

SV Climate Coalition Questions 2018

James Cribb Responses

1. Waste is often an overlooked source of GHG emissions. Many communities have adopted zero-waste goals that seek to divert recyclables and compostables from landfills and redirect them to appropriate facilities. Would you like to see Sonoma adopt a zero-waste goal, and if so what steps would you take to help Sonoma achieve that goal?

Yes, I would like us to achieve a zero-waste goal. There has already been some talk about a ban on single use plastics at events on our Plaza. I support this. Further I would like us to install clearly defined disposal bins in Sonoma that identify compostables, recyclables, and land fill.

Through our waste collection businesses and the city of Sonoma's website we could educate our community about our zero waste goal and how they can help support it.

2. A measure supporting bicycle transportation was adopted by the City of Sonoma as part of its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Increasing the number of trips made by bicycle or on foot will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and also decreases congestion and helps alleviate parking problems. What actions can the City Council take to make Sonoma residents of all ages feel safe while biking and walking to and from destinations within the City, including schools, parks, the library, restaurants, and shops?

As part of the annual budget process Sonoma is just beginning to implement a 5-year capital improvement plan/budget. To maximize foot and bicycle traffic we need to have a complete and safe system of sidewalks and bike lanes/paths. Each year, some portion of our capital improvement budget must be spent of maintaining and expanding our sidewalk and bicycle network.

Also, we should work to bring bike share programs such as Ford GoBike and JUMP Bike to Sonoma to encourage bicycle use by residents and visitors alike.

3. An increase in the availability of affordable housing would help lower our greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the need for our workers to commute into Sonoma from out of town. What steps can the City Council take to help Sonoma meet its housing needs? Would you support allowing the development of housing outside of the Urban Growth Boundary or do you support the renewal of the UGB before it expires in 2020?

I support maintaining our urban growth boundary. Some small adjustments may be justified, but it is important to preserve open space and agricultural lands.

I think our greatest opportunity for new housing is in so-called “greyfield development.” That is, developing on the existing built environment, particularly large shopping center spaces. While I have served as a Planning Commissioner, Safeway submitted a proposal to expand their current store on West Napa by 15,000 square feet. As I noted above, I supported approval, provided Safeway added an additional two stories of housing. That 30,000 square feet could have easily supported 40 housing units. Further, they should also add additional retail opportunities and more housing over some of their existing parking lot. The parcel includes wetlands and open space that could be turned into a park-like setting. It is also adjacent to an elementary school, near the hospital, and across the street from another shopping complex. This type of housing opportunity could be ideal for seniors, young families and single individuals. Car trips would be reduced by the adjacency to so many of the typical daily services individuals and families require. Existing public services like water, sewer, and utilities are already in place simplifying development. Ample parking also exists. Alas, Safeway declined to include housing and has not returned with a new proposal.

However, we could use the provisions of SB 540 (Roth) to create a Workforce Housing Opportunity Zone. By predefining the site and completing the environmental impact review in advance it would provide a developer certainty in moving forward thus increasing the likelihood of an appropriate development on the site and creating more much-needed housing for Sonoma.