



SIERRA CLUB

LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

December 13th, 2022

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110

RE: Agenda Item 30, Establishing a County Sustainability Commission

Dear Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors,

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter asks that the Board consider our suggestions which we made back in 2021:

- 1. We support the establishment of a Sustainability Commission and we urge the County to accelerate the pace of its formation.**
- 2. We renew our calls for Santa Clara County to increase the funding, staffing and autonomy of the Office of Sustainability (OOS).**
- 3. We renew our calls for the Board of Supervisors to partner with the Santa Clara County Office of Education to support comprehensive environmental education for students in the County.**

1: The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter supports the establishment of a Sustainability Commission in Santa Clara County. It has been over a year since the Board voted to start this process, and we urge the Board to move quickly to create the Commission.

2: In our [October 4th 2021 letter](#) to the Board in support of the Sustainability Commission, we called for the board to “further empower the Office of Sustainability through increased funding, staffing and autonomy.” As of today, Santa Clara County’s OOS remains under-funded and under-staffed relative to San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, despite having a larger population. We are glad to see that new staff positions have been created to help support the Commission, but this is not enough. As we stated in 2021, “the urgency and gravity of the climate requires significant investment across broad sectors of Santa Clara County’s infrastructure, economy, ecosystems and community.”

3: In our [November 4th 2021 letter](#) to the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) we encouraged SCCOE to formalize the partnership with the Board of Supervisors to develop comprehensive environmental education programs with opportunities for students to get involved. Students who have knowledge of their local ecology and the climate crisis will be able to make more effective life choices in our rapidly changing world. An informed public is critical to the County’s success in climate action and ecosystem protection.

Sincerely,

Dashiell Leeds
Conservation Organizer
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter