



Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning
817 Montgomery Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

September 11, 2016

Mountain View City Council
City Hall, 500 Castro Street
PO Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: 7.2 Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 3

Dear Mayor Showalter and City Council members:

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning (MVCSP) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 3 (ESAP-3), which you will be reviewing at your September 13th Council meeting. As you know, City Council adopted a community-wide Climate Protection Roadmap (CPR) and Municipal Operations Climate Action Plan (MOCAP) in 2015, which both chart a path to reduce our carbon emissions 80% by 2050. Following City Council and public feedback on ESAP-3, you will consider formally adopting the plan.

MVCSP supports your adopting the plan; however, we do have some concerns regarding where the City goes from here.

For one thing, because the new California AB 32 sets even more aggressive GHG targets for the state, and given the growth in the area in and around Mountain View, the city's work is certainly cut out for it.

Second, programs initiated by ESAP-3 require adequate City Staff to oversee and implement it. We do not believe this is the case today, so Staff increases are certainly going to be needed. As one important task, annual emissions calculations should be undertaken, as they are essential toward gauging our progress. At a cost of \$15K (estimated), this is a reasonable cost for what we would gain. This cost would be incurred each time a community-wide GHG audit is performed (that is, the annual cost if you measure annually). Note that Council has currently committed to measuring GHG emissions only every other year. Regarding head count for staffing, we believe a second full-time position should be created and filled, one that ideally would become permanent.

To help ensure best success, we strongly support recommendations now being developed by Carbon Free Mountain View (CFMV) ("Carbon Free Mountain View's GHG Reduction Recommendations to City Governments").

We believe that the work CFMV is putting into the recommendations is very useful to the City in order to help gauge where we've come from in terms of GHG reduction and where we need to go in future. And considering that these recommendations could be very helpful toward our achieving goals set by AB 32.

We would like to point out that transportation and housing impacts need to be carefully evaluated in order to successfully bring GHG levels down to necessary levels. After the next inventory is completed, we believe ESAP-4 needs a clear focus on what transportation improvements and land use decisions in Mountain View will be necessary to achieve the AB 32 goals.

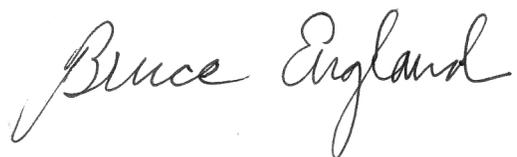
According to the June 2014 staff report, the transportation sector now accounts for 61% of GHG emissions, and we are significantly behind our 2015 target goals. We acknowledge that participation in the Silicon Valley Clean Energy Community Choice Energy program provides the "largest emissions reduction of any single action so far." However, if we are going to meet the AB 32 objectives, we are going to have to be significantly more aggressive in adoption of zero emission auto trips in Mountain View. Further, we will need to provide better parking management strategies to discourage auto trips, greater shifts to active transportation, and significantly more investment in local transit options. Given our understanding of auto technology improvements, and more shifts to electric and other zero emission vehicles, what shifts in home-based work trips, and non-home based auto trips with a trip end in Mountain View will be necessary to achieve the AB 32 objectives? Ideally, we would like to see a ten-year update to the Transit and Transportation and Land Use sections of the 2008 Mountain View Environmental Sustainability Task Force report. Many recommendations of Transit and Transportation Working Group in that report have been implemented, but some of the parking management and pricing have not received adequate consideration, as far as we can determine.

Existing housing stock will need to be replaced in the next 20–30 years, so replacing inefficient stock with net zero energy buildings is important to consider as developers' plans are reviewed by the City (including plans for renovations of older buildings, where, for example, installing solar systems for electricity generation is currently challenging or impossible). Note also that, in general, the higher the jobs/housing imbalance, the higher the vehicle miles travelled (VMT), which results in higher GHG emissions. Improving the jobs/housing balance is one of the more important GHG reduction strategies the City should consider.

In short, we believe that Mountain View needs to take further reductions very seriously, and MVCSP is concerned that, unless very careful and well thought out plans are developed and followed through rigorously, our city is very likely to fall short of its goals. However, this needn't be the case if best and most-effective steps are taken. We do trust that this will be the case, but we will also be watching future progress carefully.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce England". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Bruce England
for the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

cc:

Dan Rich, City Manager

Randy Tsuda, Community Development Director

Terry Blount, Planning Manager/Assistant Community Development Director

Michael Fuller, Public Works Director

Steve Attinger, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

Lorrie Brewer, City Clerk

About Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning is a group of local volunteers dedicated to making Mountain View as beautiful, economically healthy, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian accessible, and affordable as possible. MVCSP member interest and expertise covers areas such as housing, transportation, the environment, the economy, and beyond!

For more information, see <http://www.mvcsp.org>.

To contact us, send email to mvcsp.info@gmail.com.