



October 27, 2022

City of Hayward
777 B Street
Hayward, CA 94541

Subject: Integrating Climate Resilience and Adaptation Policies into Hayward's General Plan

Dear Mayor Halliday and Councilmembers,

The impacts of climate change have reached a staggering magnitude, as record-setting urban heat, wildfires, extended drought, and compromised air quality are the new norm. In the coming years, these challenges will be joined by rapid sea level rise and inland flooding. The impacts of these climate disasters will be widespread, though the disproportionate burden will fall on the most vulnerable, especially lower-income communities of color.

Hayward's General Plan update provides an opportunity to ensure that the city is ready for these impacts. It's an opportunity to incorporate climate resilience and prioritize actionable climate adaptation policies that will protect communities for decades to come. Integrating such policies across the Safety, Housing, and Environmental Justice Elements will ensure that decision makers effectively utilize city plans and cross-departmental collaboration to achieve these outcomes.

As Hayward engages in updating its General Plan, we strongly recommend that the city integrate planning for the impacts of climate change and nature-based solutions across all projects and departments. We recommend the city incorporate the following elements into the General Plan:

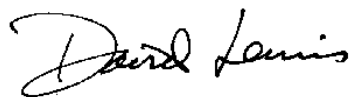
- **Prioritize frontline communities (low income, communities of color, historically underinvested, impacted by environmental injustice)** for investments and policy changes that are developed by those communities. Ensure robust representation from these communities in decision-making and planning.
- **Require climate resilience planning as part of project design and approval.** Integrate nature-based solutions to flooding, extreme heat, and sea level rise such as green stormwater infrastructure (i.e. rain gardens, bioswales, green roofs, and adapted street tree wells) into road, transit, complete streets, and other public infrastructure projects.
- **Broaden and accelerate planning, funding, and construction of green streets and other multi-benefit greening projects, especially in underinvested communities.** Integrate nature-based solutions such as rain gardens, swales, green roofs, and tree canopy into road and transit projects, flood zones, and other public infrastructure.

- **Prioritize planning of communities that are SMART:** Sustainable, Mixed-use, Affordable, Resilient, Transit-oriented. Avoid developing along the shoreline and in the hills to protect from flooding, sea level rise, and wildfire.

Attached are suggestions for specific actions and model policies to successfully integrate these elements into the General Plan update.

Experts and data across the world have demonstrated the urgent need to respond to the climate crisis. Climate hazards are the norm, and Hayward residents don't have to look far to see the impacts in their own communities. The General Plan is an important opportunity for the city to make lasting climate adaptation policies. We urge you to pursue these opportunities immediately to create a safer, more resilient future for Hayward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Lewis" clearly distinguishable.

David Lewis, Executive Director
Save The Bay

Attached: Specific Actions and Policy Priorities for the Hayward General Plan

Specific Actions and Policy Priorities for the Hayward General Plan

Hayward has already conducted a robust effort to plan for key impacts of climate change, sea level rise, groundwater intrusion, and storm surge, in the Shoreline Adaptation Master Plan. The policies and approaches outlined in this plan are an important part of planning for resilience to the impacts of climate change, and we applaud the effort of the City. The General Plan is an opportunity to integrate these shoreline policies with those that address the other impacts of climate change, including extreme heat, inland storm flooding, and wildfire-induced poor air quality. Below, we recommend policies that will help Hayward plan for equitable climate resilience. We've identified key actions and priorities from the [Resilience Playbook](#) developed by Greenbelt Alliance, a resource for resilience best practices collected from other municipalities and CBO toolkits and guidance, as well as from locally developed plans in frontline communities in Oakland, which serve as excellent models for cities across the Bay Area.

Prioritize frontline communities (low income, communities of color, historically underinvested, impacted by environmental injustice) for investments and policy changes that are developed by those communities. Ensure robust representation from these communities.

- Design community engagement pathways that take into consideration all of the different factors that can deter people from being included in planning processes; use approaches appropriate for the community. ([Resilience Playbook—Centering People and Equity First](#))
 - Allocate sufficient time, resources, and opportunities for engagement to avoid rushing the process and tokenizing community participation. This will promote capacity building so that community stakeholders are able to provide meaningful feedback and decisions. ([CEJA SB1000 Toolkit](#))
 - Design capacity-building workshops to support community-driven policy development and to lead to the translation of community priorities into policy, policy reform language, and technical tools. ([Making Equity Real in Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience Policies and Programs: A Guidebook](#))
 - Co-develop equity metrics (or plan to implement pre-existing metrics). ([Making Equity Real in Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience Policies and Programs: A Guidebook](#))

Require climate resilience planning as part of project design and approval. Integrate nature-based solutions to flooding, extreme heat, and sea level rise such as green stormwater infrastructure (i.e. rain gardens, bioswales, green roofs, and adapted street tree wells) into road, transit, complete streets, and other public infrastructure projects. Take a “dig once” approach—ensure climate resilience and nature-based solutions are always planned for whenever road or infrastructure work is conducted.

