

Gutierrez, Jeannette

From: Glaser, Heather
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:15 PM
To: Gutierrez, Jeannette
Subject: FW: MVCSP comments on Downtown Parking Strategy to City of Mountain View City Council
Attachments: CC-DowntownParkingStrategy-MVCSP-20210511.pdf

From: Mountain View MVCSP <
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Kamei, Ellen <Ellen.Kamei@mountainview.gov>; Ramirez, Lucas <Lucas.Ramirez@mountainview.gov>; Abe-Koga, Margaret <Margaret.abe-koga@mountainview.gov>; Matichak, Lisa <Lisa.Matichak@mountainview.gov>; Showalter, Pat <Pat.Showalter@mountainview.gov>; Sally Lieber <Sally@sallylieber.org>; Lieber, Sally <Sally.Lieber@mountainview.gov>; Hicks, Alison <Alison.Hicks@mountainview.gov>
Cc: Mountain View MVCSP <mvcsp.info@gmail.com>; Chew, Tiffany <Tiffany.Chew@mountainview.gov>; Anderson, Eric - Planning <Eric.Anderson2@mountainview.gov>; Shrivastava, Aarti <Aarti.Shrivastava@mountainview.gov>; McCarthy, Kimbra <Kimbra.McCarthy@mountainview.gov>; Glaser, Heather <Heather.Glaser@mountainview.gov>
Subject: MVCSP comments on Downtown Parking Strategy to City of Mountain View City Council

(formal letter attached)

Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning
c/o Aaron Grossman
817 Montgomery Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

May 11, 2021

City of Mountain View City Council
City Hall, 500 Castro Street
PO Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: 3.1 Downtown Parking Strategy

Dear Mayor Kamei and City Council members:

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning (MVCSP) appreciates the opportunity to respond to your agenda item on the Downtown Parking Strategy.

We have reviewed the agenda item materials, and we have the following comments we would like to share with you.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the City opened up Castro Street to pedestrians and restaurant seating, performing one of the most extreme transformations of Castro Street in recent memory under challenging circumstances. This change, while significant, has proved highly popular and serves as an important reminder that the key draw of our Downtown is its pedestrian-oriented character and the businesses that make up the Downtown, and that the purpose of those businesses is to serve people and not cars.

With that in mind, it is critical that, in anticipating for future growth, we plan with the objective of ensuring that Downtown is more accessible to more people while guiding that growth in a sustainable manner. And, by increasing the parking supply, Downtown will not achieve that objective. If we plan for the future of Downtown to include even current (let alone increases in) levels of traffic/parking, we are planning for a future in which we emit more greenhouse gases, generate more local pollutants, see more deaths from cars, waste land/money on vehicular infrastructure, reduce accessibility for those who cannot drive, and generally decrease the quality-of-life in our downtown core. To truly accommodate growth in the Downtown area, we must look instead to transportation solutions that can efficiently scale to accommodate more people—namely, walking, biking, and public transit.

To improve pedestrian and bicycle access, we can remove on-street parking to widen sidewalks and provide protected bike lanes; implement safety improvements at intersections; lower speed limits and implement traffic calming; plant trees to improve shade in the summer months; work with the VTA to provide bike-share programs; and encourage high-density residential developments with minimal car parking so that people can more easily live within easy walking distance of downtown.

For public transit, Caltrain's 2040 business plan includes plans to significantly increase off-peak service, as would be necessary to provide better access to Downtown in the evenings and on the weekends—during COVID, Caltrain has already increased its off-peak service to be better than it was before COVID to better reflect pandemic travel patterns. The Mountain View Community Shuttle Study includes potential provisions around improving hours of service. We should embrace these developments, and, rather than spending tens or hundreds of millions of dollars to build unnecessary and inefficient parking spaces, instead spend that money to support increased transit service downtown.

We ask that the City, instead of considering increases in parking supply, put a focus on shifting travel to non-car modes, while planning for a managed reduction in parking supply paired with a complementary investment in bike/pedestrian infrastructure and public transit operations, which, in addition to being the far more sustainable option, will also do far more to accommodate an increase in business in the downtown area.

