

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

P.O. Box 944246

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(916) 653-7772

Website: www.fire.ca.gov

December 6, 2021

Helen Chapman, Policy and Legislative Advisor

Office of Sergio Jimenez | City of San José, District 2

200 E. Santa Clara St. T-18 | San José, CA 95113

Dear Helen Chapman,

Per your request I am offering my perspective, as the appointed representative of CAL FIRE, on the San Jose Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP). I am not going to provide a comprehensive list of omissions or suggested corrections because it would be counterproductive to the significant efforts invested thus far. CAL FIRE has previously provided corrections pertinent to the Urban and Community Forestry Grant agreement which have been responded to by City staff. I will offer my general impressions and recommendations as City Council considers adoption of the CFMP.

Community input and engagement are important to creation of a viable plan, but even more to its implementation and refinement over time. Establishment of the Community Forest Advisory Committee should be one of the highest priority objectives. This action will continue ongoing conversations between stakeholders and the City, concurrent with action on other objectives. The CFMP should be a living document where actions are responsive to addressing issues as quickly as possible, yet adaptive to reality. Stakeholders will always be influential to success.

Interdepartmental coordination and unified policies are needed for urban forestry governance, projects, services and activities, best practices, data analysis, and other subjects. Consistent and transparent decisions by qualified professionals should be supported by the best available information. Consider a policy of no net loss of canopy to apply broadly so that progress is made toward canopy cover goals. Maintain accountability by providing annual progress updates about the CFMP.

Partner with entities and organizations that will complement implementation. CAL FIRE is willing to provide technical assistance, impartial assessment, and feedback, as well as grant opportunities (as funding is available). Others have assistance to provide also.

Consider the CFMP a starting point. Work with stakeholders to refine the plan while acting on priority issues. Invest to the extent possible to reverse historic trends of declining canopy cover and inadequate maintenance.

I encourage City Council to adopt the CFMP, direct staff to return with budget and staffing requests, identify future policies and best practices to consider, and establish a recurring dialog with stakeholders. Please contact me if I can assist you,

Walter Passmore, State Urban Forester
CAL FIRE

COALITION TO ADVANCE URBAN FORESTRY IN SAN JOSÉ

January 20, 2022

San José Mayor and City Council
City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

The Draft Community Forest Management Plan coming before you on January 25 remains shockingly deficient. Despite hundreds of written concerns and conversations with council member offices and city staff, errors and omissions persist, and this draft is not even close to a plan. A [front page article](#) in the January 10 Mercury News makes the depth of San Jose's urban forest crisis painfully clear. Now it's up to you, the Mayor and Council, to shift course on how San José can better grow, manage, and protect its urban forest.

The draft report could be accepted as an initial study, but first, inconsistencies must be corrected. Then council members can outline what additional information is needed before considering any real plan - particularly data on city tree spending and a substantiated analysis of why the tree canopy is vanishing. Planting trees is important, as always, but it is not the solution. San José must look deep within to stop the bleeding.

Here are three key areas that need improvement:

1. **Missing financial data.** Increased mitigation fees and revenue from assessment districts are important revenue sources not discussed. In addition, the draft states residents have been responsible for all street tree care since 1951, yet S.J. had a citywide street tree pruning and trimming program until 2008. To consider viable tree management options and offer recommendations, such data is essential.
2. **Inadequate scope.** The grant from Cal Fire that funded this plan stipulated that it cover 100% of San Jose's existing and potential tree canopy yet the draft focuses almost exclusively on the 15% or less managed by the city. The remaining 85% is owned privately or by public agencies or districts. There is no discussion or analysis of broader best-practice policies such as a no net loss standard, increasing native trees per the 2040 General Plan, or what policies and laws are needed to curtail removals.
3. **Stewardship.** Cities with successful urban forest programs have independent Tree Commissions of stakeholders. Staff recommends instead a weak advisory committee appointed and managed internally by DOT, whose primary purpose is roads and transportation. Ideally the tree program should be moved to Environmental Services or another department with a compatible mission. Even then, a Tree Commission with a direct line to Council is the way to provide guardianship for our trees because it allows for unbiased review and recommendations around city policies, programs, and spending.

We know you understand the cooling power of mature trees as the climate warms, but you need more and better information to make educated choices on how to turn the tide that is destroying our trees. Please seek that information, and don't move forward with a plan until you have it.

Sincerely,

Coalition to Advance Urban Forestry in San José

Linda J. LeZotte

Director, Valley Water and Former City of San José Councilmember

Vicki Moore

Chair, Santa Clara County Planning Commission

Barbara Marshman

San Jose Mercury News Former Editorial Page Editor

Rita Norton

Former Chair, SCVWD Environmental Advisory Committee

Bob Levy

Vice-Chair, Santa Clara County Planning Commission; former San Jose Planning Commissioner

Cindy Blain

Executive Director, California ReLeaf

Michelle Yesney

Former San José Planning Commission; Former President, Greenbelt Alliance

Irma Balderas/Christina Egan

Our City Forest Board of Directors Chair/Director

Rhonda Berry

President & CEO, Our City Forest

Margot Sidener

Chief Executive Officer, Breathe California

Justin Wang

Advocacy Manager, Greenbelt Alliance

Susan Butler-Graham

Team Coordinator, Mothers Out Front

Shani Kleinhaus

Environmental Advocate, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Linda Ruthruff

Conservation Chair, California Native Plant Society

Gladwyn d'Souza

Chair, Conservation Committee, Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club

Fernando R. Zazueta

La Raza Historical Society of Santa Clara Valley

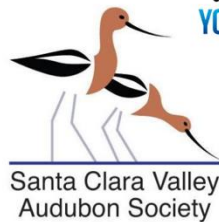
Deb Kramer
Executive Director, Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

Terry Trumbull,
Retired Professor, San José State University

Elizabeth Sarmiento
Board of Directors, Smart Yards Education

Peri Plantenberg
Coordinator, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action

Jennifer Thompson
Executive Director, Sustainable Silicon Valley





**SAN JOSE DOWNTOWN
ASSOCIATION**

June 30, 2021

Russell Hansen
City Arborist
City of San Jose Department of Transportation
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Feedback and Comments for Community Forest Management Plan Draft

Dear Russell Hansen,

We commend City staff for their work on the Community Forest Management Plan Draft and look forward to working with staff as a partner on the management of downtown San Jose's urban canopy when the plan is finalized. We have reviewed the Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) and have provided feedback in the following areas: design review and approval for development projects, grant funding, challenges with property owner maintained trees, and tree planting.

Design Review and Approval for Development Project

For development projects, there needs to be more consistency and clarity on what the arborists' recommendations are, how they are accepted and implemented as part of the process. The recommendation should be shared at a consistent point in the Public Works process, not at Public Works' discretion as to when to reveal the recommendations. Arborists need to be embedded throughout the process so that developers are aware of their recommendations at the onset of development and not merely at the end. When conditions change and arborists are required to change recommendations, this should transpire prior to the end of the development process as it can cause confusion and costly additional line items for developers. For example, new requirements from Public Works for new tree well sizes that were not recommended prior can be enforced at the end of development, which can be unfair for developers to accommodate. Developers are better able to accommodate tree requirements in the beginning stages or when notified during the review and approval process.

For the term "arborist", there needs to be clarification on what qualifies a standard arborist. When the City asks for a qualified arborist to help make a decision related to development, the qualifications need to be specified. Are there City standards or are these standards defined by the International Society of Arboriculture? Additionally, is certification requested by City staff and is this certification updated on set cadence? This would provide developers with clarity.

Grant Funding

We commend City staff for seeking grants and other funding opportunities as the need to pursue grant funding for tree care as defined in the plan's findings. The cost to maintain the urban forest is high, which necessitates service innovations and partnerships to offset the financial burden.

We recommend exploring additional opportunities including: leveraging existing City programs that provide needed human capital, future partnerships, internships, and private sector grants. Could an educational workforce be created and dedicated to urban forest management?

Challenges with Property Owner Maintained Trees

In San Jose, there is a lack of public knowledge that City municipal code dictates property owners must maintain the street tree adjacent to their property. We recommend closing this awareness gap by leveraging existing and potential partnerships to spread the word. Collaborating with business districts and business associations would be a fruitful partnership. Additionally, we recommend the City look at new partnerships with area nonprofits focused on environmental stewardship to disseminate information and increase urban forestry education.

There is a need to inform property owners with consistent messaging. We recommend creating a timeline for automated messaging for tree care maintenance. This could include automated emails, mailers, and automated phone calls.

Is it possible for there to be incentives to care for trees, stipends for costs of water use, and stipends for property owners' time? We also recommend creating programs that build-off existing or new utility company incentives or carbon offset incentives.

The City's tree pruning cycle is defined in the plan, but is there consideration in the pruning cycle in relation to increased droughts and climate change? Additionally, as new conditions or challenges arise, how will the plan respond to those changes?

Tree Planting

Tree planting partnerships should be clearly defined as there is an opportunity to pursue and leverage new partnerships for funding such as federal, state, local, and private funding. Utility companies, such as San Jose Water Co. and PG&E, can also be another source for funding regarding tree plantings.

We are aware that trees require lots of care after they are planted. We recommend exploring leveraging civic-based or volunteer-based opportunities to provide more ongoing tree care.

SJDA generally agrees with the 2040 General Plan; we appreciate that the Community Forest Management Plan aligns with existing city plans.

Sincerely,



Chloe Shipp
Director of Public Space Operations

cc:

John Ristow, Department of Transportation Director
Eric Hon, Division Manager, Department of Transportation
Ryan Allen



Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager

Alex Kennett, District 1

Mike Flaughter, District 2

Helen Chapman, District 3

Dorsey Moore, District 4

Shay Franco-Clausen, District 5

Mike Potter, District 6

Kalvin Gill, District 7

January 24, 2022

Mayor Sam Liccardo,
San Jose City Councilmembers
City Council Meeting Portal
Via email

Re: Support Approval of Community Forest Management Plan, Agenda Item 5.2

Dear Mr. Mayor, Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Open Space Authority), I am writing to express support for approval of the City of San José Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP, or Plan), which will be considered on January 25, 2022, and also express support for the memo drafted by Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers Carrasco, Esparza, Davis and Cohen, dated January 21, 2022.

The Open Space Authority is a public, independent special district created by the California State Legislature in 1993 to conserve the natural environment, support agriculture, and connect people to nature by protecting open spaces, natural areas, and working farms and ranches for future generations.

Having a comprehensive, forward-looking plan to maintain and expand San Jose's urban forest is extremely important. We are grateful to City leadership, staff, consultants, and stakeholders for the extensive work that has gone into development of the CFMP and the associated Strategic Workplan. We especially applaud the analysis of the current urban tree canopy and emphasis in the Plan to **bring greater tree canopy equity to City residents, especially communities of color**, that suffer disproportionate impacts from urban heat island effects.

We strongly agree with Key Findings in the Memorandum from Director Ristow dated November 29, 2021 that emphasize the **need for "immediate action" to reverse the trend of declining canopy cover**. Improved management of and prevention of further loss of our current urban forest - especially the existing mature trees - is of primary importance, first and foremost as an equity issue as we discussed above, though also as the "most cost effective and efficient way to maintain canopy cover" that is mentioned in the Memorandum. Connecting this to the second Key Finding regarding limited financial and human resources, we would be in **strong support for significant allocation of financial resources in next year's budget – on the order of the tens of millions of dollars mentioned in the Memorandum - to facilitate City stewardship of all trees in the public realm**, since private property owners, often with very constrained financial resources themselves, may not be in a position to prioritize tree maintenance. As pointed out in a [recent San Jose Spotlight article on the CFMP](#), trees give back to the community many times more financial value than what is invested to plant and care for them.

