

ITEM 1 CORRESPONDENCE

August 8, 2022

To: The Calabasas City Council

From: Joanne Suwara

Re: Study Session to develop a Climate Action Plan

I found the information attached to the agenda to be very detailed and informative. Of the four options presented to develop a climate action plan I strongly support Option 4 – Qualified CAP using consultant team.

I think that even though Option 1 includes specific goals and targets it does not include detailed implementation plans. There is no accountability to ensure that things get done.

Option 2 – incorporating CAP into the General Plan also lacks an implementation plan and focuses on high-level policies rather than detailed actions.

Option 3 – Stand-alone CAP developed w/consultant has some good points such as significant community input and detailed goals and specific actions. However, there are no specific implementation measures and responsibilities. Without that there is no assurance that anything will get done,

Option 4 meets all the criteria important to me. There would be significant community involvement and actions are detailed and specific. Most important, there is an excellent plan for

implementation. All the plans and goals written on paper aren't worth anything if nothing gets done!

It may take longer and cost more but in the long-run Option 4 has all the components necessary to make a positive change for future generations.

Thank you.

Joanne & John Suwara

From: [Joe Chilco](#)
To: [info](#)
Cc: [Maricela Hernandez](#)
Subject: City Council 8-10-22 meeting - agenda item #1 - public comments
Date: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16:42 PM

Mayor Maurer and City Council Members,

Please consider the following comments with regard to agenda item #1 (Study Session: Planning for climate change and the development of a Climate Action Plan).

Climate Planning Options – Option 4 (Agoura Hills) – this checks all the boxes and is the most expensive. I expect that one is a byproduct of the other – you get what you pay for. It is the only option with an Implementation Plan and a Tracking/Dashboard. In other words, the other options talk a lot about what to do, but this option actually puts a plan in action. We need action. It is also an option that provides sufficient time for all interested parties to participate.

Without public participation in the efforts to make the plan a reality, including their commitment to the goals, then any plan will fail to be as effective as we need it to be. Option 4 appears to allow sufficient time for this.

The contention that all wildfires crossover from National Forest-owned lands to privately held lands is a fallacy. In fact, the majority of wildfires in California resulting in the greatest losses of homes start in scrubland, not tree-covered forests. Scrubland is what is most abundant in and around Calabasas.

Certainly, City staff can be involved in the implementation of plan actions. However, a Climate Action Plan will require a substantial amount of staff time. It makes sense to consider outside, qualified consultants. Making an investment in this regard is going to be necessary.

The residents and the City are still going to be in the position of having developments with limited ingress and egress evacuation routes. Currently, there is no mitigation for this problem. Creating, funding and implementing a Climate Action Plan will be a step towards creating greater public safety.

I encourage the City Council to consider a Climate Action Plan similar to Option 4.

Thanks,
Joe Chilco
Calabasas resident
(address on file)

From: [Andy Shrader](#)
To: [Mary Sue Maurer - External](#); [Peter Kraut](#); [James Bozajian - External](#); [David Shapiro](#); [Alicia Weintraub](#); [Maricela Hernandez](#)
Cc: [Monica Parmar](#)
Subject: Comments on creation of Calabasas Climate Action Plan
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 1:16:24 PM

Dear Mayor Maurer and City Councilmembers,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the proposed development of the City of Calabasas' Climate Action Plan (CAP). Each of the model plans has effective elements, so we will highlight specific elements to include. **The most important component of any climate action plan is a specific, directed implementation plan with solid timelines, responsibilities, and resources.**

1.

Before we comment upon the substance of the reports in the agenda, we would like to highlight one small part of Dean Kubani's memo, where he mentions "climate adaptation" or "resilience." There seems to be among the general populace a feeling or misunderstanding that the climate will get a little worse, the weather will get a little hotter and then stabilize. Unfortunately, that is a serious and, frankly, dangerous misconception. As long as we as a global society continue to emit greenhouse gasses, the climate will continue to get hotter and the weather will continue to become more unstable and unpredictable.

