



8-23-21

To: Members of the Measure X Advisory Board
RE: follow up on verbal comment from 8-20-21 meeting

Dear Measure X Advisory Board Members,

We thank you and appreciate all the work you are doing. We are excited by how this process has helped to expose vital community needs, opportunities for innovation, system improvement and glaring gaps.

As you move toward your final decisions, we hope you will consider the overarching reality of climate disruption filtering into our lives, and how we can take more action now to stop feeding this problem.

We have a significant gap in our County in the level of effort, and degree of synchronized effort, to address the local causes of climate change via burning fossil fuels. As one of the speakers in your last meeting said, it is vital that all County activities prioritize choosing clean energy solutions over continued business as usual burning of dirty, polluting energy, and that this is done as we solve other social issues—multi-solving problems simultaneously.

Our Governor, considering the state of the climate emergency, has issued an executive order that moves up to 2035 the year when we must reach net zero: This is zeroing out use of carbon fuels. This is a steep trajectory, but with climate impacts already coming on strong, we must stop the source of the problem as we help our communities be resilient to the negative impacts that are growing. Each locality has to do its part.

Contra Costa must do more. It can only do more by prioritizing this work through an Office of Climate Action (or Sustainability) and Environmental Justice. We know how systems work. If there is not a resourced direction from the top, we will not have in place the system levers and accountability for action, and we lose out on greater efficiencies and synchronized efforts. Community advocates like us observe this issue when advocating for local climate solutions.

A well-resourced Office can ensure more community education, engagement and consultation, private sector business engagement to leverage a speedy transition to clean energy, engagement with our 19 cities to bring efficiencies and leverage outside funds **and** prioritized attention to this issue in all areas of our County government.

There are multiple benefits in local climate action: opportunities for living wage jobs, workforce development programs for youth, new economic development aligned with

clean energy, improved health and well-being through improved air quality, stronger community connections, and more comprehensive efforts to protect everyone, especially the most vulnerable from growing climate impacts.

Moving to clean energy can benefit low income, BIPOC community members through weatherization and other energy efficiency/clean energy programs that will reduce utility costs and improve livability of homes, More (clean) public transit, more opportunities for low income people to afford electric vehicles, and more focused, sustained work on walkable/bikeable safe communities--all can be prioritized to target low income and front line communities experiencing disproportionate pollution loads.

Thank you. Respectfully,

Marti Roach for 350 Contra Costa