

City Council Item 6.1: Climate Smart San José Existing Building Electrification Framework

Walker, Olivia <[REDACTED]>

Mon 6/13/2022 7:26 PM

To: Liccardo, Sam <[REDACTED]> Jones, Chappie <[REDACTED]> Jimenez, Sergio <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> Perez, Raul <[REDACTED]> Cohen, David <[REDACTED]> Carrasco, Magdalena <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> Davis, Dev <[REDACTED]> Esparza, Maya <[REDACTED]> Arenas, Sylvia <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> Foley, Pam <[REDACTED]> Mahan, Matt <[REDACTED]> Sahid, Robyn <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> Lomio, Michael <[REDACTED]> Santos, Jennifer <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> Ho, Nathan <[REDACTED]> Gomez, David <[REDACTED]> Kohl, Cassidy <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> Damabeh, Annale <[REDACTED]> Ramirez, Lucas <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> Chapman, Helen <[REDACTED]> Cc: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Stampe, Elizabeth <[REDACTED]> Olmedo, Elena <[REDACTED]>

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Dear San Jose City Council and staff,

Thank you for your ongoing leadership in pursuit of San Jose's climate goals. San Jose has a reputation as a national climate trailblazer, well known especially for decarbonization policies and commitments, including the City's Carbon Neutral by 2030 target. However, as natural gas use in buildings still accounts for 19% of local greenhouse gas emissions, the phasing out of fossil fuel use in existing buildings is clearly critical to meeting the carbon neutrality target.

That's why the below signatories and the organizations we represent urge you to **adopt the Existing Building Electrification Framework to encourage and incentivize the rapid electrification of San Jose's existing buildings.**

Please see our attached letter for more information.

Thank you for your consideration,

Diane Bailey, Director, Menlo Spark
Leslie Alden, Executive Director, DRAWDOWN Bay Area
Lauren Weston, Executive Director, Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet
Hoi Poon, Co-Founder, Advisor, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
Karen Nelson, Founder and Co-Chair, Climate Reality: Silicon Valley
Susan Butler-Graham, Team Leader, Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley
Laura Feinstein, Sustainability and Resilience Policy Director, SPUR
Olivia Walker, Buildings Technical Strategist, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Glen Garfunkel, Legislative Chair, San Jose Community Energy Advocates
Richard Konda, Executive Director, Asian Law Alliance
Bruce Naegel, Director Metrics and Research, Sustainable Silicon Valley
Ole Agesen
Debbie Mytels, Chair, Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action (PICA)
Hoai-An Truong, Leadership Team, Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley
Michelle Hudson, Co-Leader of the San Mateo Climate Action Team
Stephanie Morris, Leadership Team, Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley

Jason Mendelson
Daniel Baerwaldt
Robert M. Gould, MD; President, San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
Kathleen Kramer, MD, CoFounder, Project Green Home
Sven Thesen, Founder, BeniSol, LLC
Barry Cinnamon, CEO, Cinnamon Energy Systems
Kristel Wickham, Chair, Sunnyvale Sustainability Commission, Advisor to Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
Robert Whitehair, Co Leader, San Mateo Climate Action Team
Leane Eberhart, San Mateo Architect
Jeffrey Perrone, Member, Alameda County Policy Squad, Climate Reality Project
Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director, Sustainable Silicon Valley
Connie Miller, VP and Clean Air Chair of GreenTown Los Altos
Bret Andersen, Carbon Free Palo Alto
Kathy Battat
George Dy, Member, Alameda County Policy Squad, Climate Reality Project
Tom Dewey
Linda Sell, Co-Founder, Advisor, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
Gary Latshaw, securethefuture2100, Climate Reality Project, Guadalupe Regional Group Chair,
Abimanyu Jayarman, Co-Lead, State Advocacy team, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, San Jose resident, incoming
freshman, UC Santa Barbara
Elise Chiu, Co-Lead, Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team, Monta Vista High School
Danica Kubota, Co-Lead, San Jose Youth Climate Action Team, San Jose Resident, Presentation High School
Gwyn Azar, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, incoming freshman at UC Davis
Odin Bruyere, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action member
Gary Ding, President, Harker Green Team; Co-Lead, San Jose Youth Climate Action Team, Policy co-chair, Bay Area Youth
Lobbying Initiative, San Jose resident
Aaditya Karnataki, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action member
Richard Konda, Executive Director, Asian Law Alliance
Tim Oey, Founder, ZeroW.org
Esther Duong, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, UC Davis student
Chloe Kwon, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, incoming freshman at UC Santa Barbara
Tom Kabat, Energy Engineer, SJSU Sustainability Committee Member
John McKenna, concerned citizen
Donna Davies, Carbon Free Mountain View, Climate Action Team-LWVLAMV

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NATURAL RESOURCES
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Acterra

ACTION FOR A
HEALTHY PLANET



SPUR



SILICON VALLEY
YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION

ZeroW.org



The Climate
Reality Project®
SILICON VALLEY CHAPTER



BAYLI

Peninsula
Interfaith
Climate Action (PICA)



Cinnamon
Energy Systems



SAN JOSÉ
COMMUNITY
ENERGY ADVOCATES



SAN MATEO
CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

June 13, 2022

The Honorable Mayor Liccardo and City Councilmembers
San José City Council
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Support for San José's Framework for Existing Building Electrification

Dear Mayor Liccardo and City Councilmembers,

We write to express our strong support for the Framework for Existing Building Electrification, a plan that will establish the long-term infrastructure needed to make building electrification more affordable and accessible for all San José residents.

The City of San José is recognized as a national leader and as a role model for other cities because of its bold climate and building decarbonization policies.

- The City's reach code and natural gas infrastructure prohibition for new construction sent a strong market signal in support of electrification across the building industry, demonstrated the City's commitment to climate action, and paved the way for dozens of other cities across California and the country to follow.
- The City again made national headlines when it adopted a carbon neutrality by 2030 goal.

Now it's time to focus on existing buildings, the source of one-third of the City's greenhouse gas emissions. For the City to meet its carbon neutrality goal, it must reduce these emissions.

During the past year and a half, city staff have worked thoughtfully and collaboratively alongside community groups to develop a framework that encourages equitable decarbonization for existing buildings. The Framework for Existing Building Electrification was co-created with community-based organizations who understand and articulate the needs of historically marginalized communities. The Framework's recommendations include supportive policies and programs designed to encourage and support homeowners, property owners, and tenants to electrify their homes and businesses. These supportive measures are intended to reduce barriers to electrification, particularly for low-income residents and historically marginalized communities.

The Framework for Existing Building Electrification prioritizes four key focus areas: health and air quality, housing and energy costs, high quality job opportunities, and clean and reliable energy. These focus areas will benefit the community in four important ways:

Improved health and indoor air quality

Gas appliances produce toxic gasses, including carbon monoxide and nitrous oxides, that [pollute indoor air](#) and can lead to respiratory illnesses, including asthma, especially in children. Removing gas appliances from the home improves indoor air quality. Historically marginalized communities are disproportionately impacted by poor air quality and higher rates of asthma. By switching to electricity, members of these communities can benefit from cleaner air at home.

Housing and Energy Costs

More than 1 in 10 San José households bear a high "energy burden," spending more than 6 percent of their income on utility bills. Because modern electric appliances are much more energy efficient than gas appliances, most homes that go all-electric save money on utility bills. However, the up-front cost of building electrification will require a significant initial investment. For this reason, the Existing Building Electrification Framework recommends prioritizing sustainable funding sources and expanding incentives to reduce or cover the up-front cost of electric appliances, especially for low-income communities.

High Quality Job Opportunities

Building electrification has the potential to create many construction and retrofit job opportunities in San José. The Framework for Existing Building Electrification includes supportive programs that will expand workforce training opportunities, increase accessibility for historically marginalized communities, and generate high quality, local jobs. The City's commitment to ensuring these jobs provide good wages with strong benefits will help increase economic prosperity for San José residents.

Clean and Reliable Energy

San José's Framework for Existing Building Electrification seeks to increase community resilience, and make electrification more accessible to all, so the benefits of clean energy use are shared community-wide. In order to improve community resilience, San José's Framework for Existing Building Electrification includes programs that will increase access to clean and reliable backup power, provide access to safe community spaces or 'community resiliency hubs' and help build a more resilient electric grid.

