

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2021

7:00 PM - Speaker - Diane Bailey, Executive Director of Menlo Spark

7:30 PM - Call to Order

Adoption of November General Meeting agenda

- With 18 votes in support, the motion to approve the November Meeting Agenda passes.

Approval of October General Meeting minutes

- With 18 votes in support, the motion to approve the October Meeting Minutes passes.

7:40 PM - Executive Board Reports

- Chair Karen Maki shares:
 - The 2022 Convention will be from March 2- 4, 2022, and the CADEM Executive Board will be voting this weekend whether it'll be in person or hosted virtually.
 - The Leadership Development Committee will be hosting its SMCDEMS Lead Program from February 25 to April 1, 2022. Interested members should contact Alicia Aguirre or Robert Bernardo, Co-Chairs of the Committee.
 - The San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee will host its holiday party outdoors on Saturday, December 11, 2022 at Twin Pines Park, Belmont.
- Secretary Rudy Espinoza reports the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee sent a "Thank You" card to all sponsors who donated more than \$150.
- Controller Nancy Yarbrough announces that she'll be resigning from her role.

7:45 PM - VOTE - Adjusted October Budget (Denton Murphy, Nancy Yarbrough)

- Controller Nancy Yarbrough outlines the monthly budget reports, and suggests that recurring member donations or branded merchandise could help raise funds in 2022.
- With 17 votes in support, the motion to approve the Adjusted October Budget passes.

7:50 PM - CADEM Request for Funding Suggestions (Harini Krishnan)

- Harini Krishnan shares that the Joint Subcommittee on Party Finance is accepting written or verbal testimony ahead of the CADEM Executive Board meeting.

7:55 PM - Coalition Building Summit (Lisa Nash, Harini Krishnan)

- Harini Krishnan announces that the San Mateo County Democrats will host the 2022 Coalition Building to Power Summit, on Saturday, January 29th, 2022, from 12pm - 3 pm. The summit will feature panels on Building Multi-Ethnic, Multi-Racial Coalitions and Building Inclusive Coalitions With All Stakeholders (including rural, urban, labor, seniors).

8:05 PM - Holiday Party (Chelsea Bonini, Nancy Yarbrough, Harini Krishnan)

- The San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee will host its holiday party outdoors on Saturday, December 11, 2022 at Twin Pines Park, Belmont. The event will be outdoors and organizers have created a volunteer sign-up sheet that will be distributed to interested members.

8:10 PM - Vote on Resolution in support of Equitably electrifying all buildings and vehicles in California (Nicole Kemeny)

- With the removal of the clause directing the Corresponding Secretary to disperse the resolution to local officials, Rudy Espinoza motioned to approve the resolution and was seconded by John Woodell.
- The amended resolution passed with 17 votes in the affirmative, and 4 abstentions.

Equitably electrifying all buildings and vehicles in California

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party strongly supports the Paris Climate Agreement goal of keeping the rise in earth's temperatures below 2°C, and if possible, below 1.5°C, and California has set a goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 in support of that Agreement; and

WHEREAS, not achieving this goal will result in increasingly severe impacts such as extreme heat, water shortages, and sea-level rise which fall disproportionately on the less affluent and exacerbate existing social inequities, and also threaten our basic infrastructure and economy, thus making not electrifying buildings and cars more expensive than electrifying them; and

WHEREAS, scientists have determined that it will be impossible to meet the Paris Climate Agreement goal of keeping earth's temperature rise below 2.0°C if we continue to allow the

commissioning of new fossil fuel equipment, including gas furnaces, water heaters, and vehicles; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Mateo Democratic Central Committee supports urgent action in San Mateo County, its cities, and the State of California to electrify all buildings and vehicles, and to provide financial mechanisms in support of that goal which are designed to insure that low and moderate income households are not disproportionately burdened; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee (SMCDCC) supports an immediate prohibition on installing new fossil fuel equipment in all buildings, including single family homes, and also supports retiring existing gas appliances in all buildings as soon as possible.

8:30 PM - Vote on Resolution in Support of Enhanced Access to Rooftop Solar and Metering (Nicole Kemeny)

- Nicole Fernandez motioned to approve the resolution as is, and is seconded by Rudy Espinoza. The motion passes with 21 votes in the affirmative.

Resolution in Support of Enhanced Access to Rooftop Solar and Net Metering

WHEREAS, Over the past two decades, over one million Californians have invested in rooftop solar to combat climate change, lower energy bills, and invest in local communities; and

WHEREAS, The State of California encouraged these investments via policies like net metering, which lets solar users share their extra energy with their neighbors for a bill credit and today rooftop solar, often paired with battery storage, is an increasingly affordable investment embraced by working class communities as a common and increasingly affordable solution to wildfires, blackouts, and rate increases; and

WHEREAS, net metering and, therefore, rooftop solar is at risk of being jeopardized by California's investor-owned utilities, who are opposed to the growth of rooftop solar and storage because it threatens their business model, which depends on building an ever bigger and more expensive grid at the expense of ratepayers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee (SMCDCC) calls on the Governor and California Public Utilities Commission to maintain growth in rooftop solar as means to combat climate change and grid resiliency; prioritize equity by investing in rooftop solar and storage for low-income residents and disadvantaged communities; standardize rooftop solar and battery storage in new construction by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SMCDCC calls on the Governor and California Public Utilities Commission to reject any proposals by investor-owned utilities or organizations to reduce financial savings or impose new fees on solar users that collectively would set back California's climate change and

environmental justice goals, consign the public to annual power outages, reduce customer bill savings, and harm access to solar energy by lower-income ratepayers.

