



Item 10.2, 5/19/26 Council Agenda (ER26-045 - Environmental Review Policy)

From Alice Kaufman <[redacted]>

Date Mon 5/18/2026 11:42 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; 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>

Cc Burton, Chris <Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov>; Kevon, David <david.kevon@sanjoseca.gov>; Shani Kleinhaus <[redacted]>; Dashiell Leeds <[redacted]>; Gita Dev <[redacted]>; James Eggers <[redacted]>

1 attachment (499 KB)

Enviro letter on Environmental Review Handbook 5.18.26.pdf;

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Dear Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers,

As stated in the attached letter, Green Foothills, the Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance, and Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter wish to express our support for the recommended revisions proposed by Planning staff to the Environmental Review Handbook (Item 10.2 on the May 19 Council agenda).

Thank you for your attention to these comments.



Alice Kaufman (She/Her)

Policy and Advocacy Director

Green Foothills | [redacted] | mobile [redacted] | [greenfoothills.org](http://greenfoothills.org)

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May 18, 2026

San Jose City Council  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San Jose, CA

Re: Item 10.2, 5/19/26 Council Agenda (ER26-045 - Environmental Review Policy)

Dear Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers,

Green Foothills, the Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance, and Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter wish to express our support for the recommended revisions proposed by Planning staff to the Environmental Review Handbook.

As noted in the memo from the Planning Director, we commented on the draft Environmental Review Handbook and Environmental Standard Permit Conditions in a letter to staff submitted on April 16. In that letter, we noted concerns with the original version of the Handbook that failed to adequately address the potential for impacts to wildlife movement in Coyote Valley and the Almaden Valley Urban Reserve, or for impacts stemming from artificial light at night (ALAN) or from disturbance due to human sources of noise. We appreciate the revisions made by Planning staff to the Handbook to address our concerns, and we support the Handbook as revised and submitted to the Council.

We wish to re-emphasize, as stated in our letter, that the Environmental Standard Permit Conditions constitute a “floor,” not a “ceiling,” in terms of potential mitigation measures for projects with significant environmental impacts. As stated by David Keyon at the Planning Commission meeting, any project that has the potential to result in significant environmental impacts that are not adequately mitigated through the Standard Permit Conditions will still be required to comply with project-specific mitigations to address those impacts.

Thank you for your attention to these comments.

Sincerely,

Alice Kaufman  
Policy and Advocacy Director

Green Foothills

Shani Kleinhaus  
Environmental Advocate  
Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance

Gita Dev  
Chair, Conservation Committee  
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

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**FW: May 15th Memo RE: ER26-045 - Environmental Review Policy**

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**From** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Date** Tue 5/19/2026 7:29 AM  
**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** Ted McMahon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2026 7:15 AM  
**To:** Rocha, Vincent <Vincent.Rocha@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Tordillos, Anthony <Anthony.Tordillos@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Casey, George <George.Casey@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Cc:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Adera, Teddy <Teddy.Adera@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughes, Scott <scott.hughes@sanjoseca.gov>; Rocha, Vincent <Vincent.Rocha@sanjoseca.gov>; Fleming, Jonathan <Jonathan.Fleming@sanjoseca.gov>; Ramirez, Lucas <lucas.ramirez@sanjoseca.gov>; Fruen, Joseph <Joseph.Fruen@sanjoseca.gov>; Gvatua, Alexander <Alexander.Gvatua@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** May 15th Memo RE: ER26-045 - Environmental Review Policy

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Dear Council Members, Vice Mayor Foley and Mayor Mahan,

It would appear we have a strong alignment between staff and the authors of the Memo dates May 15<sup>th</sup> for standardization of procedures for environmental review – with the slight expansion in the memo (May 15<sup>th</sup> related to ER26-045) of seeking additional ways to streamline environmental review, which most stakeholders would find worthwhile. The suggestion of the specifically focusing on noise and vibrations standards has excellent merit as these two items are treated in a much more rigid way in San Jose than in peers cities and our neighbors to the North. In 2025 these were two items were compared by a working group and were found to drive cost, time and complexity compared to our peers. These kinds of simple adjustments to bring our City into line with our peers and competitors make good sense.

Thank you for considering the memo submitted by CMs Campos, Casey, Tordillos and VM Foley and Mayor Mahan.

Kind regards,

Ted