

**From:** [April Austin](#)  
**To:** [City Council FORWARD](#)  
**Cc:** [Advocate@scvas.org](mailto:Advocate@scvas.org); [Giulianna@scvas.org](mailto:Giulianna@scvas.org)  
**Subject:** Item 6.1 Fiscal Year 2021-22 Midyear Budget  
**Date:** Friday, February 18, 2022 3:51:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [MV Budget Roadmap February 2022.pdf](#)

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The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS) is encouraged that the City of Mountain View includes Sustainability and Climate Resiliency as part of the city's seven critical priorities for the Strategic Roadmap Action Plan and that biodiversity is included as a priority for the city. As the City looks to update the Strategic Roadmap Action Plan along with adoption of the Fiscal year 2022-23 Budget in June 2022, we would like to propose a new project for the roadmap to save energy, reduce light pollution and promote dark sky preservation.

Please see our letter attached.

Best regards,  
April D. Austin

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February 22, 2022

Mountain View City Council

Via e-mail: [citycouncil@mountainview.gov](mailto:citycouncil@mountainview.gov)

RE: Strategic Roadmap Action Plan: Request to Add Project to Reduce Light Pollution

Dear Mayor Ramirez and Council Members,

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS) promotes the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of birds and other wildlife by engaging people of all ages in birding, education, and conservation. We are encouraged that the City of Mountain View includes Sustainability and Climate Resiliency as part of the city's seven critical priorities for the Strategic Roadmap Action Plan and that biodiversity is included as a priority for the city. As the City looks to update the Strategic Roadmap Action Plan along with adoption of the Fiscal year 2022-23 Budget in June 2022, we would like to propose a new project for the roadmap to save energy, reduce light pollution and promote dark sky preservation.

Recent science highlights the harmful impacts of Artificial Light At Night (ALAN) on humans, wildlife, and ecosystems<sup>1</sup>. Insects, the basis of many food webs and providers of ecosystem services such as pollination, are especially susceptible<sup>2</sup>. The transition of lighting to LED has been instrumental in reducing energy use per fixture and reduced maintenance costs for lighting fixtures. However, the lower cost seems to have incentivized a substantial increase in outdoor lighting - at a great cost to dark skies and to human and environmental health. It is estimated that more than 80% of the world population (99% of the population from the United States and Europe) lives under light-polluted skies<sup>3</sup>.

The transition toward LED technology has also resulted in an increased ALAN in the blue light spectrum partially due to the use of white LED as the new urban light standard<sup>4</sup>. Blue light interferes with hormonal regulation in plants and animals, causing disease and disrupting daily and seasonal

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iau.org/static/publications/dqskies-book-29-12-20.pdf> and [https://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/homepage/title\\_823811\\_en.html](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/homepage/title_823811_en.html)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/05/can-scientists-help-insects-survive-their-fatal-attraction-light-night>  
<sup>3</sup><https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abi8322> Study finds streetlights have negative effect on moths

[https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S030147971100226X?casa\\_token=Q0yOZwA\\_NwkAAA:AA:29yr7y25mlkkfBHXbvVsqYbOwHCJo1QU5ztHbP\\_rlGUYUAmFBLTZQIzrG06L2IGz9GRvnfx](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S030147971100226X?casa_token=Q0yOZwA_NwkAAA:AA:29yr7y25mlkkfBHXbvVsqYbOwHCJo1QU5ztHbP_rlGUYUAmFBLTZQIzrG06L2IGz9GRvnfx) ;  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27386582/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5699900/>

physiological responses and behaviors. A link between indoor LED lighting in the blue wavelength and hormonal cancers<sup>5</sup> (thyroid, prostate, breast cancer) in humans, and mental health and sleeping disorders in teens is well established<sup>6</sup>. There is indication that these ailments are associated with outdoor lighting as well<sup>7</sup>.

