



## **PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**

The following is public correspondence received by the City Clerk's Office after the posting of the original agenda. Individual contact information has been redacted for privacy. This may *not* be a comprehensive collection of the public correspondence, but staff makes its best effort to include all correspondence received to date.

To send correspondence to the City Council, on matters listed on the agenda please email [PublicComment@losaltosca.gov](mailto:PublicComment@losaltosca.gov)

**From:** [Couture, Terri](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment - City Council meeting March 8 Agenda Item 9  
**Date:** Saturday, March 5, 2022 5:29:10 PM

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From Terri Couture as a private citizen and not a member of the art commission

Dear City Council members

If you approve this plan, you are merely not contributing to less than .01% improvement to the world's climate change. Meanwhile, Russia, Japan and China between them, will build over 200 coal burning electric plants in 2021 and finish in 2022. Those countries and many others are the big contributors. You are merely impacting the freedoms of the people who voted for you.

Thank you

**\*Wire Fraud is Real\*. Before wiring any money, call the intended recipient at a number you know is valid to confirm the instructions.** Additionally, please note that the sender does not have authority to bind a party to a real estate contract via written or verbal communication.

**From:** [Roberta Phillips](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Council Meeting March 8/ 2022 Item #9 CAAP  
**Date:** Sunday, March 6, 2022 3:45:24 PM

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Dear Council Members

When I was in graduate school I substitute taught for my local school district. I was called every day because the policy at the time did not allow teachers to roll over their sick or vacation time to the next year. As a result, all the teachers took all their time. The district decided to change their policy and allow teacher discretion. The new policy said they were going to treat teachers as adults. If they were sick, needed to go to an attorney or have a personal day, they could take as much time off as they needed.

As a result the school district cut in half the millions of dollars they were spending on substitute teachers..

I ask for the same from the City Council when it comes to policy regarding a climate action plan. Residents and homeowners should be treated like adults and voluntarily do as much as they can to conserve electricity, water and miles traveled in their cars. I know that everyone will step up.

The CAAP states "Based on these estimates, a total of approximately \$14,981,000 will be needed to implement all mitigation actions"

It is better to call on the good in people, than legislate forced actions, thinking throwing tens of millions of dollars at the problem will work.

It is good to be aspirational and inspirational, but naive to believe that more will be achieved with a stick rather than a carrot.

[John Adams](#), the American [Revolutionary War](#) patriot and second president of the United States, wrote in a letter dated 13 February 1818: "The Revolution was effected before the War commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people; a change in the religious sentiments of their duties and obligations.... This radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments, and affections of the people, was the real American Revolution"

If you want a climate change revolution you must appeal to the minds and hearts of your community, as expressed by Adams.

Sincerely

Roberta Phillips.



**From:** [Freddie Park](#)  
**To:** [Roberta Phillips](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#); [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Council Meeting March 8/ 2022 Item #9 CAAP  
**Date:** Sunday, March 6, 2022 4:39:19 PM

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Another great letter! You are on a roll!!!

Freddie Park Wheeler  
[REDACTED]

On Mar 6, 2022, at 3:44 PM, Roberta Phillips [REDACTED] >  
wrote:

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Sincerely

Roberta Phillips.  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [John Corrigan](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM 9 - MARCH 8, 2022  
**Date:** Monday, March 7, 2022 8:19:26 AM

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Dear Los Altos City Council Members,

I would like to raise a concern as a Los Altos resident, and not in my capacity as a Los Altos Parks and Recreation Commissioner.