We are **encouraged by greater treatment in the Plan regarding support for habitat and biodiversity goals** in the selection of tree species. In particular, we note inclusion - in the Strategic Workplan page 143, "Standardize and Improve Planning and Development" Strategy 2d - of local urban forestry and urban biodiversity efforts in which the Open Space Authority has been involved: the ["Integrating Planning with Nature"](#) report in partnership with San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) and SPUR, which brings in expertise from multiple sectors to provide Santa Clara Valley-focused recommendations for urban greening benefits, including urban forestry, and the [Urban Ecological Planning Guide](#) developed in partnership with SFEI, that provides recommendations for biologically interconnected

urban plantings that support biodiversity in San Jose and the region. Both of these reports go much further in supporting wildlife habitat and biodiversity goals as the City's urban forests are replaced and expanded, and we appreciate having them included.


The Open Space Authority appreciates being added to references regarding sources for local and regional funding, such as on Page 76 of the Plan, and as a potential participant in a Urban Forestry Advisory Group given that we wish to continue to support urban forestry through our grantmaking process, as we have throughout the urban areas within our jurisdiction.

We strongly encourage continued support for and close collaboration with the Santa Clara Valley Urban Forestry Alliance, which is operated out of the County Office of Sustainability, to pool resources, share best practices, and jointly attract outside funding for implementation of urban forestry objectives. The County's Urban Forestry Alliance should be added to the list of key stakeholders in forming an Urban Forestry Advisory Group and we would recommend that the San Francisco Estuary Institute be invited to participate as well.

We look forward to continuing to work with City staff and leaders on the CFMP and other nature-based solutions to climate change including adding a Natural and Working Lands Element to Climate Smart San Jose and implementing a climate credits program, as we all work together to build a more resilient future for our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

CC: Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Board of Directors
Rick Scott, Russell Hansen, Eric Hon, Colin Heyne, Department of Transportation, City of San Jose

FW: Don't Approve Draft Community Forest Management Plan

City Clerk <

Tue 1/25/2022 9:04 AM

To: Agendadesk <

From: Susan Butler-Graham

Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 8:56 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <

District1

< District2 <

District3 <

District4

< District5 <

District 6 <

District7

< District8 <

District9 <

District 10

Cc: City Clerk info.ca.norca

Subject: Don't Approve Draft Community Forest Management Plan

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[E ternal Email]

MOTHERS OUT FRONT



Silicon Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Councilmembers Jimenez, Peralez, Cohen, Carrasco, Davis, Esparza, Arenas, Foley, and Mahan,

Mother Out Front Silicon Valley urge you to protect our climate and cool our city by voting no on the incomplete and deficient Draft Community Forest Management Plan until significant correction and change are made and there is a clear path forward for the city to partner with key stakeholder

Our city's dwindling and unbalanced tree canopy can only be addressed if all the facts are considered and all key stakeholders have meaningful input into the plan. There are a number of questions that must be answered in order to make an effective plan. Why are the city's trees disappearing? Where are funds for tree maintenance coming from? How do other cities with exemplary urban forestry plans successfully manage their trees? Who will coordinate tree planning, planting, maintenance, and enforcement between all the different departments? Who has been planning, planting, and maintaining the majority of the trees in the past decade? Why have key stakeholders such as Our City Forest not been consulted in the development of this plan?

We cannot keep planting trees without a plan to care for them, because residents will be burdened with the cost of maintenance or the risk from unhealthy trees, the trees will not survive, and the city will not reach its canopy goal. It's also vital that equity be centered in this plan so that we can focus reforestation in the district with the least amount of tree canopy to help protect them from the danger of the urban heat island effect.

We need a carefully crafted, coordinated plan for our urban forest and ideally, it should be integrated into the Climate Smart San Jose plan. Please correct this Plan before approving it.

Sincerely,

Susan Butler-Graham
Team Coordinator

Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley

Pronoun he/her/ella

"Climate justice is making sure that everyone has an equal opportunity for a healthy and safe life." -Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson

"The iron law of climate change is that the less you did to cause it, the sooner you feel its effects. Those who poured the most carbon into the air will be dead before its effects are fully felt." -Bill McKibben

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Item 5.1 Urban Forest A Story of 72 Lost Trees

David Pandori <[REDACTED]>

Fri 1/28/2022 6:10 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]>
 District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]>
 District6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]>
 District9 <[REDACTED]> District10 <[REDACTED]> Burton, Chris <[REDACTED]>
 Cano, Matt <[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
 Cc: [REDACTED]

5 attachment (5 MB)

Street Trees Not Planted by City - 21.pdf; Street Trees Not Planted by City - 4.pdf; Mitigation Requirement for Historic Palms at Pellier Park.pdf; 188 W St James - Mitigation Trees Required.pdf; 188 W St James - Street Tree.JPG;

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[External Email]

(This email is being resent to include the referenced attachments)

Mayor and Councilmembers

In the newly developing North San Pedro Street neighborhood, 72 trees have been lost through the failure of the City to follow-through on its own street tree planting plans, play by its own rules in Pellier Park, and the failure to enforce site development permit conditions mandating tree planting for the half-billion dollar 188 West St. James residential high-rise project.

When the city fails to follow its own plans, play by its own rules and enforce its own tree planting requirements in this one relatively small area, it raises serious questions about the rest of the city. If 72 trees in this one neighborhood were lost, how many other trees have been lost in other San Jose neighborhoods?

