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Environmental Sustainability Plan Town Hall Meeting

Good evening, everyone. Let me try that again. Good evening, everyone.

good evening!

wonderful. Thank you for the enthusiasm. Yes!

yes.

that's what we need around here. It's a pleasure to be with all of you. My name is sam. I work for you. We are here at city hall, as you know, because we're launching a community-wide effort to engage and create a sustainability plan for our city. And as many of you know, there is a difference between building a product and buying a product. And too often I think in this city and many other cities we have a tendency to sell products that are not really built by the consumers themselves. And we are engaging in an effort to with you collectively build something that we think could be extraordinary not just for san José but a model for the rest of the country. Reducing greenhouse gases and set us on a sustainable path for water consumption and conservation for the future. We know this is going to take a significant level of community engagement to work. About a decade ago many of you May remember that my predecessor, chuck reed, launched an ambitious green vision. It was a great plan. Many of those targets we have made great progress against. Some we have struggled against because of lots of different factors. But it was an important plan. It was a good start for us. Green vision was really about what the city could do to green its own facilities and its own energy use. What we are attempting to do is more ambitious because we're going to engage the entire community in this effort and see if collectively we can really move the needle around greenhouse gas emissions and all the other challenges we have environmentally. And we're fortunate to be led by some great members of the san José team. First by Carrie Romanelo. The head of our environmental services team. Jim is not here. Schwinn is here. Also environmental services and city manager's office and I know jim and his team from the department of transportation will be heavily involved in this effort. We certainly want to engage with you and hear your very good ideas. I can tell from the faces -- familiar faces that I see here in the auditorium that we've got a lot of folks who have a lot of experience, both professionally and personally in this endeavor and we certainly want to leverage your great ideas. We are fortunate also to have the help of pwc. they have a lot of great experience in this with cities from L.A., across the globe, in building sustainability plans. Except the difference is ours is going to be better. Right? Yes. So we are grateful

for clinton and his team, tripp and shaun. Where is shaun? There is shaun in the back. All the folks from pwc. They have an office here in downtown san José as many of you know. We are always grateful for their thought leadership. We are borrowing their energy and mind-share on not just this but several initiatives. They've been incredibly helpful. Now, set a baseline. Certainly we know we have got a lot of work to do here in the city of san José. This is predominantly a suburban city. Particularly as we think about transportation and ghg emissions which are emitted from transportation overwhelmingly in the bay area, we have a lot of work to do. On the other hand, the city has a strong tradition of green leadership, from decades ago, recycling programs. I saw a councilmember linda. She was involved before it was cool to be environmental. We have a great track record already in terms of leed certified products. Solar deployment, third highest ratio of solar per person in the country. We have got the most [Inaudible] . leading the nation in hybrid and ev vehicles per capita. We are continuing to lead the country in clean tech investment, venture investment. These are all good indicators. We want to be number one in every category. Most importantly we want to show other cities how they can really substantially move the needle in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring we have a sustainable water supply. There is a very important vote coming up, by the way, I should mention, if I can give a brief plug. Next month. You know the date, Carrie? 16th of May. We will I hope as a council be voting to take the leap. That leap is to community choice energy. This will give consumers, businesses and residents the opportunity to choose their source of energy. While pg&e will handle distribution, we know we can really expand our renewable portfolio by giving residents the choice and we think we can do it at a cost that's competitive or even better than pg&e's. We hope you'll join us in supporting that effort. That will be a significant community engagement effort as well once that gets up and running both around how we can expand our renewable supply because that will be important for us, but also we think there may be sources of dollars from that effort that we can reinvest. Whether it's building out electric charging infrastructure, helping solar deployment, whatever it might be, it will give our community an even greater opportunity to see how we can lead the country. One last person I would like to introduce, Scott Green, on our team, mayor's office. He has been leading the charge for us. So if you can't find me, Scott's a much smarter guy and knows a lot more about the environment. Don't hesitate to talk to him. With no further ado, I'll leave you into the capable hands of our fearless leader, Carrie Roman Ello.

I am so happy you're all here. This is an exciting start for us but an exciting journey that we'd like to do together. We really want to as Mayor Li Liccardo, create an environmental plan that you'll all participate in and that the next generation will participate in and that my parents are participate in. We'd like to create something that doesn't wind up on a shelf as a bunch of good ideas. With that, we're hoping that

you'll all scoot forward a little bit. And anytime you're ready, linda, lead the charge, if you could scoot forward. Okay, you can wait for the group activity. Okay. So we focused on energy, mobility and water. So why those three topics? Any ideas? They're the things that contribute the most to what? Yeah. they're big umbrellas and they're super important to us, and they're terms that we've all heard of, right? Think about mobility. If we make it easier to get around town, how does that help improve the environment? Less use of fossil fuel. Maybe not sitting in traffic. So maybe you are a little happier too. That's always good. And it helps us kind of keep things going, and it opens up our ideas of maybe we could ride our bike, maybe we could -- maybe we could walk. Maybe we could call into that meeting. So the focus areas are intentionally broad and they're to really get us to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. So when we are sharing our ideas today and then over the coming months and in the coming years, really think about the ideas. And if you think there is no way I am going to do that or if you think, that would be great for someone else to do, let's make sure we're talking about that because we want to make sure we are hearing things that folks are going to roll up their sleeves and participate in. So if it doesn't resonate with you, my feelings won't be hurt. We want to ensure that we're creating something that we all do together because there is a lot of options. And we are a great environmental leader, and I think we will be even better when we have the million folks in san José helping generate those ideas. We have been very fortunate to work with pricewaterhousecoopers. And they'll lead today's session. I just wanted to share with you guys that they're putting a little skin in the game in our sustainability plan development in that they are doing a lot of the work pro bono. So they are a san José company, they have a great office here, and they want to help make san José even greater. So with that, I'll turn it over and I promise we won't just talk at you the whole time. But maybe a little bit to start out.

I am tripp horstel. It's an honor to work with all of you and the city staff on this sustainability plan. Seriously, please stand up and come down. It will make it a lot easier. This is your plan. So we're going to -- my job is to harness all of your brain power and ideas into the plan. So please come up as close as possible. It will make it not only much more efficient and also more fun. I promise you. It will be a great discussion. So we have very short presentations for you. And -- one question I have is, do we -- are there any -- I shouldn't ask this because I don't -- are there spanish or vietnamese speakers? Carlos, where are you, carlos? The other -- thank you. So, yes, speaking of which we do have an online audience and also let you know that we will be engaging you as well. There will be an opportunity to do that. We'll let you know when we do that. Let's see. Any other housekeeping notes? So you know who we are. For today, what we want to do is explore initially this concept of the good life. Clinton maloney

will share some thinking that we've done with some of our partner organizations of reframing -- can you hear me okay? Is this better? Great. It's like an ice cream cone, right? [Microphone interference]

we also really want for you to get excited about this plan and not only contribute but also engage with other people in the community. All of you have networks and have them be able to contribute their ideas and thinking to the plan. And then lastly, we'll spend time being able to contributing ideas around energy, mobility and water. I'm going to hand it over to clinton to talk about the good life.

thanks, tripp. It's nice to see all of you. Thank you so much for sharing your evening with us, and hopefully your wisdom as well. As the mayor said, this plan will have to be different in that we'll need to engage the residents more than any other plan has around the country. We began thinking about, well, what is it about americans and the american dream that we really aspire to and where did that come from? then how do we think about what it will look like to live sustainably in san José in the future? I am going to spend a couple of moments going through some ideas. So we really like this image as a way of thinking about the 1950s. If you think about the 1950s, we had just come out of world war ii. World war ii was a time of great deprivation. As we moved out of world war ii, it became a time of plenty. We really thought about growing our level of consumption and our standard of living. And if you take a look at this image, you know, we have got all kinds of things going on. Even though the family is having a picnic by the lake, the little girl is still sitting in her own private swimming pool. We have multiple pieces of sporting equipment there. You could actually host quite a team with all of the stuff that they've brought with them. If you take a look at mom, she is cooking three of the largest steaks -- I mean, who is going to eat all of those steaks, all of that food? We be started to think about -- these are some of the images that are seared in our psyche, the idea that more is better, and we actually need to have plenty. It's not enough to have one outboard motor, you actually need two outboard motors if you're really a boats person. This is the image from the 1950s coming out of world war ii really thinking about plenty. this is a nice image to think about how we aspire to live and the idea that more is in fact more. We've been sold this idea since way back then. And today, you know, the idea of the good life has turned into that you have to have that large home, you have to be able to drive solo anywhere you want to go. That we have really rich diets that we like to slice there, as much steak as you can imagine. When we order from amazon we have to get it fast. It's not enough to have it tomorrow, we need it delivered by drone in three minutes. The average american throws away 80 pounds of clothing in a year. We're very wasteful when it comes to dressing. We throw away a lot of food. Even though it's an arid climate, we still create lush gardens as if we were living in connecticut with plenty of rainfall and a lot of water. It's hard. We have to face it that people are not responding to the idea that you have to

make a sacrifice to live sustainably. That's not the American way. The idea that we ought to be sacrificing has not caught on. We have been trying it for a long time. We need a new frame. Sustainability is challenging in and of itself. People tell us it's confusing, it's binary. Either I am the bike riding hippie or the guy driving a hummer. There isn't a clue about where to get started. It's complex. It feels like it has to be smug and elitist. We all remember the episode of South Park that became legend in the Bay Area about driving Priuses. When it comes to carbon we can't even see it. It's invisible. The first generation of sustainable products didn't deliver well. They weren't great. They didn't do the job they set out to do and it's made people think of sustainability as not really attainable. If you don't think it's attainable, some people don't even try because it's too hard, it's too complex, I can't even make a difference myself. So that's the challenge we are facing. If you think about what this first version of the good life costs us, we ran the numbers. And we said, okay, well, if you have the standard home and you've got a newish kind of car, you can take a family vacation once a year, you've got the latest device, maybe you can eat out to dinner a couple times a month and you have enough food to feed the family. The idea of the first generation of the good life is that it's actually pretty expensive. To have those things that we say are desirable are the hallmarks of successful living, it costs about \$95,000 a year across the country in general. Obviously in San José we have some demands that are much higher than that when it comes to housing. It's probably much higher here. But around the country, \$95,000. The median income is only \$52,000 a year, which means only 15% of Americans can afford this version of the good life that we have come to aspire to that we're spending our time and energy chasing. So we work almost a week to afford the daily latte, the things that have become a part of our life. We're working an extra two months of the year to afford the extra space in our homes that we don't even use. The extra bedroom and extra bathroom. Surveys will show that, for someone who is changing jobs, if the new commute for that person adds an extra hour of commuting, you need to pay them an additional \$40,000 because the commute is so painful. In the Bay Area we have five of the worst commutes in the country depending on which direction you are heading in at what time of day. So these are really major issues. So we have to rethink. We have to reimagine, and we want your help to think about what do you want life to look like in the future in San José. What should we be aspiring to if the old aspirations are not serving us. We turned to research about what makes people happy and we found a few things. First of all, having more stuff doesn't make you happy. Having more time with your family and with your friends, learning something new, feeling engaged, being intellectually engaged and learning, spending times with friends, those are the things that actually make you happy. So then we said to ourselves, let's turn to the internet and Instagram and say, well, people are always posting things that they are excited or proud about. What are they posting? Is this -- this new version of the good life where people are opting for happiness over stuff, is that really true? Are some people trying to

