

From: [Matt \[REDACTED\]](#)
To: -- City Clerk; [Kevin McDonnell](#); [Dennis Pocekay](#); [Janice Cader-Thompson](#); [John Shribbs](#); [Mike Healy](#); [Brian Barnacle](#); [Karen Nau](#)
Cc: [Peggy Flynn](#) [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposal to address Speedway impacts
Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023 4:26:12 PM

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Dear Mayor, Councilmembers, and Staff:

A number of Petaluma residents including myself and Stan Gold are concerned that the continued burning of fossil and other carbon-producing fuels in car racing is directly contrary to the City of Petaluma's stated climate protection goals. We are also concerned that the burning of any hydrocarbon and carbon-producing fuel (i.e., ethanol and the like) further endangers ourselves as well as all future generations of Petalumans, at risk enough right now from climate disruption caused by carbon pollution. As such, and with the world's hottest three days on record having occurred in early July, this issue has not been given the attention it deserves by the City in trying to reach those critical goals.

In July, Stan and I made a presentation to the Climate Action Commission asking that they agendaize, discuss and recommend to the City Council that the Council require the Petaluma Speedway operator to transition from carbon-based fuel racing to all electric vehicles over three years, one third transitioning per year, starting with next year's race season. We noted that it would be timely for the Commission to act on this quickly as the City is currently in lease negotiations with fairgrounds tenants. However, this month's CAC meeting was cancelled, and they have not taken that step.

Since then, we've received feedback that the CAC, being tasked with coming up with a more comprehensive and time-consuming Climate Action Plan to deliver to the Council, and due to the timing of the City's negotiations with fairgrounds tenants, it would be more effective for us to take this directly to the City Council. Therefore, we ask the City Council to place this item on its agenda for consideration and potential action as soon as practicable.

We believe this is a simple, focused, climate-positive action the Council can

take that furthers the City's climate goals. Making the transition over three years would also give the race promoter and its participants time to adjust to the reality that we have to stop burning fossil and carbon producing fuels as soon as possible for our own good. We see this step as "low-hanging fruit" that does not preclude the many other important actions the Council is likely to take to address global warming, but should be acted on quickly so as to coordinate with the fairgrounds lease contract negotiations. We hope the Council agrees.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Matt Maguire

Stan Gold