

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

RE: General Plan 2040 and Downtown Precise Plan Environmental Quality Act Findings

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on what appears to be a momentous accomplishment—the San Rafael General Plan 2040 and the Downtown Precise Plan.

I am Belle Cole, Chair of OFA Marin, an advocacy group fighting to reverse climate change since 2009. I want to support the letter you received from Bill Carney, President of Sustainable San Rafael, that emphasizes achieving significant reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, especially those that target the primary sectors driving emissions, including:

- a. Building electrification.
- b. EV promotion.
- c. Mandatory organics recycling.

I want to emphasize how critical mandatory organics recycling is to avoid the significant impacts predicted by the General Plan EIR.

I want to commend the particular actions stated in the Plan (under Infrastructure) calling for the reduction of GHG emissions generated by **landfilled waste**, as well as reduction of natural resource depletion through **recycling**.

From the work I am engaged in now, as lead of the Biomass Recovery Study, I see expanding these opportunities in the near term, including development of low-emission biomass recovery systems and products.

Still: No matter how aggressive and grounded in superb planning, creativity, and innovation this Plan is, we are running out of time. As brutal heat and deadly floods reveal how unprepared the world is to cope with extreme weather, we in San Rafael can take some satisfaction in our ambitious GHG emissions goals and for anticipating that more aggressive goals may be adopted,” as the General Plan states.

The key now is to implement City programs soon enough to achieve these critical goals.

Thank you,

Belle Cole