



## **COVID-19 LEGISLATION**

### Overview

The outbreak of a respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in 2019. The disease, now commonly known as COVID-19, has since spread globally, resulting in the 2019–2020 coronavirus pandemic. The first case in the United States was announced on January 21, 2020. Since then, there has been much effort at the local, state and federal levels of government to stop the spread of the disease. Additionally, the state and federal governments have been working to provide economic relief to individuals, businesses, and local and state governments that have been impacted by COVID-19-related disruptions.

The City of Santa Clara proclaimed a local state of emergency on March 11, 2020 and continues to closely monitor county, state and federal orders, guidance and legislation to see how they apply to Santa Clara. City resources and personnel are working to continue to provide essential governmental functions to residents and businesses, while navigating the response necessary to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, providing assistance to individuals and businesses that have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, and complying with the requirements for social distancing and self-quarantining/isolating.

### Guiding Principles

The City of Santa Clara's guiding principles for legislative advocacy include and are not limited to:

- Support the League of California Cities' and National League of Cities' positions on priority bills that benefit Santa Clara.
- Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.
- Protect and/or increase funding for specific programs and services.
- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
- Advance approved policies such as the City's Statement of Values, the General Plan, or the Climate Action Plan.

### Legislative Advocacy Position

In order to adequately protect the public health and safety of the COVID-19 outbreak, the City of Santa Clara:

- Supports efforts to provide direct relief funding to local jurisdictions, especially small and medium-sized cities, which can be utilized in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including to offset lost revenue.
- Supports the temporary suspension of certain time-specific statutory requirements.
- Supports federal and state efforts to help mitigate the economic impacts from the coronavirus on the City's businesses and residents,
- Supports public health efforts to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including providing access to personal protective equipment.
- Opposes efforts to shift responsibility, to the City, of programs that have traditionally been carried out, or funded, by federal, state, or county governments.

- Supports efforts to assist small businesses, tenants, and landlords through eviction moratoriums, and other assistance programs, during the pandemic. These efforts should consider the needs of all stakeholders, including tenants, landlords, and those with unstable housing situations.
- Supports efforts to establish protocols, and provide funding, that will allow schools to resume in-person instruction in a safe manner.



## **ENERGY LEGISLATION, REGULATIONS AND ISSUES**

### Overview

The City's electric utility, Silicon Valley Power (SVP) has a mission to be a progressive, service-oriented utility, offering reliable, competitively priced services for the benefit of Santa Clara and its customers. Additionally, SVP has an adopted Strategic Plan that is intended to address the challenges facing the utility over a ten-year period. The Strategic Plan contains over thirty strategic initiatives in four distinct areas: Utility Performance Excellence; Customer Engagement and Satisfaction; Progress and Innovation Focus; and Community and Environmental Stewardship. The Legislative Advocacy Position works to further the objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan, and complements the other Legislative Advocacy Positions adopted by the City.

### Guiding Principles

The City follows the below guiding principles for all areas of legislative advocacy:

- Support the positions of the League of California Cities, and National League of Cities, on priority bills that benefit Santa Clara.
- Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.
- Protect and/or increase funding for specific programs and services that benefit the City of Santa Clara and its residents.
- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
- Advance approved policies, such as the City's Statement of Values, the General Plan, and the Climate Action Plan.

### Legislative Advocacy Position

In order to ensure the City can provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to ratepayers, while operating in an environmentally and fiscally conscious manner, the City will:

- Monitor PG&E's rate-making and regulatory activities to ensure it meets its obligations and agreements and advocate for changes that would mitigate adverse impacts to SVP and other publicly owned utilities (POUs).
- Support policies that will help ensure that transmission level Public Safety Power Shut-offs (PSPS) events do not unnecessarily burden local communities that are dependent on investor owned utility (IOU) transmission infrastructure.
- Support legislation that would provide local public agencies with financial resources to prepare for, and mitigate the impacts from, planned power outage events.
- Support efforts to align wildfire-related liability with fault, safeguarding public utility customers against exorbitant rate increases when their utility acts prudently.
- Monitor the development of new market initiatives from state and regional grid operators which may result in new energy-related products and changes to electric grid operations. Staff will advocate for changes that would benefit or protect SVP ratepayers.
- Monitor and participate with federal, state and local governments and stakeholders in the development of new regulations and advocate for changes that enhance system reliability and mitigate operational and ratepayer impacts.