The specifics in the North San Pedro neighborhood are as follows:

- **Reconstruction of the Grid Street System in the North San Pedro Street Area - 26 Lost Trees**: The plans for returning this area back to the grid street system required planting street trees. 26 of the trees called for in this plans were never planted. The community was never notified of the change in the plans. The city never informed residents that it wasn't going to plant all the trees. The discrepancy was only discovered when residents did their own walk-through of the project. (Attached are maps showing the 26 street trees set forth in the plans, but which were never planted.) The issue was brought to the attention of city staff. Public Works staff stated some of the trees could not

be planted in the specified locations because of unknown utilities that were discovered. Staff was supposed to identify other locations, but this was never completed. To date, no effort has been made to find alternative locations for these lost trees. **The Public Works Department should be directed to work with the community to find locations and plant the remaining trees**

- **Pellier Park 12 Lost Trees** Without meaningful notice, city staff directed the park contractor to remove three historic 100+ year old Palm trees in Pellier Park. The removal was based on the mistaken belief that these century old Palms were "invasive" and not permitted in the park! The HP permit issued for the park reconstruction called for a 4:1 replacement ratio if the trees were ever removed. To date, the Administration has taken the position that no additional trees need to be planted for the lost trees, despite the mitigation requirement in the HP permit. Staff has suggested the mitigation trees are the trees that were already planned for the park. If such were the case, there would have been no need to include a mitigation requirement for the destroyed palm trees. Ironically, the trees planned for the park are replacing trees that were destroyed in 2005 when the park was demolished. (A copy of the condition requiring 4 to 1 planting is attached.) **Consistent with the HP permit issued for the Pellier Park project, the council should direct the administration to find locations for the required mitigation trees.** If the city expects residents and developers to follow tree planting requirements, the City needs to play by the same rules
- **188 West St. James Street (aka Silvery Towers) 34 Lost Trees** The construction of this multi-million dollar residential high-rise has languished over the last seven years and still has not completed construction. One of the collateral consequences is the failure of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Staff to stay on top of the tree planting requirements. The Site Development Permit for the project required the developer to plant 46 trees or provide equivalent funds to Our City Forest for tree plantings. A receipt of funds paid to Our City Forest is missing in the City's permit file. The builder bought the smallest available street trees (5 gallon trees), but only planted 12. (A picture of one of these trees is attached.) I have emailed Planning Department staff and asked for their determination of the trees that still need to be planted or funded. Based on the site development permit, 34 more trees need to be planted or equivalent funds need to be provided to Our City Forest. (Please see the attached table.) **The Council should direct the staff to fully enforce the tree planting requirements for 188 West St. James Street and ensure that the required trees are planted or Our City Forest is funded to plant replacement trees in the vicinity of the project**

If the city is serious about planting new trees and increasing its urban forest, it needs to ensure that it follows through on approved plans and requirements. There are a lot of good policies already in place. Plans and policies are only as good as the city's commitment toward them. The city needs to follow its own plans, play by its own rules and when it requires new trees to be planted, make sure the trees are planted.

Please include the above recommendations in your actions on this important issue.

Thank you.

David Pandori

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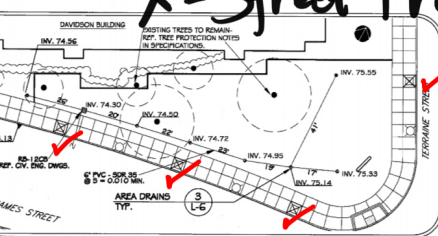


Mitigation Trees Required per Site Development Permit H13-041

#	Tree ¹	Diameter ¹ (Inches)	Ordinance Size Tree (6)	Non-Ordinance Size Tree (11)	Mitigation Ratio ²	# of Mitigation Trees Required
1	Canary Island Date Palm	27.5	X		4:1	4
2	Tree-of-Heaven	33		X	4:1	4
3	Mexican Fan Palm	17			2:1	2
4	London Plane	28.5	X		4:1	4
5	London Plane	9		X	1:1	1
6	London Plane	9		X	1:1	1
7	Tree-of-Heaven	14		X	2:1	2
8	Tree-of-Heaven	13.5		X	2:1	2
9	Tree-of-Heaven	15		X	2:1	2
10	Tree-of-Heaven	15.5		X	2:1	2
11	Tree-of-Heaven	12		X	2:1	2
12	Tree-of-Heaven	17		X	2:1	2
13	Tree-of-Heaven	25.5	X		4:1	4
14	Hopseed Bush	6				
15	Tree-of-Heaven	15		X	2:1	2
16	Mexican Fan Palm	20	X		4:1	4
17	Crape Myrtle	54	X		5:1	5
18	American Sweet Gum	14.5		X	3:1	3
	Total Mitigation Trees Required					46
	Trees Planted					12
	Total Number of Mitigation Trees Still Required					34

7. **Tree Removals.** No tree larger than 38 inches in circumference, at a height of 54 inches above the natural grade slope, shall be removed without a Tree Removal Permit issued by the Director of Planning. Three (3) on-site ordinance sized palm trees are proposed to be relocated to the three corners of the park with this permit. In the event that they are removed, the replacement ratio at 4:1 would be 12 15-gallon trees to be planted on-site.

