

Good evening,

Below are the statements my supervisor and I will be sharing at the commission hearing tomorrow:

Hello, my name is Tatiana Brennan and I am the Senior Administrative Analyst for the Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience (OR3) in the County Administrative Office. I am working on the County's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and would like to highlight the connection between the Sustainability Update and the CAAP and its significance. Data shows that the majority of our Greenhouse gas emissions are coming from transportation (72.3%). We are seeing a shift as other regional CAPs move towards 15-minute communities. We are focusing on the need to change our communities in such a way that they provide a path forward to decreasing our Greenhouse gas emissions through dense infill in urban areas. We support this Sustainability Update because it is a tool that will help us achieve goals outlined in the CAAP that support decreased Greenhouse gas emissions, which are the #1 contributor to climate change.

Hello, my name is Kathleen McLaughlin and I am a Climate Policy Associate with the OR3 as well as a GIS & Planning Intern with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) and an Environmental Science Masters Student at CSUMB. As I am working on the County's CAAP, it is important to me that equity not only be incorporated into climate action planning but placed at the forefront, especially with regards to land use planning and urban development. The future of affordable and sustainable housing is dense infill in our cities. Equity needs to be prioritized and woven into our local plans in a way that ensures all voices of our community are heard and decision-making power is given to vulnerable groups. These groups not only bear the brunt of a changing climate, but are historically and systemically excluded from the benefits of climate action planning. Thank you for your time.

Thank you,

Kathleen McLaughlin (she/her/hers)

Climate Policy Associate – *County of Santa Cruz, Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience (OR3)*

GIS & Planning Intern – *Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)*

Environmental Science M.S. Student – *California State University, Monterey Bay*

Email: Kathleen.McLaughlin@santacruzcounty.us

Hey all,

Let's keep this simple. I would love to see every neighborhood in Santa Cruz become a 15-minute neighborhood. Everyone should be able to walk, bike, and roll to everything they need within 15 minutes. Great for climate, health, and wellbeing.

I'm a huge supporter of mixed-income multifamily housing county wide. Let's improve our access to amenities for everyone while also well supporting transit and increasing housing opportunities.

Regards,

Kyle Kelley

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Kyle Kelley
Santa Cruz - vote YES on K & L!

September 13, 2022

County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, 4th Floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Public Comment on the Sustainability Policy and Regulatory Update

Dear Planning Commissioners,

MidPen Housing has been developing affordable multifamily rental housing in the County of Santa Cruz for over 25 years and has closely collaborated with the County to meet the housing needs of individuals and families with very low and extremely low incomes, including our most vulnerable residents such as persons experiencing homelessness and special needs populations. MidPen is writing in support of the County's Sustainability Policy and Regulatory Update (Sustainability Update). This comprehensive update to land use and transportation policies encourages the type of development that can accommodate projected population and job growth, while maintaining and improving the environment, economy, and quality of life for those who live and work here.

In particular, MidPen supports the "Complete Neighborhoods" framework and specifically the new "Residential Flex" zone district, which facilitates compact residential development along key corridors in order to achieve the goal of "15-minute neighborhoods." The availability of land zoned for compact residential developments will streamline the land use entitlement and preconstruction process for housing developers. Additionally, we support the new design guidelines that focus on the creation of high-quality housing within the context of transportation corridors and existing neighborhoods. The ability to build more densely along key transportation corridors is critical for creating financially feasible affordable housing developments by achieving cost efficiencies. It will also allow our projects to be better positioned for the award of competitive public financing.

As housing costs continue to rise, many residents are being priced-out of the County and existing single-family housing is poorly suited to meet the needs of singles, students, young families, seniors, and others seeking smaller, low or moderate-income housing. The policies and code updates within the Sustainability Update, including changes to meet new state laws, provide opportunity to build a greater diversity of housing types, which in turn will allow existing residents to afford to both live and work within the County.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanna Carman, Director of Housing Development at joanna.carman@midpen-housing.org or 831-707-2141.

Kind Regards,

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Joanna Carman
Director of Housing Development
Watsonville Development Office

As homeowners at 3850 Bramble Ln Unit C, Santa Cruz, CA, 95062,

We support the 2018 Vision and Guiding Design Principles for the Pleasure Point Commercial Corridor from 26th to 41st Avenue .

For R-UH Urban High Density Residential, we say

1. YES to 11 -30 units per acre
2. NO to 22-45 units per acre

Diane & Bruce Warne