



Santa Clara Valley Chapter
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



March 12, 2021

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

In reviewing the documents for the second round of priority setting, and in acknowledgement of scant City resources, we ask that the Council prioritize the following two initiatives:

RR5: Urban Greening Implementation Plan. As stated in Councilmember Davis' January 20 memo to Rules Committee, to realize the climate resilience, biodiversity and community benefits called for in existing City plans and policies such as the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan, San Jose must begin to prioritize, design, and fund the construction of green streets and other urban greening and native planting elements. Having elements of nature where people live and work improves both their physical and mental health.

NP10: Encampment Management Strategy. In community meetings in every one of San Jose's ten districts, we hear the anguish as residents struggle with the pandemic and hope for recovery. We also hear their dismay as trash accumulates in their neighborhoods, parks, and waterways. Homelessness is on everyone's mind.

The ongoing efforts to manage encampments and to clean San Jose waterways have only scratched the surface of the problem, and the resulting impacts to residents, the unhoused, wildlife, San Jose waterways and the San Francisco Bay are tragic. We strongly support a comprehensive management strategy to focus on:

- Improving on-the-ground conditions for unhoused residents living in encampments, potentially including but not limited to basic hygienic services, trash removal, and social services.
- Improving protection of and access to sensitive public spaces and community institutions including creeks, Infrastructure, trails, and schools, while being sensitive to the voices and lived experience of unhoused residents. This needs to

be accomplished without criminalizing homelessness by undertaking policies instituted in other communities such as Oakland and Sacramento.

Respectfully,

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