X = Street Tree Not Planted



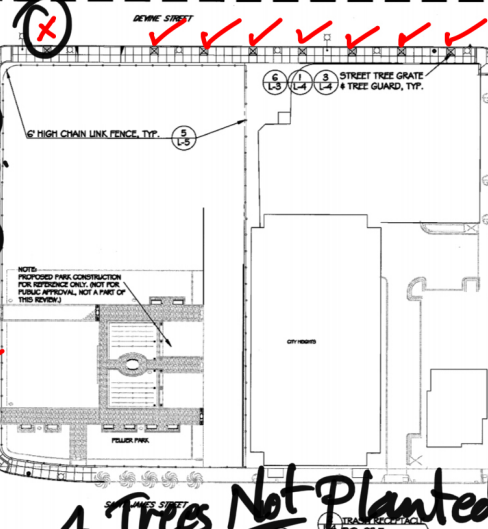
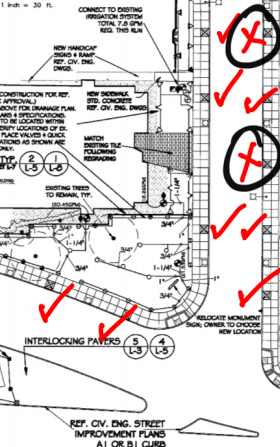
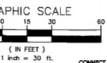
SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	DETAIL
	6' HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCE WITH PRIVACY SLATS	DETAIL 5
	6' HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCE	DETAIL 5
	5' X 5' TREE GRATE	DETAIL 6, 9
	ROOT BARRIER & TREE GUARD TYP. ALL STREET TREES	DETAIL 1 #
	4' X 6' TREE GRATE TYP. OF 3 ONLY	DETAIL 1 SH
	STREET LIGHT	REF. CIVIL
	PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS	REF. CIVIL
	TRASH RECEPTACLE	DETAIL 2, 3
	EX. CHAIN LINK FENCE TO REMAIN	

DRAINAGE AT DAVIDSON BUILDING LAWN

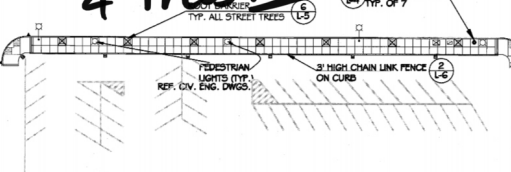
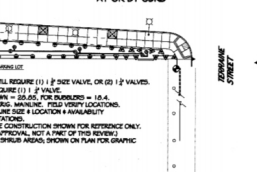
SCALE: 1"=20'

NOT A PART OF THIS REVIEW

SCALE: 1"=30'



4 Trees Not Planted



DESIGN	DATE	BY	CHKD	APPD
BT	06/16/15	BT	BT	BT



HILL ASSOCIATES
Landscape Architecture/Planning
100 Oakdale Drive
Apico, CA 95009
408.761.3784

Date:	JUNE 16, 2015
Scale:	AS SHOWN
Designed:	PWC
Drawn:	PWC
Checked:	RBH
Proj. Mgr:	
File:	05-130



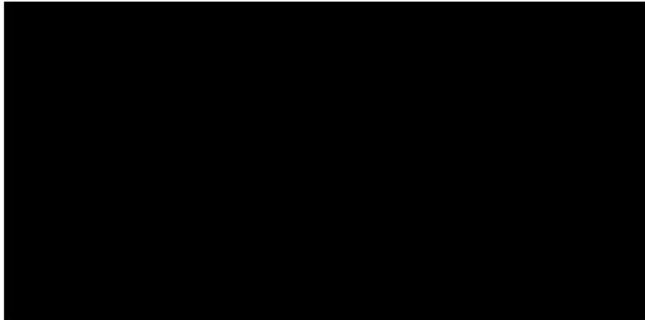
PLAN
FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF
NORTH SAN JOSE STREET
AL

Fw: Community Forest Management Plan

City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Tue 2/1/2022 10:18 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

**From:** Sharon Schuetze [REDACTED]**Sent:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 7:27 AM**To:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo [REDACTED]; District1
[REDACTED] District2 [REDACTED] >; District3 [REDACTED] >; District4
[REDACTED] >; District5 [REDACTED] >; District 6 [REDACTED] >; District7
[REDACTED] >; District8 [REDACTED] >; District9 <[REDACTED]>; District 10
>**Cc:** City Clerk [REDACTED]; info.ca [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Rhonda Berry [REDACTED]; Sarah Viaggi
[REDACTED]; Erika Alvarez [REDACTED]**Subject:** Community Forest Management PlanYou don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Councilmembers Jimenez, Peralez, Cohen, Carrasco, Davis, Esparza, Arenas, Foley, and Mahan,

As a resident of San Jose and an active member of Our City Forest and member of Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley I urge you to protect our climate and cool our city by voting no on the incomplete and deficient Draft Community Forest Management Plan until significant corrections and changes are made and there is a clear path forward for the city to partner with key stakeholders

Our city's dwindling and unbalanced tree canopy can only be addressed if all the facts are considered and all key stakeholders have meaningful input into the plan. It's vital that equity be

centered in this plan so that we can focus reforestation in the districts with the least amount of tree canopy to help protect them from the dangers of the urban heat island effect.

Please correct this Plan before approving it. If it's a Community Plan, let the community plan it.

Sincerely,

Sharon Schuetze

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Dear Mayor Liccardo and City of San Jose City Councilmembers:

Feb 2, 2022

mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov,
District1@sanjoseca.gov,
District2@sanjoseca.gov,
District3@sanjoseca.gov,
District4@sanjoseca.gov,
District5@sanjoseca.gov,
District6@sanjoseca.gov,
District7@sanjoseca.gov,
District8@sanjoseca.gov,
District9@sanjoseca.gov,
District10@sanjoseca.gov,
city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov

Subject: 2/8/22 CFMP Agenda Item 5.2 Community Forest Management Plan

Should the Mayor and City Council proceed with the recommendation under consideration I urge:

1. Direct staff to return with an amended report with specific references and corrections to the numerous charges of misleading information, and
2. Return with recommendations as to where to best house the interdepartmental Community Forest Office.

The City of San Jose has been an environmental leader on many fronts.

Under your leadership, San Jose Clean Energy is making strides in providing fossil-free energy and with investments in new renewable power production. Under your leadership, Climate Smart San Jose has set ambitious goals with metrics to lead in enacting new programs for emission reductions.

