

**From:** [David Moller](#)  
**To:** [Kevin Haroff](#); [Dan Hillmer](#); [Gabe Paulson](#); [Catherine Way](#); [Scot Candell](#)  
**Cc:** [Neal Toft](#); [Dan Schwarz](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for October 6 Council Mtg Agenda Item 8.2  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 12:18:23 PM

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**CAUTION:**External Sender

## **Larkspur City Council Meeting October 6, 2021**

### **Public Comment on Agenda Item 8.2 DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

**Dear Larkspur City Council and Staff,**

The Larkspur Climate Group, now composed of 20 Larkspur residents, would like to thank the City Council for supporting adoption of a Climate Emergency Resolution (CER). Since the time the Council reached this conclusion at its July 21 meeting, the City of San Rafael has adopted a Climate Emergency Declaration, making it the 7<sup>th</sup> of the twelve Marin jurisdictions to do so.

We appreciate that in its proposed revisions [here](#) to the draft CER submitted June 16 on behalf of the Larkspur Climate Group [here](#), staff has retained the recitals (the **WHEREAS**) pretty much as submitted. However, we are concerned that in its revisions to the CER resolutions (the **BE IT RESOLVED**), staff seems to have gone well beyond the Council's direction to address the four bullet points identified by staff in its July 13 report to the Council and has changed or deleted key provisions we believe need to be part of the CER.

Our specific comments and recommendations are as follows:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> resolution of the staff version of the CER deletes the phrase "requiring urgent action." We are surprised by this deletion, as staff's July 13 report to the Council made no reference to this phrase. We believe that highlighting the urgency of the situation is central to the CER and recommend the Council direct staff to reinsert the following phrase at the end of the first resolution: "**, requiring urgent action.**"
- The 5<sup>th</sup> resolution of the staff version of the CER shifts our concept that staff include a consideration of consistency with the CER and Climate Action Plan (CAP) in all relevant staff reports to instead be that staff "continue considering consistency with the CAP in all relevant decision-making" – apparently shifting the consideration of consistency from being publicly presented to the Council to instead being an internal staff function. This goes far beyond the modest proposal in staff's July 13 report (3<sup>rd</sup> bullet) that the consideration of consistency apply only to the CAP and not also to the CER. We believe that the consideration of consistency with the CAP (and ideally the CER) is an essential decision-making step that needs to be publicly presented to the Council. Absent this transparency, neither the Council nor the public would have the opportunity to review and possibly comment on the staff's consideration. It is noteworthy that the Corte Madera CER requires

the consideration of consistency with Corte Madera's CAP to be included in all relevant staff reports as the Larkspur Climate Group proposed for Larkspur's CER. We recommend reinserting the bolded words shown below into the staff's version of this resolution as follows: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council directs the City Manager and staff to continue considering consistency with Larkspur's Climate Action Plan in all relevant decision-making **and include a summary of this consideration in all relevant staff reports**, just as they consider fiscal impact and General Plan Consistency."

- The staff version of the CER completely deletes the 6<sup>th</sup> resolution proposed by the Larkspur Climate Group, which stated that the Council will elevate climate issues to be a "high priority" in its annual planning processes. We are baffled why this resolution would be deleted. In its July 13 report (4<sup>th</sup> bullet) staff recommended that the reference to elevating climate issues to a high priority in its "bi-annual goal-setting process" be changed to instead reference the Council's annual strategic planning meetings. While the staff report noted that giving climate issues a "high priority" would make it the only issue to which the Council would have made such a commitment, that status hardly justifies not making such a commitment. Due to their urgency, climate issues must be a high priority, regardless of the status of other issues. We recommend reinserting the 6<sup>th</sup> resolution as proposed by the Larkspur Climate Group but with the reference to "bi-annual goal-setting process" being changed to "annual strategic planning meetings" as proposed by staff in the 4<sup>th</sup> bullet of its July 13 report.
- The staff version of the CER completely deletes the 7<sup>th</sup> resolution proposed by the Larkspur Climate Group. We recommend reinserting this resolution. It reads: "**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Larkspur joins and will advocate for a nationwide call for regional, state, national, and international climate emergency mobilization effort at all levels of government to reverse global warming and the resulting ecological crisis." Again, we are baffled why staff would have deleted this resolution, which commonly appears in CERs, including Corte Madera's and San Rafael's. In adopting its Climate Emergency Resolution, Larkspur will be joining seven other Marin jurisdictions and more than 2,000 cities, states and countries worldwide which have done so. Larkspur is joining with others and its voice needs to be heard!

Again, we greatly appreciate the time and attention the Council and staff have put into considering, reviewing and revising the June 16 draft CER prepared by the Larkspur Climate Group. We urge the Council to make the revisions recommended above and adopt the amended CER.

Sincerely,

**David Moller**

On behalf of the Larkspur Climate Group

**Larkspur Climate Group:**

**David Moller**, Larkspur

**Ken Jones**, Greenbrae

**Tom Flynn**, Larkspur

**Robin Moller**, Larkspur

**Suhaila Sikand**, Larkspur

**Ken Strong**, Greenbrae

**Elise Semonian**, Larkspur

**Carol Kerr**, Larkspur

**Matt Hartzell**, Larkspur

**Jeanette Thorson**, Larkspur

**Katharine Hermann**, Larkspur

**Carleen Cullen**, Greenbrae

**Laura Anderson**, Larkspur

**Brenda Bercun**, Larkspur

**Anjali Ganatra**, Larkspur

**Brenda Bercun**, Larkspur

**Lisa Mantua**, Larkspur

**Deloris Leiter**, Larkspur

**James Bill**, Larkspur

**Jack Haubold**, Larkspur