

# SANTA CLARA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

7 PM, County Building, 70 W Hedding St, San Jose

*(Our meeting is open to the public, but we reserve the right to remove guests who disrupt the meeting. Video and audio recording not permitted without prior approval. Photos permitted unless the subject objects. **To use the elevator to access our meeting, please arrive between 6:50pm-7:10pm, at which time the security gate to the elevator lobby will be open. After 7:10pm, if you need the gate opened please see the deputy or maintenance staff for assistance.)***

## AGENDA FOR Thursday, May 2, 2019

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 2. ROLL CALL

### 3. IDENTIFICATION OF VISITORS

### 4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Thursday, April 4, 2019

### 6. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Resolution to Require PG&E to Improve Infrastructure Safety
- b. Resolution to Expand Youth-Centered Voter Registration
- c. Resolution Urging Support for the Green New Deal
- d. Resolution Supporting the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2020
- e. Resolution in support of AB 948 (Kalra) – Coyote Valley Conservation Program

### 7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. *Last chance!* : Annual Democratic Victory Dinner, Friday, May 17, 2019 5:30pm-9pm, Hayes Mansion
- b. SCCDCC Dues (they're due!)

### 8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consent Items, if any, pulled for discussion

### 9. REPORTS

- a. Executive Board/Chair: Bill James
- b. Vice Chair: Jean Cohen
- c. Treasurer: Angelica Ramos
- d. Secretary: Helen Chapman
- e. Issues: Michael Vargas
- f. Community Services and Voter Registration: Judy Pipkin
- g. Finance: Prameela Bartholomeusz
- h. Endorsements: Clarence Madrilejos
- i. Communications: John Comiskey
- j. Gender Equity and the Status of Women: Shay Franco-Clausen
- k. Campaign Services: Titus Lin
- l. Clubs: Alex Wara
- m. Regional Director Report(s)
- n. DNC: Otto Lee
- o. DTV Report: Steve Chessin
- p. Pro-Choice Coalition: Claudia Shope

### 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 11. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

May 15, 2019, 6-7:30pm, Moorpark

### 12. ADJOURNMENT

## **Resolution to Require PG&E to Improve Infrastructure Safety**

WHEREAS while climate change has increased wildfires causing negative impacts such as tens of thousands of acres burned, thousands of homes and businesses burned, hundreds of lives lost, thousands of climate refugees seeking shelter amidst a housing crisis, and millions of dollars spent in fighting fires, the majority of these fires are ignited by utilities equipment failings especially by PG&E;

WHEREAS rather than expedite upgrades to antiquated equipment with 60-year-old bare wire conductors, PG&E is ramping up their enhanced vegetation management program from ensuring the required 4-foot radial clearance around distribution lines to demanding home owners allow a 12 foot clearance earth to sky and the removal of tall hazard trees up to 200 feet away, which often necessitates the removal of healthy trees causing the loss of carbon sequestration, increased erosion and risk of flooding, damage to property and communities, loss of wildlife habitat, and increased fire risk from wind tunnels, flammable invasive plants, and hotter local microclimates, and will eventually result in the loss of 100 million trees throughout California as estimated by PG&E;

WHEREAS infrastructure improvements are available to provide long-lasting and effective protection from wildfire -- including replacing weak, hazardous bare wire with reinforced, insulated covered conductors, and installing high impedance arc fault interrupters that cut power within seconds of a break -- thereby providing effective safety improvements and reducing the need for enhanced vegetation management;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party calls on the Governor, California Legislature, and California Public Utilities Commission to require PG&E to provide Santa Clara County and its cities maps of all known faulty or unmaintained equipment including the extent of bare wires and lack of arc fault interrupters, so that upgrades can be prioritized within the high fire hazard zones, and to expedite infrastructure improvements, long-term effective protection, rather than allowing continued environmental degradation from unproven and unnecessary enhanced vegetation management, specifically removal of healthy, mature trees;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party calls on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of Santa Clara County, especially cities judged to have high fire risk by CalFire, to adopt ordinances requiring PG&E to upgrade bare wire to covered conductors and make other equipment changes necessary to make the public safe from wildfire as allowed by Public Resource Code Section 4117.

