



November 16, 2020

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

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RE: Marin Grand Jury Report on Climate Change

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

Sustainable San Rafael supports the City's further analysis of the Marin Grand Jury's recommended countywide task force on climate resilience (R1) and strengthening of Marin Climate and Energy Partnership (R4). We trust this analysis will lead to greater collaboration and effectiveness of climate actions throughout Marin. We also appreciate the thoughtful consideration given in the staff report to the recommendations of the Marin Climate Action Network.

We especially appreciate the emphasis placed on these key points:

1. Continuing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is critical to reducing climate impacts, that is, "climate mitigation" is an essential part of "climate adaptation." Without solving the root causes of climate change, our levees will never be high enough, our reservoirs deep enough, or our homes "hardened" enough to resist the intensifying floods, drought, wildfires and other climate disasters we are now only beginning to experience.

2. Drawdown Marin offers a comprehensive countywide framework for reaching net zero GHG emissions in the limited time we have left before irreversible climate change sets in. The Strategic Plan for this new initiative, at the Board of Supervisors next month, provides a 25-year roadmap of practical goals and solutions, along with an inclusive governing body of public and community partners.

3. We have effective models, both organizationally and fiscally, for confronting the climate crisis, if we work together, pooling expertise and resources. Recent measures funding the Bay Restoration Authority and Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority lend credence to ideas like the "countywide . . . joint powers authority to oversee adaptation planning" suggested in San Rafael's draft General Plan 2040 or the comprehensive Marin Climate Mobilization Decade included among Drawdown Marin's proposals. Again, any such measure needs to include funds for both greenhouse gas reduction ("mitigation") and resilience ("adaptation").

Thank you for confirming the City's commitment to effective, collaborative and comprehensive climate action.

Sincerely,

William Carney
Board President