

Public Comment
Items from the Audience

From: HELEN EVANS <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 6:56 PM

To: Nancy Young <Nancy.Young@cityoftracy.org>

Cc: Tracy City Council <tracycitycouncil@cityoftracy.org>; Web - City Clerk <CityClerk@cityoftracy.org>

Subject: Mayor Young and City Council re Smart City Technologies and Tracy

Dear Mayor Nancy Young:

I am greatly concerned about the current trajectory Tracy elected and non-elected officials are pursuing to make Tracy a Smart City. Although Smart Cities are being touted as “Sustainability” and “Equitable” and “Convenience,” Smart Cities are not being accurately described for what they really are - they are mass surveillance cities, which remove any sense of individual privacy. In fact, a euphemism for “smart cities” could be called “surveillance.” This means that Tracy will deploy surveillance technologies powered by automatic data mining, facial recognition, and other forms of artificial intelligence at a scale never seen before. As you know urban surveillance is a multibillion-dollar industry, with Tracy readily handing out money to contractors and nonprofits and creating new divisions in the city government to build the smart city industry and maintain it. While “smart cities” have been described by proponents with soothing promises of greener energy solutions, lower-friction mobility, and safer streets, the honest fact is these cities will be supercharged surveillance that encroach on free speech, privacy, and data protection. And, the facial recognition and related technologies at the scale that smart cities will employ are extremely worrisome. Moreover, the deployment and integration of surveillance technologies, such as sensors and biometric data collection systems - electronic, infrared, thermal, and LIDAR sensors form the basis of the smart grid. They do everything from operating streetlights to optimizing parking and traffic flow to detect crime. Therefore, these cities will become a veritable thicket of video surveillance. Identity collection devices will become commonplace, exploding across public and private spaces.

Can you imagine a world where you’re watched every second? Is that what you want for Tracy? While we do have these technologies now, we don’t have them at the scale that Smart Cities employ. I am asking that you rethink the Smart City plan for Tracy. I am asking that you remember a time when privacy was valued. I am including an article that I ask you to read. I know that many of the council members are approving everything with a rubber stamp that has to do with Smart Cities, but I wonder if they are really considering the future that they are creating for us residents?

I am expressing my extreme concern about Tracy and am asking that you and the council members reevaluate making Tracy a Smart City. I know I’m just a regular person, but I needed to express myself to you. You appear to be very reasonable and “Holistic.” Surely, it cannot be your dream to bring this massive surveillance state to Tracy. Smart Cities are the “shiny new button” that are being touted as the best thing around. However, there appears little thought for the implications smart cities bring and nobody would vote for digital prisons if they understood how vast the surveillance will be in smart cities. As previously stated, I know that money is being handed out like water and many of those who represent us are caught up in the euphoria of being on this new trend, but I can’t help but think this Pandora’s Box is going to bring great regrets in the future. I’ve done considerable research on this, using my own free time because I care about the future of Tracy. I don’t have any lobbyists or campaign donations to rush after - I’m just a concerned person.

Thanks for listening and for your service. May you have a very successful term. I’ve cc’d the City Council Members on this email and also the City Clerk and ask that this email be forwarded to City Council. Thank you so much.

Best wishes,
Helen Gallegos Evans

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/04/17/smart-cities-surveillance-privacy-digital-threats-internet-of-things-5g/>

May 2, 2023

REPORT ON COUNCIL-APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES; EVENTS; & UPDATES

1. EAST BAY COMMUNITY ENERGY AUTHORITY

A. Board of Directors Meeting

- i. Met on 4/19/23 and 4/24/23; will meet on 5/17/23.
- ii. Received update on EBCE Brand Evolution and Name Exploration.
- iii. Authorized the CEO to negotiate and execute one of two office space lease agreements.
- iv. Authorize CEO to execute 10 year, \$4.5M loan to support the financing of the Greenville Community Charging Depot for medium and heavy-duty vehicles on Greenville Road in Livermore.
- v. Appointed to Financial, Administrative, and Procurement Subcommittee; will meet on 7/12/23.
- vi. Received update on Local Development Programs.