By passing the Framework for Existing Building Electrification, the City of San José is taking a big step toward its carbon neutrality goal as well as a long-term commitment to building electrification and to equity. The Framework for Existing Building Electrification will bring many benefits to San José residents, from high-quality local job opportunities, reliable energy, and a safer climate, to clean air and healthier homes.

We understand that the policies and programs needed to support building electrification will require a significant investment (i.e. funding resources, incentives), as well as additional staff capacity. These investments to upgrade and electrify our building stock are critically needed and will result in cleaner healthier homes for San José residents and lower utility bills in most cases, when paired with energy efficiency.

The framework sets San José in the right direction, but more will be needed to power the clean energy transition.

For these reasons, we urge the San José City Council to do two things on Tuesday, June 14:

- **pass the Framework for Existing Building Electrification now, and**
- **make a commitment to ensure meaningful investments to support the Framework's implementation, for the health and safety of all San José residents.**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Diane Bailey, Director, Menlo Spark
Leslie Alden, Executive Director, DRAWDOWN Bay Area
Lauren Weston, Executive Director, Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet
Hoi Poon, Co-Founder, Advisor, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
Karen Nelson, Founder and Co-Chair, Climate Reality: Silicon Valley
Susan Butler-Graham, Team Leader, Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley
Laura Feinstein, Sustainability and Resilience Policy Director, SPUR
Olivia Walker, Buildings Technical Strategist, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Glen Garfunkel, Legislative Chair, San Jose Community Energy Advocates
Richard Konda, Executive Director, Asian Law Alliance
Bruce Naegel, Director Metrics and Research, Sustainable Silicon Valley
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Michelle Hudson, Co-Leader of the San Mateo Climate Action Team
Stephanie Morris, Leadership Team, Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley
Jason Mendelson
Daniel Baerwaldt
Robert M. Gould, MD; President, San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
Kathleen Kramer, MD, CoFounder, Project Green Home
Sven Thesen, Founder, BeniSol, LLC
Barry Cinnamon, CEO, Cinnamon Energy Systems
Kristel Wickham, Chair, Sunnyvale Sustainability Commission, Advisor to Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
Robert Whitehair, Co Leader, San Mateo Climate Action Team
Leane Eberhart, San Mateo Architect
Jeffrey Perrone, Member, Alameda County Policy Squad, Climate Reality Project
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Connie Miller, VP and Clean Air Chair of GreenTown Los Altos
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George Dy, Member, Alameda County Policy Squad, Climate Reality Project
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Danica Kubota, Co-Lead, San Jose Youth Climate Action Team, San Jose Resident, Presentation High School

Gwyn Azar, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, incoming freshman at UC Davis

Odin Bruyere, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action member

Gary Ding, President, Harker Green Team; Co-Lead, San Jose Youth Climate Action Team, Policy co-chair, Bay Area Youth Lobbying Initiative, San Jose resident

Aaditya Karnataki, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action member

Richard Konda, Executive Director, Asian Law Alliance

Tim Oey, Founder, ZeroW.org

Esther Duong, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, UC Davis student

Chloe Kwon, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, incoming freshman at UC Santa Barbara

Tom Kabat, Energy Engineer, SJSU Sustainability Committee Member

John McKenna, concerned citizen

Donna Davies, Carbon Free Mountain View, Climate Action Team-LWVLAMV

Support items 6.1 & 6.2: Existing Building Electrification and Pathway to Carbon Neutrality

Susan Butler-Graham <[REDACTED]>

Mon 6/13/2022 6:11 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]>
Cc: City Clerk <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]>

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

As a San Jose mother and grandmother, and a volunteer leader of Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, I support the city staff's proposed [Existing Building Electrification Framework](#) and [Pathway to Carbon Neutrality by 2030](#) as an essential part of the solution to meet our net zero climate goals in San Jose, and ask that the plans be strengthened with designated financial and human resources and target deadlines.

When I found out about the dangers of Fossil "Natural" Gas, I became extremely concerned about the indoor air quality in my home and the homes of my children. I don't want my kids and grandkids to breathe those toxic fumes anymore! I also learned that fossil gas is one of the worst contributors to the climate crisis.

So I was very encouraged and excited to hear that our city is working to find a way to electrify existing buildings as well as a path to carbon neutrality. That's why I designed a postcard for Our Mothers Out Front team to collect signatures in support of these efforts, and many residents have signed them from all over San Jose and some neighboring cities that also want to be carbon neutral.