If we are truly a City committed to sustainability, to Vision Zero, to accessibility, and to the ongoing growth and flourishing of our local businesses, we must be willing to embrace it fully, and not find ourselves burdened with car-oriented planning that has poisoned America's urban life for the past 90 years.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

James Kuszmaul
for the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

cc:

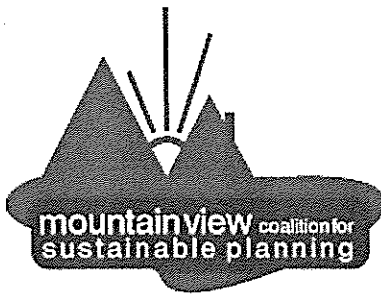
Tiffany Chew, Business Development Specialist
Eric Anderson, Principal Planner
Aarti Shrivastava, Assistant City Manager/ Community Development Director
Kimbra McCarthy, City Manager
Heather Glaser, City Clerk

About Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning is a local volunteer-based organization dedicated to making Mountain View as beautiful, economically healthy, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian accessible, and affordable as possible. MVCSP member interest and expertise covers areas such as housing, transportation, the environment, the economy, and beyond!

For more information, see <http://www.mvcsp.org>.

To contact us, send email to mvcsp.info@gmail.com.



Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning
c/o Aaron Grossman
817 Montgomery Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

May 11, 2021

City of Mountain View City Council
City Hall, 500 Castro Street
PO Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: 3.1 Downtown Parking Strategy

Dear Mayor Kamei and City Council members:

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning (MVCSP) appreciates the opportunity to respond to your agenda item on the Downtown Parking Strategy.

We have reviewed the agenda item materials, and we have the following comments we would like to share with you.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the City opened up Castro Street to pedestrians and restaurant seating, performing one of the most extreme transformations of Castro Street in recent memory under challenging circumstances. This change, while significant, has proved highly popular and serves as an important reminder that the key draw of our Downtown is its pedestrian-oriented character and the businesses that make up the Downtown, and that the purpose of those businesses is to serve people and not cars.

With that in mind, it is critical that, in anticipating for future growth, we plan with the objective of ensuring that Downtown is more accessible to more people while guiding that growth in a sustainable manner. And, by increasing the parking supply, Downtown will not achieve that objective. If we plan for the future of Downtown to include even current (let alone increases in) levels of traffic/parking, we are planning for a future in which we emit more greenhouse gases, generate more local pollutants, see more deaths from cars, waste land/money on vehicular infrastructure, reduce accessibility for those who cannot drive, and generally decrease the quality-of-life in our downtown core. To truly accommodate growth in the Downtown area, we must look instead to transportation solutions that can efficiently scale to accommodate more people—namely, walking, biking, and public transit.

To improve pedestrian and bicycle access, we can remove on-street parking to widen sidewalks and provide protected bike lanes; implement safety improvements at intersections; lower speed limits and implement traffic calming; plant trees to improve shade in the summer months; work with the VTA to provide bike-share programs; and encourage high-density residential developments with minimal car parking so that people can more easily live within easy walking distance of downtown.

For public transit, Caltrain's 2040 business plan includes plans to significantly increase off-peak service, as would be necessary to provide better access to Downtown in the evenings and on the weekends—during COVID, Caltrain has already increased its off-peak service to be better than it was before COVID to better reflect pandemic travel patterns. The Mountain View Community Shuttle Study includes potential provisions around improving hours of service. We should embrace these developments, and, rather than spending tens or hundreds of millions of dollars to build unnecessary and inefficient parking spaces, instead spend that money to support increased transit service downtown.

We ask that the City, instead of considering increases in parking supply, put a focus on shifting travel to non-car modes, while planning for a managed reduction in parking supply paired with a complementary investment in bike/pedestrian infrastructure and public transit operations, which, in addition to being the far more sustainable option, will also do far more to accommodate an increase in business in the downtown area.

