



Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County
404 Gregory Lane, Rm 1, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

August 20, 2021

To: Measure X Community Advisory Board

Subj: ICAN Support for Climate Action as Presented by 350 Contra Costa

The Interfaith Climate Action Network of Contra Costa is a regional organizing group of California Interfaith Power and Light, concerned with social and environmental justice, and we partner with many other Environmental Justice groups, such as Green Faith International and Communities for a Better Environment. We are part of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa, with 109 congregations and organizations from a wide range of faith traditions and life philosophies.

I am here to express our support for the recommendations you received on Wednesday from 350 Contra Costa. They and others have described the threat and crisis multiplier that is climate change. You also have heard about the many immediate needs of our community that deserve funding from Measure X. And you understand how the climate crisis increases the severity of peoples' needs – like health.

We all agree on the need for CLIMATE ACTION. I encourage you to balance the need for adaptation and resilience -- the immediate needs – with the visionary and transformational, longer-term solutions for the root causes that perpetuate the climate crisis, and that is policy and programs to *reduce emissions* and turn to *clean energy*.

These actions are not mutually exclusive, in fact many of the measures for resilience, such as fire management, are also actions that reduce emissions. We can do both! We must do both – tactical and strategic actions.

Please recommend to the Board of Supervisors the transformational and significant investments that will not only provide immediate relief, but also provide for policy solutions at a high level to address the causes of the climate crisis at the highest level. That means elevated authority and support for a Director of Sustainability, as we see in other counties.

ICAN supports the County sustainability request and the recommendation of 350 Contra Costa to elevate our county's response to the climate crisis.

Environmental justice is social justice.

Thank you for your leadership on this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

Emily Hopkins
Walnut Creek, CA