

Dear City Council Members,

The Climate Action Committee (CAC) is an invaluable asset to our community, spearheading sustainability initiatives and securing funding opportunities that benefit us all. Despite budgetary constraints, the CAC's efforts have yielded significant returns, both financially and environmentally, making it a wise investment.

Last year alone, the CAC secured a \$200,000 grant to study ways for our city to become more eco-friendly. The committee also organizes and manages the compost giveaway event, which helps the city meet SB1383 requirements, four times per year at no cost to the city. Their expertise and connections have provided invaluable guidance on reducing energy costs.

What sets the CAC apart is the hundreds of volunteer hours its members generously donate, saving the city considerable expenses on paid consultations. These volunteers are often professionals in relevant fields, providing thought leadership and a level of expertise that would be challenging for city staff to match. Without the CAC, the burden of attending county meetings, fostering community engagement, and ensuring our interests are represented in grant opportunities would fall entirely on city staff, potentially adding tens of hours to their workload.

To address budgetary concerns, the CAC proposes a cost-saving measure: reducing staff attendance at monthly meetings to a single 1-hour check-in session and eliminating Zoom meetings. This adjustment could result in significant cost savings, lowering the projected cost from \$15,996 to approximately \$3,636 for the entire fiscal year (including 12 additional staff hours for non-meeting efforts).

The CAC remains steadfast in its mission of promoting sustainable practices and securing funding opportunities that benefit our community. We believe that our efforts, coupled with the proposed cost-saving measures, will continue to yield substantial returns for our city while leveraging the invaluable expertise and dedication of our volunteer members.

Thank you for your consideration.