

From: Kristie Eglsaer < >

Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 9:21 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Diane Papan <dpapan@cityofsanmateo.org>; Eric Rodriguez <erodriguez@cityofsanmateo.org>; Joe Goethals <jgoethals@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rick Bonilla <RBonilla@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Public comment in support of decarbonization

Dear City Council,

Ahead of your 4/4 meeting, I am writing in support of the Council formally adopting the decarbonization draft objective for FY2022-23: "Establish policies to decarbonize existing buildings and infrastructure. Eliminate methane gas by 2030."

I am very much in favor of the switch from gas to electric. Last summer we had a gas leak at the duplex where we rent. Fortunately we just happened to open the door where the meters are and smelled it and the company came out right away.

And in the apartment complex where my mother lives she's had two gas leaks in the last year and been awoken by her carbon monoxide detector going off in the middle of the night.

Neither of us are able to make the choice to switch from gas to electric on our own since we rent.

Challenges

I understand these types of policy decisions are complex.

For the idea to actually be implemented, I encourage the city to anticipate and get ahead of challenges to implementation.

Support Workforce Development

There is a skilled labor shortage. It would be great for the city to explore ways to support workforce development like supporting job training programs starting in high school or providing child care support for those in training or on the job. Also, the city could allow trainees to get hands-on on-the-job training during Public Works and other city projects.

Find Funding

San Mateo should also explore grants from state or federal entities to support electrification. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill includes funds to update the aging grid, install electric vehicle charging stations and support electrification. This may require a local match in order to be eligible to receive a grant.

Communicating what rebate programs exist that homeowners and building owners can tap into would also be very helpful.

Aging Electrical Grid, Reduce Demand and Retrofit

Palo Alto is facing the challenge of an aging electrical grid to meet their climate goals:

<https://www.paloaltoonline.com/print/story/2022/03/11/can-citys-aged-electric-grid-handle-climate-change-goals>

San Mateo might not have this issue, but even if it does, just because decarbonization needs a more modern grid does not mean it shouldn't happen or that the policy should get the blame for the need to update a half-century old grid.

In addition to investments for updating the grid, Palo Alto is considering switching to advanced metering infrastructure, or smart meters, to help reduce peak demand.

San Mateo could also explore encouraging things like retrofitting older buildings so they use less energy in general.

I look forward to the city supporting the decarbonization objective.

Thank you for considering my comments!

Sincerely,

Kristie Eglsaer
San Mateo resident
Baywood neighborhood

From: D and M Shintani

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 10:37 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: For 4/4 meeting: Decarbonize existing buildings and infrastructure and eliminate methane gas use by 2030

Dear Mayor Bonilla, Deputy Mayor Papan, Council Member Goethals, Council Member Lee, Council Member Rodriguez and City Staff,

It is my understanding that at your upcoming April 4th City Council meeting, the Consent Calendar will include a proposed action item to formally adopt City objectives for FY2022-23. I have two requests:

1. I respectfully request that the City Council **pull the City objectives item from the consent calendar**. At least one of the proposed objectives – decarbonization – is so significant that additional discussion is necessary.
2. I respectively call upon the City Council to approve the proposed objective to “**Establish policies to decarbonize existing buildings and infrastructure. Eliminate methane gas use by 2030.**”

Decarbonization of existing buildings and infrastructure requires extensive, focused public outreach to community groups, residents, and businesses of San Mateo. An informed decision that includes workable electrification actions will be strong and enduring. I therefore request that significant, additional staff time, budget resources and Council interest be devoted to extensive public outreach to all community members.

I believe that many San Mateo residents and businesses are ready to make the switch from fossil fuel use to all-electric. However, residents and business owners wanting to make the switch may have difficulty understanding the relevant challenges and solutions. That is why I believe that it is necessary for City staff to support the following roadmap for success in this transition:

- **Educate** residents and businesses about electrification – including health impacts from no action, and alternatives for new appliances and equipment.
- **Assess** existing buildings’ energy usage and electrification capabilities, to be prepared for the switch to all-electric.
- **Find funding** mechanisms to pay for all-electric, such as rebates, on bill financing, grants, and other workable funding solutions.
- **Avoid stranded assets** – anything not electric now will become obsolete very quickly. At least 2,000 gas water heaters fail every year in San Mateo. Replacing even one water heater or one gas furnace with another gas unit extends climate-change-causing Carbon Dioxide, Methane and Nitrous Oxide emissions for 12-15 years. The world does not have that much time
- **Develop a strong workforce** – electrification will need many trained workers and savvy contractors.

Thank you for your consideration of the above requests, and for your tremendous leadership in developing local solutions to the climate crisis.

Sincerely,

Dale Shintani, Resident of San Mateo

From: Claire < >

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 10:40 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: For 04/04 Meeting: Establish Policies to Decarbonize Existing Buildings and Infrastructure, Eliminate Methane Gas Use

Dear Mayor Bonilla, Deputy Mayor Papan, Council Member Goethals, Council Member Lee, Council Member Rodriguez and City Staff,

It is my understanding that at your upcoming April 4th City Council meeting, the Consent Calendar will include a proposed action item to formally adopt City objectives for FY2022-23. I have two requests:

1. I respectfully request that the City Council **pull the City objectives item from the consent calendar**. At least one of the proposed objectives – decarbonization – is so significant that additional discussion is necessary.
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- **Develop a strong workforce** – electrification will need many trained workers and savvy contractors.

Thank you for your consideration of the above requests, and for your tremendous leadership in developing local solutions to the climate crisis.

Sincerely,
Claire Shintani, Resident of San Mateo

From: Dashiell Leeds < >

Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 5:40 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; City Mgr <citymgr@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Barbara Kelsey < >; James Eggers < >; Gladwyn D'Souza < >; Mike Ferreira < >

Subject: SCLP letter to City of San Mateo regarding the City Council Strategic Plan

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.

Please see the attached letter for our full comments.

Sincerely,

Dashiell Leeds

Conservation Organizer

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."¹

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dashiell Leeds", is placed within a light gray rectangular box.

Dashiell Leeds
Conservation Organizer
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

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