

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
EL MONTE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
OF JANUARY 26, 2021

MEETING JOINTLY AND REGULARLY WITH THE EL MONTE HOUSING AUTHORITY; EL MONTE PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY; EL MONTE PARKING AUTHORITY; EL MONTE WATER AUTHORITY; SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE FORMER EL MONTE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY; HOUSING SUCCESSOR AGENCY; AND, FROM TIME TO TIME, SUCH OTHER BODIES OF THE CITY WHOSE MEMBERSHIP IS COMPOSED EXCLUSIVELY OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CITY COUNCIL

1. CALL TO ORDER: **6:14 p.m.**

2. ROLL CALL FOR CITY COUNCIL AND AUTHORITY BODIES:

Jessica Ancona, Mayor/Chair – **present**
Maria Morales, Mayor Pro Tem/Authority Member – **present**
Victoria Martinez Muela, Councilmember/Authority Member – **present**
Alma D. Puente, Councilmember/Authority Member – **present**

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

m) Councilmember Martinez Muela
s) Mayor Pro Tem Morales **4-0**

4. INVOCATION: **Councilmember Martinez Muela**

5. FLAG SALUTE: **Chief Reynoso**

6. SPECIAL MEETING PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDIZED MATTERS ONLY:

As provided under **Government Code Section 54954.3**, this time has been set aside for persons in the audience to provide comment or make inquiries on matters appearing on this **Special Meeting agenda only**. Although no person is required to provide their name and address as a condition to attending a meeting, persons who wish to address the body are asked to state their name and address. Each speaker will be limited to three (3) continuous minutes. Speakers may not lend any portion of their speaking time to other persons or borrow additional time from other persons. All comments or queries presented by a speaker shall be addressed to the body as a whole and not to any

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specific member thereof. No questions shall be posed to any member of the body except through the presiding official of the meeting, members of the body are under no obligation to respond to questions posed by speakers but may provide brief clarifying responses to any comment made or questions posed. The body may not engage in any sort of prolonged discussion or deliberation with any speaker or group of speakers on matters that are not listed on this Special Meeting agenda.

Enforcement of Decorum: The Chief of Police of the City of El Monte, or such member, or members of the Police Department as the Chief of Police may designate, shall serve as the Sergeant-at-Arms of the meeting. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall carry out all orders and instructions given by the presiding official for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the meeting. While members of the public are free to level criticism of policies and the action(s) or proposed action(s) of the body or its members, members of the public may not engage in behavior that is disruptive to the orderly conduct of the proceedings, including, but not limited to, conduct that prevents other members of the public from being heard when it is their opportunity to speak or which prevents members of the audience from hearing or seeing the proceedings.

Members of the public may not threaten any person with physical harm or act in a manner that may reasonably be interpreted as an imminent threat of physical harm. All persons attending the meeting must adhere to policies barring harassment based upon a person's race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical handicap, medical condition, marital status, gender, sexual orientation or age.

Maggie Moe – Please appoint Irma Zamorano for the open City Council seat. Irma will be a great team player and an advocate for the community. I support Irma and her endeavors.

Danielle Zamora –My name is Danielle Zamora, I live in Arcadia and work at ActiveSGV. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because she is a dedicated community leader who values equity, environmental justice, and public health. As an El Monte native, Amy understands the struggles that need attention in her community and will prioritize implementing an equitable Covid-19 recovery plan, building affordable housing, and creating a more sustainable El Monte. As a first-generation Asian American, she will bring greater diversity to the City Council. With 3 years of experience on the El Monte City Planning Commission and over 6 years of nonprofit experience working on environmental justice and public health in the City of El Monte, Amy is well prepared to serve as a City Council member.

Andrew Yip – My name is Andrew Yip and I've worked in El Monte for six years and have firsthand experience working with Amy. She's taught public health and nutrition to high school youth, organized with them to push forth policies like the Complete Streets Policy, led community bike rides, fought for more parks, and worked closely with some of the businesses in El Monte for the Bike Friendly Business District. She believes strongly in doing what is right and places the community first. We are at the height of a public health crisis and El Monte routinely ranks second in the San Gabriel Valley in the number of Covid infections and deaths. Amy has experience in public health and cares deeply about the wellbeing of their community. She's helped me fundraise money to purchase face masks and ear savers for distribution to front line and essential workers in the area. She has a history of working with anyone that's willing to put the community's interests first. It was the political landscape of racial injustice, public health crises, and a deadlocked council that led her to make the decision to apply and commit to helping El

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Monte brave through this storm. I ask that you please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Sarah Hammond – I am a lifelong proud resident of El Monte and I wholeheartedly support Amy Wong for council! She is exactly what this city needs to help combat hate and bring in the peace! I just wanted to endorse my support.

Shahrzad Shishegar – Hello, I am very excited that Amy Wong is interested in running for city council in El Monte. I've known Amy for over a year and I know her to be hardworking, intelligent, and thoughtful in all that she undertook. She is organized and responsible. She is an excellent listener and is prepared to research the issues for which she advocates. In my opinion, the El Monte city council would greatly benefit from Amy's presence on the council. Please consider her as a candidate for this position.

Bin Lee – My name is Bin Lee, I live and work in Pasadena, and spent my school years in the El Monte/Temple City area. I still visit El Monte on a regular basis to visit friends and eat at local restaurants. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because we share the same passion for environmental justice. I believe climate change is the biggest threat to the San Gabriel Valley community and beyond. I've seen her dedication to advocating for active and sustainable living up-close, and admire her compassion for the lives of others. Both Amy and I understand that fighting climate change isn't just an isolated issue. Passing environmentally-conscious city policies improves public health, attracts innovation, boosts the workforce, opens up opportunities for all, and sparks the local economy. In addition, as a Taiwanese-American, I believe Amy's Asian-American experience will continue to contribute to El Monte's traditions of uplifting its citizens of color. Lastly, her three years as Planning Commissioner shows her dedication to the city she cares deeply for. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. I believe she will be an excellent addition to your fantastic team. Thank you for your time.

Wendy Chung – My name is Wendy, I am a second generation business owner at CNC Electric Wholesales, which has been located locally in the South El Monte and El Monte communities for more than 30 years. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because I know her to be a proud El Monte native with a strong vision and desire to see her community thrive. Amy and I became friends while volunteering for an SGV-focused nonprofit many years ago. I know that she is rooted and invested in El Monte. I believe her experience growing up here, working here, and serving on the Planning Commission equips her with the knowledge and insight to serve and represent the City. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Jimmy Duong – My name is Jimmy Duong, I live in Monterey Park but I've grown up in El Monte. I am currently working for Los Angeles County. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because she has the resume and the experience to know what it takes to plan and improve for a better El Monte. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council.

Ron Pang – My name is Ronald Pang I live in Alhambra and work retired from AT&T after 21 years. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because of her hard work and enthusiasm she has demonstrated in servicing the need for the community of El Monte. I feel her experience and knowledge will help to provide a better future for the city of El Monte. Individuals with Amy's energy, compassion and talent are an incredible asset to

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many organizations. I am positive she will make an excellent addition to the El Monte City Council. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council.

Yvette Lopez-Ledesma – My name is Yvette Lopez-Ledesma; I am a resident of the other valley, the San Fernando Valley and I work for the Wilderness Society, a national conservation organization and I also serve as a Commissioner on the City of Los Angeles Planning Commission. I am writing to you all to express my strong support for Amy J. Wong for El Monte City Council. I have known Amy for over 6 years and can attest to her strong leadership skills and love for the people of El Monte. Our work on environmental issues brought us together and our vision of healthier communities keeps us aligned. To call for a special election in a time where our public resources should be appropriated to meet the needs of the current health crisis is unnecessary and frankly, irresponsible. Amy is homegrown, committed, energetic and knowledgeable of public processes. In her role as City of El Monte Planning Commissioner, she has developed a strong base of knowledge, facilitation skills and a solid rapport with members of the public and her fellow commissioners. Being raised in the community, she is most-familiar with the opportunities and challenges that families and individuals work through day after day. I am confident that Amy will bring a grounded perspective that is rooted in El Monte and that will continue to work with the people's best interests at the forefront. Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge your appointment of Amy J. Wong for El Monte City Council.