B. Naming/Brand Ad Hoc Committee seeks to update the agency's name and visual brand

- i. Met on 4/24/23
- ii. Process of considering potential new names for the agency. If a new name is adopted, it would be a "dba" or doing business as name. We are not seeking to change the name of the JPA.

C. Community Advisory Commission needs a Tracy representative

- i. The committee acts as a liaison between key stakeholders and EBCE Board, holding public committee meetings on a regular basis. Email the Clerk of the Board at cob@ebce.org for more information about CAC meetings and to apply.

D. Agency staff and City Staff scheduling a City Council Informational Item.

2. TRI-VALLEY—SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY (VALLEY LINK)

A. Board of Directors Meeting

- i. Met on 4/12/23 at Tracy City Hall; will meet on 6/14/23 in Alameda County.
 - ii. Board voted to meet every other month in alternating San Joaquin County and Alameda County locations to be noticed.
 - iii. Authorized the Locally Preferred Alternative for Evaluation in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Clearance.
 - 1. *City of Tracy representative stated reservations for the record regarding not being included as a planned station in initial 26-mile phase despite the 200-acre land contribution, the hydrogen plant not being included in the item, the lack of project updates to council by former council-appointed representative, and supported the motion.*
 - iv. Governor's office announced the award of \$25 million to the Valley Link rail project as part of \$690 million in statewide TIRCP Cycle 6 funding awards. Consistent with our application submitted in February, this funding will advance design, equity focused community engagement and third-party agreements for the Valley Link rail project during the current Project Development phase within the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program.
- B. Agency staff and City Staff scheduling a City Council Informational Item.

3. SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

- A. Met on 4/12/23; will meet on 5/10/23.
- B. Attended as alternate until council-appointed representative was seated.

4. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

- A. Met on 4/19/23; will meet on 5/17/23.
- B. City of Tracy Representative Stephanie Reyna-Hiestand was in attendance and can provide at staff update if when requested

5. NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES CONGRESSIONAL CITY CONFERENCE

- A. On 3/26-28/23 Council Members and City Staff attended sessions on ARPA Implementation in Mid-Size Cities, Rail Roundtable, Clean Energy, Broadband, and Transportation Grants. Also, we met with Congressman Harder to ask for federal support on our priority projects in the city of Tracy including the Multigenerational recreation center park improvements at El Pescadero Park, Inclusionary Park at Lincoln Park, and Police and Fire Training Centers.

6. LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES ADVANCED CLEAN FLEETS
ROUNDTABLE

- A. On 4/5/23 I attended and received an update on clean fleet implementation goals and regulations affecting the trucking industry and logistics hubs like City of Tracy.

7. LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES CITY LEADERS SUMMIT

- A. On 4/12-14/23 Council Members and City Staff attended sessions on Homelessness, Organized Retail Crime Prevention, Motel Conversions, Mobile Integrated Healthcare, Surplus Land Act, Inclusionary Housing, and Leadership.

8. SITE TOUR OF MEASURE V CIP PROJECTS

- A. Including Aquatics Park, Legacy Fields, Nature Park, Multigenerational Recreation Center, and Tracy Ball Park.
- B. Legacy Fields has been the only project to date with operational costs being funded by Measure V. On 4/18/23 Council authorized appropriation from Measure V of \$600,000 for the purchase of equipment and \$80,000 for staffing, maintenance, and operations to maintain and operate Legacy Fields for the remainder of FY22/23.

9. SITE TOUR AND BRIEFING OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

- A. Rates were not adjusted in the previous ten years and require augmentation in order to fund wastewater treatment capital projects and operational needs for existing ratepayers, not demand triggered by new development.

10. SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT:
SPECIAL CITY SELECTION COMMITTEE

- A. Met on 4/20/23; will meet TBD.
- B. Appointed City Representatives to the Governing Board.

Three Page Report Prepared By Council Member Matt Bedolla

—Matt Bedolla