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## Planning Commission moves forward on resolution for EV charging capability in multi-family housing

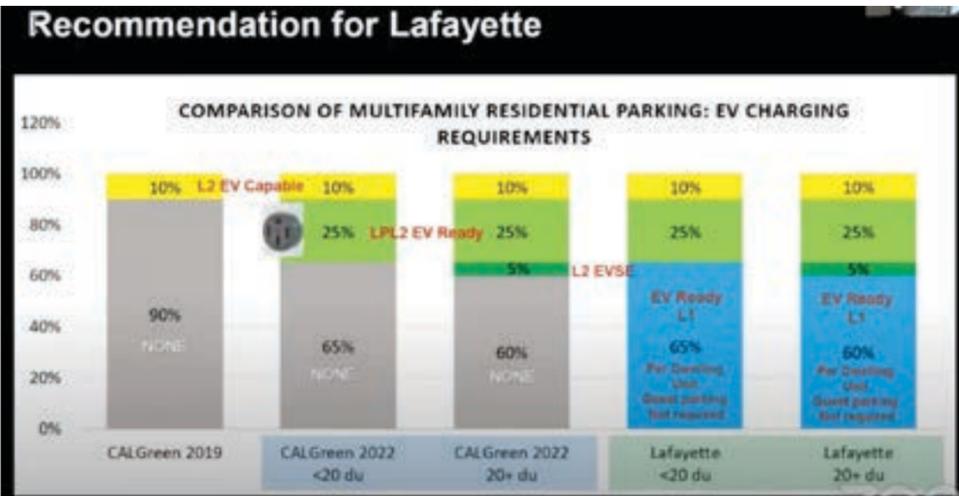


Image provided

By Lou Fancher

With electric vehicle popularity on the rise, finding locations to charge these vehicles – espe-

cially on multi-family and commercial properties – will become paramount. The Lafayette Planning Commission in a special meeting held on Aug. 22 discussed a recommendation

that the City Council adopt Resolution 2022-13 that amends Title 6 of the Lafayette Municipal Code, and closely mirrors the State of California's upcoming 2022 CALGreen Building Code revisions that go into effect Jan. 1, 2023. The standards in the CALGreen update recently signed into law by Gov. Gavin

Newsom establish that EV charging in new multi-family projects, whether they propose less than 20 or more than 20 dwelling units, are based on certain percentages of the required parking metrics and have varying degrees of EV charging speed (Level 1 and 2) and states of readiness (EV Capable, EV Ready, or EV Charger Installed).

Prior to the planning meeting, one of the action items of the city's Environmental Task Force that was endorsed by the council was to increase community access to Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging facilities and to update EV Charging requirements for multi-family and commercial development projects. A video presentation by Assistant Planner Joshua Muller summarized the study process and findings that determined the updates and resulted in the recommendation for adoption of the revised ordinance by the council.

The draft ordinance establishes that multi-family, resi-

dential properties having less than 20 dwelling units must be 65% L1 EV ready, 25% L2 EV ready, and 10 % EV L2 EV capable. Buildings having 20 or more dwelling units must be 60% L1 EV ready, with 5% L2 EVSE ready, 25% L2 EV, and 10 % EV L2 EV capable. There are no requirements for guest parking.

All EV Capable charging spaces have a service panel and/or subpanel capacity and space(s) and are marked "EV Capable" with a label on the service panel or subpanel. A conduit is installed from the breaker box to a parking space, but no wiring is installed in the conduit and there is no charging outlet. EV Ready has a similar conduit, but has wiring and a charging outlet installed. EV Installed, has the same standards as EV Ready, with a charging unit mounted and ready to plug into an EV. Different charging speed capabilities include Level 1 (120 Volts), Level 2 (240 Volts) and Level 3 of Fast Charging (480 Volts).

... continued on Page A3

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## The story behind one volunteer commissioner with nearly 30 years of service to Lafayette



Photo provided

Alison Hill shows off some long beans growing in the Lafayette Community Garden.

By Diane Claytor

There are more than 6,700 miles between Lafayette and New Zealand but, according to longtime Lafayette resident, Alison Hill, they are, in many ways, very much alike.

Having grown up in New Zealand, Hill de-

scribes her hometown as a "very outdoorsy place," where she hiked, spent time "out in the wild," and gardened alongside her mother. When Hill and her husband moved to the Bay Area more than 50 years ago, they looked for a similar environment. They found it in Lafayette. "We actually had been looking to buy something in the Oakland/Berkeley hills," Hill recalls. "As hard is as it may be to believe now, Lafayette was more affordable. It was a more modest community back then."

Hill raised two children and worked as a college registrar at several local colleges. She also quickly became involved in her new hometown, doing what she loved most – being outdoors.

She first began volunteering on the Lafayette Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission, serving on the Trails subcommittee; her tenure has lasted almost 30 years so far. As part of their duties, Hill, along with her subcommittee peers, check all the Lafayette trails on a quarterly basis to determine if any maintenance is required. They do minor pruning and cleaning up leaves and look for potential new trails and procure easements, if needed, so trails can be built.

Lafayette has seven city-managed trails, plus a trail network in the Community Park, totaling approximately 16 miles of trails. A new trail at the end of Rose Lane and Happy Valley is currently being constructed. Hill hiked this trail in the spring and reports that there were "all kinds of lovely wildflowers up there." ... continued on Page A10

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