

Hal Bohner

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sent by email to Heather Hines
at hhines@cityofpetaluma.org January 20, 2022

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Re: Comments to the Petaluma General Plan Advisory Committee for their meeting tonight

Dear GPAC members:

First, I would like to apologize for submitting these comments so shortly before your meeting tonight. If you don't have a chance to consider them tonight then I respectfully request that you consider them at a reasonable time in the future.

I have read your "Draft General Plan Guiding Principles and Supporting Concepts" which begins at page 20 of your "Final Draft Visioning Products For GPAC Review - January 2022". I paid particular attention to your discussion of climate change and applaud your excellent language concerning that subject, but I would suggest some additions and alterations, please.

The Draft Pillar (on p. 17) states - -

Petaluma is committed to bold action to achieve carbon neutrality and to building resilience to climate change impacts, including sea level rise, increasing temperatures, drought, and wildfire intensity.

I strongly support this statement. I would only suggest including the deadline for achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 that has been adopted by the City Council.

Regarding your "Draft Guiding Principles and Supporting Concepts" (pages 20-34) I have the following comments - -

As you may know, the Petaluma Climate Action Commission (CAC) prepared a Climate Emergency Framework (CEF) which was adopted by the City Council. Also, the CAC is working on a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), and City Staff and the consultant Raimi and Associates have prepared Draft Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Mitigation and Sequestration Measures or "Draft CAAP Mitigation and Sequestration Measures" (hereinafter "DCMSM") The DCMSM was presented to the CAC at its meeting January 13.

Both the CEF and DCMSM include concepts and programs that concern principles and concepts that will likely be included in both the new CAAP but should also be in the new General Plan. Accordingly, I

suggest that you consider including such principles and concepts in your Draft Guiding Principles and Supporting Concepts (Draft Guiding Principles).

I respectfully request that the GPAC review the CEF and the DCMSM to identify all measures that should also be included in your Guiding Principles and Supporting Concepts.

The following examples will illustrate my point –

It is obvious that your Guiding Principles and Supporting Concepts are intended to address climate change, but as they are written they fail to do so in a comprehensive way. In fact, your Guiding Principles and Supporting Concepts already explicitly include some principles and concepts concerning climate change. It is not reasonable or logical to include only some principles and concepts while not including others which have been clearly laid out by the CAC and the CEF. Looking to the future, if the new General Plan ultimately includes some but not all principles and concepts concerning climate change that are included in the CAAP this will lead to confusion in interpretation of both documents. Some examples of your statements about climate change in your DCMSM are:

- 1) Your Guiding Principle 8 (on p. 29) states - “Preserve resources, adapt to climate change, . . .”
- 2) Your Guiding Principle 8 (on p.29) States – “Use the Climate Emergency Framework to guide policy and both near and long term action to avoid catastrophic climate change.
- 3) Your Guiding Principle 8 (on p.29) States – “Capitalize on Petaluma’s natural assets (river, streams, trees, plains, etc.) to address climate change and sea level rise.”
- 4) Your Guiding Principle 9. (on p. 31) States – “Ensure infrastructure supports infill development and addresses the impacts of climate change.”
- 5) Your Guiding Principle 9. (on p. 31) - States – “Incorporate new (and potential) climate impacts and hazards into the design of infrastructure systems so that infrastructure is resilient and “climate-ready.”

Climate change is not explicitly mentioned in some of your guiding principles that are clearly directly related to climate change. Some examples are the following –

- 1) Your Guiding Principle 5 (on p. 24) States – “Support a range of safe, attractive, equitable, and carbon-neutral transportation alternatives with integrated land use and mobility strategies.”
- 2) Your Guiding Principle 8 (on p.29) States – “Achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.”

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

Hal Bohner

