
From: Diane Solomon [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2024 1:00 PM
To: TEPublicComment
Cc: Smith, Ryan; Laveroni, Kyle
Subject: October Seventh BPAC Public Comment (d)(1) CC 24-395 Climate Smart San José Plan Semi-Annual Report

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(d) Reports to Committee

[1] CC 24-395 Climate Smart San José Plan Semi-Annual Report

Good afternoon, I'm Diane Solomon, I'm here on behalf of your Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

First, we appreciate and support our City's Climate Smart Plan's initiatives. Last year we were especially pleased to see on the "October 2023 Climate Smart San José Plan Report" the inclusion of Bike Plan 2025 and "Bike Share Service Expansion".

Although "bike share service expansion" was specified on last year's report, today, per our City's online map of bike share sites, other than three stations near Berryessa Bart, we notice no meaningful bike share service sites on San José's East Side. No bike share sites are shown at the Eastridge Shopping Center, SJCC, Evergreen Valley College or San Jose's underserved South Side. We ask our City to remedy this. This is a Plan goal.

Second, please prioritize the Transit First initiatives and the implementation of Bike Plan 2025, which aligns with this Plan.

Third, please continue to remove parking spaces, where possible, to encourage greener forms of transportation within our City. This aligns with our City's Transit First, Bike Plan 2025 initiatives, and this Plan's ultimate goal.

Lastly, we ask you to continue to decrease Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) within our City. You can do this, and do it quicker, if you prioritize building out the bicycle network and making this network's funding a priority.

Thank you for your consideration and for making San José a great place to live.

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FW: Public Comment Agenda Item 6.1 City Council Meeting 10/29

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 10/28/2024 7:37 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Celine Sims <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, October 27, 2024 8:09 PM
To: District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item 6.1 City Council Meeting 10/29

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Hello Mayor Mahan and City Council,

My name is Celine Sims and I am a student [REDACTED] and a resident of City Council District 5. I am 11 years old. I am writing to you because I am greatly concerned by last year's cuts to the Climate Smart San José budget. Climate change is an urgent threat to the future of my generation, and we must invest in solutions to address this crisis, especially if we are to meet our 2030 goals for net zero greenhouse gas emissions. This Climate Smart update shows the incredible progress that the program has made so far, but as the memo to Council states, "*continued City investment and focus are necessary to reach those goals.*" The Climate Smart San Jose Programs are critical to our communities and will inform the public about the climate crisis. We cannot cut the budget if we are going to meet our 2030 goals. Please demonstrate your support for a stabilized and livable climate for my generation's future and **prioritize full or increased funding for Climate Smart San José in next year's budget. Please also consider increasing the capacity of the Environmental Services Division by increasing the number of staff in the department who can go out into the community to engage them in Climate Smart San Jose programs.**

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Celine Sims
[Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action](#)

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FW: Public Comment Agenda Item 6.1 City Council Meeting 10/29

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 10/28/2024 7:37 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Amari Sims <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, October 27, 2024 8:10 PM
To: District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item 6.1 City Council Meeting 10/29

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Hello Mayor Mahan and City Council,

My name is Amari Sims and I am a student [REDACTED] and a resident of City Council District 5. I am 13 years old. I am writing to you because I am greatly concerned by last year's cuts to the Climate Smart San José budget. Climate change is an urgent threat to the future of my generation, and we must invest in solutions to address this crisis, especially if we are to meet our 2030 goals for net zero greenhouse gas emissions. This Climate Smart update shows the incredible progress that the program has made so far, but as the memo to Council states, "*continued City investment and focus are necessary to reach those goals.*" The Climate Smart San Jose Programs are critical to our communities and will inform the public about the climate crisis. We cannot cut the budget if we are going to meet our 2030 goals. Please demonstrate your support for a stabilized and livable climate for my generation's future and **prioritize full or increased funding for Climate Smart San José in next year's budget. Please also consider increasing the capacity of the Environmental Services Division by increasing the number of staff in the department who can go out into the community to engage them in Climate Smart San Jose programs.**

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Amari Sims
[Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action](#)

FW: Public Comment Agenda Item 6.1 City Council Meeting 10/29

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 10/28/2024 7:37 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Mani Bekele [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 27, 2024 8:16 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item 6.1 City Council Meeting 10/29

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Hello Mayor Mahan and City Council,

My name is Mani Bekele and I am a high school student from Downtown San Jose and a co-lead of Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action's San José Team. I am writing to you because I am greatly concerned by last year's cuts to the Climate Smart San José budget. Climate change is an urgent threat to the future of my generation, and we must invest in solutions to address this crisis, especially if we are to meet our 2030 goals for net zero greenhouse gas emissions. This Climate Smart semi-annual update shows the incredible progress that the program has made so far, but as the memo to Council states, "*continued City investment and focus are necessary to reach those goals.*"

Ever since the devastating wildfires of 2020, I've made it a habit to check the air quality regularly and whenever I smell smoke. The air quality map has a special metric to help visualize how healthy or unhealthy the air is: expressed as number of cigarettes smoked daily. Whenever even fairly small amounts of wildfire smoke blow into San José, this metric grows to 1, 2, or even more cigarettes. This is disturbing to me. I don't want my future to have any more periods of time when just breathing the air outside exposes you to as much pollution as if you are smoking. Strong and rapid climate action is key to preventing this future.

