

328 Getchell St  
Santa Cruz  
Date June 18 2019

Dear City Council, City Manager and Climate Action Manager

We have reviewed the City's 2015/17 and 2017/9 two-year work plans. The 2017 at first says that it merely added 3 new goals but later implies that the 2015 ones are being set aside. In any case we wish to make the following requests:

## To City of Santa Cruz

**The existing 2017--19 two-year plan does not include many essential features.  
For 2019--21 please add the following:**

**Community Involvement  
Revised Environmental Goals  
Zero-Carbon Housing Goals  
Public Safety and Well Being  
Climate Resiliency**

Details as follows

### 1. Community Involvement

In order to address the Climate Crisis many communities are setting up processes for detailed on-going community involvement. City government needs to set up community workshops organized with the help of community organizations and leaders, making sure to include organizations of people of color and of lower income status.

Community input will include voting on the best alternatives for the plan and will also include as many citizens as possible by whatever means available, including digital; staff input, council input, and community input will have equal weight in the final decisions on crucial issues.

### 2. Reinstate and upgrade Environmental goals

(2015/17 Goal 1 - with edits:

Environmental Stewardship and Well Managed Resources

*2.1 Reconsider how best to preserve, protect and maintain natural resources and public spaces to promote health and well-being for all, in the face of the escalating climate crisis.*

*2.2 Take all actions necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero*

*a) from municipal operations and infrastructure to net zero by 2025*

*b) from the community at large to net zero by 2030*

*These should be set as the goals of our Climate Action Plan, and as the primary consideration in all city budgeting and planning for infrastructure, development, and operations.*

*2.3 The Climate Action Plan is to be continually upgraded based on the most current scientific knowledge and full engagement of the community.*

*2.4 Ensure the availability of a safe, sustainable water supply through an integrated water quality and supply strategy.*

*2.5 Manage the City's greenbelt, beaches, parks and waterways so as to sustain and restore our natural resources, biodiversity, habitats and environment for present and future generations.*

### 3. Housing Issues

The City needs considerably more housing stock across our diverse community. This can be achieved by creating pathways for housing that maintain our community character while offering affordable housing, alternative transportation, business development, job creation and residential resiliency as climate emergency increases.

We recognize that the City has many decisions to make with regard to housing policies, which include rezoning, density bonuses, inclusionary and short-term vacation rentals, and sustainability requirements in all building. The City needs to cultivate broader community engagement with these issues.

Project considerations:

**All new construction must be zero carbon**, and remodels must phase out gas appliances and include solar installation.

Development must be **transit-oriented**, i.e. locating places to live near transit routes so people can get around without having to drive and park.

New construction must be **prohibited in areas that will become uninhabitable** within the expected lifetime of the proposed buildings, as in areas to be affected by sea level rising.

The potential threat of **community-wide fires** must be brought center stage not only in City planning but in preparing all citizens to protect their homes.

Project:

Approve a budget item adequate to assess both the danger and ways of handling these dangers based on a combination of expert investigations and processes of community-wide problem solving.



# Santa Cruz Climate Action Network



## 4. Public Safety and Well-Being

With safety and well-being fundamental values of our community, the City must respond to the larger societal issues that challenge the vibrancy of our residential, business and public spaces, and call upon us to assure resiliency as we enter into the climate crisis now upon us. Rising seas, drought, and fire are what we must both act upon now and prepare for even as we continue efforts to address homelessness and nuisance crimes.

Also, to support a thriving community, the City must work to promote an inclusive community, encouraging engagement and participation.

## 5. Climate Resiliency - This needs to be center stage.

<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-council/city-council-strategic-goals>

sincerely

Pauline Seales for Santa Cruz Climate Action Network

Sincerely, **Pauline Seales , organizer**