- Support transitioning from diesel backup generators to battery-based backup generators.



**ENGAGEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION REGARDING  
AIRPLANE NOISE**

Overview

In Santa Clara, the source of air noise comes from various activities from regional international airports, general aviation airports, and Moffett Federal Airfield. Ultimately, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is primarily responsible for air traffic control, and our region continues to advocate for air noise mitigation.

In June 2017, the Cities Association of Santa Clara County (CASCC) received a Congressional request from Representatives Eshoo, Khanna and Panetta asking the CASCC to take a leadership role in forming a regional aircraft noise roundtable. The CASCC formed an Ad Hoc Committee to build the framework of forming a roundtable that works for the region. Since 2018, the Santa Clara/ Santa Cruz Roundtable, which includes local jurisdictions of Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties, has been working together with San Francisco Airport, Minéta San José Airport, and the FAA to address the growing concern of aircraft noise.

Guiding Principles

The City of Santa Clara's guiding principles for legislative advocacy include and are not limited to:

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- Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.
- Protect and/or increase funding for specific programs and services.
- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
- Advance approved policies such as the City's Statement of Values, the General Plan, or the Climate Action Plan.

Legislative Advocacy Position

In order to mitigate the impacts of air noise on the residents and businesses of the community, the City:

- Continue to support regional efforts to work with local agencies and federal representatives to mitigate the effects of aircraft noise.
- Support efforts to engage local public agencies, and members of the community, prior to any changes in flight paths, or airport operations, that may impact surrounding areas.
- Support legislation that provides funding to assist with the mitigation of impacts from aircraft noise.



## **HOUSING**

### Overview

The lack of affordable housing in the State and region continues to have an increasingly profound impact on the City of Santa Clara. In January 2019, Santa Clara County conducted its biennial Point-in-Time Count and found that there were over 9,700 individuals were living on the streets, in shelters, or in transitional housing across the county, reflecting a more than 200% increase in the homeless population over a two year period. As cities across the state struggle to address the growing affordable housing and homelessness crisis as housing prices continue to soar, housing continues to be a key legislative priority for the State Legislature and regional agencies.

### Guiding Principles

The City of Santa Clara's guiding principles for legislative advocacy include and are not limited to:

- Support the League of California Cities and National League of Cities positions on priority bills that benefit Santa Clara.
- Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.
- Protect and/or increase funding for specific programs and services.
- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
- Advance approved policies such as the City's Statement of Values, the General Plan, or the Climate Action Plan.

### Legislative Advocacy Position

The City of Santa Clara is committed to being a leader at the local level in providing affordable housing, as well as making a fair share contribution to the overall need for housing production within Silicon Valley, and will continue to proactively take concrete steps to realize new housing production within the City. Santa Clara is also prepared to participate in broader regional efforts that are collaborative, recognize the unique characteristics of local jurisdictions, and provide opportunities for local representation.

The City is concerned about potential measures imposed at the State or regional level that reduce local control, recognizing that in some instances such measures can be necessary or helpful to advance common goals across multiple jurisdictions, but is also aware that such efforts may have unintended consequences, limited effectiveness, or create inequities due to a lack of accountability to localized circumstances.

In an effort to achieve these goals, the City will:

- Support legislation and efforts that provide resources to address the needs of the most vulnerable residents through shelter, supportive housing, and homelessness prevention services.

- Support efforts to collaborate with the County, local jurisdictions, the business sector, and non-profit and philanthropic partners to leverage available resources and bring in new funding streams to expand the reach of the supportive housing system.
- Oppose efforts to reduce federal funding for federal entitlement programs that are used to promote affordable housing, rehabilitate substandard housing, build new park facilities, provide neighborhood improvements, and fund public services.
- Advocate for more state and federal resources (e.g., funding, legal authority, technical support, streamlining administrative processes) to address local housing needs.
- Support federal efforts to preserve and strengthen the low-income housing tax credit program and federal tax exemptions for private activity bonds.
- Support legislation preserving and expanding, federal tax exemptions for state and local taxes, including state and local property, sales, and income taxes, and maintaining federal tax exemptions for mortgage interest payments on primary residences.
- Support legislation that provides local jurisdictions with authority over land use decisions and fully incorporates the involvement of local community members and an understanding of the conditions unique to the community.
- Oppose measures that reduce local control and are punitive in nature.
- Support efforts to streamline California Environmental Quality Act provisions to facilitate the production of affordable housing and reduce delays due to unmerited litigation.



## **HUMAN RESOURCES AND PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT**

### Overview

The City of Santa Clara provides a myriad of services to the community, including Police, Fire, Public Works, Electric Utility, Planning, Parks and Recreation, and Library Services. The City employs over 1,100 part-time/seasonal and full-time employees that provide these and other services to the community. These services provide opportunities and careers for all types of interests, and the City should endeavor to leverage the rewards and benefits that come with working for the City.

### Guiding Principles

The City of Santa Clara's guiding principles for legislative advocacy include and are not limited to:

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- Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.
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- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
- Advance approved policies such as the City's Statement of Values, the General Plan, or the Climate Action Plan.

### Legislative Advocacy Position

In order to ensure that the City can compete with other local municipalities, and the private sector, to attract, hire and retain a talented workforce, the City:

- Supports efforts to preserve local government's ability to manage its own employment issues, including, but not limited to, hiring, evaluating, disciplining, and negotiating collective bargaining agreements.
- Supports working with City bargaining units in finding solutions to address the service delivery needs of the community while being mindful of the City's revenue and expenditures, and recruitment and retention of the City's workforce.
- Supports efforts to increase the long-term financial stability of CalPERS.
- Opposes new federal or state unfunded mandates that would increase the City's post-employment obligations.
- Supports federal and state efforts to create a more informed, engaged, and welcoming experience for immigrants.
- Supports comprehensive immigration reform which provides opportunities to achieve economic and educational success and contribute to our community.
- Supports and increase in work visas allowing employers to hire foreign workers that require advanced technical skills, as well as support programs that stimulate the economy through job creation and capital investment by foreign investors.

- Supports efforts that protect children, including undocumented children, with the continuation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program and the Dream Act.



## **LOCAL AUTHORITY OVER WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AND CABLE SERVICES**

### Overview

The wireless telecommunications industry has made efforts to limit or preempt local control over placement of wireless facilities and supporting structures in and outside the rights of way. Over the past several years, actions by federal and state lawmakers have resulted in the adoption of regulations and orders controlling local authority over placement of wireless facilities, including the adoption of “shot clocks” requiring local agencies to complete review of projects within a specified time period.

Additionally, through the Federal Communications Commission’s proposed rulemaking, there have been efforts in recent years to address whether local franchising authorities (LFAs) can regulate incumbent cable operators and cable television services. The City has its own government access channel (Santa Clara City Television on Comcast cable channel 15 and AT&T U-verse 99), which may be negatively impacted by such rulings and similar legislation and activities. Santa Clara City Television is used to provide important information to the public, such as live and recorded airings of Council meetings, City special events, programs, and public service announcements.

### Guiding Principles

The City of Santa Clara’s guiding principles for legislative advocacy include and are not limited to:

- Support the League of California Cities and National League of Cities positions on priority bills that benefit Santa Clara.
- Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.
- Protect and/or increase funding for specific programs and services.
- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
- Advance approved policies such as the City’s Statement of Values, the General Plan, or the Climate Action Plan.

### Legislative Advocacy Position

The City believes that it should maintain local authority over the placement of wireless telecommunications facilities, in order to ensure that a balance is reached between the infrastructure needs and the needs of the community. As such, the City:

- Opposes federal or state efforts to preempt local authority of the placement of wireless telecommunication facilities.
- Supports efforts to provide for local control of permitting wireless telecommunications and non-cable services facilities in the public-right-of-way.
- Supports legislation that provides opportunity for public input on the placement of wireless telecommunications facilities.
- Opposes efforts to limit the amount of time, or scope, of local review of the placement of wireless facilities.

- Monitors legislation related to distributed energy generation via back-up power at wireless telecommunications facilities.
- Supports efforts to increase access to broadband, while ensuring the placement and installation of needed equipment does not undermine local permitting authority and does not pose an undue nuisance for residents.



## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### Overview

As a city that is consistently named one of the safest cities in the country, Santa Clara is committed to promoting a living and working environment that allows for the best quality of life. The City believes that crime prevention and enforcement efforts are integral to creating and maintaining a safe environment for residents and visitors. At the same time, the City recognizes that crime prevention and enforcement efforts alone cannot foster community safety and wellness; education, intervention and prevention efforts on various public safety topics, such as gun violence, gang activity, alcohol and tobacco use, pedestrian, driver and bicycle safety, and driving under the influence, are equally important.

As the State and region continues to experience civil unrest and an unprecedented number of natural and man-made disasters, the City recognizes the importance of a comprehensive risk management approach to emergency preparedness.

### Guiding Principles

The City of Santa Clara's guiding principles for legislative advocacy include and are not limited to:

- Support the League of California Cities and National League of Cities positions on priority bills that benefit Santa Clara.
- Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.
- Protect and/or increase funding for specific programs and services.
- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
- Advance approved policies such as the City's Statement of Values, the General Plan, or the Climate Action Plan.

### Legislative Advocacy Position

In order to maintain public health and safety, and promote the best quality of life, the City will:

- Support legislation that seeks to impose stricter gun violence laws and/or requires the safe storage of unattended firearms.
- Support legislation that toughens penalties for chronic criminals.
- Support efforts to reduce the list of who can seek early parole and re-classify some theft crimes from misdemeanors to felonies by reforming Assembly Bill 109 (approved by the Legislature in 2011), Proposition 47 (approved by voters in 2014) and Proposition 57 (approved by voters in 2016).
- Support the expansion of the number of crimes where DNA is collected, a list that was limited when some crimes were reclassified from felonies to misdemeanors.
- Support legislation that preserves, or expands, funding levels for public safety programs, services, and equipment, such as the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants.
- Support legislation that addresses crime trends and attempts to curb illegal activity, including but not limited to, illegal street racing and sideshow activity and thefts from automobile burglaries, all of which are growing trends in our region.

- Support efforts to test speed enforcement cameras and corresponding legislation to mitigate traffic-related injuries and deaths.
- Oppose public safety legislation that imposes unfunded mandates on local agencies for new programs or increased service levels.
- Support legislation that identifies new funding sources for fire and law enforcement agencies to promote public safety, wellness and employee training.
- Support legislation that recognizes the importance of a comprehensive risk management approach to emergency preparedness, fire prevention, fire suppression, and emergency medical services.
- Support legislation that provides funding for emergency preparedness, including community risk reduction strategies like community education programs (e.g., CERT, CPA), staff training, interagency cooperation, and enhanced equipment and technology.
- Support legislation that expands the implementation and testing of emergency alert systems.
- Support legislation that enhances public safety professionals' ability to respond to all types of emergencies and communicate within, and across, jurisdictions.
- Support measures that aim to return revenue generated from the enforcement of crimes back to the originating agency to sustain their efforts.
- Support the local regulation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAVs), including the right to authorize use of UAVs by public safety agencies and the right to restrict or prohibit UAV use that interferes with, or poses a threat to, emergency operations or public safety.
- Support legislation that aims to assist individuals in crisis, including those who may be homeless, be the victim of human trafficking, domestic violence victims and survivors, and other vulnerable populations.
- Support legislation and efforts that recognizes the importance of developing a comprehensive preparedness strategy (e.g. mutual aid, unified command, interoperability, cyber disobedience, critical infrastructure, social media, etc.) to respond to civil unrest with input from emergency responders and allied stakeholders for local response.
- Support more funding for mental health and substance abuse.
- Support training of public safety to handle mental health issues.
- Support background checks for gun sales.



## **REGIONAL AND STATE-WIDE WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION**

### Overview

The City of Santa Clara operates 26 wells that tap the underground aquifers and make up about 62% of the City's potable water supply. The underground aquifers are replenished from local reservoirs by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) water recharge program. The remaining water is supplied by water imported from the SCVWD and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) through the Hetch-Hetchy Reservoir.

For certain approved non-potable uses, recycled water from the San Jose/Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility's South Bay Recycled Water (SBWR) facility is used. This highly treated water delivered through separate pipelines makes up about 19% of the water sales in the City. Recycled water offsets the use of potable sources in drought-prone California and is a reliable source for conservation of potable sources. The City continues to work closely with SBWR in order to increase recycled water supplies in order to meet existing demands within the City. Currently, SBWR is updating the Recycled Water Master Plan.

### Guiding Principles

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- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
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### Legislative Advocacy Position

In order to ensure that the City is able to maintain an affordable and reliable supply of quality water, the City maintains the following advocacy positions:

- Support and implement water conservation measures for businesses and residents including state regulatory efforts which build on ongoing efforts to "make water conservation a California way of life."
- Support regional water conservation including potable and recycled water supply efforts in cooperation with agencies such as Santa Clara Valley Water District, City of San Jose, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), and the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency.
- Monitor federal, state, and regional activity related to the Bay-Delta Plan Phase 1 & 2. Support a comprehensive Bay-Delta watershed voluntary settlement agreement between stakeholders that includes SFPUC.
- Oppose legislative efforts to impose new taxes or fees on drinking water.
- Support efforts to establish alternative funding sources for water infrastructure and improved water quality projects.

- Support state and regional efforts to delivery water to Santa Clara customers using clean energy and other environmentally sustainable practices.
- Support legislation and funding to protect the health of children who might be exposed to lead in drinking water at school facilities.
- Support legislation with regional partners that allows purified recycled water to be added to the potable water supply through indirect and direct applications that improve local water resiliency for residents and businesses.



## **REGIONAL ISSUES AND COLLABORATION**

### Overview

While the City of Santa Clara is unique in many ways, it experiences many of the same issues that other cities in the region experience. The City works closely with other jurisdictions to address a variety of issues that impact residents in the San Francisco Bay Area, such as affordable housing, transportation, and water conservation.

### Guiding Principles

The City follows the below guiding principles for all areas of legislative advocacy:

- Support the positions of the League of California Cities, and National League of Cities, on priority bills that benefit Santa Clara.
- Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.
- Protect and/or increase funding for specific programs and services that benefit the City of Santa Clara and its residents.
- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
- Advance approved policies, such as the City's Statement of Values, the General Plan, and the Climate Action Plan.

### Legislative Advocacy Position

The City recognizes the importance of regional collaboration and, as such, the City:

- Contribute to, and support the efforts of, regional organizations such as Santa Clara County Cities Association, Silicon Valley Economic Development Alliance, and the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Airport Community Roundtable to advance the regional goals.
- Monitor regional issues, and new legislation, to ensure that they benefit the region and its residents.
- Support federal and state legislation to provide funding for regional solutions to problems, such as housing, homelessness, emergency response, and transportation.