Pablo Tamashiro – My name is Pablo Tamashiro. I am a resident and the business owner of Cyber Yogurt here in El Monte. I would like to express my utmost support for Amy J. Wong for City Council. Amy has been a longtime advocate for environmental sustainability and racial and gender equality. I believe that her experience and knowledge in dealing with these issues would allow her to bring a great perspective to discussions when the city is making decisions for our near and distant future. I have had the pleasure to work alongside her in multiple projects over the last few years, and every time she has been easy to work with. One of these projects is the Bike Friendly Business District. The project's main purpose was to encourage community residents to patronage local business, while promoting a healthy lifestyle for the residents. Amy understood the importance of balancing the interests of the community residents and those of local business owners. She was always open for suggestions and willing to adapt when needed, even when things got tough. When COVID-19 started, Amy and her team adapted and continued to provide support to local businesses in the Bike Friendly Business District. Although this project ended last year, due to our experience and her influence I still continue to promote it and offer a discount to customers who bike to our shop. I have also been lucky enough to get to work with Amy for a few other projects and events including the El Monte Open Streets; which was not only successful, but also incredibly fun. Her ability to work well with a team and communicate clearly and openly made working with her a very pleasant experience. I truly believe that she would make a great addition to the El Monte City Council. Thank you for your time.

Blair Miller – My name is Blair Miller. I live in Pasadena and I work for the Office of the City Administrative Officer of the City of Los Angeles. I have served on Pasadena's Planning Commission, Design Commission and Transportation Commission. For the City of Los Angeles, I am tasked with converting City-owned property into affordable housing and economic development opportunities. Through my career and my volunteer service, I have had the opportunity to work with many City staff and elected officials, and Amy Wong really stands out. I have known Amy for over 5 years through her work with

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ActiveSGV and Day One. It is rare to find someone with Amy's combination of commitment to her community, her leadership skills, her technical expertise and her personal empathy. While I believe Amy would ably represent all the residents of El Monte, as an Asian American, she would also bring important diversity to the Council. It is vital for the residents of a city to see themselves reflected in their leadership. I hope you agree that Amy Wong would be a hardworking, cooperative and progressive member of the El Monte City Council, and that you select her to join you. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Wen Lee – I am writing in support of appointing Amy J. Wong for El Monte City Council. My name is Wen Lee and I live in Temple City. I have known Amy for many years through her community work in El Monte and neighboring cities. I have watched Amy organize group bike rides, community surveys, campaigns supporting local businesses, educational events for children, and much more. It is clear to me (and everyone around her) just how passionate she is about her hometown of El Monte and the people who live in it. Amy is a hard worker and wears many hats. Sometimes I wonder how one person can juggle so many things at once and still excel -- but Amy does. She not only gets the work done, she goes above and beyond what's required, AND has a warm smile on her face while she does it. You can tell she is having fun. One example comes to mind: When she was appointed onto the El Monte Planning Commission, Amy dove right in. She spent hours preparing for meetings, poring over huge binders of documents and considering every detail before deciding how she would vote. Something that really impressed me was when she started posting highlights from the Commission's activities on Twitter, in an effort to inform the community about matters that will affect them and to demystify what the Commission does. I have never known any Commissioner to do such a thing and I think it is wonderful, brilliant, and so important. Most people are not connected to their local city officials and don't know what they are doing. Amy sought to change this. And that's what she is at heart: a change maker. On a personal note, Amy is a good person through and through. She is kind, thoughtful, and honest. She's also smart as a whip. I can't think of anyone better suited to serve on El Monte's City Council. I hope you will appoint her. Many thanks.

John Lloyd – I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for Amy J. Wong to be appointed to the open seat on the El Monte City Council. I have known Amy for about 5 years through her work in several community nonprofits with which I am involved: Day One and Active San Gabriel Valley. I have also followed closely her work on the El Monte Planning Commission. In each of these roles, she has demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities and a deep commitment to community service. The people of El Monte would be well served by her presence on the Council. Allow me to provide two recent examples of Amy's positive contributions to her community. First, she is almost single-handedly responsible for the outstanding "Women on Wheels" (WOW) program she runs through Active SGV. This program has received national recognition for its empowerment of women of all ages through its promotion of healthy, sustainable transportation and community engagement. WOW is a model of Amy's commitment to grassroots outreach and engagement with underserved members of the community in ways that are positive and transformative. My second example is Amy's recent work on the El Monte Planning Commission, where she has championed innovative solutions to the city's housing, economic, and public health needs. In my view, she not only has a good grasp of these policy areas, but understands how they are interconnected. Our community needs leaders like Amy to tackle the challenges we face in the 21st Century. I'm not ashamed to say I'm a big fan of Amy's. In my work as a Professor of Social and

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Urban History at Cal Poly Pomona, as well as a longtime sustainable transportation advocate in the area, I can say that it is rare to see a leader as young and talented as Amy. I hope El Monte realizes how lucky it is to have her talents at hand and I sincerely hope, Honorable Mayor and Council Members, that you will seat her on the Council where her talents can be put to good use.

Johnny Lam – My name is Johnny Lam, I live in Chino Hills and partially in Alhambra as I look after my mom. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because when it comes to community service I can't think of anyone better representing the City of El Monte. I met Amy through her work at Day One and with ActiveSGV (BikeSGV at the time) and her willingness to step up and work towards improving her community is admirable. I've been a resident of San Gabriel Valley off and on for over 30+ years and to see what she and others have done to improve our communities with various events like "626 Golden Streets" in the last few years has been amazing. Prior to these formidable years, I've always felt our cities lack this sense of community. Given her prior experience in El Monte Planning Commission, it should be an easy consideration for her to join El Monte's City Council. I have no doubt that she will strive to take care of her community and make sure people are looked after. I am proud to call Amy my friend and look forward seeing her excel in a leadership role in her own community. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Dan Huynh – My name is Dan Huynh, I live in Pasadena, and work at Pasadena City College. I am writing in strong support of Amy J. Wong for City Council. Over the last four years, I have come to know Amy's character and leadership through her role at ActiveSGV. As one of the leads for Women on Wheels (WoW), Amy has advocated for a women-led space and collaborated with other women to develop valuable programming that centers the experience of women of color. Since the program's launch in 2014, Amy hasn't just been a program architect, she has also put in the legwork to sustain these activities e.g. she often marshals bike rides to ensure participants' safety and comfort. Her work with WoW highlights two character traits that I admire in Amy: team-orientedness and a steady commitment to the work of creating equitable spaces. In another example, during the 2018 summer heat wave, Amy accompanied me on a canvassing activity for ActiveSGV. The two of us spent about an hour and half canvassing local businesses on Garvey Avenue for the Bike-Friendly Business District program. With everyone we met, Amy demonstrated patience and active listening. Even when business owners waved us away, Amy was not discouraged. To her, their skepticism only pointed to an opportunity for more authentic and durable community engagement. I respect that she never puts the burden on any individual but endeavors to understand where she or the larger system of governance could better serve the community. As a council member, she would bring a humble, pragmatic, and systems-based approach to problem-solving. I am convinced that Amy's appointment will add value to the existing female leadership on the council. And what's more, her leadership will finally give the Asian American community in El Monte a much-needed representative. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council.

