

From: [Joy Bethune](#)
To: [Mary Gourley](#)
Subject: public comment to be read at Sebastopol city council meeting 10/19/21
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 1:00:28 PM

I want to express my support for the "Comprehensive Energy Efficiency, Water Conservation, and Solar PV Project" or agenda item 11. As a staff member and patron at the Sebastopol Regional Library, I know that a new roof, solar panels and a new HVAC system would be huge steps forward in the effort to bring our building, that serves so many in the county, into the 21st century. It would also have a direct impact on the safety and quality of life of everyone who uses and works at the library. Our HVAC system is very old and always has problems, plus with environmental changes due to the ongoing climate crisis (like extreme heat, colder temperatures, and smoke from fires in the air), it is often the only place for vulnerable members of the community to spend time safely sheltered during the day. It would be nice to know that the air inside the building wasn't unsafe for staff and patrons during fires and all the time. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Sebastopol Library, we were recently able to extend and strengthen our Wi-Fi network that is offered for patrons and residents inside the library and around the building. These types of updates make it easier for everyone in the community to study, work, access information, and thrive, and the updates included in this project would further that improvement in the quality of life for those in Sebastopol and the West County community. Saving money long term and helping the environment at the same time seems like a win-win and I would love to know that I work in a building that is off-setting energy use by gathering clean, solar energy. I believe the city of Sebastopol cares about the environment, and I think we should jump at any opportunity to improve the impact our city buildings have on this beautiful area in which we live.

I am also a resident here in Sebastopol and both myself and members of my family use Ives pool often. It is such a wonderful space for exercise and connection in town. It is also an extremely important resource for the people of this city, and updating the infrastructure of that resource is a very exciting prospect. I'm glad to see that Ives pool is going to be able to contribute to the project monetarily after a financially difficult period of time during the pandemic. This shows just how worthwhile the project is.

It seems that many of the goals of this project are based around replacing and improving infrastructure that is about to break down at any moment. Safety, avoiding inconvenience, and avoiding unnecessary spending is always wise, and I really hope the esteemed members of our city council decide to approve this exciting project.

Joy Béthune [REDACTED]

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