find that? We sorted through thousands and thousands of images and we found four things. We found that there are a lot of people posting about home and family, about time to slow down, about really enjoying the journey, and thinking about work and life imbalance. People posting living rooms and dining rooms full of friends and having friends over. Here, of course, we're obsessed with new technology and something cool that might help us manage our home, save energy or just make our lives better. The nostalgia about being able to do laundry the old way. People have the time and pishs patience to hang the laundry outside and save on energy and carbon, they're excited to do that and share. Sleep is the new luxury. We know people are stressed out and are not getting enough sleep because the time they're spending time commuting. People are starting to grow gardens and they're excited to share the fruits and vegetables they are posting with the neighbors and friends. Working from home has become a new status symbol. If you have a job that allows you to work from home, you're more likely to be happy in that job and potentially productive. There is a new admiration for people who can make stuff. In a mass-produced world, people who are art sans and craftspeople and can make things. And things they make that last. If you have ever seen or maybe you have one of these things, they're often being handed down from generation to generation because they were made to last and they do. We think it's time to reframe the good life. From this 1950s version where the idea that more is better to the good life 2.0 where better is in fact more. So what are the transitions? The transitions are from living large to living connected, from driving solo to sharing the journey with your friends and ride sharing on uber or lyft. To going from a rich diet to knowing your food and knowing that your food will make you healthy and well and that it's good for your family. From pouring it on to using it wisely with water. Having landscaping that's relevant to where we live here in california in particular. Instead of buying fashion all the time and throw it away, having the pieces that are timeless that we hang on to. Going from getting it fast to slowing down and taking time to savor the moment. Let me turn it over to tripp because he'll engage us in the first exercise. we really want to know what you imagine the good life in san José might look like going forward.

how many of you have kids? Quite a bit of you. One of the great things about kids -- I have a 6-year-old son -- is their imagination and how vivid it is. Seems like as we grow older our imaginations seems to get nar narrower. We ran this exercise with a group of fourth graders. It was amazing the kinds of responses that we got. One girl said, you know, the good life to me is being able to look out the window and see horses, right. Such a very simple statement but a lot packed in there about what makes for the good life. So we need an exercise and to hear from you about what does the good life mean to you. Shaun and harrison will pass out some cards here. And the intent of the exercise is not to come out with the best sustainability ideas. We will get to that here in a moment. This one is to really reflect on

this and ask yourself these questions around what does the good life mean to you. This will be important. This is good input for us because it helps us understand what do people value and what should ultimately be in the sustainability plan and how should it be framed and communicated. Clearly how sustainability has been framed and communicated in the past is not working that well. so the exercise we are about to do, you'll be handed out these cards, which you'll have one in front of you. And -- for those folks who are online, I'll flash up the card here in a moment, and you can participate by e-mailing your thoughts to the address there, esp @san Joséca.Gov. Does anybody not have a pen? There are a few over there. Thank you, harrison. Take two or three minutes to think and reflect about what might the good life look like for you for your family or your neighborhood in the future. What does your home look like. How does your home enable your life and the type of life that you live. I'll give you an example. I have a work shed, it's very modest, it's small but it's great because during the days I can work from home, which I can, I can work there, I have space to think. When it's time to connect to my family, I just go through the back door and I am right there. So how does your home enhance your happiness? How do you spend your free time? Do you sleep? How do you get around town, and how and where would you want to work in order to feel like you are living the good life 2.0. Take a couple minutes to reflect. If you are online please write and submit your thoughts. Take another 30 seconds or 45 seconds to put your thoughts in. . As you're wrapping up, turn to the person next to you and pair up or, you know, introduce yourself to the person around you, kind of huddle up in groups of two or three. And share your -- what your good life vision is or what the most interesting aspect of it is. If it's too personal, you can pass. But, you know, engage in a quick little dialogue and just hear what the other person's vision is of what the good life 2.0 looks like for them.

all right. Can you all hear me well? Sounds like there were some good ideas. So we would love to hear some of your ideas. Who here had heard a great idea? Just quickly raise your hand if you heard a great, great idea and you want to share it with the group. Oe brave soul to go first. Great. We'll get a mike over to you, in the blue polar fleece.

hi. My name is xavier. I didn't learn about the environment before taking this class. So after taking the class I came to understand the real value of the environment. It is very important to know that how we are misusing our planet, earth, and I came to know that the first thing that -- my family. Most of my family members take shower more than an hour. They are constantly in the kitchen all the time cooking. They drive a lot. So I don't know what to do. Then I figured it out. I need to talk to these people. so I started slowly talking to them. They didn't pay attention to me. Then I started making a small poster and put it in the bathroom and refrigerator to ask them to read. Then it slowly started working for me. One

shower went to 30 minutes and 30 minutes to 15 minutes now. Now they turn off the power. So they're conscious now. Why? Very environmental. I really want to tell people that we need to educate people.

yeah.

talk to them.

the reminder. When it comes to eating also, I figured it out, the professor told me, you take your -- cut out eating meat. I said no way. I have to eat meat every day. It takes process to set up my mind. Now 95% of meat I cut out and switched to be a vegetarian. It's a mind process and education. I like to education people about how important the environment is.

thank you very much for your comments. Yes. Absolutely. Who else? I saw another hand. Was it down here? Right over there. Great. Thank you.

thank you. Can you hear me? Great. This is an organization called 2020 or bust. And they have an application that you can download and say what actions you're going to take. We are the ones that's going to impact this global warming and end the crisis. You and I are. So it's 2020 or bust.Org. Download the application and the application you say what you're going to do. Solar, eat less, all the things this gentleman was pointing to. You do it, and then you get updates every week and it measures your impact by the answer.

great. Great. Thank you. Technology plays a critical role in all of this. Yes.

yes. For me? Is this on?

yes.

I can feel like I have a good life if I feel like my community has a good life and our community is sustainable. I would like it to be 100% carbon neutral [Too close to the microphone] [Interference]

green spaces, free college tuition, able to walk or bike safely, big bike lanes. Yes, we can do individual things but we need the city to support us so we can do a good thing for the planet. We can't have a good life without the planet being sustainable.

let's take a couple more. Do we have anything online? okay.

[Microphone not on] [Inaudible]

great. Thank you.

[Inaudible]

all right. Other visions of the future that -- great. Thank you, sir.

hi. The first thing that popped into my head was having events that are close to me. I am a pedestrian, a cyclist, and I see a lot of events that are all over the area that I would really want to attend but don't feel compelled to go because of the distance. Back to what this lady was saying about the community aspect. You get to know your neighbors, go to events that are nearby. Having the local feel is an important part of good life 2.0 for me.

great. Thank you. Thank you. Right there. I need to get anywhere I want as soon as possible using public transit. Where is my state route 85 light rail system? It's been 20 years. No seriously. I have lived here my entire life and nothing has happened in that respect. I would really want that to happen. It would make my life substantially easier. But that's just one of many examples.

great. Thank you. do we have some online?

a couple. Katya writes she would like rational planning supported by rational communities who really think about how we manage and focus growth so that we can -- and by focusing on how we manage growth, thinking about the resources that we are using including water specifically. That was from katya.

great.

one just popped in from michael. Michael says, sharing space for a garden, using front yards for gardens, community minded. Spending time with friends, walking, golf, car sharing. He likes the idea of working from home.

who doesn't. Great. Well, thank you all for participating in this. It's a really -- I find this concept a very interesting one to be able to reflect on and think about, how can sustainability enhance my life and my family and from where I work and the community I live in.

I want to give you a chance to be able to participate in -- actually, before I move on, if you want to share your thoughts that you have written down on your card about the good life, courtney, amanda, just hold up your card and courtney and amanda will come by and pick them up. So we really value your input and thank you.

I'll give a little overview of what the environmental sustainability plan intends to include and the challenges that it's set up to be able to address. So the plan is really about energy, mobility and water. And it is the evolution of the green vision. Whereas the green vision focused in on what the city could do through its municipal operations, the ambition for this plan is as the mayor and kerrie said much, much bigger. The scale of the challenges that we face are such that we need big solutions. And some of the challenges that we face are around traffic. So it's no secret, traffic is bad here. It is actually the fifth worst in the nation. And it is expensive. All that time spent is fuel being consumed, and we have to pay for. And the challenges of the congestion is only going to get worse as opposed to better given population growth and certainly as the economy gets as robust, it gets worse. There is also a public safety risk. But probably most close to all of us is that it impacts our quality of life because we would much much rather be with our friends or family or at work being productive than sitting in traffic. The second challenge is really around energy. For greenhouse gas emissions san José has a per capita emissions of about 5.1 tons of carbon. I find it hard to imagine how much a ton of carbon is. Turns out it's roughly the size of a two-story single-family home. so it's basically five two-story, single-family homes is about 5.1 emissions. Those emissions come in no small part about a third from our energy use in buildings. So in our businesses and in our homes. By all the great work of solar installations in san José, a full third of carbon emissions come from energy consumed in buildings. And water. So the drought is still very present on all of our minds. Thankfully we've gotten through this last one. The city actually responded really, really well of cutting its use back by 26%. But it brings this question about how do we create resilience in the city's water systems of how water is procured and how water is used so that the city can withstand and be resilient to future droughts. It also has an economic cost. If there is less water it's harder for some businesses to be able to operate as they have. And underlying all of this is the population growth for san José. So san José is not only the largest city in the bay area but it also will be where most of the population growth will be. And that red bar is equivalent -- it's about

400,000 people expected over the next 20 years, is about the size of oakland. Imagine oakland moving into san José and how do you bring those people in and retain the quality of life or even improve the quality of life in san José. So it's a staggering, staggering challenge. But the city has made excellent progress as a result progress. As a result of the green vision there have been some great city programs. The bake- ike share program, silicon valley energy watch program which helps with energy efficiency, the recycled water program. There are a lot of really works that have already been done. But even if all of the goals were achieved in the green vision, it still would not be enough in order to make a serious progress on the challenges that we face. So, what do we need? We need big ideas. We need big ideas and then to be able to execute them well. And so, invite you here today to be able to share what your big ideas are. But the scale of the solutions are needing to think about the way we plan our cities and more towards transit oriented development that make spaces more walkable, and be able to access events or work from close by in our homes. Also, rethinking public transit for ways that are less expensive and more efficient. And then also, with ev vehicles and autonomous cars, how does the city set itself up in order to be able to not only embrace it but actually accelerate and increase those adoptions. So we want to hear from you about what your ideas are. So we have more cards to be able to hand out and want to get input from you. so there are -- and what we'll do with these cards is that we are in the stage in developing the plan where we are harnessing ideas from the community. And the work that we are going to do is to be able to pull those together and then start to understand what makes most sense for the city to be able to put into the vision. So we want to hear from you. And now is the perfect opportunity to be able to do that. So, you're going to be handed cards. There are three of them in the pack that you have. There is one on energy, water and mobility. And take time to write down your -- what your ideas are, and for the folks online, we'll be flashing up the card here in a moment to be able to do. And once you reflect on this question, for each water, mobility and energy. So it's a fill in the blank. It's a prompt to help think like, wouldn't it be great if -- and either "I could" or "in our neighborhood" or "have in the city of san José." and the city of san José could help by. And think about how the city could enable that particular action or maybe the city is getting in the way of something and actually needs to clear some sort of obstacle. So what is the action and what do you think the city could do in order to be able to enable that. At the bottom, also, is there a really big idea that you have around water. it May be even broader than what you or your community or the city could do, but is there, you know, a large partnership that could be done that could help. And think through. So on water -- I can't see my -- so for water, thinking about, you know, what are the actions to be able to save water in a way that makes us drought -- ready for droughts, enhances the quality of life. Taking shorter showers is one. There is also the aspect of how can you enhance life. The idea of maybe beautifying our gardens and using a mediterranean sort of style which is designed for why is with low

