



January 15, 2019

City Council  
City of San Luis Obispo  
990 Palm St.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Subject: City Budget Goal Setting Process 2019-21

Dear Mayor Harmon and Council Members:

For your consideration, the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors respectfully submits our recommendations for the City's 2019-21 Major City Goals. Consistent with input that the Chamber has provided in recent years, these key business community priorities were determined after extensive work, discussion and evaluation by multiple Chamber committees and our Board, involving more than 80 member volunteers.

Informed by the Chamber's Economic Vision, Imagine San Luis Obispo, our top priorities focus on investments that unlock our ability to build a more complete, safe and fiscally sustainable city that houses more of its workforce.

With the impending Diablo Canyon Closure, it is more important than ever to actively create the future we seek; our collective success depends on furthering sustainable solutions that support healthy economic growth and ensure community resiliency.

Our recommendations for the City's investment of time, money and resources during the 2019-21 budget cycle include:

**FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY & RESPONSIBILITY**

- Continue the fiscal responsibility philosophy with a focus on economic development and responsiveness, unfunded liabilities, and infrastructure financing
- Responsibly pay down the City's unfunded liabilities and address escalating costs
- Explore opportunities to partner with other municipalities for shared delivery of governmental services to efficiently address challenges such as housing, infrastructure, transportation, water, energy and disaster preparedness

**CLIMATE ACTION**

Update the City's Climate Action Plan with a focus on:

- Decrease commuting impacts by investing in infrastructure necessary to build new housing and expand access to alternative transportation

- Address CO2 reductions through incentivizing energy efficiency upgrades and on-site energy production for existing structures

## **HOUSING**

- Invest in infrastructure that will unlock opportunities to build more homes such as Prado Road overpass and Tank Farm Road improvements
- Establish and measure success in achieving long-term housing goals
- Facilitate increased production of all housing types by approving vertical mixed use, prioritizing higher density housing, infill development, and increased building heights where appropriate to minimize sprawl
- Proactively support Cal Poly's Master Plan to build more on-campus housing

## **MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION**

- Invest in critical transportation infrastructure that facilitates safe multimodal movement in support of expanded housing choice and business development
- Complete major transit infrastructure such as Prado Road overpass and widening of Tank Farm Road to decrease commute time and traffic
- Greater focus on expanding transit capacity and routes
- Leverage existing and new funds to build new infrastructure
- Support policies that improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers

These Major City Goals are naturally intertwined, and we urge you to prioritize work programs that address the areas of overlap to make the most efficient and economical progress.

Thank you for your consideration of these suggested Major City Goals and for inviting input from the business community. The SLO Chamber's recommendations reflect our continued focus on making long-term investments and informed fiscal decisions that are intended to support a balanced and prosperous community for generations to come.

We look forward to participating in the Community Forum on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and believe these priorities will ensure a sustainable and prosperous economic future for those who live and work here.

Sincerely,

*Clint Pearce*

Clint Pearce  
2019 Board Chair  
San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce

