

## About that eco plan

Re "Seizing the moment"  
(Newsline, by Andre Byik,  
Oct. 31):

Chico is clearly situated to take climate change adaptability to a new level and provide pieces of a model for other cities to follow. I'm encouraged to see two City Council members embrace this responsibility.

But this Chico Green New Deal, while it goes in the right direction, doesn't call for any kind of fundamental shift away from the wasteful, oil-fueled development that got us here.

As examples: Just like the Climate Action Plan, it takes no account of the production of commodities we habitually consume in Chico.

It contains the idea of "climate-friendly housing solutions," but nothing on the imminent expansion of Bruce Road and all further suburban sprawl based on private automobiles.

The plan mentions upgrading

housing to be more climate-friendly, "saving on energy costs for property owners," and "in economically feasible ways." But for the majority of residences in Chico, tenants pay the power bill. So I wonder, who does it have to be economically feasible for?

Someone may have called to "enhance" our bus system 30 years ago, but the reality is almost no one can entirely depend on it today. This isn't a vision of walkable neighborhoods and city life where a private car is unnecessary.

Addison Winslow  
Chico

Credit to Vice Mayor Alex Brown for caring, but their version of the Green New Deal is vague, lacks holistic thinking and parrots the false notion that we can "grow" our way out of an ecological crisis perpetuated by economic growth.

Lots of talk about solar panels and "green" energy, but not efficiency, which could be placed on the landlords who pass the cost of inefficiency onto already burdened

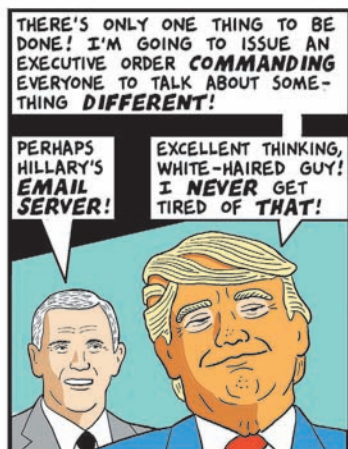
renters. Talk of workforce development, but not of the fundamentally exploitative relationship between employer and employed, cooperative enterprise development, or eliminating profit- and rent-seeking. We need to democratize urban life.

The best section is the one on food, yet there is no smart objective, like "produce 80 percent of fresh fruits and veggies consumed within the city limits," a wholly realistic and transformative goal. There's a section on water reuse, an expensive proposition. Nothing about our insane waste/stormwater systems. Nothing about outlawing turf, or even eliminating city-owned turf. How about save water, recharge the aquifer, help pollinators and grow food by providing a framework and mandates for gray water stub-outs and edible streetside rain gardens? That's holistic thinking. Business as usual won't do. We need visionaries willing to be bold.

Steven Breedlove  
Chico

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