If we are truly a City committed to sustainability, to Vision Zero, to accessibility, and to the ongoing growth and flourishing of our local businesses, we must be willing to embrace it fully, and not find ourselves burdened with car-oriented planning that has poisoned America's urban life for the past 90 years.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



James Kuszmaul
for the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

cc:

Tiffany Chew, Business Development Specialist

Eric Anderson, Principal Planner

Aarti Shrivastava, Assistant City Manager/ Community Development Director

Kimbra McCarthy, City Manager

Heather Glaser, City Clerk

About Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning is a local volunteer-based organization dedicated to making Mountain View as beautiful, economically healthy, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian accessible, and affordable as possible. MVCSP member interest and expertise covers areas such as housing, transportation, the environment, the economy, and beyond!

For more information, see <http://www.mvcsp.org>.

To contact us, send email to mvcsp.info@gmail.com.

Gutierrez, Jeannette

From: Debbie Parsons <
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:01 PM
To: City Council; Glaser, Heather
Subject: Mountain View must follow through on commitment to promoting plant-based eating

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Debbie Parsons and I'm a longtime resident of the Bay Area. Now that things are starting to return to normal after the pandemic, I would like to see Mountain View follow through on its commitment to promote plant-based eating through educational programs and fun community events

We are heading into fire season again and are dealing with more droughts in California. As Californians and Bay Area residents, we are going to need to adjust our diets and eat in a more sustainable manner.

Sincerely
Debbie Parsons

Gutierrez, Jeannette

From: Bruce Naegel <
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:06 PM
To: City Council
Subject: For meeting tonight
Attachments: MV-Council-ettr.docx

Dear Mayor Kamei, Vice Mayor Ramirez, and Councilmembers Abe-Koga, Lieber, Hicks, Matichak and Showalter,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about the sustainability agenda items for the May 11 council meeting.

Mountain View is leading in climate initiatives with influence beyond Mountain View's borders. Thanks to the council, Mountain View is a sustainability leader. To continue to be effective, there must be a solid metrics base.

Let us look at tonight's agenda items.

- The review of the SAP plan
- The resolution for a Carbon Tax to propose to Congress.
- The resolution that the only light duty vehicles that can be registered in California in 2030 will be ZEVs (Zero Emissions Vehicles). This is proposed to the state.

The SAP plan is work done by Mountain View for Mountain View. The two resolutions say Mountain View supports bold action.

Let us also look at California's baseline requirements:

- New light duty vehicles must be ZEVs by 2035
- CA to be Carbon Neutral by 2045

These requirements must be addressed first. A proposal is judged by the success it brings. Possible metrics include:

- Gasoline Consumption by city by year
- Car Types sold in CA by city by year
- Natural (Fossil gas) by city by year.
- Number of trees planted per year.

Moving Forward

It is great that Mountain View is concerned about climate and willing to express this and promote solutions.

Mountain View policies help shape other communities.

Proposed solutions need to be tried and verified. To do that we need metrics. If you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it

Thanks for your time.

References

- Gasoline consumption by city or zip code <https://www.coltura.org/gasoline-sales-volumes>

- Fossil gas consumption by county <http://www.ecdms.energy.ca.gov/gasbycounty.aspx>
- Car sales by type <https://www.energy.ca.gov/files/zev-and-infrastructure-stats-data>
[Vehicle Population Last updated 04-30-2021.xlsx](#)
- Natural Gas Consumption by end use
- https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_cons_sum_dcua_sca_a.htm
Natural Gas Consumption
- <https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=46&t=8>
<https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=46&t=8>
- 2016cityandcountyenergyprofiles

Dear Mayor Kamei, Vice Mayor Ramirez, and Councilmembers Abe-Koga, Lieber, Hicks, Matichak and Showalter,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about the sustainability agenda items for the May 11 council meeting.

Mountain View is leading in climate initiatives with influence beyond Mountain View's borders. Thanks to the council, Mountain View is a sustainability leader. To continue to be effective, there must be a solid metrics base.