## **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

### Overview

The City of Santa Clara believes that a robust transportation network, and related infrastructure, is a critical element to a successful and thriving community. The City works with the federal government, state government, and regional stakeholders to ensure that residents and businesses have access to traditional modes of transportation and promote alternative modes to alleviate traffic congestion and pollution. Additionally, it is important for the City's transportation network to continue to evolve to best serve the future needs of the community. To that end, local efforts are underway to promote and provide funding for alternative modes of transportation, such as updates to the City's Traffic Impact Fee program, the City's Multimodal Improvement Plan, Bicycle Master Plan Update 2018, Pedestrian Master Plan, and Creek Trail Network Expansion Master Plan. Additionally, City staff is working with other transportation agencies to support their significant regional projects, including BART Phase II (VTA), Caltrain Electrification and Caltrain Business Plan, and the High Speed Rail.

### Guiding Principles

The City of Santa Clara's guiding principles for legislative advocacy include and are not limited to:

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- Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.
- Protect and/or increase funding for specific programs and services.
- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
- Advance approved policies such as the City's Statement of Values, the General Plan, or the Climate Action Plan.

### Legislative Advocacy Position

To ensure that the City, and greater region, are able to meet the current transportation needs of the community, as well as plan for future needs, the City is advocating for the following positions:

- Support legislative, regulatory, and regional efforts to reduce the amount of traffic congestion on area freeways and County expressways.
- Support legislation that provides regional and local funding for diverse transportation projects, such as local streets and roads improvements, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects, intelligent transportation system improvements, corridor capacity improvements, and highway interchange improvements.
- Oppose efforts to reduce local government access to SB 1 local streets and roads funding.
- Support efforts to ensure accountability and fairness during the implementation of regional transportation ballot measures such as the VTA's 2016 Measure B program.
- Support regional efforts that will alleviate traffic congestion and promote alternative modes of transportation that benefit Santa Clara residents and businesses and that support the City's commitment to environmental sustainability.
- Monitor efforts to place regional transportation funding measures on the ballot for consideration by voters.

- Promote incentives to work from home.



## **SCHOOL MITIGATION FEES**

### Overview

State law authorizes school districts to levy development fees to pay for new school facilities and establishes the maximum fees that can be charged to developers that are building new residential and non-residential projects. This fee is updated every two years, as adjusted for inflation. Once the maximum rate is set by the State, it is the responsibility for each school district to establish its own rate.

The school fees are earmarked for improving and expanding school facilities to serve the school-age population that would be generated from new development. Land values and construction costs have dramatically increased since 1986 and the current adjusted maximum rate does not adequately mitigate the school impacts from new development.

### Guiding Principles

The City of Santa Clara's guiding principles for legislative advocacy include and are not limited to:

- Support the League of California Cities and National League of Cities positions on priority bills that benefit Santa Clara.
- Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.
- Protect and/or increase funding for specific programs and services.
- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
- Advance approved policies such as the City's Statement of Values, the General Plan, or the Climate Action Plan.

### Legislative Advocacy Position

Santa Clara is committed to the ongoing production of needed housing within the City and ensuring the ability of school districts to meet the facility needs for a growing school-age population. As such, the City:

- Supports flexibility to consider increasing the allowable school mitigation fee level.
- Supports efforts by the State Legislature, and/or the State Allocation Board, to increase the rates to more realistically reflect current school facility costs.
- Supports efforts to index school mitigation fees, to ensure that the funding remains at a stable level.
- Supports other provisions to allow school districts to effectively mitigate the impacts of new development.



## **SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION, REGULATIONS AND ISSUES**

### Overview

The City of Santa Clara is committed to creating a sustainable city for residents and businesses. The City strives to conduct its operations in a way that is environmentally conscious and promotes sustainability. The City is dedicated to collaborating with regional stakeholders to improve the air quality, water quality, and overall environmental quality of life for the residents and businesses of the City.

### Guiding Principles

The City of Santa Clara's guiding principles for legislative advocacy include and are not limited to:

- Support the League of California Cities and National League of Cities positions on priority bills that benefit Santa Clara.
- Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.
- Protect and/or increase funding for specific programs and services.
- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
- Advance approved policies such as the City's Statement of Values, the General Plan, or the Climate Action Plan.