These accomplishments have been made with the proper foundation of both:

1. Comprehensive studies and,
2. Delegating staff, **with specific direction**, to the appropriate department.

Unfortunately, both necessary foundations are lacking when it comes to the Community Forestry Management Plan (which is more like a Study) thus rendering its success in achieving the goal of a 20-25% healthy and sustainable tree canopy, very unlikely.

According to local **urban forestry experts**, the recent Forestry Study has numerous errors and omissions **and lacks a clear path toward achieving its canopy goal**. These errors and omissions have not been adequately corrected nor discussed in a meaningful way. The Study was funded by a grant from Cal Fire and the total amount of the funding was never utilized nor was the

study completed as approved. Building on a half-completed **Study** with many errors and **omissions** is not a solid foundation.

Secondly, The City continues to lower its own rules for tree planting and mitigation. Entrusting the **San Jose's Community** Forest to the Department of **Transportation** will not solve this serious problem.

Thank you for all your work on behalf of a better environment for San Jose and the region in which we all live.

Sincerely,

Rita Norton
Retired City Employee

LINDA J. LeZOTTE & KEN KELLY
San Jose, CA 95124

February 2, 2022

Via e-mail
San Jose Mayor and City Council
City of San Jose
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Draft Community Forest Management Plan

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council.,

This morning Our City Forrest planted a beautiful Emerald Sunshine Elm tree in our park strip. While the OCF crew was here we pointed out at least 5 trees on 3 different properties adjacent to ours that have received and planted trees provided by OCF. Our neighborhood is slowly planting trees that were removed years ago despite regulations that require replanting.

The lack of an inventory of trees in the City and a mechanism to enforce the requirement for planting missing trees upon the sale of a residence contributes to the loss of our tree canopy. We have witnessed many “illegal” removals of trees over the years. We both have worked with OCF, while I was a councilmember and my husband directed an urban environmental program, to re-populate our urban forest. The Draft Community Forest Management Plan should be the starting point for a real, robust plan by the City to grow our urban forest.

We know there are many priorities you face in determining where to spend City dollars; however, growing and maintaining our urban forest is a generational legacy you can all be proud of. Thank you for the time you have given the Coalition to express our concerns about the Draft Plan to you personally.

Please direct staff to answer your thoughtful concerns and those of the Coalition about the adequacy of the Draft Plan and return with a Plan that you can be proud of, and the community can support.

Yours truly,

Linda J. LeZotte & Ken Kelly

FW: City of SJ Urban Tree Canopy Plan

City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Thu 2/3/2022 2:36 PM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>**Sent:** Thursday, February 3, 2022 1:57 PM**To:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOff[REDACTED]>

District1

<[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4

<[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7

<[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10

<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Subject: City of SJ Urban Tree Canopy Plan**Importance:** High

[E ternal Email]

Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am a long time advocate for tree canopy, living in the heat island that is D5. Aside from the need to mitigate climate change, a multitude of studies cite that tree canopy reduces crime, increases property values and provides mental health benefits. Mayor, you may remember participating in a tree planting with us in the Mount Pleasant Neighborhood in 2017.

Since that tree planting, another planting should have taken place using D5 Participatory Budget funds. After over four years of requesting accounting of those trees from DOT, only recently was it suggested that I 'trust' that the work had been completed.

I request that you to reconsider the plan that is currently being considered for the following reasons:

1. DELAY PLAN APPROVAL or ADOPT DOCUMENT AS " INITIAL DRAFT REPORT"

- a. Does not contain critical financial data to inform any future budgeting or programming. This includes in-house program assessments, revenue streams and expenditures for mature tree work on city property, fees paid by residents, special district budgets, and other programs managed by DOT. This also pertains to Planning in-lieu fees, as well as tree work performed through Public Works, Parks, Airport. etc.
- b. Does not provide data or discussion re: CSJ 10-year cycle street tree pruning provided for residents through 2008 (no baseline or assessment for council)
- c. Contains misleading information regarding support to OCF - inflated amounts have not been addressed
- d. Delaying adoption has no impact to any operations, programming, planning, etc - and city can move forward on no net loss policy work without it
- e. Delaying adoption will have no impact on grant funding to DOT (contract was ended, after 2 or more extensions, due to failure to complete parks tree inventory, etc. since 2017 - there were two years prior to the consultant being hired to get that underway)

f Delaying adoption shows that Council seeks greater transparency and accountability within City Hall.

2. COST ANALYSIS FOR BUDGETING PLANTINGS: Provide accurate and transparent data to assess all actual costs, including overhead, and all benefits of various tree planting campaigns and models prior to budgeting and implementation. Consider project development work such as identifying planting sites, obtaining permits, arborist expertise, maintenance plans, etc that is required prior to planting and also providing or tracking the tree stewardship for 3 years after planting. Also consider whether the trees will be planted on city managed property only (major thoroughfares and medians) or throughout the community and transcending jurisdictional boundaries such as for yards, streets, schools businesses, parking lots, and more (the other 85%)

3 FULL ACCOUNTING DOT TREE EXPENDITURES: Request full accounting for past 5 years of all revenue and expenditures pertaining to DOT urban forestry staffing and commercial contractor work, by program. include infrastructure maintenance, special assessment districts, tree removals, fees paid to DOT, and all commercial tree contractor expenditures throughout these programs administered through DOT and include recommendations related to this data as an essential component of San José's citywide tree management plan

4. FULL ACCOUNTING - IN-LIEU PROGRAM: Provide a full accounting for last 5 years of Planning in-lieu fee program, the rate used, how revenue is tracked and spent, and request recommendations regarding the program as an essential component of any citywide tree management plan. (Refer to 2018 Dev Davis memo which outlines this new program including reporting requirements)

5 CITY DIRECTED TREE REMOVALS: Collect tree removal data from all departments and include a recommendation to track tree removals as a critical component of any citywide tree management plan.