Let us look at tonight's agenda items.

- The review of the SAP plan
- The resolution for a Carbon Tax to propose to Congress.
- The resolution that the only light duty vehicles that can be registered in California in 2030 will be ZEVs (Zero Emissions Vehicles). This is proposed to the state.

The SAP plan is work done by Mountain View for Mountain View. The two resolutions say Mountain View supports bold action.

Let us also look at California's baseline requirements:

- New light duty vehicles must be ZEVs by 2035
- CA to be Carbon Neutral by 2045

These requirements must be addressed first. A proposal is judged by the success it brings. Possible metrics include:

- Gasoline Consumption by city by year
- Car Types sold in CA by city by year
- Natural (Fossil gas) by city by year.
- Number of trees planted per year.

Moving Forward

It is great that Mountain View is concerned about climate and willing to express this and promote solutions.

Mountain View policies help shape other communities.

Proposed solutions need to be tried and verified. To do that we need metrics. If you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it

Thanks for your time.

References

- Gasoline consumption by city or zip code <https://www.coltura.org/gasoline-sales-volumes>
- Fossil gas consumption by county <http://www.ecdms.energy.ca.gov/gasbycounty.aspx>
- Car sales by type <https://www.energy.ca.gov/files/zev-and-infrastructure-stats-data>
[Vehicle Population_Last updated 04-30-2021.xlsx](#)
- Natural Gas Consumption by end use
- https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_cons_sum_dcu_SCA_a.htm
Natural Gas Consumption
- <https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=46&t=8>
<https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=46&t=8>
- 2016cityandcountyenergyprofiles

Ellen Kamei	Mayor	ellen.kamei@mountainview.gov
Lucas Ramirez	Vice Mayor	lucas.ramirez@mountainview.gov
Margaret Abe-Koga	Council	margaret.abe-koga@mountainview.gov
Alison Hicks	Council	Alison.hicks@mountainview.gov
Sally Lieber	Council	sally.lieber@mountainview.gov
Lisa Matichak	Council	lisa.matichak@mountainview.gov
Pat Showalter	Council	Pat.Showalter@mountainview.gov

Gutierrez, Jeannette

From: Glaser, Heather
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:20 PM
To: Gutierrez, Jeannette
Subject: FW: MVCSP comments on Sustainability Action Plan 4 Progress Update to City of Mountain View City Council
Attachments: CC-SAP4ProgressUpdate-MVCSP-20210511.pdf

From: Mountain View MVCSP <mvcsp.info@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:13 PM
To: Kamei, Ellen <Ellen.Kamei@mountainview.gov>; Ramirez, Lucas <Lucas.Ramirez@mountainview.gov>; Abe-Koga, Margaret <Margaret.abe-koga@mountainview.gov>; Matichak, Lisa <Lisa.Matichak@mountainview.gov>; Showalter, Pat <Pat.Showalter@mountainview.gov>; Sally Lieber <Sally@sallylieber.org>; Lieber, Sally <Sally.Lieber@mountainview.gov>; Hicks, Alison <Alison.Hicks@mountainview.gov>
Cc: Mountain View MVCSP <mvcsp.info@gmail.com>; Anderson, Lauren <Lauren.Anderson@mountainview.gov>; Attinger, Steve <Steve.Attinger@mountainview.gov>; Ramberg, Audrey Seymour <Audrey.Ramberg@mountainview.gov>; Cameron, Dawn <Dawn.Cameron@mountainview.gov>; McCarthy, Kimbra <Kimbra.McCarthy@mountainview.gov>; Glaser, Heather <Heather.Glaser@mountainview.gov>
Subject: MVCSP comments on Sustainability Action Plan 4 Progress Update to City of Mountain View City Council

(formal letter attached)

Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning
c/o Aaron Grossman
817 Montgomery Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

May 11, 2021

City of Mountain View City Council
City Hall, 500 Castro Street
PO Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: 7.1 Sustainability Action Plan 4 Progress Update

Dear Mayor Kamei and City Council members:

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning (MVCSP) appreciates the opportunity to respond to your Sustainability Action Plan 4 Progress Update agenda item on the 11th.