Phillip Tran – My name is Phillip Tran, I was a lifelong resident in the San Gabriel Valley and just recently moved to Seattle in January to work on recycling and education programs. I have lots of love and pride for the SGV and I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because I have witnessed firsthand her undying commitment and love for her hometown. I first met Amy in 2018 at a Bike SGV community event but had already heard about her love and passion for sustainability work in the SGV through another

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friend of mine. Her unwavering support and passion for a greener and more equitable future was one of my first impressions of her. As I learned more about Bike SGV - now named Active SGV, I also learned more about Amy and why she feels so passionate about the work that she is in, which is why she is running. I continued seeking opportunities to contribute to my community, so Amy told me about The Nature For All Leadership Academy, a long-term training program that teaches organizing and advocacy skills to encourage civic engagement. Not only did she help organize, manage, and lead the program, but she was also leading the community to the brighter future she envisioned for her community. Since that time she has continued pushing for a greener and more equitable future. Her relentless passion and tenacity are the traits all city council members should embody. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Alexis Smith – My name is Alexis Smith and I am a primary care physician. I work in a Medicaid health clinic in El Monte. I support Ms. Amy J. Wong for City Council because she cares about the issues that matter the most to my patients. Every day I am talking to patients diagnosed with COVID 19. Due to unaffordable housing and crowding, this virus is affecting El Monte at higher rates than most other areas of the San Gabriel Valley. Every day I also see patients suffering from food and housing insecurity and chronic conditions caused by poor air quality. Many are also struggling with employment issues and chronic disease related to previous limited access to health care. I have gotten to know Ms. Amy J. Wong through friends who are a part of nonprofit organizations engaging in improvement projects for the San Gabriel Valley. Ms. Amy J. Wong has told me that she wants to focus on equitable healthcare and COVID 19 recovery, affordable housing and ending homelessness, and creating better air quality to reduce the development of chronic diseases. She is a citizen of El Monte, is progressive, and does not receive funding from special interest. When I hear her speak about her work, her passion for a better and more just world is palpable. Ms. Amy J. Wong knows how to turn her visions about health and environmental justice into reality. She has dedicated her post-university life and work to helping others. She is educated about science and technology and has used this knowledge to develop solutions to problems facing her community. Specifically, she has engaged in many climate projects, worked for three years on the El Monte Planning commission, and volunteered for several community nonprofits. She is well versed in grant writing as well as working in groups, well organized, and knows how to get projects done. In my experience with her she is also kind hearted and a terrific active listener: she is great at meeting new people and forming alliances with them. I believe the best kind of candidate for any position has passion and dedication combined with experience and ability. This is Ms. Amy J. Wong. Please appoint Ms. Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Kenny Uong – My name is Kenny Uong and I am a transit advocate and urban planning student from Glendale, California. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because Amy has many years of experience working, volunteering, and advocating for El Monte. I met Amy when I attended ActiveSGV's open streets events. Amy is dedicated to values of equity and justice, as well as to community-based public health and environmental justice work in El Monte and the San Gabriel Valley. Some of Amy's top priorities for El Monte include protecting the most vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting small businesses, building affordable housing, and creating a more sustainable and livable city. It is very important now more than ever to not only represent but also serve the community through the multiple crises

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including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate crisis, and racial injustice. As a city council member, Amy will help lead El Monte into a brighter future. Please consider appointing Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Marissa Lopez – My name is Marissa Lopez and I grew up in El Monte and currently work at Volunteers of America Los Angeles as a social worker. I support the appointment of Amy J. Wong to the City Council because of her dedication to the city of El Monte and her passion for justice and equity for the community. I had the privilege of being mentored by Amy and current El Monte Union High School District board member David Diaz when I was a student in the Day One organization at Mountain View High School. Amy proved herself to be such a dedicated and inspiring leader. It was under her leadership that I gained my first exposure to giving back to my community through service and education. Amy supported and guided me and my peers to be advocates and to use our voices to make real change in our city, despite our age. Whether it was educating community members at health fairs, advocating for bike lanes in El Monte at City Council meetings, or challenges to reimagine our community with sustainable and healthy possibilities, Amy helped open my eyes to what is possible when citizens work together for change. If you select Amy J. Wong to the El Monte city council, I trust that she will make equitable decisions and lead our community in the right direction because of her past actions and because she has shown herself to be a person of her word. She deeply cares about the people who live in El Monte as well as creating a community where everyone has a chance to thrive. She first demonstrated this care through her mentorship of a group of teenagers in Day One and has since taken her passion and values to a greater scale. I strongly believe that Amy will be a wonderful addition to the El Monte City Council and that she will join in the work to provide the best for the citizens of our hometown. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council.

Emily Ng – My name is Emily Ng. I am a resident of South Pasadena and working to build capacity in local government to address environmental injustices. I am writing in support of Amy J. Wong's appointment to El Monte City Council. I met Amy in 2016 while she was working at environmental justice non-profit, Nature For All, and leading a program empowering youth of color to advocate for local environmental justice issues. As a youth participant, I was immediately inspired by Amy's level of dedication to her community. Amy has always acted with her community in mind, and in the five years that I have known her, she has continued to be a prominent and well-respected leader throughout the San Gabriel Valley for her active transportation advocacy work. Amy's background in community non-profit work coupled with her experience in local city government, as Chair of the Planning Commission, brings a multi-dimensional perspective to City Council. She is fully attuned and dedicated to act on the needs of all residents in her diverse community. Amy's work and passion strongly centers equity, and she is committed to uplifting voices of all community members, especially those traditionally left out. Her work at ActiveSGV, through her position as Community Councilmember for Bold Vision and as co-founder of Women on Wheels, has empowered youth of color and women by giving them the tools and platform to engage in political conversations and activities they are typically excluded from. Recognizing hurdles individuals may experience, Amy has also worked to streamline the complaint submission process for environmental justice communities to report poor air quality and polluters through the South Coast AQMD Environmental Justice Inter-Agency Task Force. Amy

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upholds values of transparency, accessibility, and receptibility, all which make her the ideal candidate to represent El Monte's constituents. Amy is an asset to her community, and I am confident that her leadership and strong commitment to public health, housing, and sustainability will address challenges from the pandemic and ensure a bright and equitable future for generations to come. Please appoint Amy J. Wong for El Monte City Council.

Anthony Contrado – My name is Anthony Contrado, I live in El Monte, and am a full-time student at UCLA. I support Amy J. Wong for city council. As someone who has lived in El Monte for the past six years, I cannot claim to know the true values of being an El Montean. However, what I can say is that when I see Amy working with our community, I see those values. I see someone who cares about their community and will strive to make their community be the best it can be. I have had the pleasure of knowing Amy for these last four years and I believe having her on council would be putting El Monte in caring hands. I first met Amy when I was volunteering for Active SGV, formerly known as Bike SGV. As someone fairly new to El Monte, Amy had made me feel welcomed. She valued everyone's thoughts equally, whether it was a volunteer or an employee. Amy is a strong woman who cares for everyone. Every event I have seen her at, she is always making sure the attendees are having their needs met. She will go above and beyond what is required of her to listen to everyone so they know they have been heard and to show that their voices matter. Amy has the experience to lead, she has the heart to listen and she has the willpower to put thoughts into action. I believe Amy to be the best choice for City Council. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you for your time.

Irma Bustamante – My name is Irma Bustamante, I live in El Monte, and work as a Health Clerk at the Covina Valley Unified School District. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council. I met Amy when I signed up to volunteer for Active SGV four years ago in March 2016. I remember my first impression of Amy was that she was very approachable and easy to talk to, super kind, and was dedicated to improving the lives of others through her work. Through these past four years, I've become good friends with Amy, and I can say with full confidence that she truly cares about the needs of people being met. I've never met someone so passionate about public health and environmental justice. Whenever I talk to Amy, she always expresses so much motivation in envisioning a healthier and happier El Monte because she believes that the community deserves equity in overall living, health, housing, and preventing the growth in numbers from COVID-19. As a disabled person, this is incredibly significant to me in that I rarely hear about inclusiveness for the disabled community. Disabled people are vulnerable to conditions like poor air quality, and these kinds of problems need to be addressed and followed through with a plan. This has always been something on Amy's vision board, and she's always someone to follow through with her ideas and proposals. I admire Amy for her empathy, sense of community, and for bringing people together, collectively, in order to improve our overall well-being. I trust Amy to lead El Monte in the right direction to providing the community with equitable resources to help us strive for healthier lives. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Efren Moreno Jr. – My name is Efren Moreno Jr. and I am a former Alhambra City Council member and a co-founder of BikeSGV. I highly encourage you to appoint my J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. She is the best choice to represent the