rainfall as a way to be able to both save water as well as beautify and enhance quality of life. For energy, to think about, you know, what actions can be taken to give the residents as well as businesses access to low-cost energy, either through efficiency or through renewable energy. Lastly, mobility. The question here is what would need to be true for you to feel like you could drive less without sacrificing? And what would need to be true -- what would need to be in place. If your employer provided you the ability to work from home one day a week. Ideas like that. Take a few moments to jot your ideas down.

> I have to be honest. I feel a little bit like a professor at the front of the room watching people take an exam. feel free to keep writing your ideas down. But would love to hear some ideas that people have in the audience. If you have an idea and you want to share, please raise your hand and we'll get a mike over to you. Please say your name when you --

my name is damon villa. I part of a non-profit called grid alternatives. It would be great if we could include low-income families and residents in san José by using state incentive programs that are specifically designated to bring low-income communities no-cost solar. The city could really help by disseminating this information and to send out letters and to hold workshops in conjunction with non-profits like grid alternatives that are leveraging these funds. Many of the issues we encounter are just people knowing about these programs. And there are a lot of areas that are -- that are fully funded and there are other areas that are partially funded. So if the city could help to diminish that information, letting know in the community that these incentives are out there.

great. Wonderful. Thank you. Thank you. Anybody else? Over there in the corner.

another invitation for you. What I said would make a difference is individual actions matter. 2020 or bust is about mobilizing 30 million people by the end of this year. 500 million by 2020. It's the biggest revolution in history. So imagine the impact of 30 million people by the end of this year that we would make. 30 million individuals. So we're each owning the opportunity as an individual. This will empower whatever you do as a city. So on next thursday, April 27th, at the center for spiritual living is where the event is happening. You can go to events.2020orbust.org. What do I do here? 2020 or bust.Org and register fr the event. It's a networking event. An opportunity for you and I to say what we're going to do and then take it on.

great. Thank you very much. Right there in the yellow shirt.

I would really like to promote or find out if there are efforts on the side of the -- on the part of the city to pursue water retention landscaping. It's really critical in our particular climate that we put -- be putting water back in the ground, not letting it flow off down our streets, down our driveways, down our parking lots and all these hard surfaces. We need more porous surfaces, french drains in lawns. We should do workshops with landscapers to get them to promote this with their clients, we should have citywide ordinances that require this kind of landscaping on new development. I think we really need to move on this because our drought might be over now, but it -- this is a cycle for us. And I think this is another way we can get more water, just like recycling our waste water.

thank you for that. It surprised me when I looked at half of san José's water is imported, the other half is ground water. The question of how do we recharge our ground water. We have a lot of land mass that can help with that. Great! All right. South bay water recycling, obviously recycled water. It's tertiary treated water. It meets drinking water standards but you can't use it for drinking water. However, if you mix it with the ground water aquifers you can use it because the two come together. The city along with the county of santa clara can help to promote that.

wonderful. That's a great idea. Up there. Great.

so, a couple of ideas. One is -- I know it's in the process here, but it would be great if -- sorry -- if we had 100% renewable energy in the city of san José could help with adopting the community choice aggregation, cca. I know that's something that's in the works right now, right? Yes. [Applause]

clearly some fans of cca in the audience.

on the mobility front, one of the biggest issues, 40% of greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation. The big issue that forces us to drive is the separation between jobs and housing. In particular right now with a lot of cities building up to 15 -- allowing up to 15 jobs per one housing unit, that is also causing the housing crisis, rising rents. It would be great if the bay area and santa clara county balanced the jobs to housing ratio so we can live closer to where we work and the city of san José can help by advocating for new regional policies that incentive ive housing production in job-rich cities.

right there. Thank you, shaun. Sorry, if you can say your name at the beginning, that would be great.

yeah. My name is ruth marino. I want to -- along the lines of what chris just said. I would like the city to approve the community choice energy. And if -- [Applause] Thank you. And if anybody is available May 16th, that's the tentative date of the vote. We want a lot of people in these chambers to encourage the council to approve it. And then, if you -- just in case it gets moved, we are at san José community energy.Org and also on facebook. Then, another thing on energy. I believe the state has grants available from the volkswagen lawsuit for energy projects. If the city could take advantage of those. i haven't asked if the city has. It would be great if they did. We could use it to get more electric vehicle charging stations. I think it would help. The more charging stations we would, hopefully, if you have a car, not mass transit, then you might want to get one. It's easier. Then on the water, along the lines of the -- well, the water district, a couple of years ago I did get put in a drought resistant garden in my front and replaced the lawn. If the city could match that with more rebates, then maybe people would -- more people would do it.

yeah. Great. Thank you for that. And this young woman up there in the black shirt.

