

## Jenna Kay

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**From:** Monica Zazueta <zazueta0813@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 11:14 PM  
**To:** Jenna Kay; Amy Koski; Sylvia@mosaicresolutions.com; Dana Hellman; Nicole Metildi; tlunsford@parametrix.com; Harrison Husting; Ben Duncan  
**Subject:** Quick check responses that I would like to be on record that I would like to discuss at the subcommittee. My confusion made it so that I was preparing incorrectly and was unable to present the exact goals and policies that I wanted to discuss.

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G10

The phrase "and accommodate job generating activities" is essential to our policy because it highlights our commitment to creating sustainable and accessible jobs while also improving the environment. If we remove it, we risk limiting County support and may give the impression that we are choosing environmental initiatives over job creation. This could discourage investment and weaken our community's well-being. By keeping this wording, we send a strong message that a regenerative economy and environmental care can work hand in hand.

Today's economy is divisive and degenerative by default. Tomorrow's economy must be distributive and regenerative by design. Design to distribute and create to regenerate. We need to change the goal by meeting the human rights of every person within the means of our life-giving planet. We need to see the big picture.

"Promote a holistic approach to sustainable, regenerative, and distributive economic development that unequivocally enhances environmental quality and climate resilience while actively fostering job-generating activities.

Reason:

This approach will empower local communities, ensure equitable resource distribution, and create a thriving, inclusive economy for current and future generations. By prioritizing ecological health and community well-being, we aim to cultivate an economy that restores ecosystems, supports diverse livelihoods, and promotes social equity."

Adding the term "holistic" enhances the policy by promoting a comprehensive approach that addresses the interconnectedness of economic, environmental, and social factors.

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G13

I believe it's missing wording, and it was given a score of 3e which means it's consistent with existing wording, revision unnecessary.

"Identify, protect, preserve, restore and rewild environmentally critical areas—including riparian zones, wetlands, prairies, forests, and urban and rural open spaces - while emphasizing the restoration of soil health for optimal ecological outcomes."

The rewritten policy uses specific terms to cover all aspects of environmental conservation:

1. **\*\*Identify\*\***: Recognizing critical areas is essential for targeted conservation efforts.
2. **\*\*Protect\*\***: Safeguarding these areas from threats is vital for their health.
3. **\*\*Preserve\*\***: Maintaining the integrity of ecosystems prevents biodiversity loss.
4. **\*\*Restore\*\***: Recovering degraded ecosystems is necessary for ecological health.
5. **\*\*Rewild\*\***: Reintroducing natural processes enhances ecosystem resilience.
6. **\*\*Emphasizing soil health\*\***: Prioritizing soil quality is crucial for overall ecosystem vitality.

Each term plays a unique role, creating a comprehensive approach to environmental stewardship.

"emphasizing" means giving special importance or priority to soil health as a critical aspect of the overall strategy. It suggests that while the primary actions are to identify, protect, and preserve, there is a particular focus on improving and maintaining soil health, recognizing that soil is a vital solution to climate change.

The degradation of soil organic matter (SOM) and deforestation have significantly increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels since the Industrial Revolution. Soil holds more carbon than land vegetation and the atmosphere combined, making its management crucial in addressing global warming.

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G13, P2

I believe wording can be more impactful, and it was given a score of 3e which means it's consistent with existing wording, revision unnecessary.

Changing the wording in the policy as you described would alter its tone and implications significantly:

1. **\*\*Changing "should" to "will be developed and implemented"\*\***:

- The first instance would become more assertive, indicating a commitment to developing and implementing community-wide restoration efforts and projects. This wording suggests a definitive action rather than a recommendation.
- The second instance, changing "should" to "these efforts will prioritize," also shifts the tone from a suggestion to a declaration of intent. It emphasizes that the efforts will specifically focus on prioritizing sustainable species composition, conservation, and ecosystem processes.

Overall, these changes would create a stronger commitment to action and suggest a more proactive approach to the policy rather than one that merely recommends or suggests actions.

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G13, P2

**\*\*Removing "in the long term"\*\*:**

- Omitting this phrase would make the statement less focused on sustainability over time. The emphasis on long-term sustainability indicates a broader vision for ongoing ecological health. Without it, the policy could appear to focus on short-term results rather than sustainable practices, potentially undermining the intended goal of maintaining ecosystem processes over time.

In summary, these changes would shift the policy from a suggestive framework to a more definitive and committed action plan while also potentially diminishing the focus on the sustainability aspect over time.

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G18

Incorporating "healthy soils" into the policy is essential because it addresses a fundamental component of environmental sustainability that affects various interconnected issues, such as ecosystem health, water quality, and climate change mitigation. Healthy soils enhance agricultural productivity, support biodiversity, and play a crucial role in carbon sequestration, making them integral to our environmental strategy. Leaving this concept out could result in a significant oversight, as it would neglect the vital relationship between soil health and other environmental factors, leading to an incomplete understanding of our ecological systems. Additionally, without emphasizing the importance of healthy soils, we risk missing opportunities to engage the public in practices that promote sustainability and conservation, potentially undermining our overall goals for environmental awareness and action.

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G29, P4

Reasoning for not adding schools? I don't see the language of reaching out to schools.

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G30

I agree with Sunrise and she said I would like to see you sustainable packaging and low carbon construction materials as requirement. Not just saying prioritize. I'm okay with saying prioritize goods locally since we cannot always find local products.

This was not discussed at the meeting Even though the grading it was given was a 2a, substance concern discuss.

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G32, P1

I feel after Wednesday's meeting this is essential to this policy,

Revised Policy:

"We will empower decentralized, participatory decision-making structures, such as citizens' assemblies and commons-based resource management, leveraging the collective intelligence of local communities. County government staff members will work collaboratively with community members, prioritizing the involvement of marginalized communities, to develop and maintain their capacity, technical expertise, and skills related to climate change and environmental justice. This partnership is essential to improving county-wide policy, implementation, equity, and resilience, ensuring that all voices, particularly those of marginalized populations, are actively represented and heard in the decision-making process."

Reasoning:

Incorporating this revised policy into the climate section of the Growth Management Act is vital for promoting accountability and fostering a collaborative environment between County government and the community, with a specific focus on prioritizing marginalized communities. Recognizing that no single entity possesses all the knowledge necessary to address the complexities of climate change and environmental justice, this partnership allows for the infusion of new insights and expertise that can strengthen our policies and practices. By actively engaging with marginalized populations, we ensure that their unique experiences and challenges are at the forefront of policy development. This collaborative approach not only enhances the skills and capabilities of County staff but also guarantees that policies are reflective of the diverse needs of our entire community. Prioritizing marginalized voices significantly increases the likelihood of successful implementation, promotes equity, and builds resilience within the community, ultimately creating a stronger foundation for thriving in the face of climate challenges.