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residents and businesses of the city. I first met Amy in 2015 as a volunteer for BikeSGV, now ActiveSGV, where her work was essential to the growth of the organization and the service we provide to the San Gabriel Valley community. Amy Wong has the knowledge and experience to be an advocate for healthy, sustainable living for the residents of El Monte, through her work and volunteering for over six years with various public health and environmental justice organizations in El Monte and the San Gabriel Valley. She is a first-generation Asian-American born and raised in El Monte. She went off to UC Berkeley and earned her degree and returned to her hometown to serve the community. She has served for three years on the El Monte Planning Commission, where difficult and complex issues are discussed and resolved. Her character, knowledge, and community experience make her the best choice for an appointment to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Alejandra Hoff – My name is Efren Moreno Jr. and I am a former Alhambra City Council member and a co-founder of BikeSGV. I highly encourage you to appoint my J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. She is the best choice to represent the residents and businesses of the city. I first met Amy in 2015 as a volunteer for BikeSGV, now ActiveSGV, where her work was essential to the growth of the organization and the service we provide to the San Gabriel Valley community. Amy Wong has the knowledge and experience to be an advocate for healthy, sustainable living for the residents of El Monte, through her work and volunteering for over six years with various public health and environmental justice organizations in El Monte and the San Gabriel Valley. She is a first-generation Asian-American born and raised in El Monte. She went off to UC Berkeley and earned her degree and returned to her hometown to serve the community. She has served for three years on the El Monte Planning Commission, where difficult and complex issues are discussed and resolved. Her character, knowledge, and community experience make her the best choice for an appointment to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Bryan Matsumoto – My name is Bryan Matsumoto. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because she is homegrown talent that will guide El Monte's recovery from COVID-19, and achieve real quality of life improvements for the city. As a Temple City resident, I met Ms. Wong 5 years ago through Active SGV and Nature for All - who I now work for as a community organizer. I have worked closely with Ms. Wong to connect El Monte residents to natural resources, healthy lifestyles and stewardship. Ms. Wong has risen to become a bright star in San Gabriel Valley community leadership, and an important El Monte leader in environmental and social justice. In a city that is over a quarter Asian Pacific Islander, she will be a proud voice for the Asian-American community, while working to improve all constituents' lives. What sticks with me is Ms. Wong's roots in El Monte. She spoke of growing up with poor park access and opportunities, looking from car windows to the San Gabriel Mountains, and wanting better for her community. Ms. Wong's courage to step forward and lead during this most difficult time of crisis, speaks volumes of her commitment to El Monte. Ms. Wong is well-respected amongst local organizations, and is well-versed in issues El Monte needs more resources for, including parks, sustainable planning and development, prosperity and social justice. Her familiarity with the County's funding measures, including Measures A, M, W and H for local parks, transportation, water projects, homelessness and housing make her a knowledgeable and valuable champion for El Monte to work with staff

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and secure these resources. Her experience working at the Jeff Seymour campus, an inspiring model of green infrastructure and stormwater design, and her organization's work on projects like the SGV Greenway Network give her working insight into innovative solutions for the City's future. I know Ms. Wong to be a committed public servant of integrity who will stand for collaborative problem-solving, transparency, fiscal accountability, and community-centered social and environmental justice. Ms. Wong is a highly organized, forward-thinking leader who will work across the aisle and in the community to produce results for El Monte. I strongly recommend Amy J. Wong for El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Andy Au – Please let it be known that I provide my recommendation to appoint Amy J. Wong for El Monte City Council. Her previous work with many organizations has uniquely qualified her for this appointment. Thank you.

Laura Navar – My name is Laura Navar. I am a resident of Boyle Heights and work for the National Parks Conservation Association. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because she will work to improve the quality of life for all El Monte residents. Her actions are filled passion and commitment while volunteering or working in an official capacity to improve living conditions for all. Her focus on the environmental and public health is of unprecedented importance. El Monte has among the highest number of COVID cases in the San Gabriel Valley. Her approach to facing the challenge is multifaceted and goes beyond addressing the superficial symptoms. Long before the pandemic her actions have prioritized collective health and well-being. Ranging from addressing contributors to chronic illness such as air quality and the build environment to the need for sustainable businesses. I met Amy in 2016 when she participated in the “Rim of the Valley Family Bike ride” as volunteer for Active SGV. While this was just outside the San Gabriel Valley Amy understood the regional value and the importance of having a big picture perspective. As Amy is active in her community and values collaboration our interactions became frequent giving me the opportunity to see her growing leadership. From the beginning Amy was well organized, attentive, and spoke up not only for her family but for her community in general. I saw her leadership increase as she coordinated the Nature for All Coalition. It truly has been a joy to work with Amy because of her transparency and genuine care on improving the lives of others. An example of her growing leadership is her increased her commitment as she is currently Chair of the El Monte Planning commission. Giving her a deeper and updated understanding of the need in El Monte. Amy’s strong family values have led her down the road to community public service. Part of what makes Amy a respected leader is her ability to balance her own experience while listening and encouraging others to speak up and be active in their community. Ultimately, she is a great resource and would add value to the City Council. For a community to progress representation of different perspectives must be included. Amy is a El Monte native of Chinese heritage. El Monte’s community is over 25% Asian American and the City Council does not reflect that. An equitable El Monte benefits everyone it will be one were access to basic necessities secure housing; a sustainable economy, green spaces, and health are prioritized which along with Amy’s values and priority issues. Her appointment is a step towards adequate representation for the significant Asian American Community. Furthermore, having a tie braker from an individual who is committed to community and not special interest will help address and move forward on issues brought to the council. I urge you to appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

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Anna Van – It is with great honor that I submit this letter in support of appointing Amy J. Wong to the vacant City Council seat. Over 3 years ago, I met Amy through our overlapping work for the Nature For All Coalition where Amy served as the Coalition Coordinator. Amy and I connected over our shared experience in being first-generation, Asian American women in the environmental nonprofit space. As a young professional at the time, I was in awe of the impact Amy had already made in her community - from integrating support for local businesses in her volunteer work to finding time to mentor young professionals (like myself). Amy's unwavering commitment to improving access to open space, clean air, and transit options for her community is admirable. Amy doesn't just talk the talk; she follows up her talk with action, as demonstrated through her 6+ years of experience in organizing and bringing projects to fruition throughout the San Gabriel Valley, particularly El Monte. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and 2020 racial justice movement, Amy even found the time to form SGV Progressive Action - a grassroots collective that connected and empowered people of all ages throughout the San Gabriel Valley to raise awareness around environmental justice issues and bring tangible change in their communities. As an El Monte native, Amy understands the needs and challenges families are confronting, especially Asian Americans who make up over 25% of the city's population. We need leaders who will not only serve the people of the community but also represent them. I've had the privilege of watching Amy transition her community-based nonprofit experience into public service through her role as El Monte City Planning Commissioner and can confidently say that there is no better candidate for the El Monte City Council than Amy J. Wong. Thank you for your time, Honorable Mayor and City Council, and I hope you make the undoubtedly clear choice of appointing Amy to serve the City of El Monte.

Destiny Hernandez – My name is Destiny Hernandez. I live in Pomona City, grew up in El Monte City, and work at Options for Learning. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because over the years of knowing and working with Amy she has always been knowledgeable, helpful, and compassionate. I first got the privilege of working with Amy through a program I joined in high school called Day One Youth Advocates. Through this program Amy was my mentor and, in the end, became a friend. This program was organized by the organization called Day One and Amy often gave me along with other peers many different opportunities. Amy was someone we often looked up to and gained advice and help from. Amy not only gave us knowledge on topics such as healthy living, but she helped young students learn how to advocate for positive changes within our community, El Monte City. She kept us informed and pushed us to further our education after high school. Amy was someone I personally looked up to because she encouraged me to further my education despite the obstacles I may have faced. Amy would be a great member and addition to the El Monte City Council. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Paul Steinberg – I am a professor at the Claremont Colleges, where I have been fortunate to collaborate with Amy J. Wong over the past five years, and I would like to offer my highest recommendation for her appointment to the City Council in El Monte. As a leader within the El Monte based organization ActiveSGV, Ms. Wong led an educational tour with 15 of my undergraduate students, teaching us about the role of active transportation policies (promoting walking and biking) in promoting social justice and meeting the essential needs of people within El Monte. Safe streets, she explained, are not just for elite recreational athletes; they are an

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essential component of mobility for people who cannot afford cars or who need exercise to ensure mental and physical wellbeing. I found Ms. Wong to be a highly skilled public speaker and a welcoming collaborator. She strikes me as someone who must be especially effective at working with diverse constituencies, rather than simply collaborating with like-minded folks and preaching to the choir. Her commitment to social justice and the concerns of poor and working-class families is unmistakable. As a long-term El Monte resident, I think she brings the perfect mix of perspectives and abilities to the position. The work of Ms. Wong and her colleagues was instrumental in a follow-up collaboration in which my students conducted an in-depth analysis of bicycle and pedestrian crash data in El Monte, identifying dangerous intersections and comparing these to current infrastructure plans. The results were shared by invitation of El Monte transportation officials. I am a resident of Upland, but I can attest that Ms. Wong's articulation of the challenges and promise in El Monte have already made an impression well beyond the city limits: Her perspective was featured in a documentary film on bicycle policy that we released in 2018. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of her candidacy further.

