

Pacifica's ability to address climate change planning has been negatively impacted by Realtor activist groups, mainly San Mateo County Association of Realtors (SAMCAR). As a member of the Climate Action Plan Task Force and Pacifica Climate Committee, I have seen firsthand SAMCAR's efforts to influence the city's response to climate change planning. First, several years ago, SAMCAR successfully lobbied the city to eliminate increased project review in the coastal zone. Second, SAMCAR successfully lobbied the city to delete proposed goals from the Climate Action Plan, goals recommended by the CAP Task Force and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

This is crucial as two of Pacifica's City Council candidates, Sue Vaterlaus and Mary Ann Nihart, have accepted funding from the National Association of Realtors in the form of campaign mailers costing many thousands of dollars. Sue Vaterlaus is the Chair of SAMCAR's Government Affairs Committee. We already have one Realtor and SAMCAR member on Pacifica's City Council, Mike O'Neill. Pacifica needs unbiased candidates who will represent our community and who are not supported by special-interest groups. Please vote for Deirdre Martin for City Council.

Timothy Cowan