

Jody London

From: Marti Roach <martiroach@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 9:52 AM
To: John Gioia; District5; Clerk of the Board
Cc: martiroach@gmail.com; Jody London; Will Nelson; Mike Moore
Subject: 350 Contra Costa Comments on the Sustainability sections of DRAFT general Plan



May 23, 2022

Supervisor John Gioia

Supervisor Federal Glover

Cc Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator

Mike Moore, Chair, Sustainability Commission

Will Nelson, Principal Planner

Clerk of the Board

RE Comments on Sustainability Elements of Draft General Plan (pdf below)

Dear Supervisors Gioia and Glover,

Gary Farber drafted a letter of comment, below, to the Sustainability Commission on the Sustainability Elements of the draft General Plan. 350 Contra Costa, of which he is a member, stands behind this letter and we wanted to bring it to your attention.

We have a few other comments as well. Overall, the General Plan covers so many policy issues important to us and we appreciate all the work that has gone into it.

We found agreement with many of the comments of the Sustainability Commission Members from their April meeting. (As a note, since the Commission didn't make recommendations, the comments from the General Plan review in April reflect individual comments only.) Here are Comments we choose to highlight:

- The six, by our count, comments calling out the need to “ban drilling for oil and gas on County land”;

- “This may just be the way that different GOPA were pulled out, I don’t always see action items to accompany the policies. It appears that there are more policies and goals than actions. It seems we need more accountability, which comes from the actions.”
- ““Please include timelines for General Plan implementation.”
- “SC-A1.2 - With input from residents of Impacted Communities". I want more clarity on how the public engagement can be meaningful and not tokenism.
- “Establish a First Source Hiring Program requiring developers, contractors and employers to utilize good faith efforts toward employing residents of Impacted Communities, with emphasis on residents who are economically disadvantaged.”

We also want to share some suggestions to further tighten the meaning of some of the draft language related to economic development.

SC-P1.1 - In partnership with residents of Impacted Communities, affected workers, business/industry, environmental and environmental justice advocates, community colleges, workforce development and training entities, local government, and other appropriate agencies, support transition from petroleum refining and other highly polluting industries to renewable energy and sustainable industries that provide living-wage jobs. (renewable industries is not a thing)

LU-P8.1 - Welcome industries that create living-wage jobs and career advancement opportunities for county residents without causing (REMOVE the word severe) environmental degradation. (3-44) *Or, provide further definition of what constitutes severe. Otherwise it is pretty subjective: who decides?*

Please review our letter, below.

Thank you,

Marti Roach

350 Contra Costa

April 25, 2022

County Sustainability Commission

c/o Jody London

RE: Draft Sustainability Element / County General Plan Update

Dear Commission Members,

I have reviewed the draft Sustainability Element for the update to the county’s general plan. Much of the policies contained in the draft element are in keeping with good sustainable land and resource planning. However, there are a few key areas where essential policies are either missing or warrant greater detail:

- ◆ **HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT:** The Sustainability Element ought to push for higher density residential development near commercial nodes and transit corridors, and outline the major benefits of denser urban style development:

- Frees up open space for recreation, nature and critical habitat preservation, and agriculture.
 - Encourages more resident-serving commercial and cultural establishments, thus creating higher-density mixed-use neighborhoods that are more convenient and less reliant on personal powered transportation.
 - Makes public transit more efficient by providing a greater number of potential riders in a concentrated area.
- ◆ FOSSIL FUELS IN BUILDINGS: The Sustainability Element ought to call for no fossil fuel systems in all new buildings, no new fossil fuel systems to serve new building additions, and for phasing out fossil fuel systems in existing buildings
 - ◆ SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION:
 - New multi-family developments must accommodate the growing number of EVs that residents are expected to own.
 - Encourage EV infrastructure to be added to existing multi-family developments.
 - New EV charging stations ought to include solar electric (PV) generation and battery systems, to lessen grid loads and increase resilience.
 - Encourage solar electric generation and battery systems to be added at existing EV charging stations.
 - ◆ LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE: This appears to be missing from the draft. Fossil fuel powered landscape maintenance equipment should be phased out throughout the county.
 - ◆ OIL AND NATURAL GAS RESOURCES: The Sustainability Element should call for no new drilling, as well as phasing out existing drilling for, and processing of, fossil fuel products.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Free to contact me should you have any questions or comments regarding my suggestions.

Sincerely,

Gary Farber

Walnut Creek

Member: Policy Team of 350 Contra Costa (for information only; letter not endorsed by 350 CC)