

Blair Beekman__sj council. May 11, 2021. Item 6.1. Public Comment.

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Tue 5/11/2021 9:01 AM

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Dear community of San Jose, and city govt.,

I hope, the San Jose area, can look to, and want to improve upon, the interesting use of subsidies, by East Bay Community Energy, the EBCE, at this time.

They have developed, an almost 100% renewable energy plan. While keeping rates for low-income people, mostly the same. And asking people of higher income, to pay a slightly higher bill.

San Jose programs, of garbage & recycling, community energy, and water, will all be questioning, the use of subsidies, in the coming months,

Four questions to consider,

Question 1.

As higher income residents, should be doing fairly well, in this era of Covid-19. They can simply afford to pay, a higher rate, at this time.

How can subsidies be developed & used, in San Jose, at this time, to minimize, the rate hike process. And more specifically - to not offer, any sort of rate increase at all, to residents of lower income. And what can be, their sad new struggle, of paying bills.

Question 2.

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

Question 3.

Can San Jose city govt., local government agencies, and community, first learn to practice, 'to balance the books'. And rely on, straight federal funding, that may not have to involve, the use of subsidy programs.

Question 4.

Wildfires, an increase in sea level rise, and a possible large earthquake, 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, as well.

There needs to be, a nuanced, sensitive, open, creative thinking,, of future subsidy programs, in San Jose, that can acknowledge, past community practices, along with considering, important concepts, of positive sustainability, and human care.

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, we have to consider, how people of low income, may not have to pay, any rate increase at all, over the next few years.

Beginning work, on familiar ideas of subsidies, can be a part of, an overall process, to leave the era of Covid-19. And by local communities, and govt., learning together, of not having to harm, other human beings - in how to work towards positive sustainability, and fulfill, long term social planning ideals and needs, as a human society.

sincerely,
blair beekman

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