For one instance, the media keeps talking about California's "drought." There is no longer a drought. By definition, droughts end. We have entered a new era of water scarcity. We used to store our water as snowpack in the high Sierras and the high Rockies. Now, exacerbated by an overheated planet, any snow we receive melts within a relatively short time frame. The snowpack we used to be able to rely upon well into the summer months is gone forever. Because of this reality, the Colorado River is right now dropping 2 inches every 9 days.

While adaptation is important and necessary and should be a building block in the CAP, the immediate and drastic reduction of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is essential to our continued well-being and should be the foremost focus of the City's climate action planning. Reduction of the more potent GHGs, like methane in natural gas, should receive immediate focus and should not await the development of a Climate Action Plan. A building electrification ordinance halting the use of natural gas in new developments, including homes, immediately should be fast-tracked and a plan should be created to phase out the use of natural gas in existing buildings.

2.

Any effective climate action plan must be comprehensive and include a

systems approach to sustainability and environmental health. For instance, a focus on water conservation is already essential from a water supply point of view, but the greenhouse gas impacts of water movement in the state should be highlighted. According to the CA Department of Water Resources, about 12 percent of California's total energy use is related to water. Energy is required for the following water activities: pumping water from underground aquifers, water conveyance across the state, treating water to make it drinkable, and heating and cooling water. The sources of energy used to power these water activities is directly tied to the volume of GHGs we emit into the atmosphere. Therefore, a truly effective plan to reduce GHG emissions will include an aggressive citywide water conservation plan across both public and private sectors.

For another instance, a Calabasas speciality, preserving open space, is also a climate adaptation strategy. The rush to build affordable housing statewide must not occur at the expense of protection of natural areas. If done conscientiously, with wildlife habitat connectivity as its overriding consideration, effective open space preservation will allow both flora and fauna the ability to migrate in response to climate impacts, while preserving our world-class quality of life and protecting against wildfire risk. Allowing native, natural systems to flourish helps sequester carbon dioxide in plants and healthy soil, thereby actually drawing down climate emissions.

Claremont's Climate Action Plan emphasizes this type of systemic thinking, stating that, "Any comprehensive environmental sustainability plan must recognize the wisdom of preserving natural open space, increasing permeable surfaces, using 'green building' principles, minimizing waste materials, recycling, promoting a healthful and abundant food supply, minimizing exposure to toxic substances, enhancing Claremont's natural features, ensuring economic vitality, and engaging in wise land use planning."

3.

As for the waste component of a climate action plan, waste and single-use item strategies should be vetted through a lens of "redesign, reduce, reuse, repair, and then, only as a last resort, recycle." The global recycling system is clearly broken and is mainly a marketing strategy invented by the bottle and plastics companies to put the burden of waste upon consumers rather than their accepting responsibility for products for their entire life cycles. Calabasas should join together with LA County and LA City in their efforts to force the industry to redesign products to be compostable rather than recyclable.

4.

Calabasas has a depth of talented residents, whose expertise should be mined toward figuring out solutions never before considered in the climate fight.

Sincerely,

Andy Shrader & Monica Parmar
Calabasas Parents, Youth & Neighbors for Climate & Environmental Protection

August 10, 2022

TO: The Calabasas City Council

Re: Item 1. Study Session Planning for climate change and development of a Climate Action Plan

This Climate Change component of the Public Safety Element, Policy VII-G, stresses preparation for a new paradigm

Both the Public Safety Commission as well as the Environmental Commission could aid the Sustainability Taskforce in meeting this new call to action. As a suggestion, perhaps one member from each of the Public Safety and Environmental Commissions could be considered a Commission Subcommittee on Climate Change. Each member of the Subcommittee would meet with the Strategic Planning Taskforce for direction, then report back to their Commission for further discussion.

As a current example of combining information and suggestions, a joint meeting of two Commissions, the Circulation Commission and the Public Safety

Commission was held to evaluate the Public Safety and Circulation Elements. This joint meeting resulted in some of our suggestions being considered for inclusion.

Under XII. General Plan Implementation, the broader use of Commissions already in place could be a part of "Enhancement of Community Awareness" as noted on page XIII-11. Expanding the reach of the Sustainability Taskforce would also expand the community outreach and improve community awareness.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Citron