Austin Phung – My name is Austin Phung and I've been a lifelong resident in the City of El Monte for almost 25 years. I graduated from Arroyo High and have even interned with the City's planning department during my college years. I strongly support Amy J. Wong for City Council because I know she cares deeply about our community, the residents, and the future of our city. I met her while she was managing projects at Active SGV and was inspired by her commitment and dedication to our community. She has a great understanding of our city's needs from her years of community engagement and advocacy work. She has worked with students from multiple El Monte schools on issues ranging from environmental justice to complete streets and vision zero. She's a great listener and is always seeking to learn more. Her knowledge of the community along with her commitment makes her the best candidate for city council. She has already made a positive impact on El Monte and I believe she can do even greater good as a councilwoman for our city. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Carly Curiel – My name is Carly Curiel. I am from South San Gabriel and I work at Active SGV, based out of El Monte. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because I can't think of a better candidate to serve the community of El Monte. I have had the pleasure of working with Amy since 2018 and have seen firsthand her commitment and passion to the city and the people who live and work there. Not only is a local, but she has chosen a career that focuses on improving the lives of the community through public health & environmental justice work during her time at Day One, Nature for All, and Active SGV. I strongly believe we need more people like Amy representing us at the local level. She is a first-generation woman of color who is experienced and dedicated to equity and justice for all with a deep level of empathy and compassion. She's the type of person that you want in your corner and that you can trust will always put the people as her top priority. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council.

Josh Bernal – My name is Josh Bernal, and I support Amy J. Wong for City Council. I know her to be very kind, capable, and passionate, and I believe her values and her dedication will help to make El Monte a better place. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council.

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Araceli Hernandez – My name is Araceli Hernandez mission Hills, but I work all over the San Gabriel Valley. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council! As a former coworker with Amy, I've seen, FIRST HAND, her dedication to her community in El Monte. Amy is an El Monte native and a first-generation Asian American with over 6 years of local nonprofit experience doing community-based public health & environmental justice work in El Monte and the SGV! She has also served 3 consecutive years on the El Monte Planning Commission.

Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Wesley Reutimann – As a San Gabriel Valley native who has had the pleasure of working in the City of El Monte on public health issues for the past 8 years, I am writing you this evening to share my professional experience working with Ms. Amy Wong. I first had the opportunity to work with Ms. Wong when she applied to volunteer at my employer, the public-health non-profit organization Day One. At the time Day One had secured a competitive Nutrition Education, Obesity Prevention (NEOP) grant from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to develop a regional Active Transportation Plan in partnership with the cities of El Monte, South El Monte, Baldwin Park, San Gabriel, and Monterey Park. After a short period supporting the project in a volunteer capacity, Amy impressed the staff and leadership of our agency and was offered a paid position. Over the course of the next several years Ms. Wong proved herself a passionate advocate for community health, as well as a trustworthy, dependable colleague who advanced the projects she took on and supported team members to ensure project delivery. She was also adept at connecting with Chinese-language speaking audiences, an organizational need given the demographics of the community and the need to connect with people of diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. After leaving Day One, my paths continued to cross with Ms. Wong as she gathered experience with other locally-based non-profits that allowed her to support a healthier El Monte. With a degree from UC Berkeley, Ms. Wong had the opportunity to pursue other, more financially-lucrative professional careers. Instead she has committed her professional career to public service, both professionally and in her free time as a Planning Commissioner and volunteer with a number of community groups. If you as elected leaders would like a colleague who will place the health and well-being of the public first, and work in a collaborative manner with both staff and decision-makers to advance positive change, Amy Wong merits your serious consideration. Thank you for your time.

Alisha Lopez – My name is Alisha Lopez, and I am a Program Director at Day One. I am writing to voice support for Amy J. Wong for City Council, because in the time that I have known her she has shown a tremendous investment in the community of El Monte where she grew up. I have seen firsthand that Amy is a strong leader and doesn't hesitate to speak up for what's in the best interest of the community at large. Also, as a progressive first-generation Asian American, I believe Amy has what it takes to give a fresh and unique approach to complex issues the city council may tackle. During the time that we worked together at Day One I always admired her humble yet strong approach to improving the quality of life for El Monte residents. Her experience working on public health and environmental justice initiatives at community nonprofits in the SGV, including Day One, has no doubt given her the experience to understand the many needs of the community. Also, as a Planning Commissioner for the past 3 years, Amy has served the City of El Monte and understands the inner-workings of city government which will help her in her role as

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a new El Monte City Council member. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council, as she is a great choice! Thank you for your time.

Diane Valez – I am writing to offer my encouragement for the appointment of Amy J Wong to the vacancy at the El Monte City Council. I have known Amy for over 5 years and have witnessed her intelligence, thoughtfulness, and dedication to the City of El Monte. Her commitment to the City has been evident in her involvement with Day One, ActiveSGV, and serving as an El Monte Planning Commissioner for over 2 years. During Amy's time with the organization Day One, she led the community advocacy efforts that led to the unanimous adoption of the Complete Streets policy. This policy pushed the needle for the City of El Monte to create the Vision Zero Coalition, which includes the Police Department, Council members, Planners, and non-profit organizations all working towards creating safer streets for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike. On her own time, she has tracked the COVID-19 illness and death rates for every city in the San Gabriel Valley, allowing residents to access data in a more understandable and accessible manner. Lastly, Amy is a long-time resident of El Monte, allowing her to make strong connections with local business owners, transit riders, and residents. I have no doubt that Amy would be an incredible councilmember that would balance residents and the cities needs with integrity and alacrity. I highly recommend the appointment of Amy J. Wong for the vacant position.

Edward Duong – My name is Edward Duong and I lived in El Monte for over 30+ years. I currently work at Active San Gabriel Valley as the Community Engagement Specialist, a community-based non-profit organization headquartered in the City of El Monte. I have had the pleasure of working with Amy Wong in a professional capacity over the past four years and strongly support Amy J. Wong for City Council. I worked closely with Wong working on the El Monte Bike Friendly Business District Program as my direct supervisor. Wong has the natural ability to clearly communicate direction and has the capability to recognize an individual's strengths and interests in order to competently delegate responsibilities effectively. Whenever I had any questions, no matter how big or small, whether a professional or personal matter, Wong made it perfectly clear that she would be available. When also speaking with Wong, she leaves you feeling like you've been heard and seen. Wong is a person that thinks logically yet still can be very empathetic. Wong is the person in our organization that provides strength during times of weakness, leadership during times of confusion and comfort during times of melancholy. Back when we used to go into an office for work, pre-COVID, I remember seeing Wong commuting on a bike for a period of time, until one day, she stopped. I remember asking her why and she told me about how unsafe she felt while riding on the Rio Hondo River Path. Wong told me she encountered a person with a knife but luckily nothing serious happened. What Wong did next really showed her character during a challenging time. Wong brought this story back to our Women on Wheels program, a program that Wong co-leads, dedicated to empowering women of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to bike and engage in active activities. Wong was able to share her story with the group describing the challenges of being a female rider and found support within that community. Wong was able to find comfort again while riding with that group. She understands that group rides are safer than solo rides, especially for women, and wants to continue making streets safer so women and all people can bike safely. Wong has the ability to see a problem, analyze it, find support and deliver a solution. As a native to El Monte, Wong understands the

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challenges this community faces. Wong is protective, caring and dedicated to the wellbeing of this community and wants to see it thrive. Wong has over 6+ years working locally in the non-profit sector supporting the advancement of public health and environmental justice work. Wong also has over 3 years of experience working as a commissioner on the El Monte Planning Commission. With deep roots in El Monte, I have no doubts that Wong would be a great addition to the city council and community at large. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Carribbean Fragoza – My name is Carribbean Fragoza, I am from the City of South El Monte, and I co-direct the South El Monte Arts Posse, a multidisciplinary arts collective that serves the El Monte and South El Monte communities. I would like to express my enthusiastic support for Amy J. Wong for City Council. I have known Amy for ten years, since the founding of SEMAP, when she reached out to us to seek collaborative opportunities with DayOne, where she worked at the time. I was immediately impressed by her enthusiasm and energy, as well as her serious commitment to the wellness of the Greater El Monte area and its people. As a person that is also from this community, and has also committed herself to this place, I have found that our greatest public servants are ones that understand it deeply as Amy does. For us and for Amy, it is personal. I value all of Amy's contributions, including her Women On Wheels program, that empowers bike-riding women of El Monte and the SGV. I know that I could have definitely benefited from a program like that as a youngster and I'm thrilled that younger generations have Amy to help lead the way.

