



SIERRA CLUB

LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

January 17, 2023

Via email to: Cupertino City Council (citycouncil@cupertino.org), Mayor Hung Wei, Pamela Wu, City Manager (citymanager@cupertino.org), Andre Duurvort, Sustainability Manager (AndreD@cupertino.org), Gilee Corral, Climate & Utilities Analyst (GileeC@cupertino.org)

Cc: Kirsten Squarcia, City Clerk (kirstens@cupertino.org)

Subject: Review of City Hall Decision of November 15, 2022

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter requests that the City of Cupertino re-examine its decision of November 15, 2022 to restore the City Hall to conform to current seismic standards, and not consider climate-related impacts.

In coming to this decision, neither the council discussions nor the staff report even mentioned the climate goals the City has set for itself or provided a life-cycle cost-benefit analysis of the proposed restored building versus new construction. The materials used in construction have a climate impact. While reuse of an existing building may be inherently a sustainable approach, the City should also consider life-cycle emissions. Of course, some portions of the existing facility, such as the basement, might be repurposed for a new building. The LEED standards developed by USGBC provide valuable information to achieve a green building.

The City's recent commitments are identified and should be reflected in the City Hall decision:

- The City's website states that the goal to achieve carbon-neutrality in City owned facilities and operation no later than 2030,
- The City's Climate Action Plan 2.0¹ specifically identifies the need to achieve the City's target of carbon neutrality by 2040,
- Furthermore, on September 18, 2018² the City declared a climate emergency in Resolution No.18-094 stating the emergency declaration to halt greenhouse gas emissions at the local level. Councilmember Darcy Paul, at the time stated "I am really glad that we are declaring a climate emergency...this is extremely critically important for not just our community but for the planet and it is something that I'm very glad to bring forward to the community."

¹ City of Cupertino Climate Action Plan 2.0 – August 16, 2022, page 12

² City of Cupertino Climate Action Plan – 2018 Progress Report, page 1

Whether the City decides to achieve its climate objectives by restoration of the current City Hall or construction of a new City Hall, is not the business of the Sierra Club. However, the Club would like to identify some important factors that have apparently not been considered and need attention before a final decision should be made:

- A new City Hall could be designed to take advantage of sunlight heating and natural shading and ventilation for cooling as the new Sunnyvale City Hall does,
- A life-cycle cost benefit analysis will reveal whether having a net-zero building, which could operate independent of external electricity and minimize water consumption, will cost less to operate during the life of the building,
- It is likely that during the next couple of decades, natural gas will not be available in Santa Clara Valley, thus, buildings that depend on it will need to be retrofitted to be heated by electricity.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter,



Gladwyn d'Souza
Conservation Committee Chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter



Gary Latshaw
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Guadalupe Regional Group Chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Cc:
James Eggers
Executive Director
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