



May 17, 2022

Dear Monrovia City Council and City staff,

Many residents in our beautiful city are struggling. Monrovia is a majority-renter city, where 79% of low-income tenants are rent-burdened.

Despite this, Monrovia built just 8% of the affordable housing it was supposed to build from 2013-2021. The affordable housing shortage stretches far beyond the San Gabriel Valley. Our home state of California, where nearly half of all residents are housing cost-burdened, added 3.2 times more people than housing units over the last 10 years.

That's why it is time for action and to build more housing in all communities in California. You may not think that Assembly Bill 2011—the Affordable Housing and High Road Jobs Act—is a perfect solution, but it would be an impactful way to build homes, including affordable housing. Introduced by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, AB 2011 would make it easier for developers to build housing in some commercial zones, with a minimum affordability requirement of 15%. These new homes would be outside of existing residential zones. Many commercial areas are underperforming, and retail is suffering. If we take action to build more homes near stores, we can better support local businesses.

Lastly, we are concerned that, if the City of Monrovia does oppose such a popular bill, it will undermine the credibility of our local leadership. The bill already has the support of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon. The bill has 10 authors and coauthors, including southern California representatives Richard Bloom, Sharon Quirk-Silva, Mike Fong, Eloise Gómez Reyes, and Blanca Rubio.

Please don't let Monrovia be a voice for worsening our housing crisis.

Sincerely,
Monrovia Housing and Tenants Advocates

From: [Brian Yamaguchi](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Brian Yamaguchi](#)
Subject: Public Comment – Monrovia City Council Meeting 5/17/2022 Non-agenda Item Study Session Follow-up
Date: Monday, May 16, 2022 2:45:43 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers,

I believe that asking staff to price out an option for the Mountain Avenue project that would include beautification that would make it eligible for grant funding was a wise decision.

I would like to suggest that a couple additional options be added:

- Pricing out a resurfacing with concrete option. Mountain Avenue is a high traffic corridor that would warrant a concrete surface. While the upfront costs of concrete are usually higher than asphalt, concrete lasts substantially longer and is a greener choice. Since asphalt is petroleum based, it is likely that the price of asphalt has increased with the recent rapid rise of oil prices more than concrete has. It still may not be financially feasible to do concrete but the potential for a long term cost and maintenance savings is worth providing as an option.
- Pricing out a replacement of the Mountain/Royal Oaks traffic signal posts option. It was stated in the study session that the Mountain/Lemon traffic signal posts were not up to the current wind standards. In passing the Mountain/Royal Oaks intersection, it appears to me that those posts are of the same skinny generation and probably in need of replacement as well. The intersection's proximity to Canyon Oaks School and high frequency of accidents at that intersection should be considered. If major money is being planned for the Mountain Avenue project, I feel that it would be a good time to bring everything in the route up to date.

Sincerely,
Brian Yamaguchi

From: [Brian Yamaguchi](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Brian Yamaguchi](#)
Subject: Public Comment – Monrovia City Council Meeting 5/17/2022 Agenda Item AR-1 Monrovia Community Garden
Date: Monday, May 16, 2022 1:48:11 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers,

I believe that Monrovia Community Garden Pilot Program has been an unmitigated success. The volunteer Garden Leadership Team led by Dr. Kristin Ritzau have done an incredible job and should be commended for their dedication and accomplishments. I would like to see the program move from being a pilot one to become permanent. I believe that the benefit to the community for such a low cost program makes continuation a no-brainer. Furthermore, since there has consistently been a waitlist for plots, I would like to see the program expanded with additional sites. Additionally, with SB1383 becoming law this year, more public composting sites would encourage compliance, reduce organic materials being sent to landfills and benefit the community and planet.

Sincerely,
Brian Yamaguchi

From: [Paige Chamberlain](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Community Garden
Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 8:42:32 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

My family has had a plot at the community garden since January 2021. We have been so appreciative of this program. We do not have access to garden space at our home, but we live within walking distance of the community garden. We have five children and wanted them to have the opportunity & responsibility to work and take care of a garden. It's been a great experience for us. We have had things that grew well and things that did not. My kids have learned a lot. They also love the fruit trees that grow at the garden that we have had access to. Kristin is an amazing resource and has been helpful the whole way along. I'd love to see this program continue. It also fosters a great sense of community and friendship with those you run into at the garden. Monrovia has such a great reputation for being a friendly, neighborly city. The community garden only adds to that.

Thanks for your time & consideration,
Paige Chamberlain

From: [Rebecca Takahashi](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment on AR-1 Support for Amendment to Consulting Services Agreement for Monrovia Community Garden
Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:06:23 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to express my support for the enhanced programming and regular maintenance funding for the Monrovia Community Garden program as administered by Morningside Communion. I also want to note for the record my gratitude and enthusiasm for this program and hope it becomes a long-term investment for Monrovia.

As newer Monrovians that moved during the pandemic, the Garden was there to help introduce my husband and I to the community and take advantage of being safer at home in our new backyard. After participating in the Garden zoom sessions and volunteer days, I feel equipped to more responsibly co-exist with our native habitat and sustainably grow our own food. In a little over a year, I've learned how to properly prune a fruit tree, what to throw in my compost turner vs the green bin, appreciate the bugs that normally make me cringe but help my soil, and of course - how to grow fabulous tomatoes.

Besides the wealth of knowledge I have acquired, what keeps me engaged in the program is the true spirit of community in and outside of the garden. The Garden Leadership Team, plotholders, and volunteers are the heart and soul of the program that makes the corner of Magnolia and Colorado the special place it is. The combined knowledge and passion for connecting people and plants is evident in the color and fullness of the public and rented plots. The energy and enthusiasm this community brings is infectious (in a good way!) and is truly open to all who want to get their hands dirty. Participating in this community has also opened new networks and opportunities beyond gardening to help us make Monrovia an even better place to live. Thanks Monrovia Community Garden for continuing to *grow* our community!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Takahashi
Garden volunteer
MAP Leader (c/o 2021)

From: [Brian Yamaguchi](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Brian Yamaguchi](#)
Subject: Public Comment – Monrovia City Council Meeting 5/17/2022 Agenda Item AR-2 SB1383
Date: Monday, May 16, 2022 2:20:32 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers,

I found this line in the report interesting:

- Procurement of Organic Material (up to 100 tons of compost annually above and beyond the contractually required two giveaway events per year)

In addition to compost, I would like to see mulch incorporated in the negotiations with Athens. Mulch is a very important resource in landscape water conservation efforts and for improving soil health. With summer rapidly approaching, now is the time to lay down a thick layer of mulch to reduce irrigation requirements through the hottest and driest months.

Besides receiving mulch from Athens, I believe the City should consider providing wood chip mulch much more regularly by using the tree trimmings collected by West Coast Arborists, getchipdrop.com and from the Canyon Park cleanup. Several municipalities already have permanent mulch pickup sites:

Pasadena:

<https://www.cityofpasadena.net/public-works/recycling-resources/mulch-compost-recycling/mulch-recycling/>

Montclair:

<https://www.cityofmontclair.org/landscaping/>

Los Angeles:

https://www.lacitysan.org/san/faces/home/portal/s-lsh-wwd/s-lsh-wwd-s/s-lsh-wwd-s-gw/s-lsh-wwd-s-gw-fmg?_adf.ctrl-state=1akpn1j0vd_299&_afLoop=3335322899428595#!

Long Beach:

<https://www.longbeach.gov/sustainability/programs/mulch-delivery-and->

[pickup/](#)

Sincerely,
Brian Yamaguchi