Nancy Verdin – My name is Nancy Verdin. I live in Pasadena and work at a local non-profit, Day One. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because I believe she has the essential qualities to be an effective leader for El Monte's residents. She is an experienced community leader, dedicated to environmental justice, and holds progressive visions for her hometown of El Monte. As her former colleague, I know Amy has a genuine desire to serve her community. She currently serves as the Planning Commission Chair for the City and has served for nearly 3 years on the Planning Commission. Amy manages climate projects at Active San Gabriel Valley and has over 6 years of experience implementing public health and environmental justice initiatives at community nonprofits in the San Gabriel Valley. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Machiko Yasuda – My name is Machiko Yasuda. I previously lived in Temple City and now live in Altadena. I am writing to you to recommend Amy J. Wong be appointed to the El Monte City Council. As you know, El Monte is a hub, both geographically and culturally in the San Gabriel Valley. And through her work both in and out of her day job, Amy has been a tireless ambassador for El Monte. Whether it's riding my bike to El Monte for 626 Golden Streets, meeting the owners of Cyber Yogurt for a Bicycle Friendly Business District event through Active San Gabriel Valley or enjoying the native plant garden at the Jeff Seymour Family Center, I've been so impressed by the collaboration between non-profits, government and small businesses in El Monte -- and Amy has been instrumental in making that happen. El Monte is a city that is making change happen, and I am confident that as city council member, Amy would keep improving the lives of people here. With her wide-ranging experience in public health, public transit and environmental justice, Amy is the perfect candidate to keep El Monte moving forward. From the Mercy Housing project

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to Gibson Mariposa Park, El Monte is a leader in the region with its commitments to bold initiatives - and I know Amy would keep El Monte reaching new heights. A city council member can truly elevate a city's position both within the city and out. Amy has a proven track record of engaging people both on the ground and in our nation's capital. Whether she is working on the ground putting on events with small businesses or training youth advocates at Mountain View and El Monte High, she's out there increasing trust, transparency and fun, too. On the regional, state and national levels, she's been advocating on the South Coast Air Quality Management District, securing state funding for Safe Routes to School and representing Californians in Washington, D.C. campaigning for the San Gabriel National Monument - she's done it all. With new projects on the horizon like the Metro Micro transit in El Monte and the ongoing COVID crisis, the city needs someone who can make sure public services are distributed in an equitable, multilingual and sustainable way. Amy would make sure that happens. She is a stellar example of a young person who's dedicating her life to improving her community for future generations to come. She is inspiring to me, and so many others. Any city would be lucky to have a young, passionate and ambitious leader like Amy Wong on their city council. Appoint Amy Wong.

Max Ogden – My name is Max Ogden and I live in Altadena. I support Amy J. Wong for El Monte City Council because of her years of commitment and service to El Monte and the San Gabriel Valley region. From her work in Active San Gabriel Valley implementing Safe Routes to School or putting on massive events like 626 Golden Streets that attract thousands of people to the streets of El Monte, she has both the political, technical and community experience that would make a great city council member. She is always learning about best practices and ideas for cities, and I know she'll move El Monte forward. Thank you.

David Diaz – I hope this public comment finds you all doing well. I'm writing to express my support for Amy J. Wong for the City Council appointment. I've known and worked alongside Amy for the last seven years and I'm most impressed by her thoughtfulness, commitment to justice, and ability to work well with diverse stakeholders. It's time for El Monte to have Asian American representation on the dais. Appoint Amy, she's great! Thanks in advance.

Cora Huang – My name is Cora Huang. I live in El Monte, and work at a local school district. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because I believe Amy J. Wong's background and experience qualifies her as the best candidate to fill the open City Council seat. Growing up in El Monte, Amy knows the community and city. It is important for our city's leadership to know their constituents and be a part of the community they serve. Her return to El Monte after college demonstrates Amy's dedication to serve the city she's grown up in. Furthermore, she is currently the Planning Commission Chair for the city. Her involvement in the planning commission shows that she is thinking about the city's future and will work in the best interest of its government and inhabitants. Amy's involvement in non-profits that focus on public health and environmental work is needed to help El Monte become a more sustainable community. The Earth is experiencing a climate crisis and our city needs a champion on the City Council with experience, knowledge and expertise to deal with this crisis. El Monte needs a City Council member that will bring valued experience to help our city adopt and maintain sustainable practices and policies. Amy J. Wong has the experience and motivation necessary to make El Monte a

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more sustainable and livable city. As a lifelong resident of El Monte, I have not seen our city's leadership represent the city's Asian population. Amy J. Wong's appointment will bring representation to El Monte's Asian community and constituents. I believe Amy will bring a valuable perspective to the City Council. Her progressive viewpoints match my own. I want a Council member who I know will champion my interests and be the voice for my concerns. Amy J. Wong is that person. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Jannet G. Hernandez – My name is Jannet Hernandez, I live in the beautiful city of El Monte. My family and I own and operate the only 100% plant-based restaurant in El Monte, Plant Love Food. Located at 10814 Main St. (valley mall). I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because time and time again Amy has proven to put her city first. You can tell she's passionate about El Monte, and helping its community. Being the only vegan restaurant in the city, Amy proposed we collaborated in city and Active SGV events. Prior to the pandemic we were able to host several food festivals by the name of #VEGANINELMONTE. Seeing the success of our own events, in 2019, Amy approached us and thought it would be a great idea to work together on future events. We hosted a vegan food festival at the Active SGV headquarters. It was perfectly planned. We had several food vendors, educational booths, and local bands playing live music. We had an attendance of approx 200 people thanks to Amy. Without her diligent support we would have not been able to pull off such a wonderful event. We also got a chance to meet Hilda Solis and other important government officials thanks to Amy. Not to mention, we got a chance to spread the word about the plant-based lifestyle and its benefits to the community, something the city desperately needs due to rising obesity rates. In addition to the food festivals we also joined Active SGV's Bike Friendly Business Program. We worked closely with Amy as she organized several bike rides to our restaurant in efforts to promote a healthier lifestyle. It's pretty clear Amy would be a great choice for the city. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Andrea Jaramillo – My name is Andrea Jaramillo, I live in Los Angeles, and work at Active San Gabriel Valley located in the city of El Monte. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because she is a progressive leader who is dedicated to helping her city and community thrive. As a colleague of Amy, I have worked with her as she led our team on a number of impactful projects, which have directly improved the quality of life for residents of the San Gabriel Valley, specifically in the greater El Monte area. As an El Monte native, she knows and understands what her community needs. Her continued effort and work in our region shows her commitment to creating equitable communities. Not only is Amy a strong leader and advocate for change, but she is also an honest and caring individual, who always has the best interest of others in mind. I have seen her work tirelessly to ensure that the needs of others are met, even if it means putting hers aside. Amy believes this community should be uplifted and supported, especially our marginalized communities as we begin to rebuild post-Covid. She is truly dedicated to creating a better world for all and she works every day —both in her personal and professional life—to achieve that. Amy will be a voice for those who do not have one and she will represent her community in the way that they need, at the level that they need. I am confident in her ability to be a representative of the city of El Monte and can help your city achieve great things. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

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Monica Curiel – I am writing in support of Amy Wong's appointment to the El Monte City Council. I had the good fortune to work with Amy on several projects in my role as a member of the ActiveSGV staff, spending much of our time serving El Monte and the surrounding communities. Through our work together, I was able to witness firsthand the dedication to community, equity, transparency, education and health that Amy embodies in all her endeavors. She has worked with diverse citizens, in age, ethnicity, backgrounds with joy and enthusiasm. Amy truly has a heart for service coupled with the experience necessary to approach decisions with fairness and intelligence. I know that she will do her due diligence to research, consider all sides and evaluate the best decisions for her city as I have seen her do time and time again as a Planning Commissioner, advocate and educator. My heartfelt endorsement.

