Blair Beekman. ___sj council study session. Senate bill 1383. April 12, 2021. Public Comment.

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To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear community of San Jose, and city govt.,

 In the wide range of issues, of this special counsel meeting, and to try to address, more than Senate bill 1383.

 East Bay Community Energy, EBCE, has developed a specific subsidy plan, in this new era of Covid-19 - that higher income customers, can pay a higher rate, for nearly 100% clean & renewable energy, in the next year.

 While EBCE customers, of lower income - will be offered subsidies, to not have to pay for, the rate increases, in the EBCE, trying to cover the costs, of going nearly 100% clean energy.

 To note, San Jose community energy, for this next year, may be offering, somewhere around, 60% clean energy, and 40% dirty fuel energy, with more traditional, u.s. community subsidy programs, that are often, hidden, confused, and secretive.

 At this time, there should be, a more open community process, to address, the importance of subsidy issues, for at least, 3 San Jose programs, garbage & recycling, water, and community energy, at this time. And if the San Jose area, can improve upon, interesting, green sustainability ideas, and the use of subsidies, by the EBCE.

 All of this hinges on, San Jose City government, learning the art - to not fear, openly explaining, all of the nuances, complexities, & choices, of subsidies, to the everyday public.

 Please allow, many community meetings & dialogue, to simply & openly question, the future of subsidies for San Jose.

 I understand, it takes a lot of effort, to maintain past traditions, yet to also develop, important new humanistic concepts, in this era of Covid-19.

 Hopefully, simple, regular bookkeeping, along with state & federal funding ideas - can first address, how to completely avoid, rate increases & the subsidy process, altogether - for low income people, in

the next few years.

To conclude, the basis of any dialogue, at this time, should simply be, that people of low income, should only have to pay, a minimal amount of rate increase. And more importantly, possibly not have to pay, any rate increase at all, over the next few years.

To consider, some questions.

Question 1.

How can subsidies be used in San Jose, in good terms, to minimize, the rate hike process. And more specifically, to not offer, any sort of rate increase at all, to residents of lower income.

As higher income residents, can simply afford to pay a higher rate, at this time. As they should be doing fairly well, with shelter-in-place orders, & stock market transactions, in this era of Covid-19.

And where it is, a sad new struggle, for people of low income, to pay bills.

Question 2.

How can this be, an open community process, of questions and dialogue.

Question 3.

Will subsidy programs, even be needed, for at least, 3 San Jose govt agencies, mentioned above.

The ideas & term, subsidy, should not be, a dirty word. But can San Jose city govt., local government agencies, and community, first learn to practice, balanced books. And rely on, straight federal funding, that may not have to involve, the use of subsidy programs.

As a simple, current, tiered subsidy system, has to be better addressed & realized, in a future, of the haves & the have nots.

A more creative use, of future subsidy programs, has to be a part of upcoming community dialogue.

Question 4.

The possibility of a large earthquake, wildfires, and increase sea level rise, may all be causing problems, for San Jose & SF Bay Area, in the next 5-10 years. Ideas of equity, and natural disaster, emergency preparedness, should always be considered. And with, current subsidy questions.

Overall, in addressing how to come out of, this era of Covid-19 - I hope, simple, friendly, open, caring dialogue & conversation, can be respected, at this time.

Sincerely,
Blair Beekman

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