We agree that it makes sense to modify the plan based on changing conditions, priorities, and related efforts. This is expected, and it's the smart way to proceed. For the most part, we agree with the recommendations from Staff, and we commend them on the work they have been doing to bring the plan projects to fruition.

We have reviewed the agenda item materials, and we have the following comments we would like to share with you.

- For the action *Consolidate and update existing plans into a comprehensive wildlife and habitat management plan (P1.2)*, we wonder why this is limited to Shoreline, as the line item implies. While wildlife and habitat management concerns are certainly applicable to the Shoreline area, efforts should be applied across the city. We hope that you will discuss this during your deliberations.
- For the action *Accelerate implementation of active transportation infrastructure projects (T2.17)*, this could be acceptable, and for the reasons cited. However, we would like to hear confirmation that this action will not result in any reduction in projects undertaken to fruition within the active transportation category. Active transportation is, as you know, essential toward our achieving human health and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals for our city.
- The items under *Table 2: Requests for Additional Funding for Actions in SAP-4* and *Table 3: Requests for Funding for Proposed New Actions* all look good to us, and we support all of these requests.
- We agree with the Staff recommendation to not endorse HR 763 and, rather, to adopt a resolution as described in the Council Report, at least in spirit. We understand that some modifications could be made by Council to what Staff proposes given that there are multiple parts to consider. We also agree with Staff's continuing to monitor HR 2307.
- We support adoption of a resolution to achieve all Zero-Emission New Vehicle Sales in California by 2030.
- We are pleased to see Staff consider the ramifications of President Biden's greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 50 to 52 percent by 2030. Mountain View certainly needs to be on top of this right from the beginning.
- Staff has demonstrated great expertise in managing the SAP program, and their requests for having reasonable discretions makes good sense to us. This assumes that regular updates will be provided to the Council Sustainability Committee and the full Council, which will also enable good options for public input.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Bruce England
for the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

cc:

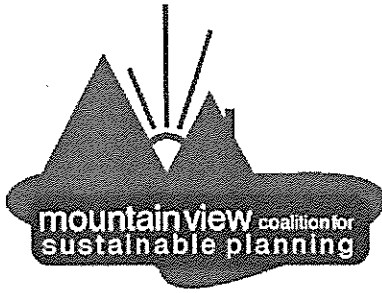
Lauren Anderson, Sustainability Analyst II
Steve Attinger, Sustainability Coordinator
Audrey Seymour Ramberg, Assistant to the City Manager / Chief Operating Officer
Dawn S. Cameron, Public Works Director
Kimbra McCarthy, City Manager
Heather Glaser, City Clerk

About Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning is a local volunteer-based organization dedicated to making Mountain View as beautiful, economically healthy, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian accessible, and affordable as possible. MVCSP member interest and expertise covers areas such as housing, transportation, the environment, the economy, and beyond!

For more information, see <http://www.mvcsp.org>.

To contact us, send email to mvcsp.info@gmail.com.



Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning
c/o Aaron Grossman
817 Montgomery Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

May 11, 2021

City of Mountain View City Council
City Hall, 500 Castro Street
PO Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: 7.1 Sustainability Action Plan 4 Progress Update

Dear Mayor Kamei and City Council members:

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning (MVCSP) appreciates the opportunity to respond to your Sustainability Action Plan 4 Progress Update agenda item on the 11th.

We agree that it makes sense to modify the plan based on changing conditions, priorities, and related efforts. This is expected, and it's the smart way to proceed. For the most part, we agree with the recommendations from Staff, and we commend them on the work they have been doing to bring the plan projects to fruition.