Sally Gee – My name is Sally and I write to support appointing Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. I grew up in Chinatown, LA and now reside in Monrovia. I have known Amy for four years. I first met Amy through Active SGV. There she led the Bike Friendly Business Districts project, which promoted local mom and pop shops in El Monte, and started Women on Wheels to create a safe space for women to bike together. Then she became my mentor through the Nature 4 All Leadership Academy, inspiring me to find my own motivations to connect communities to nature. Now she is my colleague in advancing park equity, working toward climate resiliency, and creating healthier communities for everyone. Amy works hard and stays true to her values. She inspires me every day to stay committed to working for the community. Amy will make a great City Councilmember and will work hard for the residents of El Monte. Thank you.

Vincent Chang – My name is Vincent Chang, I live in Monterey Park. I serve as the elected City Clerk for the city. I endorse Amy J. Wong to serve as an appointed member of the El Monte City Council. The City of El Monte currently has an history-making all-woman City council. El Monte residents are made up of approximately 67% Latinos and 28% Asians. Amy J Wong would be the most appropriate choice to fill the seat. She has a well-rounded background in sustainability and housing-having served as a Planning Commissioner for the city and contributed to her community through her nonprofit work at Day One, ActiveSGV, and Nature for All. Please appoint Amy Wong to fill the seat to serve the community. This will allow the City to continue a new tradition of an all-woman council and such a council will truly reflect the make-up of El Monte.

Francisco Ojeda – My name is Francisco Ojeda, I live in Temple City, and work at Active San Gabriel Valley a nonprofit based in El Monte. I am writing this letter in support of Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. The first time I met Amy was during the summer of 2016 while I was attending the Nature For All Leadership Academy. It was then I noticed Amy's commitment to being a steward for the San Gabriel Mountains. Amy was fighting along with a coalition of environmentalists to protect and enhance our beautiful San Gabriel Mountains and make them accessible to all. I would later meet Amy again but this time as a new employee with Active San Gabriel Valley. It was here that I began to notice Amy's commitment to improving the lives of her community members. In just two years I have seen Amy grow into one of the most exceptional leaders the SGV has ever produced. She wholeheartedly dedicates her work and time to make the SGV and the city of El Monte a wonderful place to live and recreate. I have worked with Amy from riding

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our bikes around the SGV at 5 in the morning putting up poster signs of the next 626 Golden Streets event to taking the Silverline to DTLA and speaking at LA City Council meetings. Amy has the qualities, determination, and leadership to make El Monte a more sustainable and equitable city for all. She will always give the El Monte community 110% of her dedication because if there is one thing I know about Amy, it's that she is not a quitter. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Jennifer Ly – My name is Jennifer Ly. I live in El Monte and am a Planner at the City of Long Beach. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council. I returned to El Monte after years away in college and work in the Bay Area and Boston, and was absolutely delighted to meet an individual in Amy who shares my values and who is dedicated to investing in our home city of El Monte. We have in common that we are both first generation Chinese-American women whose parent(s) who came to America as refugees from the Vietnam War, and we are University of California, Berkeley graduates. We also have in common that we grew up riding bikes on the Rio Hondo River. Amy now leads community bike rides on the river through Active San Gabriel Valley, which is a fantastic tour and wonderful opportunity for all community members to get to know the nature that is right here in our city. Amy represents me and I believe many others in our community including those who share our families' migration histories and the broader Asian population, working class families, youth, and people who want stable housing, accessible transportation options, a sustainable environment, and more. Among the reasons that I support Amy is her dedication to environmental justice. El Monte has so much to offer and enjoy, however I'm reminded that we live in an environmental justice community by how quickly dust accumulates indoors and the power outages that have left seniors and non-English speaking residents without air conditioning during heat waves. I am concerned about what this means for my family and community, and believe that Amy has the passion and professional experience to help address environmental justice and improve community resilience in El Monte. Amy will help lead El Monte into a future that is vibrant, more equitable, and sustainable. Her appointment to City Council will help the diversity of our community be represented in the City's leadership. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council.

Katherine Wang – My name is Kat Wang, I live in San Gabriel, and work at City of Hope as a copywriter. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because of her integrity, her work ethic, her professionalism and genuine passion for elevating the quality of the lives of her fellow San Gabriel Valley residents. I am vouching for Amy based on witnessing her years of experience serving El Monte and the surrounding community — through her career with the nonprofit ActiveSGV, as well as her extensive social and environmental activism — and her singular character with which I am well-acquainted. In addition to being moved by her pure heart and empathy, I'm frequently reminded of Amy's intellectual acuity, strong conviction, goal-driven focus and organization. I've had the pleasure of attending and participating in events hosted by Amy where I observed firsthand the success that arises when a thoughtful, energetic and focused individual like Amy is in charge. Amy strikes the right note when it comes to balancing service and leadership. For these reasons, I believe she will be a formidable advocate for any member of her constituency and an asset to the El Monte City Council. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

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Marlene Buenrostro – My name is Marlene Buenrostro, I work here in El Monte. I support Amy J. Wong for City Council because she is a leader dedicated to serving the community, protecting the environment, and advocating for public health. I have had the pleasure to work alongside Amy J. Wong for the past two years to create a sustainable region and livable community for the people of the San Gabriel Valley. During this time I have worked under Amy's direction, and what I admire the most is that Amy leads with empathy and kindness all the while getting the job done. Amy's ability to show up as a caring leader motivates and inspires, it helps create a safe environment that supports creative solutions. Most importantly it highlights her dedication to the well-being of people, and her commitment to the community. Among her many great qualities is that Amy J. Wong understands that protecting the environment is in fact advocating for public health and community well-being. As steward of the San Gabriel Mountains, Amy is dedicated to ensuring access to recreation in local green spaces that promote wellness. The impacts of COVID-19 on our health have made green open spaces more important than ever. Please appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council. Thank you.

Adriana Pinedo – My name is Adriana Pinedo and I live and work in the City of El Monte. I write to you today in support of Amy J. Wong for City Council because I believe she has the vision, understanding and dedication our community needs to be a more equitable and sustainable place to live. Amy has a strong desire to serve our community and has done so not just in her capacity as a Planning Commissioner for the past three years, but also in her work with community non-profit organizations and various advocacy groups. I first had the opportunity to work alongside Ms. Wong in the San Gabriel Valley seven years ago organizing around community-based public health & environmental justice and have seen first-hand how committed she is to improving the quality of life for our residents regardless of income, education, or nationality. Last year brought many glaring problems to the surface, among them the need for a comprehensive COVID-19 response and more work around racial and social justice. Having Ms. Wong on our City Council would be a wonderful step to ensuring these issues remain a top priority and that we can move the city towards long lasting solutions with community input and support. Her passion for justice is perfectly complimented by her first-hand knowledge of the issues our residents face and she's actively dedicated her career to finding ways to improve the quality of life for the people in this community. Ms. Wong is ever mindful and proud of the community that's raised her and I rest assured that if appointed to the El Monte City Council her work will continue to speak for itself. Thank you for your time and consideration to appoint Amy J. Wong to the El Monte City Council.

Rodolfo Cortes Barragan – Nobody has as much passion in supporting the families of El Monte as Irma Zamorano. On the School Board, she worked with special needs families and saw to it that all available resources were used to help children and families. More recently, she has been supporting tenants at risk of losing their homes during this pandemic. We need someone as dedicated as Irma. It's time to appoint her to the Council.