hi. I am linda hutchens noels with mothers out front. Community choice energy. Please, please, it's the biggest thing the city could do to lower the carbon footprint. Maybe a car swap program like cash for clunkers. Everybody could trade in the gas powered vehicle for an electric one. Imagine san José being the first electric car city and building charging stations to make it possible as well.

thank you. Shaun, down here on the second row.

you. Okay.

hi. I am shiragamen. I would like to speak to the ability aspect of sustainability. My vision is a whole bunch of electric cars but cars that are shared so that everybody does not have an ev in their driveway. I think we need to make mass transit efficient, affordable and accessible and I think we should leverage tech companies in silicon valley to provide us with options for the first mile, last mile problem and make our mass transit much better than it is right now.

yeah. Wonderful. Thank you. Why don't we take a few online and then come back to here in the room.

sorry. I had some comments about first water. I think that the city has a really nice -- you guys have raised water recycling, and you are using recycled water at many areas for sprinkling in the landscapes

but I see sometimes there is oversprinkling. So getting more innovation and technologies where actually, you know, when it's not required, the sprinklers just don't set on. So like timed. It's not just the timed thing. It's various other factors to save water. That was one cool idea I thought about water. For energy, I think having renewable energy is awesome and having solar, like share solar communities where actually you can also pay the home owners some kind of, you know, reward or something. that's another great idea to promote solar technologies. And for public transit, I feel that we need to do a lot if we want really to make some money out of it. I know, like, all the cauldrons -- they have improved a lot from before but still you need a lot of investment to maintain your systems. So having something which connects all the public transit together so that more commuters get interested in taking these public transit, you know. So kind of connecting the networks, connecting the dots is something which is very important. And making those changes could be challenging, but I think there are new technologies which are coming up, so analyzing them, which would be the best is something which the city really needs to think about.

great. Thank you. That's a big one of -- with the big technological changes, how to harness and leverage those to increase the quality of life. We're going to come back to in the room. Clinton.

we have a bunch of people e-mailing in. Christian writes a couple good ideas. She wants help in maintaining her health and well-being. She said that one of the ideas she would like is being able to connect to the wild places around san José to enjoy the outdoor landscape and finding a way for the city to help to make those connections. Another one, if I scroll further up here, so sebastian writes that he is already doing water recycling in the home in terms of collecting water in the bucket and they use it out while the shower is running. There is a consciousness about being able to recycle in the home. If I scroll further up, making, let's see, lena writes making drought tolerant or edible landscaping the norm. The idea that using your garden or landscape to grow your own food. Eliminating the cause or need for electric vehicles with a comprehensive network of charges. We've heard that in the room multiple times as well. One idea I like is learning lessons from places like bogota in colombia that's built safe biking routes, making it cool to ride bikes and protecting people's ability to ride bikes. I think we have heard concerns about safety and active transport for people in the room as well. Just a couple from online, tripp.

thank you. Thank you. Other ideas? Over there. Harrison will hook you up with a mike.

I think our large apartment complexes and business buildings should be designed and built to be self-sustainable and not rely on the public infrastructure. They should use their own electrical and water systems and not allow waste to go off the proper. They should have well designed roof gardens. I also think that water harvesting -- professionals are missing in our community, and we need good examples and a recent program for it. The average house will collect 25,000 gallons of water in an average rain. And then that would reduce the water bills, and that water would still go into the ground but just when it's needed. And I think san José's professional educational programs, especially when it comes to nature, needs improving. We just do not have really a lot of good professionals that need help to be educated. We need to have a better system for water runoff pollution, prevention and control for our streets. The porous pavements can control street oil and then it doesn't go into the water system. Healthy soil biology with no pesticides and organic. That will reduce water needs by 40% for plants. And we need to make our streets more beautiful and less polluted. So public transportation is a joyful and healthy experience.

absolutely.

and there is not one street in this city that is that way. Thank you.

great. Thank you. Thanks, sean.

hi. I am sheryl. Can you hear me?

yes.

I am sheryl MCGovern. I am retired, don't have a financial interest in anything I am saying, but I am a resident of san José. Is this better? Okay. The idea of the homeless kept coming up. I know -- I have been trying to follow the little bullets, but I keep thinking, you know, how everything is connected. So the quality of life, you know, the liveability of walking downtown, the safety, the peace and quiet that people like to have, to feel secure. The water is trashed. The homeless don't have any, you know -- everything they eat is covered with something, you know, either plastic -- it's wrapped and they have no place to put it and it just -- the trash piles up. There's just a consequence. And sanitation is -- then the other big thing is the flood. When talking about, you know, water conservation and all of these ideas are great, and I worked at the epa on water recycling with the city. But you know, the flood is a big deal. Then the -- the third thing that's really big is finances. I was just hearing about public banks. If the city

could promote a public bank, the funding that the public creates could then be used for a lot of projects instead of going to other projects, you know, globally and not be -- not locally. So that would be a great way to finance a lot of these things that we'd like to see.

great. Thank you. i love that you are thinking about how to fund these things as well. Incredibly important. Obviously. Who else? In the back there. Great.

my name is michelle. It's good to hear people bringing up about the rebate systems for redoing your lawn and great water systems also. One thing that I think would really help is if it was better advertised. I don't have any suggestions on how to do that but I know many people say, oh, you actually got paid to take out part of your lawn. So word of mouth is one way. But there has to be better ways that people who advertise know about. The other thing I have been thinking about more as people are contributing is kind of thinking of taking it to the next step. My kids go to willow glen middle school. In the past year they've had to double the bike rack size because so many kids bike to school. We can take it to the next step and think, if we can really improve our public schools and people want to go to their neighborhood schools you have less parents driving, more kids biking and being healthier and more independent.