The Existing Building Electrification Framework **incentivizes**—but does not mandate—residents to replace old gas appliances “on burn out” or end of life with efficient electric alternatives, including electric or induction stoves, heat pump water heaters, and heat pump space heating—which also provides efficient cooling during our increasingly hot summers.

The plan provides extensive **outreach** to raise awareness of the negative health and climate impacts of using gas. Many residents would be willing to electrify, but due to limited understanding and resources and much misinformation around electrification, they often stay with conventional (fossil) gas appliances. **Most people don't know that gas stoves pollute indoor air and emit methane continuously, even when turned off, and that children in homes with gas stoves are 42% more likely to develop symptoms of asthma.**

The plan also stimulates the creation of new electrification-related **job growth** with living wages. **The plan emphasizes equity**, informed by a coalition with representatives from historically marginalized communities. **The plan includes assistance and grants to facilitate** potential “retrofit accelerator” programs and other affordability options.

The Pathway to Carbon Neutrality lays out **the steps we will need to take to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions**, including shifting to electric vehicles, all-electric buildings, and 100% clean electricity. The latest climate science shows that **we must reduce fossil fuel usage rapidly to avoid catastrophic effects of climate change**. San Jose's Pathway to Carbon Neutrality will help us get there.

Please listen to parents and our allies: approve the Existing Building Electrification Framework and Pathway to Carbon Neutrality to help ensure a livable climate and safe homes for our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

Susan Butler-Graham

Pronouns: she/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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Support items 6.1 & 6.2: Existing Building Electrification and Pathway to Carbon Neutrality

Jenny Green <[REDACTED]>

Mon 6/13/2022 7:10 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
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<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

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

Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley urges you to vote in support of the city staff's proposed [Existing Building Electrification Framework](#) and [Pathway to Carbon Neutrality by 2030](#) as essential parts of the solution to meet our net zero climate goals in San José. We ask that these plans be strengthened with designated financial and human resources and specific target deadlines.

Paying for electrification, while expensive, is much cheaper than paying for the costs of climate destabilization. [\\$545 million](#) is already being spent to shore up levees to protect north San José from flooding. Costs to build a seawall to protect the Embarcadero in San Francisco have been estimated at [\\$5 billion](#). Damage from California wildfires in the past few years has cost as much as [\\$10 billion](#) per fire.

Now is the moment to act for the climate. We are running out of time. There is widespread support in the South Bay for climate action, and the people of San José are counting on you to take the necessary steps to fulfill your pledge to reach net zero carbon emissions in our city by 2030. Since the energy used in buildings generates 20-30% of our region's greenhouse gas pollution, it's essential to adopt an ambitious plan to power our buildings with clean electricity, not fossil gas.

We are also looking to you to protect our children and other residents from the toxic chemicals emitted by gas appliances, particularly gas stoves. Studies have shown that children living in homes with gas stoves have up to 42% percent increased risk of developing asthma. The use of gas stoves and ovens can quickly elevate levels of particulate matter that, if found outdoors, would be illegal. Therefore, supporting residents to transition from gas to electric appliances is not only the right thing to do for the climate, it's the right thing to do for our health.

Mothers Out Front is a national movement of mothers and allies who are mobilizing to preserve a livable climate for all children. We have over 35,000 supporters nationwide, more than 2,000 of whom live in Santa Clara County. We are extremely concerned about what our children's future will look like. Please vote in favor of existing building electrification and a pathway to carbon neutrality.

Sincerely,

Susan Butler-Graham, Team Coordinator, Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, San José resident, D9

Stacy Levy, Volunteer with Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, San José resident, D1

Amanda Senior, Volunteer with Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, San José resident, D2

Brenda Rodriguez, Volunteer with Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, San José resident, D3

Kathy Nunes, Volunteer with Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, San José resident, D3

Isabella Nguyen Chappuis, Volunteer with Mothers Out Front, San José resident, D4

Blanca Alvarado, Volunteer with Mothers Out Front, San José resident, D5

Hoai-An Truong, Volunteer with Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, San José resident, D6

Ruth Merino, Supporter of Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, San José resident D6

Shreya Krishnan, Volunteer with Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, San José resident, D7

Moria Merriweather, Volunteer with Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, San José resident, D7

Julie Allingham, Supporter of Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, San José resident, D8

