



SIERRA CLUB

LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Benito Counties

October 4, 2021

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
70 West Hedding Street, East Wing, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Via email to:

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Cindy.Chavez@bos.sccgov.org

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Cc: clerkrecorder@rec.sccgov.org

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RE: Agenda Item 12, Approve referral to Administration and County Counsel to report to the Board with options for consideration to establish a Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission.

Dear Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors,

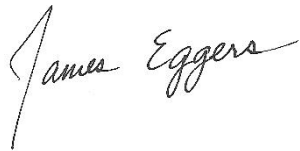
The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter strongly supports creation of a Sustainability Commission in Santa Clara County. We hope the Board approves Supervisor Lee's referral which calls on the Administration to report to the Board on potential courses of action for the creation of a Sustainability Commission. When these recommendations return to the Board, we hope you act on these recommendations to create the Sustainability Commission as soon as possible. This Commission could have a key role to play in advising and supporting the Office of Sustainability as it takes the necessary climate action to protect Santa Clara residents from the devastating impacts of climate change and to secure a habitable planet for future generations.

Creating a Sustainability Commission is one of many steps the Board of Supervisors should take to empower the Office of Sustainability. Moving forward, the Board should explore ways to further empower the Office of Sustainability through increased funding, staffing and autonomy. The urgency and gravity of the climate requires significant investment across broad sectors of Santa Clara County's infrastructure, economy, ecosystems and community. Furthermore, we believe that Santa Clara County has a significant role to play in supporting sustainability staff in member cities. To meet its climate goals, Santa Clara County should empower its Office of Sustainability with resources that match these needs.

Ecosystems cannot speak for themselves, so it is imperative that the County prioritize habitat restoration, protection and expansion in its charter for this Commission. We hope that as Santa Clara County continues its sustainability efforts, that it remains receptive to the Sierra Club and collaborative organizations such as the Santa Clara Youth Climate Action Team. With proper stakeholder engagement, this Commission can provide the support necessary for climate policies that equitably protect our ecosystems and community members.

Thank you for considering this important step forward. The Loma Prieta Chapter will continue to support Santa Clara County in rising to meet the challenges of climate change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Eggers".

James Eggers
Executive Director
Loma Prieta Chapter Sierra Club

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristel Wickham".

Kristel Wickham
Climate Action Leadership Team Chair
Loma Prieta Chapter Sierra Club

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