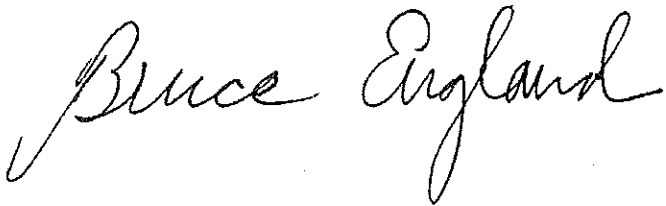
We have reviewed the agenda item materials, and we have the following comments we would like to share with you.

- For the action *Consolidate and update existing plans into a comprehensive wildlife and habitat management plan (P1.2)*, we wonder why this is limited to Shoreline, as the line item implies. While wildlife and habitat management concerns are certainly applicable to the Shoreline area, efforts should be applied across the city. We hope that you will discuss this during your deliberations.
- For the action *Accelerate implementation of active transportation infrastructure projects (T2.17)*, this could be acceptable, and for the reasons cited. However, we would like to hear confirmation that this action will not result in any reduction in projects undertaken to fruition within the active transportation category. Active transportation is, as you know, essential toward our achieving human health and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals for our city.
- The items under *Table 2: Requests for Additional Funding for Actions in SAP-4* and *Table 3: Requests for Funding for Proposed New Actions* all look good to us, and we support all of these requests.

- We agree with the Staff recommendation to not endorse HR 763 and, rather, to adopt a resolution as described in the Council Report, at least in spirit. We understand that some modifications could be made by Council to what Staff proposes given that there are multiple parts to consider. We also agree with Staff's continuing to monitor HR 2307.
- We support adoption of a resolution to achieve all Zero-Emission New Vehicle Sales in California by 2030.
- We are pleased to see Staff consider the ramifications of President Biden's greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 50 to 52 percent by 2030. Mountain View certainly needs to be on top of this right from the beginning.
- Staff has demonstrated great expertise in managing the SAP program, and their requests for having reasonable discretions makes good sense to us. This assumes that regular updates will be provided to the Council Sustainability Committee and the full Council, which will also enable good options for public input.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce England". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bruce England
for the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

cc:

Lauren Anderson, Sustainability Analyst II
Steve Attinger, Sustainability Coordinator
Audrey Seymour Ramberg, Assistant to the City Manager / Chief Operating Officer
Dawn S. Cameron, Public Works Director
Kimbra McCarthy, City Manager
Heather Glaser, City Clerk

About Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning is a local volunteer-based organization dedicated to making Mountain View as beautiful, economically healthy, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian accessible, and affordable as possible. MVCSP member interest and expertise covers areas such as housing, transportation, the environment, the economy, and beyond!

For more information, see <http://www.mvcsp.org>.

To contact us, send email to mvcsp.info@gmail.com.

Gutierrez, Jeannette

From: gor <
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:21 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Glaser, Heather
Subject: Plant-based Diets as Part of the SAP-4 Plan

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Mountainview Council,

My name is Nilang Gor. I am Bay Area resident and Molecular Biologist. I am writing this email to convey my message that I would like Mountain View to follow through with the commitment made in 2019 to promote plant-based diets as part of the SAP-4 plan.

Thanks a lot for your consideration,
Nilang

Gutierrez, Jeannette

From: Ruth Rosenthal
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:24 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Agenda Item 7.1.3: Please Pass a Resolution in support of carbon tax and dividend

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi there,

I live in Mountain View (near Rengstorff Park) and I'm writing tonight regarding agenda item 7.1.3. I urge the city council to adopt a resolution endorsing a national carbon tax and dividend policy.

As you know, climate change directly impacts our community. I'm someone who loves spending time outside and regularly enjoy riding my bike out to the Bay Trail. However, I worry that with the drought and wildfires caused by climate change, my time enjoying outdoors may be lessened in the future if we don't act soon.

I support a national carbon tax and dividend policy because it is effective, and would allow us to get to net zero emissions nationally by 2050. At the same time, this policy would drive the creation of affordable clean energy for businesses and consumers while also putting money in peoples' pockets. This policy would also save lives by dramatically reducing air pollution, which causes as many as 1 in 10 deaths.

Again, I urge you to adopt a resolution endorsing a national carbon tax and dividend policy. Thanks for all that you do for our community.