Our city has already experienced the devastating effects of a changing climate, and things are only getting worse. However, we have it in our power to determine *how* much worse. Every investment we make in our climate response is an investment into our future economy to prevent damage to infrastructure and livelihoods, an investment into our environment to preserve our neighboring habitats and those around the world. Most importantly, it is an investment into our city's children, safeguarding our future from destabilizing climate change and protecting our city from major wildfires, unbreathable air, and large flooding events.

Please demonstrate your support for a stabilized and livable climate for my generation's future and **prioritize full or increased funding for Climate Smart San José in next year's budget.** Please also consider **increasing the capacity of the Environmental Services Division** to implement the Climate Smart San Jose Plan by increasing the number of staff in the department who can go out into the community to educate and work with us. My organization looks forward to working with you to reach our climate goals with the urgency we all know is required.

Thank you for your consideration,
Mani Bekele, D3

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FW: Public Comment Agenda Item 6.1 City Council Meeting 10/29

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 10/28/2024 7:37 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: jeffer Razai <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, October 27, 2024 10:00 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item 6.1 City Council Meeting 10/29

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Hello Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers,

My name is Jeffer Razai and I am a student [REDACTED] and a resident of the City Council District. 8. I am writing to you because I am greatly concerned by last year's cuts to the Climate Smart San José budget. Climate change is an urgent threat to the future of my generation, and we must invest in solutions to address this crisis, especially if we are to meet our 2030 goals for net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

This Climate Smart update shows the incredible progress that the program has made so far, but as the memo to Council states, "*continued City investment and focus are necessary to reach those goals.*" The Climate Smart San José program has been instrumental in spearheading initiatives to reduce emissions, conserve water, and improve energy efficiency across the city. It has brought cleaner transportation options, enhanced green spaces, and supported sustainable urban planning.

This issue is not only one of environmental urgency but of community well-being, as these climate effects increasingly impact residents' health, safety, and financial stability. Please demonstrate your support for a stabilized and livable climate for my generation's future and **prioritize full or increased funding for Climate Smart San José in next year's budget.**

Thank you,
Jeffer Razai

FW: Climate Smart Funding

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Mon 10/28/2024 7:39 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Carino, Nora <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, October 27, 2024 10:38 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Climate Smart Funding

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Hello Mayor Mahan and City Council,

My name is Nora Carino and I am a student [REDACTED] and a resident of City Council District 10. I am writing to you because I am greatly concerned by last year's cuts to the Climate Smart San José budget. Climate change is an urgent threat to the future of my generation, and we must invest in solutions to address this crisis, especially if we are to meet our 2030 goals for net zero greenhouse gas emissions. This Climate Smart update shows the incredible progress that the program has made so far, but as the memo to Council states, "*continued City investment and focus are necessary to reach those goals.*"

Citizens of San Jose continue to live in uncertainty with the threat of climate change and many have been personally affected. This fall, there were multiple heatwaves in which I had my after school practices canceled because of the dangerous temperatures and air quality. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues we face today and we must take action now. Environmental stability is a human right and we shouldn't have to worry about a livable future.

Please demonstrate your support for a stabilized and livable climate for my generation's future and prioritize full or increased funding for Climate Smart San José in next year's budget. Please also consider increasing the capacity of the Environmental Services Division to implement the Climate Smart San Jose Plan by increasing the number of staff in the department who can go out into the community to educate and work with us.

Thank you,
Nora Carino D10

FW: Item 6.1: Please plan to increase funding for San José's Climate Smart program

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 10/29/2024 8:04 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachments (78 KB)

Letter to SJ Council re_funding for Climate Smart.pdf;

From: Linda Hutchins-Knowles [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 7:43 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Item 6.1: Please plan to increase funding for San José's Climate Smart program

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Vicemayor Kamei and City Councilmembers,

Please see the attached letter from Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley urging increased funding and staffing for the Climate Smart San Jose program.

Thank you,
Linda Hutchins-Knowles

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October 29, 2024

Re: Item 6.1: Please plan to increase funding for San José Climate Smart program

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vicemayor Kamei, and City Council members:

Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley—a local group of 2500+ parents, youth and allies—appreciates the work of the Environmental Services Department, the Community Energy Department, the Transportation Department, and other City departments towards achieving San Jose’s vitally important climate goals. However, we remain concerned that the 2024-2024 budget cut funding for the Climate Smart San José program, and we urge you to plan ahead to **increase funding for the program in the next fiscal year.**

The Climate Smart program is vital to achieving the City’s pledge to reach carbon neutrality by 2030—just five years away. In the meantime, our children and communities face growing climate threats, such as extreme heat, unhealthy levels of indoor air pollution from gas appliances, degraded outdoor air quality from gas cars and climate-fueled wildfires, and rising sea levels.

Given ongoing environmental injustices (such as the lack of adequate tree canopy in our East side neighborhoods) and the existential threat of the climate crisis, we must do more to mitigate the climate pollution we generate and that requires increasing Climate Smart funding.

Therefore, **we ask that you prioritize our health, safety, and climate stability by significantly increasing the Climate Smart funding next year.** In particular, consider **increasing the capacity of the Environmental Services Division by boosting the number of staff in the department who can go out into the community to engage them in Climate Smart San Jose programs.**

Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley has been a proud partner of the City in achieving our climate smart goals, and we stand by to support staff in this important work in the coming year. Please do your part by providing the needed funding.

For our children, communities and climate,
Linda Hutchins-Knowles (she/her)
Co-founder and Team Coordinator
Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley