



2021 Q2 Legislative Action

Below is a summary of the actions that were taken during 2021 Q2 as they align to the City of Santa Clara's 2021 Legislative Advocacy Positions (LAPs), guiding principles for legislative advocacy, or approved City policies (e.g. City Council Goals and Priorities). The letters are attached to this document.

Approved by Council Action

- July 16, 2021 Letter to California Citizens Redistricting Commission regarding staying in the same congressional and assembly district as neighboring cities (Support)

COVID-19 Legislation LAP

- June 23, 2021 Letter to Senator Wieckowski and Assembly Member Lee regarding COVID-19-related utility arrearages (Support)
- July 22, 2021 Letter to U.S. Small Business Administration regarding Ohlone Community College (Support)

Deliver and Enhance High-Quality Efficient Services and Infrastructure City Council Goal

- July 13, 2021 Letter to House Committee on Education and Labor and Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions regarding Build America's Libraries Act (H.R. 1581/S. 127) (Support)

Housing LAP

- July 30, 2021 Letter to Senator Cortese regarding SB 791 (Support)

Sustainability and Environmental Legislation, Regulations, and Issues LAP

- June 11, 2021 Letter to Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee and Assembly Budget Committee regarding SB 1383 Implementation (Support)
- June 17, 2021 Letter to Senate Environmental Quality Committee regarding AB 480 (Support)



City of Santa Clara

The Center of What's Possible

July 16, 2021

Mayor

Lisa M. Gillmor

Councilmembers

Anthony J. Becker

Raj Chahal

Karen Hardy

Suds Jain

Kevin Park

Kathy Watanabe

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

As Councilmembers in the City of Santa Clara, we are aware of the central placement our city holds in the 25th Assembly District and 17th Congressional District, the only minority-majority district in the country. Our city is home to many tech companies and community-wide events, including the Silicon Valley Technology Innovation & Entrepreneurship Forum, Silicon Valley International Invention Festival, Art and Wine Festival, and United We Stand rallies against the recent spike in anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) hate crimes.

As Santa Clara is home to hundreds of tech startups and draws in thousands of employees from the region who work in Santa Clara, we must work to ensure that our transportation infrastructure can handle the increased traffic each day from surrounding cities. Santa Clara residents, nearly 75% of whom drive alone to work, spend an average of 23 minutes commuting to work.

Additionally, many Santa Clara residents rely on public transit and affordable housing. While 34,000 homes have been built with assistance from federal funding, tens of thousands of more families seek assistance. Those who cannot find homes often do not have means of personal transportation either, therefore forcing the homeless population to solely rely on public transit as a way to get to shelters or kitchens.

The issues facing Santa Clara are not unique and are also found in surrounding cities. Resolving these issues requires cooperation not only between local leaders and officials, but federal backing as well.

Therefore, it is our recommendation that Santa Clara continues to stay in the same congressional district and assembly district as Fremont, Milpitas, Newark, North San Jose, and Sunnyvale.

Respectfully,

Lisa M. Gillmor
Mayor

Raj Chahal
Vice Mayor

Kathy Watanabe
Councilmember

Karen Hardy
Councilmember

Sudhanshu Jain
Councilmember

Kevin Park
Councilmember

Anthony Becker
Councilmember



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Mayor

Lisa M. Gillmor

Councilmembers

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Raj Chahal
Karen Hardy
Suds Jain
Kevin Park
Kathy Watanabe

June 23, 2021

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski
State Senator, District 10
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Alex Lee
State Assembly Member, District 25
State Capitol, Room 2170
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter in Support of Proposal for COVID-19-related Utility Arrearages

Dear Senator Wieckowski and Assembly Member Lee,

The City of Santa Clara is writing to you today to urge you to strongly support fast, efficient, and equitable relief for unpaid energy and water bills accrued during COVID-19. This is a very important issue. Our community has been hit by COVID-19 and some of our customers have been unable to pay their bills.


Unpaid customer bills due to COVID-19 are resulting in additional pressure on utility rates and programs. Without a fast, efficient, and equitable relief program to address this issue, our customers will be faced with utility rate increases. Our electric utility arrearage alone as of April 21, 2021 was approximately \$9M.

The City of Santa Clara has been working closely through our public power partners Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) and the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) with the Senate on an arrearage relief proposal that would 1) cover unpaid bills for all customers impacted by COVID-19 – including low-income customers; 2) cover electric, water, and wastewater bills, and; 3) include a fast and efficient mechanism to get the money out the door quickly via customer bill credits and deadlines for disbursal.

You may soon be presented with a budget trailer bill that aligns with these principles -- we strongly urge your support of the measure.

Should you have any questions regarding our request, please do not hesitate to reach out to Basil Wong at bwong@santaclaraca.gov.

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Gillmor

Mayor

City of Santa Clara

cc: Santa Clara City Council
Deanna J. Santana, City Manager, City of Santa Clara
Manuel Pineda, Chief Electric Utility Officer, City of Santa Clara
Sarah Taheri, Northern California Power Association



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Mayor

Lisa M. Gillmor

Councilmembers

Kathy Watanabe, District 1
Raj Chahal, District 2
Karen Hardy, District 3
Kevin Park, District 4
Suds Jain, District 5
Anthony J. Becker, District 6

July 22, 2021

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
Office of Entrepreneurial Development (OED)
409 3rd St., SW
Washington, DC 20416

Re: COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR PILOT PROGRAM
Funding Opportunity Number: CNP-2021-01

This letter is to satisfy the SBA's requirement for state and/or local government support for the proposed Community Navigator Pilot Program under the SBA and authorized by Section 5004 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Ohlone Community College District is proposing to be the Hub organization to facilitate the service delivery to businesses and entrepreneurs throughout Santa Clara County, Alameda County, and Contra Costa County regions. This proposal includes outreach to underrepresented small business owners and entrepreneurs and will provide support in the form of technical assistance that includes advising, and training activities. Through its network of higher education institutions, chambers, and business advocacy units, Ohlone's "Bay Area - Silicon Valley Innovation Hub" pilot program proposal brings together a collaboration of reputable organizations with successful track records of meeting the needs of the business community. These organizations include Ohlone Community College District, the Silicon Valley Organization (SVO), the Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG), Peralta Community College District, Contra Costa Community College District, San Jose Public Library system and other local community partners and business consultants, creating a network of 30 partners.

As Mayor of the City of Santa Clara, I offer my full support for this proposal. This network of partners has the background, expertise, and resources to help support underrepresented entrepreneurs and business owners throughout the Greater Bay Area and Silicon Valley regions.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding my support for the Bay Area - Silicon Valley Innovation Hub pilot program proposal.

Regards,

Lisa M. Gillmor
Mayor
City of Santa Clara



Councilmembers

Anthony J. Becker
Raj Chahal
Karen Hardy
Suds Jain
Kevin Park
Kathy Watanabe

July 13, 2021

The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby Scott"
Chairman
House Committee on Education and Labor
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
House Committee on Education and Labor
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for H.R. 1581/S. 127 the Build America's Libraries Act

Dear Chairman Scott, Chair Murray, Ranking Member Foxx, and Ranking Member Burr:

On behalf of the City of Santa Clara, I am writing to express Santa Clara's support of the "Build America's Libraries Act" (H.R. 1581/S. 127), which would establish and provide funds through FY 2024 for the Build America's Libraries Fund.

Libraries are community anchors that provide needed services, resources, technologies, and broadband access, particularly in underserved communities, yet many are facing infrastructure challenges like leaky roofs, broken HVAC systems, and accessibility barriers. The Build America's Libraries Act would allow libraries to invest in internet connectivity infrastructure, improve indoor air quality, renovate facilities, and improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Additionally, the Build America's Libraries Fund will require the Institute of Museum and Library Services to allocated funding to states, who will then provide need-based grants for libraries to make long-term facility improvements.

Santa Clara recognizes the need for increased investment in our nation's libraries infrastructure, for which the Build America's Libraries Fund will create.

For these reasons, we support the Build America's Libraries Act. We look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Gillmor

Mayor

City of Santa Clara

CC: Congressman Ro Khanna
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Alex Padilla



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July 30, 2021

Senator Dave Cortese
California State Senate
State Capitol Room 3070
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Cortese:

I am writing in support of SB 791, which will create a Surplus Land Unit in the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to facilitate the development and construction of affordable housing by providing technical and financing assistance to local agencies.

As California continues to face a severe affordable housing crisis, there is a great need for resources that stimulate and expand affordable housing development. In the past few years, the State Legislature has passed notable bills that aim to utilize unused public land for affordable housing development, including the Surplus Lands Act (AB 1486). Local agencies have identified and submitted the location of thousands of surplus lands to HCD. However, since the passage of AB 1486, HCD has been overwhelmed with calls from local agencies asking for assistance in disposing of their surplus land. Due to their small size and limited resources, the staff's focus has been on Surplus Land Act enforcement.

The department requires additional resources to assist local agencies with affordable housing development on surplus lands. SB 791 will address that need by creating a unit that will provide advice, technical assistance, and consultative and technical services to local agencies with surplus land and developers that seek to build affordable housing on those sites.

For these reasons, the City of Santa Clara supports SB 791.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Gillmor
Mayor
City of Santa Clara



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June 11, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Budget Request - \$225 Million (General Fund): Local Assistance for Organic Waste Recycling Program Development and Implementation

Dear Assembly Member Ting and Senator Skinner,

The City of Santa Clara writes to support the League of California Cities (Cal Cities) request for \$225 million (General Fund) in local assistance to help cities and counties develop and begin implementing organic waste recycling programs as required by CalRecycle's new Organic Waste Reduction Regulations (SB 1383 Regulations).