Best,
Ruth Rosenthal

Gutierrez, Jeannette

From: Mohan Gurunathan ·
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:30 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Comment for City Council meeting 5/11/2021 - Item 7.1: SAP-4 update

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Mountain View City Council,

My name is Mohan Gurunathan, and I am a resident of Mountain View for over 15 years. I spoke to you several times in 2019, and advocated for **Plant-Based Diet promotion efforts** to be included as part of SAP-4. In fact, I previously showed the Council that of all of the actions proposed under SAP-4, **promoting plant-based diets is, by far, THE most cost effective way to reduce our residents' carbon-emissions, dollar for dollar.** My analysis was done using data directly provided by the City's Sustainability team. Please see the table below (which I also presented in 2019).

Task#	Action	Cost/Funding	Annual GHG Reduction (MT CO ₂ e)
S4.7	Develop a resolution and outreach in support of a plant-based diet	\$10,000	2,727
S4.3	Develop Community Climate Solutions platform and conduct outreach	\$35,000	1,625
B2.6	Develop a Building Benchmarking and Disclosure Ordinance	\$250,000	5,050
T7.7	Facilitate an EV and EV charger group buy or discount program.	\$30,000	282
B2.4	Explore a second Energy Upgrade Mountain View type of program.	\$260,000	322
S4.5	Run the Cool Block program in Mountain View neighborhoods	\$125,000	2,344
T6.7	Implement residential TDM program to reduce drive-alone travel	\$150,000	110
B2.5	Develop a City-funded fuel-switching rebate program for homes.	\$160,000	95
T2.16	Implement a Citywide Pilot Bicycle Facilities and Monitoring Program	\$1,500,000	1,235
B4.9	Conduct deep energy/electrification retrofit analysis of City facilities	\$50,000	1,083
P3.1	Expand use of electric landscaping equipment and test new models	\$10,000	0.42
T3.6	Develop rebate program for e-bikes and other mobility devices	\$110,000	84-313
T6.6	Explore development of downtown TDM pilot program.	\$480,000	500
T3.2	Develop guidelines and infrastructure for e-scooter share pilot	\$50,000	19

Following this, Mountain View included a budget of \$30,000 for Plant-based diet promotion as part of SAP-4. This is a drop-in-the-bucket of the total SAP-4 budget, but we were happy to see at least some focus given to the urgent issue of diet change.

However, for the past year and a half, not single activity has been planned, not a single action has been taken to follow through on this commitment to promote sustainable diets. I understand that COVID has thrown a wrench into many plans, we lost a whole year where we could have been teaching our residents more about sustainable eating. There are numerous non-profits and speakers who offer free webinars and cooking courses on the subject; with most of us spending all of 2020 on ZOOM, it was the perfect opportunity to offer webinars to the community, and it would have cost very little. Why does this action continue to be pushed farther and farther out?

We continue to see the City place great emphasis and money on reducing transportation emissions, which is important. However, **globally, the emissions due to animal food production exceeds those of the transportation**

sector. The UN has asserted that there is NO way we can keep global temperature rise below 2 degrees C without a radical shift in dietary choices, particularly in Western countries. Why does this remain such a blind spot for us? Is it because we are afraid to restrict personal choice, and tell people what they should or shouldn't be eating? Well, we seem to be fine to recommend to people what they should and shouldn't drive, right? If we are afraid to talk about the impact of personal lifestyle choices, then we might as well give up entirely; because at present our personal choices are completely unsustainable. At the end of the day, you cannot force anyone to change the way they eat. However, what we *can* do is educate people about the consequences of diet choices, and allow people to make their own decisions. If people understand the gravity of the issue (which they currently do not), many of them would make positive changes.

I urge you to follow through with your commitment to promote sustainable plant-based diets in our City, as quickly as possible. I am connected to many groups that will provide free classes and webinars on this topic, and I am happy to help in any way I can. Thanks for hearing my comment.

Regards,

Mohan Gurunathan

Mountain View Resident