

February 27, 2018

TO: San Jose Mayor and City Council

Re: Agenda Item 7.1 (Climate Smart San Jose)

Dear Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor and Councilmembers:

SPUR strongly supports and recommends adoption of San Jose's draft new climate action and environmental resource strategy, **Climate Smart San Jose**. When realized, this strategy will help San Jose achieve a low carbon footprint and reduce per-capita water use, while growing in a smart way. SPUR staff participated in workshops to help scope and develop Climate Smart San Jose, and we have hosted the project team to present the plan to SPUR members. We believe the plan will not just improve resource efficiency and reduce climate-changing emissions, but it will improve mobility, air quality and health, and will help people save money – in short, it will make life better for residents and businesses in San Jose.

Climate Smart San Jose will help the city achieve many of the policy recommendations in SPUR's 2016 policy report, *Fossil-Free Bay Area*, that outlined nine key strategies for Bay Area cities to lead on climate. Many of those strategies – energy efficiency, compact land use, improving walkability, electrified mobility and buildings, and 100% renewable energy for all purposes – are directly reflected in San Jose's approach. Climate Smart San Jose also adheres to some of the recommendations in SPUR's 2016 white paper, *Future-Proof Water for Silicon Valley*, which called for cities to expand water efficiency rebate and retrofit programs, and to require new development to be highly water-efficient.

Because Climate Smart San Jose is tied to the city's General Plan and builds on the city's economic strategy, it will help San Jose grow strategically around transit corridors. Its emphasis on transit, walking, and biking for most trips – and using electric vehicles for the rest, including goods movement – will help San Jose reduce its most significant source of greenhouse gas emissions: gasoline and diesel fuels, which comprise nearly 60% of citywide emissions. Compact, dense land use in the right places within cities has broad sustainability benefits: reducing our future transportation carbon footprint, improving energy efficiency, and reducing demand for expensive new water supplies.

SPUR looks forward to continuing to support the city in its implementation of Climate Smart San Jose, and urges you to adopt this plan that lays the foundations for a stronger and more sustainable city.

Sincerely,

Laura Tam
Sustainable Development Policy Director

cc: Kerrie Romanow, Ashwini Kantak, Scott Green