8:50 PM - Vote on Seamless Transit Principles Resolution (Adina Levin)

- Andrea Reyna motioned to approve the resolution and is seconded by Rudy Espinoza. The motion passes with 18 votes in support.

Resolution in Support of Seamless Transit Principles

WHEREAS, despite the critical importance of high quality public transportation in supporting a healthy, environmentally sustainable, equitable, and accessible Bay Area, public transportation is only used in 12% of all commute trips in the region, compared to 75% of commute trips made by car, compounded by the fact that the quality of and usage of public transit in the Bay Area has declined in recent years, with transit trips per capita having declined by 10% between 2001 and 2016 and having been further decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, public transportation in the Bay Area and San Mateo County has had relatively low usage in part because public transportation is inconvenient and costly for many types of trips, requiring riders to: use multiple transit systems operated independently with little coordination; pay multiple separate fares; experience unpredictable transfers; and navigate different wayfinding systems and brand identities of at least 27 different agencies, with many of these challenges falling disproportionately upon low-income and transit-dependent people; and

WHEREAS in regions with high-ridership, resilient, public transportation systems are, by contrast, characterized by highly integrated networks of quality local and regional transit services that make traveling without a private automobile convenient and easy for all types of trips, featuring aligned routes and schedules, seamless integration of trains and buses, coordinated transfers, high quality transit hubs, common branding and customer information, integrated, affordable fares, and other common regional customer experience standards, as well as frequent service, as set forth by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)'s Bay Area Transit Transformation Action Plan aimed at recovering Bay Area transit from the impacts of Covid, and achieving a more connected, efficient, and user-focused mobility network across the Bay Area and beyond, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee endorses the Seamless Transit Principles, and agrees to be publicly listed as a supporter, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee urges the boards of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), San Mateo County Transportation Authority, and Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) to endorse the Seamless Transit Principles through board resolutions, affirming commitment to working collaboratively with state agencies, MTC, municipalities and other public agencies to develop highly integrated regional transportation systems that provides convenient, seamless, and affordable transit for customers.

9:10 PM - Vote on - Public Resolution to Promote Public Safety on the Caltrain Corridor (Sandra Lang and Emily Beach)

- The resolution received an amendment to change “CalTrain” to “passenger rail” to include CA High Speed Rail. Sandra Lang motioned to approve the resolution with that change, and is seconded by John Woodell. With 20 votes in support, the resolution passes.

Resolution to Advance Public Safety on the Caltrain Corridor

WHEREAS, rail safety is an urgent priority as passenger rail service increases between San Francisco and Gilroy, with plans to increase pre-pandemic service from 92 daily trains to 220 daily all-electric commuter trains by 2030, and envisions tripling ridership; and

WHEREAS, Caltrain has 41 “at-grade” crossings along its corridor where railroad tracks intersect with roadways, severely threatening public safety, with trains traveling up to 79 MPH, and three of the California Public Utilities Commission’s top ten highest priority at-grade crossings to fix because of their dangerous configuration and sobering accident records are located in San Mateo County, specifically Burlingame Broadway (#1), Redwood City Whipple Avenue (#5), and Menlo Park Ravenswood Avenue (#7); and

WHEREAS, grade separation projects address this public safety problem by eliminating conflicts between trains and other vehicles and improve mobility for pedestrians and cyclists, air quality from fewer idling cars sitting in traffic during gate downtimes, economic justice from the creation of high-quality construction jobs, and advance quality of life for communities who live near railroad tracks who often are lower income and transit-dependent; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with current costs for Caltrain corridor grade separation projects ranging between \$200-\$400 million each, urgently requiring federal and state funding, and projections that \$10 billion is needed to address safety at all 41 at-grade crossings along the corridor, the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee strongly supports increased federal and state infrastructure funding, and encourages the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the State of California with its record budget surpluses to prioritize investments in these grade separations and other projects throughout the rail corridor that improve safety and quality of life for our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee directs the corresponding secretary to transmit official copies of this resolution to the aforementioned agencies and elected officials representing San Mateo County.

9:20 PM - County Supervisor Redistricting Update (Rudy Espinoza-Murray, Ray Larios)

- Rudy Espinoza, who served on the County Redistricting Commission, shares that the Board of Supervisors has approved the supervisorial districts with minimal changes rather than the proposed “Unity Map” or “Espinoza Map” recommended by the commission.

9:25 PM - Standing Committee Reports, Regional Director and Legislative Reports, Club Reports Please send reports to Recording Secretary Elmer Martinez at elmermartinez17@yahoo.com. Please provide information about meetings to calendar@smcdems.org.

- On behalf of the Farmworkers Affairs Committee, Rudy Espinoza reported that the committee will be hosting a forum in 2022 to bring stakeholders together to highlight issues affecting San Mateo County's farmworkers. Additionally, Rudy shared that ALAS has launched the "Tech Bus" to provide mobile healthcare services to farmworkers where they are.
- Jim Lawrence shares that the Police Reform Committee has partnered with Fix'n San Mateo County to introduce a ballot measure that would establish the Independent Citizen Review Commission by the 2024 election.

9:30 PM - Lightning Round

- Diana Reddy announces that Democracy for America will be hosting its holiday party online on December 1 at 7 pm.
- On behalf of the Coastside Democrats, April Vargas shares that the group will be hosting Sen. Josh Becker at 4 pm this Sunday, November 21st.
- Sandra Lang shares that Samaritan House is accepting this holiday season.
- Rudy Espinoza notes that the SMC Latinx Democrats will be hosting its next General Meeting on November 23 at 7 pm.
- Erin Chazer adds that the Peninsula Young Democrats will be hosting its holiday party on December 21st at the Dutch Goose from 7 pm to 9 pm.

9:35 PM - Adjournment