### Legislative Advocacy Position

Interest in sustainability and environmental issues, at both the state and federal levels, will likely result in new legislation and regulation changes that could significantly impact the City. Monitoring and advocacy efforts will be geared towards ensuring that emerging legislation and regulations align with the City's interests in providing sustainable services to its residents and businesses through the following:

- Support opportunities to further reform the California Environmental Quality Act process that support greater efficiency and transparency and alignment with objective environmental goals while protecting local land use authority.
- Monitor legislation related to vehicle miles traveled, in lieu of level of service, in relation to transportation impacts of projects.
- Monitor legislation related to energy related issues including renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation, resiliency, smart grid solutions, energy storage, distributed energy and transportation electrification, among other things.
- Advocate for goals and policies that remain technology agnostic and commercially available, and avoid policies that choose specific technologies or energy procurement mandates that can lead to increased customer costs while discouraging innovation.
- Support legislation that removes barriers to the electrification of buildings and transportation and legislation that provides regulatory streamlining of reporting and other actions that also preserves local decision-making authority.

- Monitor legislation that may have a regional and local impact on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and advocate for effective and equitable approaches to emissions reduction.
- Support a comprehensive approach to climate policy that optimizes GHG reductions across multiple sectors (transportation, electricity, buildings, etc.)
- Advocate for the flexibility to optimize the portfolio of GHG emissions reduction opportunities identified in the City's Climate Action Plan and includes but not limited to new renewable energy and storage procurement, water conservation and energy efficiency, smart grid solutions, increase waste diversion, sustainable land use, increase tree canopy, building decarbonization, transportation electrification among other actions in the portfolio.
- Monitor legislation and water quality regulations related to contaminants of emerging concern.
- Monitor research and regulations on Per-and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs) and their impacts on the environment, drinking water, and firefighting foam.
- Oppose federal or state efforts to permit additional oil drilling off the California coast.
- Monitor legislation and regulatory efforts related to recycling and solid waste and advocate for legislation and regulations that enable mixed waste processing and composting to remain viable pathways for waste compliance.
- Support legislation and regulatory efforts that aid the City's Pretreatment Program, Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG) Inspection Program, and Operations and Maintenance of the sanitary sewer collections system.
- Support urban runoff pollution regulations, water conservation and recycling, and pollution controls that benefit the City.
- Monitor legislation and regulations related to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and support efforts that are attainable and reflect local conditions and circumstances.
- Track the progress of the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project and its proximity and potential impacts to the Regional Wastewater Facility, which Santa Clara jointly owns with the City of San Jose.
- Track the progress of the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study and support associated regional resiliency planning efforts to ensure that Santa Clara's infrastructure and community assets are considered and protected as the Bay Area plans and constructs resiliency projects.
- Support legislation, regulations, and funding to strengthen forest management and fire prevention activities and improve emergency preparedness and response. These include, but are not limited to, the modernization of vegetation and forest management practices for wildfire prevention and carbon sequestration and biomass production for energy, forest thinning, and other activities to improve the health of forests damaged by infestation of bark beetles, plant pathogens, drought, or other hazards that exponentially increase wildfire dangers.
- Work with regional partners to maintain the reliability of the water supply and water sustainability to support current customers and to allow for expected growth in the near future and beyond.
- Monitor legislation and regulations related to the San Jose/Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility (RWF) being the largest discharger to the San Francisco Bay. The RWF is regulated by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit under the Clean Water Act administered by San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control

Board. New regulations are focused on Contaminants of Emerging Concern, Toxicity, and Nutrient Reduction.

- Support California Energy Commission (CEC) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to accelerate building and transportation decarbonization in the 2022 Title 24 part 6 (CalGreen) code.
- Support Work from Home Policies.
- Increase support for forest management to reduce wildfires which are increasing in numbers and destruction due to climate change.