- Incorporate policies addressing sea level rise, heat mitigation, and other climate risks into zoning standards and all long-range planning documents. Revise these policies every five years based on current science and risk projections. ([TLU-1, Equitable Climate Action Plan \(ECAP\), Oakland](#))

- Increase community resilience by (1) supporting community engagement and community-led disaster preparedness training, prioritizing frontline communities first; and (2) developing protocols and enhancing building systems to enable trusted community-serving facilities – including libraries, recreation and community centers, and parks – to reliably serve their communities as places of refuge during smoke days, extreme heat, and power outages. ([A-1, ECAP, Oakland](#))
- Fund and Implement Citywide Vulnerability Assessment and Comprehensive Adaptation Plan: Complete and/or update emergency plans, including the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), matching Federal requirements, including hazard identification and climate risk assessment. ([A-3, ECAP, Oakland](#))
 - Use nature-based solutions such as green stormwater infrastructure to address risks
- Require that sea-level rise projects explore the potential for nature-based adaptation measures before considering hardened structures, which can direct wave energy onto adjacent shorelines and exacerbate erosion. Require incorporation of ecologically friendly features along seawalls and hardened shorelines (when possible) and where shoreline hardening exists or is planned, including public access for people walking or bicycling on seawalls or levees. ([Resilience Playbook–Protecting Communities from Floods and Drought](#))
 - Hayward’s Shoreline Adaptation Masterplan outlines a variety of nature-based strategies, and identifies a plan to balance nature-based, hardened infrastructure, and non-structural strategies
- Adopt a comprehensive and multi-departmental strategy to integrate greening into new city project planning and development. ([Resilience Playbook–Harnessing the Power of Nature](#))
- Utilize overlay zones, ordinances, or resolutions to create new urban greening zoning requirements in areas regarding flooding, habitat, or other priorities. ([CR-2 - CR-4, ECAP, Oakland](#))
- Focus green stormwater improvements for areas at risk of flooding (along creeks, in low-lying areas, and along the coast) with an emphasis on vulnerable communities. ([Resilience Playbook–Harnessing the Power of Nature](#))

Broaden and accelerate planning, funding, and construction of green streets and other multi-benefit greening projects, especially in underinvested communities. Integrate nature-based solutions such as rain gardens, swales, green roofs, and tree canopy into road and transit projects, flood zones, and other public infrastructure.

- Fund and implement a green infrastructure program for the installation and maintenance of projects and existing civic resources such as the parks system and public spaces, to improve stormwater management, support biodiversity, reduce air pollution exposure, and increase access to natural spaces, including trees. Prioritize investment in frontline communities, and particularly in residential neighborhoods dominated by concrete and asphalt with limited green space and elevated air pollution, in Priority Conservation Areas, and in areas where green infrastructure, including trees and other types of

vegetated buffers, can effectively address stormwater management issues and reduce air pollution exposure among sensitive populations. ([A-6, ECAP, Oakland](#))

- Establish Temporary and Permanent Car-Free Areas: Use car-free areas for active transportation, parks and parklets and green infrastructure, pop-up community and commercial activity, and other uses that address community needs. ([TLU-6, ECAP, Oakland](#))
- Invest in urban greening projects that improve the physical well-being of communities and protect against risks such as extreme heat and days with poor air quality. Map tree canopy gaps in cities and prioritize urban canopy expansion in communities vulnerable to urban heat effects. ([Resilience Playbook—Centering People and Equity First](#))
 - Align tree canopy efforts with stormwater planning, ensuring green stormwater infrastructure planning is incorporated in areas with high runoff and at risk of flooding.

Prioritize planning of communities that are SMART: Sustainable, Mixed-use, Affordable, Resilient, Transit-oriented. Avoid developing along the shoreline and in the hills to protect from flooding, sea level rise, and wildfire.

- Advance zoning and implementation changes that encourage sustainable, small and mid-sized, multi-family, and workforce housing, especially in lower density neighborhoods. Prioritize affordable housing in cultural districts and other relevant geographies with historically marginalized racial or ethnic identities to encourage their stabilization. ([Resilience Playbook—Centering People and Equity First](#))
- Increase the density and diversity of land uses across jurisdiction. To the extent feasible, give priority to multi-benefit recreational projects that maximize pollution reduction and adaptation, carbon sequestration, heat-island reduction, stormwater capture that increase infiltration, habitat protection and biodiversity, community health improvements, promote innovative public-private partnerships, or a combination thereof. Design public space and the transportation system (including roadways) to advance racial and social equity by co-developing public spaces with Black, Indigenous, People of Color community members and understanding their needs before designing the space. ([Resilience Playbook—Centering People and Equity First](#))
- Reduce or prohibit development in the most hazardous areas. Hazards and climate impacts to consider are earthquake, liquefaction, flooding (riverine and sea level rise), groundwater rise, subsidence, landslide, and wildfire. Establish a hazard or climate overlay zone. Apply an overlay zone to areas with the greatest current hazards and/or future climate impacts. Associate corresponding risk reduction, adaptation policies, and standards specific to the hazard or climate impact. ([Resilience Playbook—Protecting Communities from Floods and Drought](#))

Pursue new funding mechanisms to support urban greening and nature-based climate resilience projects at the local and regional level.

- Advocate for state grant programs to support local planning and project implementation. Sources include: CA Natural Resources Agency Urban Greening Grant Program, Strategic Growth Council Transformative Climate Communities Program, Office of

Planning and Research Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program & Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program. ([Resilience Playbook–Harnessing the Power of Nature](#))

- Pursue stormwater infrastructure funding and financing options for multibenefit urban greening, including stormwater fees, developer impact fees, fees for offsite green stormwater infrastructure instead of onsite stormwater treatment, and Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts. ([Resilience Playbook–Harnessing the Power of Nature](#))