Local governments are the backbone for achieving California's solid waste management and recycling goals. CalRecycle's new SB 1383 regulations adopted in November of last year require local governments to reduce landfill disposal of organic waste by 75 percent by 2025 and to increase edible food waste recovery by 20 percent. These new SB 1383 Regulations are the most far-reaching solid waste management changes in decades and CalRecycle has estimated implementation will cost \$20 to \$40 billion over the next decade, including the addition of 50 to 100 new organic waste recycling facilities.

The first compliance obligations for local governments begin in early 2022 and local governments are working to develop a comprehensive suite of local collection, enforcement, and funding programs. These activities include hiring new staff and consultants, adopting ordinances, arranging for appropriate collection services, establishing inspection and enforcement programs, procuring recovered organic waste products, providing education and outreach, developing edible food recovery programs, and reporting to CalRecycle.

The City of Santa Clara supports the Cal Cities' budget request of \$225 million (General Fund) for local assistance to cities and counties for local organic waste recycling program development and initial implementation activities. Specifically, the budget request should:

- Require the Controller directly allocate grants to cities and counties as follows:
 - Roughly \$72 million to fund minimum payments of \$200,000 to each county and \$125,000 to each city.

- Approximately \$153 million to cities and counties on a per capita basis.
- Allow cities and counties to use these funds to hire staff and consultants necessary to design and implement SB 1383 organic waste recycling programs, develop the various ordinances, programs, services, education and outreach activities, and organic waste recycling capacity planning requirements and any other requirements imposed under the SB 1383 Regulations.
- Allow cities and counties to use these funds to pay for initial implementation costs.
- Allow cities and counties to pool any or all of their allocations to work together on implementation efforts to maximize efficiency and promote local flexibility.

This funding request alone is not sufficient to achieve the state's organic waste recycling targets, especially in light of the estimated \$20 to \$40 billion anticipated total implementation cost; however, it will go a long way to help local governments and accelerate the development of the programs necessary to achieve those goals and to carry out early implementation activities.

In addition to this request for local program development assistance, the City of Santa Clara recognizes that there remains additional need to dedicate funding for infrastructure development. California must significantly increase the number of organic waste recycling facilities to achieve the state's goals. We believe there is merit to supplementing this request with an infusion of state funding into CalRecycle's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant and Loan Programs to provide financial assistance to develop additional organic waste recycling infrastructure. We believe that some portion of those funds should be targeted to regional organic waste recycling and procurement solutions and to rapidly scale up edible food recovery programs. Finally, we suggest allocating funding to CalRecycle to develop a statewide program environmental impact report for the siting and construction of organic waste composting facilities, as such a document could significantly reduce the time necessary to construct new composting facilities.

Developing suitable programs for organics diversion, obtaining the necessary approvals of programs and costs to rate payers through elected bodies, awarding contracts, and then implementing these programs will take time and resources. This \$225 million allocation will go a long way to helping locals develop and implement effective organic waste recycling programs; however, we also note that further statutory and regulatory changes may be necessary to maximize program effectiveness and efficiency and address challenges that may arise in program implementation.

For these reasons, the City of Santa Clara respectfully requests the Legislature appropriate \$225 million (General Fund) for local assistance as outlined above.

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Gillmor
Mayor
City of Santa Clara

cc: The Honorable Senator Bob Wieckowski
The Honorable Assembly Member Alex Lee
The Senate Budget Committee
The Assembly Budget Committee
Seth Miller, League of California Cities Regional Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities



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June 17, 2021

The Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 4076
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 480 (Carrillo) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Allen,

On behalf of the City of Santa Clara, I write to express our support for AB 480 (Carrillo) which authorizes the Unified Program Agency to take actions to protect the health and safety of the public in the event of a hazardous waste spill or release of toxic material that proves a substantial endangerment to public health.

Existing law provides that Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs), operating under the California Environmental Protection Agency, oversee the management of hazardous waste and materials to ensure public safety. Currently, CUPAs regulate thousands of businesses that have the potential to pose a danger to public safety via the materials and chemicals utilized in their products. Though these business facilities are required to comply with administrative and regulatory framework under CUPA authority, the CUPA does not have the authority to require businesses to immediately discontinue facility operations if continuing to do so could pose an eminent threat to the health and safety of the public.

This bill provides CUPAs with the authority to swiftly intervene in events such as a hazardous waste spill by directing a facility to discontinue operations. It is a direct response to events like the contamination from the Exide battery factory, toxic releases of hexavalent chrome in Paramount and Long Beach, the large fire and magnesium release in Maywood, and releases from a chemical facility in Richmond that have caused significant harm to public health, safety, and environmental quality. Absent of the provisions in this bill, the CUPA would need to seek an injunction against the offending business – a process that takes far too long when the public is at risk.

As written, AB 480 strengthens local authority in taking instant action against local threats to public safety and empowers local jurisdictions to shut down facility operations when necessary. It is paramount that local public and health safety issues be handled immediately by local officials in proximate distance to the event.

For these reasons, the City supports AB 480.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Gillmor
Mayor, City of Santa Clara