absolutely. Beautiful. Thank you. Thank you.

hi. I am matt. this might be more radical approach to saving water. But I would like to see stricter fines and penalties for excessive water use. I know the city of santa cruz has some sort of program where people who over consume are given the option to attend a class kind of similar to driving class where you are going to the dmv to learn the importance of, like, how to properly use water in a sustainable fashion. So incorporating more of those sort of programs as opposed to incentivizing people to use less water I think is an important part to include.

carrots and sticks. That's great. Thank you. Great.

hi. I am sandra. I would like to see fast ev charging stations in downtown. We have a lot of apartments and condos, and it's pretty difficult to get a charging station set up if you are in that situation.

yep.

also, I would like to see solar over parking lots, providing incentives or possibly mandating it. I don't know if the city can do that. And building codes to make commercial multi-unit dwellings roofs solar ready or solar equipped when they are built.

yeah. The ev stations in multi-family is an interesting problem. If people have ideas how to crack that one, it's a big opportunity.

I need to kind of elaborate. i need to elaborate on the -- no. I need to elaborate on a horse and then beat it to death and beat the dead horse to death. It's not the one that everybody has been obsessing about with all the fires and stuff. It's basically just getting the light rail systems to run down the middle of the corridors to our freeways because we already have that working fairly well down a portion that heads down to santa teresa and down 87. That really works very well. It's -- everything is set up just right. And there are so many other freeways that could be hooked up together with this kind of a system that would make it easier to get around town. I can imagine people who weren't able to conveniently get to places like valley fair before being able to get there, for example, and I could imagine -- what's the other thing? I could imagine this taking a lot of cars off the roads because 85, for example, is a logistical nightmare between the hours of 7:00 and 10:00 A.M., heading towards moffitt. As far as I have seen, it's terrible. It's a fate worse than death. I would not wish that upon anybody to commute through that. I feel that a lot of those cars, people commuting over to all the tech companies that are at the other end of 85, would definitely get off the road and onto the rails, if given the chance. We are talking about a bunch of eccentric engineers in electrical fields. i am pretty sure they're more than willing to sit in a rail car, taking them to their work and not have to worry about the nightmare that is traffic.

yeah. Yeah. Absolutely. Absolutely. Thank you. Up there and then, shawn, up in -- the gentleman in the back as well.

I'll make it quick. My name is alex. Incentivizing mass transit and alternative modes of transit can only go so far when the convenience disparity between mass transit and alternative transit and cars is so high. If somebody really wanted to commit political suicide, disincentivizing cars would be a good way to do it. Maybe one palpable way to do it is looking at parking restrictions or parking equirements for developments in really urban core areas.

yep. Yep.

my name is anup. I'll piggyback on that idea. So many commuters come into the city every day and then they leave. And part of that idea is how can we discourage single commuter vehicles coming in. Is there a tariff on -- toll on single user vehicles and incentivizing people to get on public transportation. And use that revenue source to further expand the service, further expand the connectivity, door-to-door connectivity, sort of. I think that can be done. and I think in singapore and some other portions of beijing it has been implemented. The other thought was, you know, environmental sustainability it's great for san José based on their size and scale to take the leadership. It's also important to have regional partnership. Nothing we implement within the city will be long-lasting if the surrounding cities are not participating in a similar way. Thinking about a regional partnership to implement and further expand some of the policies might be a way to do it.

we are blessed to live in a region filled with innovation and amazing institution. Partnerships and tapping the innovation is definitely important. Right over there. Thank you, sir.

I am grant. I would like to reiterate how a lot of folks here are talking about community choice energy. I support it because it - minimizes the behavior change that we need to make. I am also concerned it's easy to propose things like, have a green building or everyone turn down or up the thermostat. Do a lot of things that a lot of us in here would like to do. We can try to educate everyone or rely on more simple and condensed initiatives like cce. If you want to learn more, please see ruth and julie and others here. Just to reiterate, people are automatically opted into the program. so it has minimal behavior change. Same thing with rain barrels. Once they're installed, they just collect the rain. I am not sure if they have the hundred dollar rebates that we have in san mateo. Cce. Rain barrels and biosolids. I read that san José is looking for ways to use the biosolids in a better way than just landfill cover and shipping it out of the county. Right next to where I work, a water plant has an innovative system that burns it internally without a flame. It has epa permits. There are ways to support local partnerships that could deal with these things and minimize the behavior change we have to make while still scoring a lot of sustainability points.

thank you, grant. It's important to invest in things that have a lasting change, especially in like the water and the drought. How do we ensure we are using less water. Yep. Great. Yes. So we're going to wrap up here in the next ten minutes or so. So people online who want to continue to submit please do so and we'll share a few before we wrap up here. Let's take more from our audience. Great.

hi. I am julie. I have been advocating for community choice energy for a while, so I won't reiterate that. Also I am a member of carbon free silicon valley. I would encourage you all to be in touch with the ideas that they have and that they are encouraging in all the other cities for their sustainability plans. A couple of them are related to building codes for new commercial buildings. And kind of estimating their lifetime greenhouse gas emissions and planning accordingly. As well as prioritizing really high-impact greenhouse goes production projects and thinking of the greenhouse goals really as an annual budget as opposed to targets we check in on every few years which is not very effective.

great. Thank you. One thing, on your cards, if you want to stay involved and get updates, make sure -- there is a little box on your cards. Include your e-mail address, and that way we have that and can keep you updated through the process. Great.

