



# SIERRA CLUB

LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

March 4, 2022

City of San Mateo  
330 W 20th Ave  
San Mateo, CA 94403

RE: Agenda Item 21. City Council Strategic Plan - Adoption

Dear Mayor Bonilla and San Mateo City Councilmembers,

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter supports San Mateo's objectives which aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and remove fossil fuels from buildings. Fossil fuels, and gas use in buildings in particular, are a major contributor to climate change and a significant infrastructure, cost and health liability to the City and community. The Loma Prieta Chapter applauds San Mateo's goal to phase out fossil fuels, and we hope you adopt the City Council Strategic Plan for FY 2022-2023, including strategic initiatives 27 and 28.

**"27. Establish policies to decarbonize existing buildings and infrastructure and eliminate methane gas use by 2030.**

**28. Implement the Climate Action Plan and work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."**<sup>1</sup>

As San Mateo moves forward with its decarbonization initiatives, it should do so in a manner that embraces the need for community education and equity protections. The City should educate residents and businesses about electrification and the need for rapid decarbonization. San Mateo should also develop a workforce capable of making this transition by educating them on the most updated decarbonization methods and technologies, with special attention to workers in the buildings sector. The City should explore funding avenues and policy solutions (such as rebates and anti-displacement policies) to support electrification programs and policies with strong equity protections.

Sincerely,

Dashiell Leeds  
Conservation Organizer  
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

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<sup>1</sup> Initiative text from the San Mateo City Council Strategic Plan. Council Focus Area: Framing the Future. Strategic Initiatives: Social Leadership.