

# TESTIMONY OF MELISSA MILLEMAN

Public Hearing on Climate Action: Hayward, CA | August 07, 2024

**August 20, 2024**

Hello,

My concern of course is global environmental decline with a desire for more immediate action in my local community of Hayward, CA. I am grateful for this opportunity and what the City of Hayward has already achieved towards GHG reduction. However, more can and needs to be done.

One of my general opinions is that continued public outreach and education, especially in socioeconomically compromised populations, is one of the most important actions which can continue to help our planet. One example I am locally urging and hoping Hayward's community leaders and citizens will support is preserving green spaces which already exist. A perfect place for Hayward to start is with Skywest (a former golf course - now defunct) which is returning to a natural wild state and has become an area for animals, insects, plants and people to coexist, inhabit and use recreationally in a very low to zero carbon emissions manner. This large green strip of land also connects directly with busy city roadways, middle to low income neighborhoods, a growing airport and marsh/wetlands leading to the bay. Keeping this space green would directly support the Hayward shoreline restoration projects combatting sea level rise in the surrounding neighborhoods as well as offsetting the carbon emissions coming from the expanding airport next door which negatively affects human and animal health everyday. This greenway is in danger of becoming commercial and industrial developments which Hayward already has in abundance in other areas.

These are the kind of precious urban green spaces which continue to be destroyed without environmentally conscientious consideration and which little by little contribute to our overall and overwhelming global environmental decline. I appeal to my city leaders, leaders around the world, and all people to champion saving these types of spaces. Thank you for holding the 4th Public Hearing in my hometown of Hayward, for the hard work CPRI is already doing and for taking testimony from this concerned citizen, Melissa Milleman, member of Keep Hayward Clean & Green since 2019.

**Melissa Milleman**  
**(415) 608-8084**  
**Hayward, California**