### **2. Why is this the right time for you to serve on the RESNET Board?**

The HERS Index is more important to builders than ever before; it is now a factor in energy codes, and used in marketing new homes, particularly vs. resale homes.

Also water efficiency rating HERSH2O is almost ready for use. As a RESNET board member, I want to work on supporting the HERSH2O Index and RESNET's standards. Specifics include:

- HERSH2O software
- HERSH2O registry; QA; and training.
- Serve raters and builders in making cost-effective water efficiency choices.

### **3. Please explain your knowledge and/or experience in terms of each of the primary responsibilities of the RESNET Board**

As mentioned, KB Home was the first RESNET Energy Smart Builder. I worked on the development of KB Home's Energy Performance Guide (EPG), which is based on the HERS Index. I established KB's standard of having every home inspected and rated by RESNET-accredited raters. Beyond energy efficiency, KB Home and I have developed a focus on water efficiency, which helped lead to the water efficiency initiative at RESNET -- HERSH2O.

- Promote the nexus between water efficiency and energy efficiency.
- I've participated in the development of RESNET's Water Efficiency Rating system from the very beginning of the program.
- I have the know-how to work with builders on use of HERSH2O to further differentiate new homes from existing, less water-efficient resale homes.

**4. Describe your experience in either leadership and/or serving on the board of a non-profit organization.**

As mentioned above, I currently serve on RESNET's Board of Directors. I also Chair the RENSET / ICC committee to develop the water efficiency rating standard.. In recent past, I served on the Board of Directors for EEBA, and as chairperson for the Urban Land Institute Sustainable Communities Council in Orange County, CA.

**5. What would you contribute to the RESNET Board?**

I would like to continue working on a couple of initiatives that have started in recent years:

- Further develop HERSH2O
- Work with RESNET and other stakeholders to bridge the gap between California's and the national Home Energy Rating System.