Cosmic J. Menes – As a 69-year resident of our fair city I am writing you today to urge you to appoint anyone other than Irma Zamorano to the vacant council seat. At last week's council meeting myself and several of Mrs. Zamorano's previous colleagues at the Mountain View School board spoke in fervent opposition to Mrs. Zamorano being considered let alone appointed to any government body. True to

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form, Mrs. Zamorano launched an online vitriolic tirade against everyone who she feels has ever crossed her. She made false accusations about local community members, community groups, and lied about her own record as a school board member. If Irma Zamorano can't stand on her own record or accept any criticism, then she has no reason serving in any capacity as a representative of our city. As a public official, you are a public figure, subject to an immense amount of scrutiny and criticism. Like the old saying goes, "If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen." Our fair city is going through some turmoil and it takes someone with a integrity, knowledge, and most importantly some common sense to lead us through challenging times. Irma Zamorano looks out for only one person: Irma Zamorano, and she is only out to take care of herself. She continues to make promises she cannot keep to people who have no understanding of how city government works. The dumb leading the ignorant. In closing, I strongly urge the city council to give deep thought to who you select for this position. Take the petty politics out of this equation and select a good, qualified candidate. Don't settle for mediocre. If you can't reach an agreement, then it should be left to the residents of our fair city to decide who will represent us.

Gabriel Ramirez – I am here tonight, tonight will be a factor to select who will be the next City Council. Tonight all four members of the City Council have the duty to represent the people tonight to select the best candidate for City Council. Tonight there is an applicant and the background has been extensive. The perfect candidate for this position and I am speaking on behalf of Irma Zamorano. She has been an advocate as a former Mountain View School Board Member. She has been very bold and honest and has been helping a lot of the parents and the parents at Mountain View School District and also El Monte have been trusting her. We need leaders like Irma Zamorano to become the next City Council person that will really come up and work with her colleagues that will work for the people that will get things done all together all four of the majority of the four of the five. I really hope tonight and I hope you consider and I urge you to appoint Irma Zamorano.

Howard Owens – My concern is you guys are making a decision tonight for our next City Council person and I don't get the privilege to read about everybody I read about a couple of them and my concern is that the person you pick is going to be open to the whole City of El Monte not just agenda that somebody wants. We have been suffering from a 3-2 vote for the last four years and we want basically someone who will listen and I was hoping that the new candidate that the new City Council person would be open to everything not knowing who she is. I am hoping the next person you guys bring in has the concern for the whole City not just an agenda. I am very upset about what things are costing the City. We have all these lawsuits from the marijuana thing we have to have someone who is really concerned for the City, what is going to happen to the City and the future of the City not just somebody else's agenda. I don't want anyone dictating what the new person does so those are my concerns be very careful when you chose somebody because that is going to have a lot to do with the City going on moving on where everyone can agree on someone.

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7. REGULAR AGENDA:

- 7.1 City Council Interviews of Applicants to Fill Current City Council Vacancy and Possible Approval of a Resolution Appointing a Successful Applicant to the City Council Pursuant to Government Code Section 36512.

RECOMMENDATION OF BUSINESS ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Confirm format for conducting City Council interviews;
2. Interview candidates in alphabetical order, allowing each candidate to first make an introductory statement of no more than three (3) minutes;
3. After completing all interviews, do one (1) of the following:
 - a. Entertain motions for the nomination of one (1) or more candidates to fill the vacancy and upon the completion of nominations vote on each candidate in the order they were nominated with the first candidate to receive three (3) or more votes being appointed to fill the vacancy by City Council Resolution; or
 - b. Move to continue the proceedings to another date wherein nominations will be made and nominees will be voted on, provided such date is no later than the January 30, 2021 deadline for filing the vacancy by appointment; or
 - c. Solicit additional applications by extending the nomination period, provided that the appointment process under such extension may still be completed by or before January 30, 2021; or
 - d. Dispense with the appointment process and direct staff to prepare all documents necessary to call a special election for the filling of the vacancy as early as the Regular Meeting of February 2, 2021; and
4. Provide such other direction to City staff as deemed necessary or desirable.

NOTE: If an applicant is appointed, the Oath of Office will be administered by the City Clerk immediately following the appointment.

Total Cost: N/A

Account No: N/A

Is the cost of this item budgeted? N/A

Resolution No. 10230

Councilmember Puente will ask Question No. 10; Councilmember Martinez Muela will ask Question No. 5; Mayor Pro Tem Morales will ask Question No. 2; and Mayor Ancona will ask Question No. 3.

Break at 7:27 pm

Return at 7:34 pm

Break at 8:35 pm

Return at 8:47 pm

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Nominations:

m) Mayor Ancona

s)

Motion fails to Nominate Rosalina Nava

m) Mayor Ancona

s)

Motion fails to Nominate Irma Zamorano

m) Mayor Ancona

s)

Motion fails to Nominate Julia Ruedas

m) Mayor Pro Tem Morales

**s) Councilmember Puente
To Nominate Jerry Velasco**

**2-2 (Mayor Ancona and Councilmember Martinez
Muela No)**

m) Mayor Pro Tem Morales

**s) Councilmember Puente
To Nominate Amy Wong**

**2-2 (Mayor Ancona and Councilmember Martinez
Muela No)**

m) Mayor Ancona

**s) Councilmember Martinez Muela
To Nominate Cesar Peralta**

**2-2 (Mayor Pro Tem Morales and Councilmember
Puente No)**

m) Mayor Ancona

**s) Councilmember Martinez Muela
To Nominate Martin Herrera**

**2-2 (Mayor Pro Tem Morales and Councilmember
Puente No)**

Break at 8:55 pm

Return at 9:04 pm

List of Candidates in Ranking Order for the Mayor and the Councilmembers:

Mayor Ancona	Mayor Pro Tem Morales	Councilmember Martinez Muela	Councilmember Puente
1. Cesar Peralta	1. Amy Wong	1. Cesar Peralta	1. Jerry Velasco
2. Martin Herrera	2. Jerry Velasco	2. Martin Herrera	2. Amy Wong
3. Irma Zamorano	3. Rosalina Nava	3. Julia Ruedas	3. Martin Herrera

List of Candidates Ranked by Points:

- 1. Cesar Peralta – 6 points**

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2. Jerry Velasco – 5 points
3. Amy Wong – 5 points
4. Martin Herrera – 5 points
5. Irma Zamorano – 1 point
6. Rosalina Nava – 1 point
7. Julia Ruedas – 1 point

Break at 9:24 pm
Return at 9:32 pm

m) Councilmember Martinez Muela
s) Mayor Ancona 4-0
To extend the meeting past 10:00 pm

m) Mayor Ancona
s) Councilmember Martinez Muela 2-2 (Mayor Pro Tem Morales and Councilmember
To Nominate Cesar Peralta Puente No)

m) Mayor Pro Tem Morales
s) Councilmember Puente 2-2 (Mayor Ancona and Councilmember Martinez
To Nominate Amy Wong Muela No)

m) Mayor Pro Tem Morales
s) Councilmember Puente 2-2 (Mayor Ancona and Councilmember Martinez
To Nominate Jerry Velasco Muela No)

m) Councilmember Martinez Muela
s) Mayor Ancona 3-1 (Mayor Pro Tem Morales No)
To Nominate Martine Herrera

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Without objection the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 10:12 pm.

The next Regular Meeting of the City Council will be held on **February 2, 2021** at 6:00 p.m. This Agenda will be posted on the City's website, www.ci.el-monte.ca.us, and physically posted no less than 72 hours prior to the start of the subject regular meeting. Although it is the City's practice and desire to electronically post a copy of this Agenda along with supporting material as part of its website posting, the size or formatting of certain supporting materials may render their website posting infeasible. Nevertheless, all supporting materials related to any item on this Agenda, that is made available to the members of the council may be inspected by members of the public at the City Clerk's Office located at 11333 Valley Boulevard, El Monte, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 am – 5:30 pm. For more information, please call the City Clerk's Office at 626-580-2016.

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All public meetings and events sponsored or conducted by the City of El Monte are held in sites accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for accommodations may be made by calling the office of the City Clerk at (626) 580-2016 at least three (3) working days prior to the event, if possible. This Agenda and copies of documents distributed at the meeting are available in alternative formats upon request.

Catherine A. Eredia, City Clerk
City of El Monte

APPROVED:

Jessica Ancona, Mayor
City of El Monte