*Submitted by Karen Maki (San Mateo County Democratic Party)*

## **Resolution to Expand Youth-Centered Voter Registration**

WHEREAS during the November 2016 Presidential Elections only 63.6% of youth in Santa Clara County voted and during the 2018 general election only 27.5% of eligible young people in California voted; and

WHEREAS youth experience low voting turnout despite holding a substantial stake in issues such climate change and gun control; and

WHEREAS elected leaders such as Assemblymember Low have expressed support for increasing youth turnout and participation in the democratic process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Santa Clara County Democratic Party expand its voter registration efforts to effectively target youth, especially in preparation for the 2020 elections, by not only holding independent events, but also exploring collaborations with organizations such as High School Democrats of America and youth representatives and commissions on the county, city, and school-district level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a timeline be created to effectively collaborate with external organizations to plan and implement youth-centered voter registration efforts and a copy of this resolution be sent to all organizations affiliated with the SCCDP and other community organizations focused on voter registration.

*Submitted by Sriya Prathurim Youth Representative, SCCDCC*

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## **Resolution urging Democratic Party support for Green New Deal**

WHEREAS the time to address the adverse impacts caused by humans on earth's climate, and the adverse impacts caused by inequality on society is urgent, and

WHEREAS the observable signs of climate change – sea rise from the melting of the earth's ice caps, massive fires, intensified storms, and droughts – hurt everyday people, wildlife, and the vital ecosystem functions upon which we all depend, and

WHEREAS the young people of our world will bear the consequences of actions not taken, inaction today represents generational theft on a scale previously unseen and unimaginable;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports the Green New Deal as an environmentally and economically sound solution to address adverse impacts of climate change and income inequality, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party urges our elected representatives at the state and national level to work towards ensuring that all future acts, laws, and regulations of state and federal governments are consistent with the tenets of the Green New Deal by signing on to and actively supporting the principles and goals it expresses.

*Submitted by the Sonoma County Democratic Party*

## **Resolution Supporting the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2020**

WHEREAS, since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, cities and counties have faced significant limitations in their main source of funding, the property tax; and

WHEREAS, while the intent of Proposition 13 is to help homeowners, loopholes in the system have permitted major commercial and industrial properties to avoid reassessment, a windfall to commercial property owners at the expense of vital public services, and

WHEREAS, estimates by academic researchers at USC have identified that reassessing commercial property will bring \$11.4 billion in property taxes to cities, counties, special districts, and schools and nearly 80% of the revenue will come from just 8% of large properties, owned by corporations and wealthy investors, many of them out-of-state; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee support the Schools and Local Communities Funding Act already qualified for the November 2020 ballot that will establish the regular and fair reassessment of commercial and industrial property to market value while protecting small businesses and maintaining Proposition 13 protections for all residential properties including homeowners and renters; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee will communicate this position to Democratic elected officials and delegates to the California Democratic Party Convention.

*Submitted by San Francisco Democratic Central Committee*

**Resolution in support of Assembly Bill 948 (Kalra)**  
**Coyote Valley Conservation Program**

WHEREAS Coyote Valley is a unique treasure in Santa Clara County, that is situated between the developed areas of San Jose to the north and Morgan Hill to the south respectively, and the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range to the west and east respectively and Coyote Valley has active farmlands, wetlands, and is a wildlife corridor and habitat, and is a floodplain, that plays a vital role for the environment and the watershed in the greater South Bay Region; and

WHEREAS the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority is a public, independent special district created by the California State Legislature in 1993, and that Authority conserves the natural environment, supports agriculture, and connects people to nature by providing and protecting open spaces, natural areas, and working farms and ranches for future generations; and

WHEREAS the Coyote Valley comprises approximately 15,000 acres that encompasses one of the last remaining undeveloped valley floors in the Bay Area, and that Coyote Valley, and is the closest connection between vast habitats within the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range, and is home to over 200 species of birds, including many endangered wildlife, and is a secure source of drinking water and flood protection;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party calls on California Assembly to support and vote passage of Assembly Bill 948, to protect the Coyote Valley for its many benefits in protecting unique wildlife, flood protection, carbon sequestration, and as a watershed to recharge our aquifers.

*Authored by Swanee Edwards*

*Submitted by the South County Democratic Club*