

R-21-49
Meeting 21-10
May 27, 2021

AGENDA ITEM #2

To: Board of Directors
Open Space Authority

From: Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

SUBJECT

Approval of Resolution Recognizing the Intersection of Environmental and Social Equity as it Relates to Housing and Climate Change in Honor of May as Affordable Housing Month.

REVENUE/COST

There is no cost associated with this item.

BACKGROUND

As the Bay Area works to address the region's housing shortage and the resulting social and economic impacts, innovative policies are being proposed that seek to enable more efficient housing production. Unfortunately, some of these well-intended policies have included unintended consequences that could negatively impact natural and working lands. New and existing policies that promote low-density sprawled housing lead to the conversion of the community's critical natural and working lands and inadequately addresses the need for equitable and environmentally sustainable housing when compared to high-density infill housing in areas close to transit and other essential services. Meaningful solutions will recognize both the housing and climate crises facing our community and will seek equitable solutions. In 2020, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Authority) partnered with the City of San Jose to sponsor a bill (SB 940) authored by then-Senator Jim Beall to ensure that a housing bill passed in 2019 (SB 330, Skinner) could positively promote housing production without unintended consequences including threatening protection of natural resources and agriculture in Coyote Valley.

DISCUSSION

The Bay Area housing advocacy community recognizes the month of May as Affordable Housing Month. The Authority seeks to support equitable and environmentally sustainable housing development in already-developed areas close to transit and essential services, which also decreases pressure for development on critical natural and working lands.

The following reports and articles were used and are referenced in the resolution:

- Department of Housing and Community Development: Policy Initiative- Climate Change: https://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/plans-reports/docs/pb04housing_climate_change0214.pdf
- Greenlining Institute report: Investing in Climate Equity: <https://greenlining.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Greenlining-Investing-in-Climate-Communities-Report-2021.pdf>
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 5th Assessment Report : https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/WGIIAR5-Chap5_FINAL.pdf

- Natural Resources Defense Council article: <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/bettina-bergoo/we-must-invest-climate-ready-affordable-housing-now>
- Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey Comprehensive Report: <https://siliconvalleyathome.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2019-SCC-Homeless-Census-and-Survey-Report.pdf>
- SPUR Regional Strategy: <https://www.spur.org/featured-project/spur-regional-strategy/growth>
- The Law Foundation of Silicon Valley 2020 Annual Report: <https://www.lawfoundation.org/law-foundations-annual-report>
- United Nations Special Report: Inadequate Housing: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/SRHousingIntroductionFlyer.pdf>
- United Nations special report: Climate Change and the Right to Housing: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/Pages/ClimateChange.aspx#:~:text=Those%20living%20in%20homelessness%20or,%2C%20mudslides%2C%20earthquakes%20and%20tsunamis.>
- United Nations: Understanding Human Rights and Climate Change: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/COP21.pdf>

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the Resolution Recognizing the Intersection of Environmental and Social Equity as it Relates to Housing and Climate Change in Honor of May as Affordable Housing Month.

Prepared by:

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Attachment(s): Resolution 21-28 – A Resolution of the Governing Board of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Recognizing the Intersection of Environmental and Social Equity as it Relates to Housing and Climate Change in Honor of May as Affordable Housing Month