



May 18, 2020

San Rafael City Council  
1400 Fifth Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901

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166 Greenwood Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901

**Re: Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan**

Dear Mayor Phillips and Council Members,  
The proposed Economic Recovery Plan to meet these difficult times speaks both to your leadership and to the competence and compassion of the City's staff. These dedicated public servants comprise an essential asset for the recovery of our community's economic wellbeing.

On the heels of the Covid crisis, the approach of another summer wildfire season, with its attendant threats of extreme smoke or heat events at any time, underscores the vulnerability of our community to multiple disruptions. Climate change has, in fact, placed the city in an ongoing state of emergency. Which prompts us to suggest that we can recover from the current crisis, in part, by preparing for the next one.

In particular, Sustainable San Rafael encourages residents to engage in the attached "Climate-Safe Sheltering Actions" to meet the threat of climate impacts, both by improving immediate living conditions and by reducing the carbon pollution that is driving climate change.

We encourage the City to join us in promoting such household investments in greater livability (and even survivability), which could also help stimulate the recovery of San Rafael's important economic sector of home improvement construction, appliances, and materials. State incentives and PACE financing are available to support the effort. We further urge the City to work with the County to assure that such work is considered 'essential.'

In addition, we support the City's stimulating economic recovery by proceeding quickly with public works for which dedicated funds exist (such as TAM's Measure A); by assisting developers of much needed housing to clear any obstacles slowing the start of construction; and by prioritizing the revision of housing policies to spur more affordable housing construction, including second units and housing on public air rights.

Should federal recovery funds beyond those needed for essential operations become available, we ask that additional incentives for sustainable building improvements and infrastructure be considered, along with training and employment programs for those most in need, performing essential community work such as assuring the cleanliness of downtown sidewalks and reducing wildfire hazards in hillside open spaces.

As always, thank you for your close consideration.

Sincerely,

William Carney  
Board President

*Attachment: "Climate-Safe Sheltering Actions"*



## **Climate-Safe Sheltering Actions**

*Ways to meet the threat of climate impacts like wildfires and extreme smoke or heat by improving immediate living conditions and reducing the carbon pollution that's driving climate change.*

- Create 'defensible space' to decrease danger from wildfire.
- 'Harden your home' with fire-resistant improvements.
- Seal your home against smoke, pollutants, pathogens, and energy loss.
- Prepare for heat waves with an electric heat-pump HVAC system.
- Switch to fossil-free electricity.
- Back up your power with a rechargeable home battery (not a gas generator)
- Generate your own electricity with solar.
- Get remaining fossil fuels out of your house by using all-electric appliances.
- Get fossil fuels out of your garage by investing in an EV and/or bicycle.
- Transition to virtual commuting with home office and study improvements.
- Consider creating a second unit to help offset living expenses.
- Support the local economy by buying local food, products, and services.
- Use your green cart to recycle all kitchen and yard 'waste' into compost.
- Vote by mail, and ask elected officials to support climate actions.

5/15/2020