I respectfully request that the City Council de-prioritize and minimize investment in the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), contrary to its position stated in the packet accompanying Agenda Item 9: "The City Council and Environmental Commission prioritized the Climate Crisis and agreed that this is a priority...."<sup>1</sup>

The elephant in the room for the CAAP is that, even if Los Altos were to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to zero, our efforts would have no impact. "...under current trends, every 10 percent reduction that the developed world makes in its emissions (a reduction it has barely managed in fifteen years) will offset less than four years of growth in the developing world."<sup>2</sup> Since the developed world can't offset GHG emissions growth in the developing world, Los Altos can't - particularly because Los Altos accounts for only ~ 0.0003% of global GHG emissions.<sup>3, 4, 5</sup> Los Altos would require ~ 1,000 years of zero emissions to offset the volume of global GHG emissions generated in a single day.

Nevertheless, the CAAP proposes a Carbon Emission Permit of \$50 - \$200/year per household.<sup>6</sup> Assuming 10K households, Los Altos residents will pay \$500K - \$2M per year in Carbon Emission Permit taxes. Additionally, the cost of the CAAP proposals itemized in the Mitigation, Cross-Cutting, and Adaptation Budgets is at least \$15M.<sup>7</sup> Raising taxes to reduce emissions may be a well-meaning proposal, but it is extremely costly and manifestly unproductive since achieving no emissions in Los Altos will have no impact on global emissions.

Residents and businesses are free to take actions of their choice with respect to climate

change. But the city shouldn't make emissions reduction a strategic goal or priority if its actions can only have a maximum potential impact of 0.0003% on global emissions. As a policy matter, therefore, the Los Altos City Council should ensure that the CAAP achieves the minimum GHG emissions reduction targets required by state and federal law to minimize associated burdens on residents, businesses, the budget, and staff.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Best regards,

John Corrigan

<sup>1</sup> March 8, 2022 City Council Meeting [Agenda Item 9](#), p. 4. (p. 256 of the pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Koonin, Steven E. "Unsettled: What Climate Science Tells Us, What It Doesn't, and Why It Matters." Ed. Alexa Stevenson. Dallas, TX: BenBella Books, Inc., 2021. 281.

<sup>3</sup> Los Altos produced 111,320 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2018. (March 8, 2022 City Council Meeting [Agenda Item 9](#), p. 6. (p. 271 of the pdf))

<sup>4</sup> The U.S. produced 5,216 million MTCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2020. ("[Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks](#)," Environmental Protection Agency.)

<sup>5</sup> The U.S. accounts "...for only some 13% of global greenhouse gas." (Koonin, Steven E. "Unsettled: What Climate Science Tells Us, What It Doesn't, and Why It Matters." Ed. Alexa Stevenson. Dallas, TX: BenBella Books, Inc., 2021. 300.)

<sup>6</sup> March 8, 2022 City Council Meeting Agenda Packet [Agenda Item 9](#), p. 6. (p. 258 of the pdf)

<sup>7</sup> March 8, 2022 City Council Meeting Agenda Packet [Agenda Item 9](#), pp. 80 - 83. (pp. 345 - 348 of the pdf)

**From:** [Pat Marriot](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #9 - MARCH 1, 2022 CAAP  
**Date:** Monday, March 7, 2022 11:16:33 AM

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Council Members:

When we built our home in Los Altos, we achieved 181 green points when only 70 were required. We have since added solar panels and backup batteries.

I've been driving an EV (Nissan LEAF) since 2013.

We are concerned about climate change and support many environmental organizations.

That said, some of the CAAP proposals are over the top, e.g.,

- Charging residents for a Carbon Emission Permit. Ever drop wears away a stone. While \$50 - \$200/year is not a huge amount of money, you will soon be adding some sort of tax for a public safety building + bond financing.
- "4-5 FTE for mitigation actions" is not affordable, given our current financial situation.

Staff and residents can easily be educated about "green" behavior. County, state and Fed governments; PGE; water companies -- all provide recommendations about how to protect the environment, save water, save energy, recycle, avoid plastic pollution, etc. etc. We do not need a staff and a big budget at City Hall to make us more responsible.

Serious efforts that will make a significant difference are worthwhile. Virtue signaling is not.

Thanks,

Pat Marriott