At least 19 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have laws in place to reduce light pollution<sup>8</sup>. The majority of states that have enacted so-called “dark skies” legislation have done so to promote energy conservation, public safety, aesthetic interests or astronomical research capabilities. Municipalities in a number of states have also been active on this issue, adopting light pollution regulations as part of their zoning codes. Cities across the country, however, are taking action to reduce ALAN to protect wildlife, humans, and our night skies. Just last year, the City of Cupertino passed a dark sky and bird safe design ordinance to regulate the where, when, and how of residential lighting and reduce blue lighting<sup>9</sup>. Salt Lake City recently passed a Street Lighting Master Plan to balance healthy wildlife, preserving night skies, and ensuring public safety<sup>10</sup>.

We hope City of Mountain View prioritizes regulation of lighting for private and/or public property to:

- Remove minimum lighting requirements for private and public properties and development,
- Utilize lighting zones to set maximum permissible Correlated Color Temperature (CCT): 2,700 Kelvin (K) as a maximum in commercial zones, 2,400K as a maximum in residential zones, and 2,200K as a maximum in open space and industrial zones near sensitive habitats
- Require dimming and/or timers and motion sensors as part of the lighting control systems for all fixtures,
- Follow the IDA resolution for additional outdoor lighting guidelines<sup>11</sup>.

We hope this priority can be added to the Strategic Roadmap Action Plan update, as it would align with City goals to prioritize livability, biodiversity, quality of life and sustainability and climate resilience.

Thank you for your consideration,

Giulianna Pendelton,  
Environmental Advocacy Assistant  
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society  
giulianna@scvas.org

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<sup>5</sup> <https://time.com/5033099/light-pollution-health/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5454613/> and <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6071739/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/outdoor-light-linked-teens-sleep-mental-health#> And <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5454613/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ncsl.org/research/environment-and-natural-resources/states-shut-out-light-pollution.aspx>

<sup>9</sup> [https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/cupertino/latest/cupertino\\_ca/0-0-0-96591#JD\\_Chapter19.102](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/cupertino/latest/cupertino_ca/0-0-0-96591#JD_Chapter19.102)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.slc.gov/utilities/street-lights/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/values-centered-outdoor-lighting/>

**From:** [Serge Bonte](#)  
**To:** [City Council FORWARD](#); [Abe-Koga, Margaret](#); [Kamei, Ellen](#); [Ramirez, Lucas](#); [Lieber, Sally](#); [Matichak, Lisa](#); [Hicks, Alison](#); [Showalter, Pat](#)  
**Cc:** [McCarthy, Kimbra](#)  
**Subject:** re: Agenda Item 6,1 Fiscal Year 2021-22 Midyear Budget Status Report etc...  
**Date:** Monday, February 21, 2022 4:57:34 PM

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

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members:

I am writing with a question about Mountain View's UUT for electricity services:

The staff report states that ...

"UUT generated from energy services is trending slightly higher than budget, primarily from an increase in PG&E and smaller energy providers, offset by lower-than-projected revenue from Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE)."

My understanding is that even for SVCE customers , UUT is collected by PG&E with a breakdown of UUT costs per electricity provider (SVCE or PG&E). My understanding is also that the generation costs for SCVE are nearly identical to PG&E (1% less for most SVCE customers and few bucks more for SVCE Green Prime customers -like the City of Mountain View).

So my question is how the projected revenue can ever be lower from SVCE than from PG&E?

Maybe the statement was based on PG&E upcoming (March 1, 2022) 8-9% generation rate increase, While SVCE will cleverly mention that their rate will remain 1% below PG&E, rest assured that the SVCE Board made sure their customers -most of us- will see a similar inflationary jump of 8-9%. In short, UUT revenues from electricity service from SVCE or PG&E will go up in unison after March 1, 2022.

Sincerely,

Serge Bonte  
Lloyd Way , Mountain View

PS: And yes, the increase in electricity costs will be shocking to many residents (not the least to the beneficiaries of the guaranteed income program you're about to adopt).