hi. My name is andre. Somebody mentioned funding and that got me thinking. You know, my family, we set aside certain amounts of money for various charities or things that we give to, right. -and-we as a city want to do a lot of things. There are a lot of ideas thrown around. I think it would be a lot easier to fund some of these things if people knew, like, directly, i am giving to this project. I want to put a solar panel on the roof of this building, where it's very direct and then I think I personally would give much more readily rather than some tax that it's a certain percentage that I have no idea where it's going. So sort of like a gofundme or something where you know you are giving to this person to go on this trip or whatever. You feel good about knowing directly where your money is. Setting up more of these things, whether it's part of city taxes or an auxiliary thing, but people know exactly they paid for that charger on that corner would be great.

great. Thank you. Thank you, grant.

my name is bruce. I am involved in a number of sustainability organizations. One of the things that I think is going on that needs to be encouraged -- two things. First off, one, I think we need a transportation system for mass transit that's different than the one we have now. The challenge that we have is that it works only for high-density areas and we don't have a good way to feed things in. The last mile problem needs to be addressed. Part of it has to be done with smart streets. It's something that prospect as fee is working on and something we need to think about. I've been listening to all these comments and they're spots in terms of the whole thing. I think maybe the next level of visualization that has to happen is, what would we imagine the city would be like 20 years from now? What would we expect in terms of the types of housing that would be in here? What types of traffic would we expect on

the roads? How far from work. What would we do with the homeless. If we start to think about an overall plan and work backwards, I think we'll have a better chance to get where you're going and I think that's where you're trying to go tonight.

thank you. It helps to start with the end in mind. Thank you. A few online? Yeah. If you haven't shared yet, raise your hand. I know sometimes for introverts, and believe it or not I am one, it's hard to share. Please make your voice heard.

I just wanted to say that we should have some type of connection to the airport. It could be B.A.R.T. Or V.T.A., but to be one of the main cities in california and not have a connection with the airport is unbelievable.

yep. Great. Thank you.

I am jennifer thomas with sustainable silicon valley. I would like to request the city to try some pilot projects. It's a great way of engaging the public. There is a lot of talk about participation as well as education.

great. Thank you. Yeah. That's a great way to be able to get people engaged. Let's go one more and then hear a few comments online.

hello. I am fray lee and I am a member of the unitarian church of san José. I would like to address something that's a little different than what's been addressed so far. I would like san José to consider something like the santa monica sustainability rights ordinance. I don't know if you are familiar with it at all. But part of that ordinance lists rights of santa monica residents and the natural environment. Maybe you've heard of the rights of nature. Maybe not. But this ordinance, santa monica possesses fundamental and you know -- inalienable rights to clean water, et cetera, clean air and so forth. And natural communities and ecosystems possess fundamental rights also to exist and flourish in the city of santa monica. Furthermore, residents of santa monica possess the right to self-government and to a municipal government which recognizes that all power is inherent in the people, that all free governments are founded on the people's authority and consent, and that corporate entities and their directors do not enjoy special privileges or powers. And I -- the way of looking at nature and the environment from the rights of nature point of view is that you see the elements of nature, water, air, the

land itself, as partners and not simply as resources. And when you think of it that way, you start treating it differently.

yeah.

thank you.

absolutely. Thank you. Well said. Well said. Do you want to take a few online?

our friend katya is being productive behind her laptop. We have seven or eight different ideas. One is that is really interesting is work with water districts and other jurisdictions to develop systems for water and mutual development. Have the mentality of other places that don't import water like santa cruz and monterey counties. They say, for all new development it must be water neutral. Either you have to be really efficient or help to fund water efficiency measures elsewhere. Stop all developments in flood zones. Adopt model water efficiency ordinances like the one - developed by santa clara county. And on site or district level renewable energy regeneration and on-site or district water recycling and rain water capture. And a couple more. Let me do one more that's just come in. Paul has five or six really good ideas. Require public transit systems that run in the city to schedule service with one another. We know there are something like 105 transit agencies in the bay area. It's hard to get synchronized time tables. This sponsored gardening events where citizens could learn about what drought tolerant plants look like and how to convert their place and have an incentive program to help with that. Really good ideas from online as well.

wonderful. Isn't it cool that we have online to be able to invite those people into the conversation? Up there. Another comment.

I just wanted to say that I agree with a lot of the things that have been stated so far. I think it's going to be a challenge for you guys to be able to thin this down. I would encourage you to look at what are the most cost effective strategies to be able to have the greatest impact possible. As well as the level of community support, of course. I did want to note the person -- I think his name was alex -- who spoke earlier about the perverse incentives there is analysis done by a sturnt at san José state university that found where the city of san José, the amount of off street parking that is supplied today is the size of the city of berkeley. that is clearly unsustainable that we could be using for house and parks. Moving forward by the next general plan, he calculated that that number will double. What kind of strategies

can we use to reduce the amount of parking and encourage folks to use other transportation options? I would point to Mexico City and a policy where they eliminate minimums and charge on the number of parking spaces that they propose the fees and that was commissioned by the ITDP.

I want to be respectful of your time, but make sure to hand your cards in because we want to have them and we want to make sure we have them in writing and if you want to keep in touch, include your e-mail on the card. And I really want to thank you for coming out tonight. It's 6:00 in the evening and taking time for people to come and contribute and make your voices heard. The materials and the video will be made available online. One thing I want to call out is there will be a public survey at the end of May to be able to get input about how it resonates with the community. The estimated timeline. That's the September time frame. Before it's released it will go through a public comment period as well. Another opportunity for people to provide input. If you have ideas, continue to submit them and go to the esp website. You can both stay in tune with what's going on and also there will be space to be able to contribute with the ideas. This is via e-mail. And thank you very much for coming in. I loved hearing the ideas and we look forward to seeing you in the future.