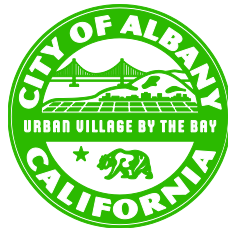


Emails Received regarding agenda items

CITY OF ALBANY, CALIFORNIA



ALBANY CITY HALL
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CALIFORNIA 94706

*Agenda Item 10 - 1
Strategic Plan Update*

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 1, 2019

From: [Friends of Five Creeks](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Fwd: Letter re Albany Strategic Plan Update (Apr. 1 agenda) and Codornices Creek
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2019 7:36:19 PM
Attachments: [F5C Letter Item10-1CouncilAgenda4-1-19..pdf](#)

This is a re-send because I used the wrong email for the City Council.

Susan Schwartz, Friends of Five Creeks

Letter re Albany Strategic Plan Update (Apr. 1 agenda) and Codornices Creek

To: Nicole Almaguer <nalmaguer@albanyca.org>, <mayor@albanyca.org>, <council@albanyca.org>

Cc: Mark Hurley <mhurley@albanyca.org>, Gale Rossi <grossi@albanyca.org>, <ahsu@albanyca.org>

Hello,

Attached as a .pdf, and below as text only, is a letter concerning the City of Albany Strategic Plan Update (Item 10-1 on the Albany City Council agenda) as it affects Codornices Creek.

We support approval of the plan, but also want to stress the need to promptly begin long-overdue ongoing basic maintenance, for which ample funds are on hand.

Thanks for considering these thoughts.

Susan Schwartz, President

Friends of Five Creeks

510 848 9358

f5creeks@gmail.com

www.fivecreeks.org

Friends of Five Creeks

*Volunteers preserving and restoring watersheds of
North Berkeley, Albany, Kensington, south El Cerrito and Richmond since 1996
1236 Oxford St., Berkeley, CA 94709
510 848 9358 f5creeks@gmail.com www.fivecreeks.org*

April 1, 2019

Mayor Rochelle Nason and City Council Members, City Manager Nicole Almaguer and Staff
City of Albany (by email)

Re: Strategic Plan Update (Apr. 1 agenda item 10-1)

Dear Mayor Nason, Council Members, City Manager Almaguer, and Staff:

We are delighted that Albany's draft Strategic Plan for the coming fiscal year prioritizes carrying out final Measure R projects – that is, completing the Codornices Trail between 10th and 8th Streets – as well as instituting an annual meeting on creek maintenance (through the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Commission) and developing plans and maintenance schedules.

Completing the trail to make the Codornices Creek greenway an enriching and educational amenity contributes to several Strategic Plan goals: Active transportation, health and wellness, and inclusivity.

With record numbers of volunteers eager to help (three Codornices work parties scheduled for April, as well as Weekday Weed Warriors), we are making great progress on neglected maintenance. Most of the brush that had invaded beyond the fence between San Pablo and 10th is gone. We plan to tarp the roots for a year or two. Serious invasives are under control between 10th and 8th on the north bank and 8th and 6th on the south bank. We are starting the long-term effort to keep hedge bindweed from overrunning the next block downstream, 6th to 5th, and have dug out some of the blackberry thicket along the Fielding Field fence near the railroad tracks. We also are mapping plants on the south bank between Sixth and Eighth so as to begin controlling the most serious threats in that long-neglected area, which is reserved for habitat.

\It's a great time to visit to see what Codornices could be: The creek sparkles, with sun filtering through trees just leafing out. Birds are singing. Bindweed has not yet curtained off the lower creek and grass is not yet waist high.

Maintenance, though, can't wait for distant plans or the next fiscal year. Letting weeds set seed and roots spread multiplies future work. Ample funds are on hand. We look forward to working with staff on mowing soon. Thanks for your continued attention to this ecological treasure!

Sincerely,

Susan Schwartz, President
Friends of Five Creeks

From: [Sophie Hahn](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Letter from Sierra Club NACG Regarding Electrification of New Buildings
Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 4:55:19 PM
Attachments: [Albany - Electrification - Sierra Club Letter - 2019-04-01.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor Nason, Vice Mayor McQuaid and Albany City Councilmembers Barnes, Maas and Pilch,

We respectfully submit to you the attached letter regarding the possibility of a Strategic Plan goal to require electrification of new-build buildings. Thank you in advance for your consideration of the Sierra Club's remarks.

With gratitude,

Sophie Hahn

Chair, Sierra Club Northern Alameda County Group

<<...>>



NORTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP

*Alameda Albany Berkeley Emeryville
Oakland Piedmont San Leandro*

2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite I
Berkeley, California 94702
510-848-0800

April 1, 2019

City of Albany
Mayor Nason and Vice Mayor McQuaid
Albany City Councilmembers Barnes, Maas and Pilch

Subject: Natural Gas in New Buildings

Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Councilmembers,

[The Sierra Club's Energy Resources Policy](#) supports a goal to “develop and use as little natural gas as possible and to wean ourselves from most fossil fuels, including natural gas, as swiftly as possible” and to “choose existing energy options that will reduce, and eventually eliminate, the use of fossil fuels and other sources of greenhouse gases, while recognizing that all energy use has adverse environmental consequences.”

We commend Albany for your leadership among Alameda County cities by defaulting all electricity accounts into East Bay Community Energy's Brilliant 100 product. As you consider Albany's 2019-2021 Strategic Plan, we urge you to include a goal of prohibiting natural gas use in new buildings.

Recently released studies, including by PG&E, find that electrification of new-build buildings will not increase, and may reduce, the cost of building and operating new low- to mid-rise construction.

To this end, we respectfully recommend you consider adopting a prohibition on natural gas use in newly constructed buildings as a Workplan Item under Objective 1 of the Strategic Plan: *Advance Climate Action*. With the advent of 100% renewable energy in Albany, moving to electrification means that operation of new buildings would be virtually 100% GHG emissions free, and likely more economical; a win-win for the environment and for the people of Albany.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of including electrification of new buildings in Albany's Climate Action Plan, and for your bold leadership in reducing GHG emissions.

Sincerely,

Sophie Hahn

Sophie Hahn
Chair, Sierra Club Bay Chapter Northern Alameda County Group