

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

#2



From: Maia <Maia@impulse.net>
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 1:25 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Comment for Tuesday March 9th Board Meeting

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

TO: Clerk of the Board
SB County Board of Supervisors

DATE: 3/8/21

Dear Members of the Board,

Thank you for your willingness to revise and revision with us the 2007/circa 2016 Plan for Isla Vista. I'm a UCSB Alumna and very long-term resident of Isla Vista, community volunteer, and member of Eco Vista.

The question before us (as I understand the documents and discussion attendant to this meeting) is how can this current Board work together with the IVCSA, Eco Vista, IVRPD, Youth Project, Beloved Community, UCSB, and more) to help us bring about an Isla Vista ready for the severe social and ecological challenges of the next 20 to 30 years. We have no time to waste in addressing, for example, drought and wildfire, rising seas and CO2 levels, pollution and epidemics (even post-covid). We cannot delay addressing the greater-than-ever need for very low-income, rent-stable Green housing, *beyond* what is traditionally meant by "affordable housing". And third, given IV's high poverty and high density status, any new housing in IV must be always considered in the context of preserving open lands, parks and community gardens---offering the crucial, beneficial effect of helping to keep us overcrowded residents healthy, while lowering overall carbon, temperature, water and energy-use increases.

One of the State mandates is explicit about addressing "Climate Justice". If we go forward with a community plan for Isla Vista, it must be a Green *and* socially Just plan. The two kinds of justice go hand in hand!

The County's mandate then would be to address the need for more low-income housing AND Environmental Justice simultaneously, and thoughtfully. This clearly requires a wide-angle, cross-visioning response, ie, to support carefully chosen housing additions that are water-conserving, solar-focused, with income-based rentals: ready to be part of the green energy transition that IS happening, and must keep happening.

Even our streets can be "greened" with permeable side-channels, curb-cuts and mini-water gardens. Some streets can become car-free through well-aimed imaginative incentives---not necessarily citations---such as UCSB offering new students a free bicycle and bus passes if they don't bring a car with them: could support low-cost or even free parking in its existing parking structure, etc. Other IV streets could remain open to cars, the proportion and kind of regulations to be worked out.

Again: let's go WITH the global Green Transition, right here in IV. Work with us to support a Plan emphasizing greener, locally-owned businesses hiring local people: more housing co-ops, cooperative enterprises that feed *into* the community, instead of one-sidedly taking from it. "Green justice" cannot not be a decorative flourish, it must be the foundation of everything we do as a community. Not because we have to, because we *choose* to.

There are already IV organizations and individuals with this kind of intersectional passion and know-how, keeping the long-run and the over-all and "the everyone" in mind. What if we look at IV as a kind of Green Justice living laboratory, asking (and answering in real time): How can we preserve land and resources for future generations, AND serve now, the needs of members struggling to survive?

As a grandmother of a one-year- old, and as an Eco Vistan, I ask this Board to help IV become a Climate Justice Full-Service Transition Town---for 2040 and beyond.

Thank you for taking the time to listen,
Maia (Maia Maia)
Picasso Road, Isla Vista
CA 93117