Linda Hutchins-Knowles, Volunteer with Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, Karl Knapp GoEV Senior Manager at Acterra, San José resident, D9

Jenny Green, Volunteer with Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, San José resident, D9

Martina Keim, Volunteer with Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, San José resident, D10

DeAnna Pursai, Mothers Out Front Member & Rotary Club of San José Climate Action Chair, San José resident, D10

Stephanie Morris, Volunteer with Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley

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Support items 6.1 & 6.2: Existing Building Electrification and Pathway to Carbon Neutrality

Stephanie Smeekens <[REDACTED]>

Mon 6/13/2022 7:43 PM

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

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

As a supporter of Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, I support the city staff's proposed [Existing Building Electrification Framework](#) and [Pathway to Carbon Neutrality by 2030](#) as an essential part of the solution to meet our net zero climate goals in San Jose, and ask that the plans be strengthened with designated financial and human resources and target deadlines.

The Existing Building Electrification Framework **incentivizes**—but does not mandate—residents to replace old gas appliances “on burn out” or end of life with efficient electric alternatives, including electric or induction stoves, heat pump water heaters, and heat pump space heating—which also provides efficient cooling during our increasingly hot summers.

The plan provides extensive **outreach** to raise awareness of the negative health and climate impacts of using gas. Many residents would be willing to electrify, but due to limited understanding and resources and much misinformation around electrification, they often stay with conventional (fossil) gas appliances. **Most people don't know that gas stoves pollute indoor air and emit methane continuously, even when turned off, and that children in homes with gas stoves are 42% more likely to develop symptoms of asthma.**

The plan also stimulates the creation of new electrification-related **job growth** with living wages. **The plan emphasizes equity**, informed by a coalition with representatives from historically marginalized communities. **The plan includes assistance and grants to facilitate** potential “retrofit accelerator” programs and other affordability options.

The Pathway to Carbon Neutrality lays out **the steps we will need to take to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions**, including shifting to electric vehicles, all-electric buildings, and 100% clean electricity. The latest climate science shows that **we must reduce fossil fuel usage rapidly to avoid catastrophic effects of climate change**. San Jose's Pathway to Carbon Neutrality will help us get there.

Please approve the Existing Building Electrification Framework and Pathway to Carbon Neutrality to help ensure a livable climate for our children.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Smeekens

[REDACTED]

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please vote for strong climate action today (6/14)

William Benson <[REDACTED]>

Tue 6/14/2022 12:47 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing as a resident and voter in San Jose to urge you to pass the items 6.1 and 6.2 on 6/14/2022 agenda- the Pathway to Climate Neutrality and Existing Building Electrification plan. Evidence grows every day of the looming threat of the climate crisis. It's important for the city to take very strong, practical steps and demonstrate leadership in addressing it. These measures will benefit residents' health and keep us moving to a sustainable economic future.

I also strongly support the change to remove minimum parking requirements for new developments (agenda item 10.3). Building transit alternatives while still requiring individual car parking makes no sense. It imposes costs and disincentives to those who might otherwise use the alternatives. I understand that people have different needs and circumstances. But from my own experience, non-car alternatives can serve many people well, even enhancing the quality of urban / suburban life. That will work even better with less space devoted to parking, and more to human needs and goals.

In conclusion, I ask that you support both of these measures, so our city can do its part on meaningful issues.

- William Benson
[REDACTED]

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6.1 Climate Smart San José Existing Building Electrification Framework

Brian Tham <[REDACTED]>

Tue 6/14/2022 6:43 AM

To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

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Hello City Council of San Jose,

I'm a Bay-Area resident and a student at Mountain View High School. On behalf of my community, I express our strong support for electrification of household appliances to move forward quickly, which would greatly reduce carbon emissions and use of fossil fuels.

I can already feel the heat of the summers becoming increasingly sweltering over the years from climate change. At the time of writing, California is already experiencing a heat wave with shocking record-high temperatures. We cannot continue to live this way. Therefore, **we need to push electrification on pre-existing buildings to help eliminate carbon emissions** because gas household appliances are a major contributing factor to carbon emissions.

