



February 24th, 2018

Re: Climate Smart San José Plan

Dear Mayor Liccardo and San Jose Councilmembers,

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter and Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society recognize that San Jose's Climate Smart Plan (Plan) takes an important and significant step toward meeting the City's commitment to achieve climate goals articulated in the Paris Agreement. As described in the joint letter (February 23, 2018), we believe that meeting the Paris Agreement's challenging goals will take every strategy available to San Jose including strategies for conservation, restoration, and management of the City's natural and working lands (NWL), accounting for nearly one third of the City's landscape. We maintain that the Plan lays out a set of sensible strategies focusing on infill development, energy, water and mobility, but is incomplete in analyzing, identifying, and articulating strategies to avoid development on NWL.

In Section 1.2, Topics for Future Consideration, the Climate Smart Plan provides a starting point for addressing NWL as well as solid waste, wastewater, and water associated GHG emissions. We ask Council to make small but important changes to Section 1.2 to make clear the City's commitment to the remaining work necessary to complete the Plan and increase the certainty that the City meets its climate goals.

We request Council Support for the following changes to the section titled, 'Topics for Future Consideration', Pages 48 and 49 of the Plan:

Paragraph 1, page 48: change to paragraph 1 *to add* the following:

- Council *originally* directed that The Plan focus on reducing GHG emissions, related to energy and mobility, and ensuring sustainable water supply. *In the course of developing the Draft Plan, expert input underscored the importance of fully considering additional strategies associated with the conservation and management of the City's NWL, solid waste, wastewater, and potable water. While the plan puts the community on a pathway toward meeting Paris Agreement goals, additional strategies to reduce GHG emissions by avoiding development of NWL and preserving the opportunity to apply future advancements in carbon sequestration practices and improved technology associated with NWL will be required to ensure that the City meets its*

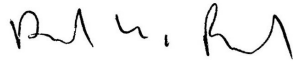
obligations under the Paris Agreement aspirations to keep the rise in average global temperature to below 1.5 degrees C.

Paragraph 5: Carbon Sequestration. Change heading to Carbon Sequestration *and Avoided Emissions*

Add to Spatially-Explicit Analysis of NWL: The City will partner with academia and other stakeholders to build upon research done by the state to quantify GHG emission impacts and benefits from NWL and include this information in the Plan.

- Finally, add to Additional Co-Benefits section at page 49. These may include health and well-being, *conservation of wildlife habitat, and economic* benefits associated with NWL, *adaptation, climate resiliency, green-infrastructure, and trees.*

We again congratulate the City of San Jose on taking the first step in mitigating the threat posed by climate change. Including a thorough and meaningful analysis of the importance of natural and working lands is critical in this effort.
We thank you for your attention,



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