

From: [Maya Briones](#)
To: [City Council FORWARD](#)
Cc: [Catherine Martineau](#); [Holly Pearson](#); [Christie Galitsky](#); [, City Manager](#); [Marchant, John](#); [Sylvia, Brenda](#)
Subject: Proposed Legislative Platform Comments
Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 2:04:37 PM
Attachments: [Canopy Comments Mountain View Legislative platform version #2 letterhead.pdf](#)

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Hello,

I am the Advocacy Associate for Canopy, a local urban forestry nonprofit that plants and cares for trees in midpeninsula communities. I have three of my colleagues cc'd here: Catherine Martineau, Executive Director, Christy Galitsky, Senior Director of Programs, and Holly Pearson, our Advocacy Committee chair.

Attached is a letter with our comments regarding the city's proposed legislative platform. Please share this letter with the city council for the February 8th council meeting.

Thank you!

Best regards,

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Maya Briones (she/her)

Advocacy Associate

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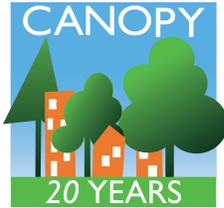
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Working Part-time Remotely M-F

Please note that I work part-time and may not respond to emails right away.



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City of Mountain View
Proposed 2022 Legislative Platform
Canopy's Comments Related to Trees
2-8-2022

February 8, 2022

Re: Agenda Item #4.3 Adoption of Legislative Platform for 2022

Dear Mayor Lucas Ramirez, Vice Mayor Alison Hicks, and members of the City Council,

Canopy deeply appreciates the City Council and Staff's commitment to making Mountain View a great community for all. A vibrant urban forest throughout the City helps ensure everyone in the community can experience the physical and mental health, climate, social and economic benefits of trees. We at Canopy understand the agenda item "Adoption of Legislative Platform for 2022" is on the consent calendar, and respectfully submit the following comments for the City Council to consider in the next opportunity when the Legislative Program Platform is revised.

Canopy believes a healthy urban forest is a key element of the first six of the seven City Council Strategic Priorities, and urban forest directly supports seven of the eleven legislative platform issue areas (C, E, F, G, H, I and K). However, there is only one reference to "tree" (and no reference to "forest" or "plant") in the latest redline version of the legislative platform document. Therefore, we recommend the City Council consider adding language to support urban forestry in these six issue areas (see recommendations below).

In addition, we would like to highlight a few important State funding opportunities for cities like Mountain View to invest in community forestry programs. According to California ReLeaf, a statewide urban forestry advocacy organization, last fall's proposed **State commitment to urban forestry funding of \$280 million** to CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry Program and California Natural Resources Agency's Urban Greening Program over three years (2021-23) would double the dollars that both programs received over the six years prior. More funding opportunity details are below.

Recommendations on Legislative Platform Statements for Urban Forestry

C. Housing and Community Development: Canopy recommends support for legislation and funding to enable the City to implement community forestry and urban greening

programs, develop nature-filled neighborhoods, and support the City's goal of Livability and Quality of Life.

E. Economic Development: Canopy recommends support for legislation and funding to enable workforce training and job growth in arboriculture and urban forestry, and to help meet the City's goal of Economic Vitality. Canopy also recommends adding to #2 "...schools, and tree lined streets around retail areas to support vitality and increase traffic and length of stay, as well as other needs".

F. Environmental, Climate Change, and Sustainability: Canopy recommends amending #5 to read: Support funding related to expanding the tree canopy for carbon sequestration, *cleaner air, heat island reduction, and many other environmental benefits, as a nature-based climate solution.*

G. Water Quality and Water Supply: Canopy recommends support for legislation and funding to enable the City to implement urban greening and green infrastructure projects that improve water quality, protect creeks and waterways, reduce stormwater runoffs, and decrease the flow of polluted water into the Bay.

H. Natural Hazard: Canopy recommends support for legislation and funding to enable the City to implement urban greening programs to mitigate the effects of extreme heat and wildfire smoke, and safeguard residents' health.

I. Recreation and Parks: Canopy recommends adding "urban forest" to #1.

K. Transportation and Public Works: Canopy welcomes the addition of #17 to implement "slow, green, and shared-used street networks", which can help establish green corridors in support of the City's goal of Mobility and Connectivity.

State Funding Opportunities for Urban Forestry

Below is a list of State funding opportunities, compiled by California ReLeaf in October 2021, subject to change, edited by Canopy for inclusion in this letter:

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Urban and Community Forestry Program: \$130M (estimate, 2021-23)
- California Natural Resources Agency's Urban Greening Grant Program: \$150M (estimate, 2021-23)
- California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) Active Transportation Program: \$440M (estimate, 2021-24)
 - Connection to Urban Forestry: Trees and other vegetation are significant components of several eligible projects under the ATP, including parks, trails, and safe-routes-to-schools
- Strategic Growth Council's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC): unknown amount (2022-23)

- Connection to Urban Forestry: Urban Greening is a threshold requirement for all AHSC funded projects
- Statewide Park Program: \$155M (estimate, 2021-22)
 - Connection to Urban Forestry: Trees as a component of park creation, expansion and renovation
- Urban River & Waterways: 154M (estimate, 2021-22)
 - Connection to Urban Forestry: Trees could be a component of a broader project
- SB 155, Section 54: \$100M (estimate, 2022-24) available to the Office of Planning and Research, through the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program
 - Connection to Urban Forestry: Natural shade to mitigate extreme heat and heat island
- SB 155, Section 49: \$300M (estimate, 2022-24)
 - Connection to Urban Forestry: Nature-based solution to reduce heat along key active transportation corridor, in low-income or heat-vulnerable communities
- SB 155, Section 51: \$768M (estimate, 2022-24) available to Natural Resources Agency
 - Connection to Urban Forestry: Nature-based climate solutions

Thank you for your attention to these comments. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the City of Mountain View in our community forestry efforts.

Best regards,



Catherine Martineau
Executive Director
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CC:

Kimbra McCarthy, City Manager
John Marchant, Director of the Community Services
Brenda Sylvia, Assistant Director of Community Services