Because San Jose Clean Energy already offers 95% carbon free electricity, by switching to electric appliances, we can significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions while also improving air quality and reducing our energy usage. Additionally, clean appliances like heat pumps also provide clean cooling and air filtration, which is extremely important since San Jose sees increasing numbers of extreme heat and wildfire smoke days. Without electrification, we will continue to use unclean energy sources to fuel heavily used appliances which already produce a substantial amount of carbon emissions. As a result, it is essential to push for electrification of household appliances in order to reduce carbon emissions from both the energy source and the appliances themselves.

By replacing gas appliances with electric ones in pre-existing buildings, we eliminate the significant carbon emissions that would have been produced by those gas appliances.

I urge the San Jose City Council to lead San Jose towards a better path by reducing carbon emissions through electrification of household appliances.

Sincerely,

Brian Tham

Support items 6.1 & 6.2 & 10.3: Existing Building Electrification and Pathway to Carbon Neutrality & No Parking Minimums

Linda Hutchins-Knowles <[REDACTED]>

Tue 6/14/2022 7:30 AM

To: District1 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]>
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<[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]>

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

As a San Jose resident, co-founder of Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley, and staff member of Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet, I support the city staff's proposed [Existing Building Electrification Framework](#), [Pathway to Carbon Neutrality by 2030](#) and revised parking minimums as essential parts of the solution to meet our net zero climate goals in San Jose. I also ask that the plans be strengthened with designated financial and human resources and target deadlines—and that you move forward swiftly to sunset the unnecessary and harmful exemption allowing gas-powered fuel cells in new construction, in direct contradiction of the intention of the Natural Gas Prohibition and our Climate Smart goals.

The Existing Building Electrification Framework **incentivizes**—but does not mandate—residents to replace old gas appliances “on burn out” or end of life with efficient electric alternatives, including electric or induction stoves, heat pump water heaters, and heat pump space heating—which also provides efficient cooling during our increasingly hot summers.

The plan provides extensive **outreach** to raise awareness of the negative health and climate impacts of using gas. Many residents would be willing to electrify, but due to limited understanding and resources and much misinformation around electrification, they often stay with conventional (fossil) gas appliances. **Most people don't know that gas stoves pollute indoor air and emit methane continuously, even when turned off, and that children in homes with gas stoves are 42% more likely to develop symptoms of asthma.**

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The Pathway to Carbon Neutrality lays out **the steps we will need to take to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions**, including shifting to electric vehicles, all-electric buildings, and 100% clean electricity. The latest climate science shows that **we must reduce fossil fuel usage rapidly to avoid catastrophic effects of climate change**. San Jose's Pathway to Carbon Neutrality will help us get there.

The revised parking ordinance will encourage mode shift from cars to alternative methods of clean transportation.

Please approve the Existing Building Electrification Framework, Pathway to Carbon Neutrality, and revised parking minimums to help ensure a livable climate for our children—and then take the next step soon to end the carve out for gas-powered fuel cells.

Thank you,

Linda Hutchins-Knowles

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SIERRA CLUB

LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

June 14th, 2022
San José City Hall
200 E Santa Clara St,
San José, CA 95113

RE: Agenda Item 6.1 Climate Smart San José Existing Building Framework and 6.2 Carbon Neutral San José by 2030 Acceleration Strategy

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter fully supports the San José Existing Building Framework and Carbon Neutral San José by 2030 Acceleration Strategy. We applaud the City for establishing a greenhouse gas reduction strategy that reflects the urgency of the climate crisis.

We hope that the City invests heavily in community outreach, education, ongoing support programs, energy efficiency, streamlining and rebates. We are happy to see that these actions are included in the Existing Building Framework. We hope San José continues to collaborate with cities that are also exploring rapid decarbonization and existing building electrification.

The decarbonization of San José must be done equitably, and we believe that both Plans as written provide the framework for achieving this. We fully support the City's equity goals and call on San José to establish anti-displacement and tenant protection ordinances as it has outlined.

San José is embarking on a massive undertaking involving potentially billions of dollars worth of infrastructure. Success will rely on the Council's full commitment to the Existing Building Framework and Carbon Neutral Strategy. We have full faith in this City's ability to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]
Dashiell Leeds
Conservation Organizer
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

[Redacted Signature]
Kristel Wickham
Co-Chair, Climate Action Leadership Team
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

[Redacted Signature]
Gladwyn D'Souza
Chair, Conservation Committee
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[Redacted Signature]
James Eggers
Chapter Director
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter