



8-11-21

Dear Measure X Advisory Board,

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide a community perspective on the essential, transformative action needed to benefit our most vulnerable residents relating to the environment.

You heard many requests from different divisions of our county government, focused on needs that Measure X could address, and they are compelling. Members of 350 Contra Costa have been working with the County on the need for climate action for 5 years, and it is through this experience that we know that a greater level of effort, and more structurally prioritized action, is needed. The emergency that climate warming brings must be centered in all environmental, economic development, and public works efforts in our County.

The number one priority must be to reduce emissions of fossil fuel pollution in all areas that the County can have impact: both directly, and through partnership with cities and other governmental and private entities. As our President has emphasized, and as is best practice for counties that are in leadership on this issue, there must be direction from the top of government to ensure this action is centered in all work.

With the approval of our recommendation for Measure X funds in the range of \$2.5 Million per year for at least ten years, the County will be able to reorganize for more effective, prioritized action. This funding, coupled with creation of an Office of Sustainability under the CAO, can provide funds to add essential employees and jump start key County-level initiatives.

In addition to having a Director of Sustainability, many more staff are needed to lead climate action related to energy and water, transportation and housing, resilience, refinery transition and economic development and land use. All actions need to prioritize the needs of low-income residents and communities and utilize collaboration with cities and other agencies to leverage results and benefit economically through integrated action. For example, each city should not have to start from scratch on policy making and program plans. Shared staff and the cost-effectiveness of volume purchasing (e.g. electric vehicles) become possible.

**Here is how Los Angeles County describes the role of their Sustainability Office:** The Chief Sustainability Office provides comprehensive and coordinated policy support and guidance for the Board of Supervisors, County Departments, the unincorporated areas, and the region to make our communities healthier, more livable, economically stronger, more equitable, more resilient, and more sustainable.

What if we led in this way?

Thank you again. We face an emergency that will harm our children and grandchildren even more than it will harm us. What meaningful steps can we take to address this problem, and set an example for others?

Respectfully and with thanks for your work,

Marti Roach for 350 Contra Costa

PS We were asked to speak 8 business days before the meeting; with more time we would have been able to bring you a more detailed comparison of how other Counties in our region are doing this work more effectively. A quick look at these web sites can give a flavor.  
<https://www.smcsustainability.org>, <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/sustainability>,  
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/osp/Pages/osp.aspx>, <https://sfenvironment.org>  
<https://ceo.lacounty.gov/sustainability/>