6. OUTSTANDING CONCERNS: Review in full and address the remaining inaccuracies and omissions sent in previous letters from other subject matter experts



Trudy Ellerbeck - she/ella

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Fw: Don't Approve Draft Community Forest Management Plan

City Clerk [REDACTED]

Thu 2/3/2022 11:20 AM

To: Agendadesk [REDACTED]

How is our service? [Please take our short survey.](#)

From: Rebecca Habermann [REDACTED] >

Sent: Thursday, February 3, 2022 10:31 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]>; District1 <[REDACTED]>; District2 <[REDACTED]>; District3 <[REDACTED]>; District4 <[REDACTED]>; District5 <[REDACTED]>; District 6 <[REDACTED]>; District7 <[REDACTED]>; District8 <[REDACTED]>; District9 <[REDACTED]>; District 10 <[REDACTED]>

Cc: City Clerk [REDACTED]; info.ca [REDACTED]

<info.ca.norca[REDACTED]>

Subject: Don't Approve Draft Community Forest Management Plan

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Councilmembers Jimenez, Peralez, Cohen, Carrasco, Davis, Esparza, Arenas, Foley, and Mahan,

As a San Jose resident, parent and member of Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley I urge you to protect our climate and cool our city by voting no on the incomplete and deficient Draft Community Forest Management Plan until significant corrections and changes are made and there is a clear path forward for the city to partner with key stakeholders.

Our city's dwindling and unbalanced tree canopy can only be addressed if all the facts are considered and all key stakeholders have meaningful input into the plan. It's vital that equity be centered in this plan so that we can focus reforestation in the districts with the least amount of tree canopy to help protect them from the dangers of the urban heat island effect.

Please correct this Plan before approving it. If it's a Community Plan, let the community plan it.

Sincerely,
Rebecca H.

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Subject: February 8, 2022 Council Agenda Item 5.2 CFMP San Jose's Urban Forest

Sarah Viaggi <[REDACTED]>

Sat 2/5/2022 1:19 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]>
 District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]>
 District6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]>
 District10 <[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]>

[External Email]

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

[External Email]

Greetings:

I have just become aware that this item is up for your review and vote. At this time, I'm urging you all to just REVIEW and Vote NO. I have several points I'd like to make. Sometime in the last year, there was a report about Urban Forestry that I had an opportunity to review. The people involved (Ryan?) had a report regarding trees in San Jose. He called it a plan; I called it a report since I saw no 'plan' in it. I provided my comments and asked to be involved in future planning. I received a return email thanking me for my input and never heard from him again.

Is this the same report? Besides being incomplete, I thought it overlooked a lot of things that are important. I agree with the Coalition to Advance Urban Forestry in San Jose. The report is incomplete at this time.

Planting a tree is one thing. In San Jose, I see the problem not as a planting issue, but as a saving issue. No one cares or notices that trees are disappearing. San Jose has made homeowners responsible for their street trees, but fails to inform the homeowner. San Jose has a policy that every property has a street tree (with two on the side if you own a corner lot). Yet, no one notices when properties become treeless. This seems such an easy thing to fix: requiring a street tree be planted when the property changes ownership. Yet most real estate agents view this as an intrusion and avoid it. If we could enforce this policy, we'd have more trees today.

Another major problem: the report failed to mention the discrepancies between the rules for homeowners and developers. Homeowners are restricted on what species they can plant. Developers are not restricted. Apparently, there is little or no communication between city departments. I'm hoping future planning corrects this. (If you want examples, let me know.)

I have been a citizen of SJ for over 50 years. I have watched the trees in my own neighborhood decline over time and have despaired that no one is able to do anything about it. I am thrilled with the idea that San Jose can have a plan. But please make it a real plan. We need clarity on money, responsibility, and a focus on the future. Please vote NO at this time so the draft can be developed into a plan. The citizens of San Jose deserve no less.

Thank you for your time. If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact me. Keep smiling,
Sarah Viaggi



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OUR CITY FOREST

646 N.King Rd.
San Jose, CA 95133
(408) 998-7337
ourcityforest.org

February 4, 2022

San José Mayor & City Council Members
City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San José, CA. 95113

Honorable Mayor Liccardo and San José Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the matter of the Draft Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP). Our single mission at Our City Forest is to create a healthier and more sustainable city by engaging and educating others in growing, appreciating, protecting, and caring for our urban forest. Since the initial CSJ Draft CFMP was released last March without outside review or discussion, OCF has followed its mission, spending untold hours providing feedback to City staff and the Plan consultant in hopes of improving a citywide plan that will long impact San José. During this time, OCF has also informed and engaged others in this very important discussion that will impact our future quality of life.


Through these efforts and those of others, the Coalition to Advance Urban Forestry in San José has emerged. This network of leaders and organizations brings an even broader community voice and additional expertise to the table. OCF has spent decades encouraging San José to adopt tree-friendly policies and practices, and the Coalition can only bolster this effort. It has since been providing input for your review as to what a transparent and meaningful citywide plan would look like - and why it matters.


OCF has always been proud to help save City of San José staff time and money by providing information and education services throughout San José, and by planting some 80,000 trees – 97% which have been financed primarily with outside funding. Just this week, OCF was awarded another large State grant to continue planting in our most under-canopied census tracts. This is the fruit of our partnership with you.

This partnership has enabled San José to have an urban forest that is almost keeping pace with ongoing mature tree removals. It is important to acknowledge that many of these trees could have been saved - and can be in the future - through *existing* avenues such as code enforcement, policy compliance, and smarter care for city-managed trees during severe drought. These discussions are missing in the Draft before you. Because the knowledge that our canopy is clearly declining, these avenues require your strong direction and a clear expectation of accountability more than ever.

Due to the continuing and substantial gaps in the Draft CFMP for financial and program management data, the Coalition respectfully asks that you accept it only as a “preliminary report” rather than as San José’s official citywide plan. Our City Forest agrees.

Sincerely,


Chair Irma Balderas, Board of Directors


Rhonda Berry, President & CEO

COALITION TO ADVANCE URBAN FORESTRY

IN SAN JOSÉ

February 7, 2022

Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Councilmembers
City of San Jose
City Hall - 200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: February 8th City Council Agenda Item 5.2: Additional comments re: Community Forestry Management Plan ("CFMP")

The Coalition to Advance Urban Forestry in San Jose respectfully submits the following recommendations for City Council action:

1. ACCEPT THE DRAFT CFMP AS A "PRELIMINARY REPORT" ONLY

Accept the Draft CFMP as a "preliminary report", not as San José's official Citywide Community Forestry Management Plan. The reasons include:

- a. The Plan does not contain critical financial data to inform any future budgeting or programming. This includes in-house program assessments, revenue streams and expenditures for mature tree work on city property, fees paid by residents, special district budgets, and other programs managed by DOT. This also pertains to Planning in-lieu fees, as well as tree work performed through Public Works, Parks, Airport. etc.;
- b. The Plan does not provide data or discussion regarding the City of San Jose 10-year cycle street tree pruning provided for residents through 2008 (no baseline or assessment for council);
- c. The Plan contains misleading information regarding support to OCF - inflated funds from the City have not been corrected;
- d. Delaying adoption has no impact to any operations, programming, or planning -- and the City can move forward on no net loss policy work and other important initiatives without an adopted Plan;
- e. Delaying adoption will have no impact on grant funding to DOT (contract was ended, after 2 or more extensions, due to failure to complete parks tree inventory, etc. since 2017 - there were two years prior to the consultant being hired to get that underway); and
- f. Delaying adoption shows that the City Council seeks greater transparency and accountability within City Hall.

2. FULL ACCOUNTING – Department of Transportation (DOT) TREE EXPENDITURES

Request a full accounting for the past 5 years of all revenue and expenditures pertaining to DOT urban forestry staffing and commercial contractor work, by program. This accounting should include infrastructure maintenance, special assessment districts, tree removals, fees paid to DOT, and all commercial tree contractor expenditures throughout these programs administered through DOT and include recommendations related to this data as an essential component of San José's citywide tree management plan

3. FULL ACCOUNTING - IN-LIEU PROGRAM

Request a full accounting for last 5 years of the Planning Department in-lieu fee program, the rate used, how revenue is tracked and spent, and request recommendations regarding the program as an essential component of any citywide tree management plan. (Refer to the November 6, 2018 City Council meeting staff memo and minutes which outlines this new program including reporting requirements).

4. TRANSPARENT COST ANALYSIS FOR BUDGETING TREE PLANTING

Direct staff to compile more complete data to assess all actual costs, including overhead, and all benefits of various tree planting campaigns and models prior to budgeting and implementation. Please consider project development work such as identifying planting sites, obtaining permits, arborist expertise, maintenance plans, etc. that is required prior to planting -- and providing or tracking tree stewardship for 3 years after planting. The City also should consider whether trees will be planted on city-managed property only (major thoroughfares and medians) or throughout the community and transcending jurisdictional boundaries such as for private yards, streets, schools businesses, parking lots, other public agency lands, and more (the other 85%).

For pertinent background information about OCF tree plantings throughout San Jose (100%), use this link [OCFTreesThroughTime.mp4](https://www.sanjoseca.gov/OCFTreesThroughTime.mp4) to view GIS map of OCF tree installations using database records with planting site longitude-latitude data.

5. CITY-DIRECTED TREE REMOVALS

Direct staff to collect tree removal data from all departments and include a recommendation to track tree removals as a critical component of any citywide tree management plan.

6. OUTSTANDING CONCERNS

Appoint the City Manager's office to conduct a review of outstanding issues cited in previous letters from the members of the public. These include comments from California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Audubon, Our City Forest, and many others.

Thank you for your careful attention to this important issue. It's important to get it right and we simply aren't there yet.

Sincerely,

The Coalition to Advance Urban Forestry in San José

Linda J. LeZotte

Director, Valley Water and Former City of San Jose Councilmember

Vicki Moore

Chair, Santa Clara County Planning Commission

Barbara Marshman

Former San Jose Mercury News Editorial Page Editor

Bob Levy

Vice-Chair, Santa Clara County Planning Commission; former San Jose Planning Commissioner

Michelle Yesney
Former San José Planning Commission; Former Director of San José Office of Environmental Management; Former President, Greenbelt Alliance

Irma Balderas and Christina Egan
Board of Directors, Our City Forest Board of Directors

Susan Butler-Graham
Team Coordinator, Mothers Out Front

Margo Sidener
Chief Executive Officer, Breathe California

Shani Kleinhaus
Environmental Advocate, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Linda Ruthruff
Conservation Chair, California Native Plant Society

Rhonda Berry
President & CEO, Our City Forest

Nicole Kemeny
President, 350 Silicon Valley

Justin Wang
Advocacy Manager, Greenbelt Alliance

Rita Norton
Former Chair, SCVWD Environmental Advisory Committee

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

Fernando R. Zazueta
Past President, La Raza Historical Society of Santa Clara Valley

Deb Kramer
Executive Director, Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

Elizabeth Sarmiento
Board of Directors, Smart Yards Education

Peri Plantenberg
Coordinator, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action

Terry Trumbull,

Retired Professor, San José State University

Cindy Blain

Executive Director, California ReLeaf

Dave Cortese

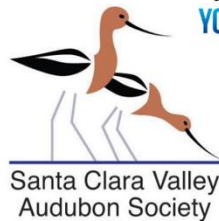
California State Senator, Senate District 15

Richard Hobbs

Executive Director, Human Agenda

Jennifer Thompson

Executive Director, Sustainable Silicon Valley



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

