



## CITY COUNCILMEMBER REPORT

Meeting: Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Reporting Councilmember: Mayor Liang Chao

Report Dates: 4/8/25 to 4/29/25

- Last Activity Report in the [April 15, 2025 Council Meeting Agenda](#).

### **Section 1: Announcement - Message from the Mayor:**

#### ❖ **Mayor's Initiatives:**

- **Cupertino Stories:** You are welcome to email entries to [CupertinoStories@gmail.com](mailto:CupertinoStories@gmail.com).
  - Thank you to Cupertino Science Technology University (CSTU) for managing the project. They have developed tools to convert audio/video stories to text.
  - The website will be redesigned soon to accept story submissions.
- **Booth at the Festivals:** Thank you for volunteers helping to support the Mayor's Initiatives Booth at April 5 Earth Day Festival and April 26 & April 27 Cherry Blossom Festival.
- **Dance in the Plaza:** The first **Dance in the Plaza was held on Saturday April 12 from 2:30-5:30pm**. Thank you for Amazing Taiwan for sponsoring the event. We had a lot of fun. The second Dance in the Plaza will be held in June. Date to be announced later.
- **Volunteer Appreciation:** The Mayor hosted an Appreciation Dinner for CERT, CARE, ARM volunteers and block leaders on April 17 after a proclamation was presented to them at the April 15 Council Meeting. About 50 people attended. Many have served over 10, 20 years and some even served 30 years. Thank you to AlphaX for sponsoring the dinner.
- **Hand Puppet Show: May 4, 2025 2:30-5pm Cupertino Community Hall**
  - Watch the legendary hand puppet show from Taiwan. Bring 600cc soda bottles to make your own hand puppet. [More details](#).
- **Community Multicultural Juried Art Show at the AAPI Multicultural Festival:** The Cupertino Art Show will be held on Saturday May 24, from 12pm to 4pm in collaboration with the APPI Multicultural Festival. Submit your entries by May 18 at <https://aapicommunityjuriedartshow.artcall.org/>



- ❖ **Monthly Chat with Mayor Community Meetings:** These meetings will be generally held on the second Monday at 5pm each month, but it might be moved to other Mondays if needed. The location will rotate so that we cover different businesses each month.
  - The last Mayor's Chat was held at the Jade Tea Garden on April 15. Thank you to Captain Neil Valenzuela for sending Lieutenant Shawn Flores to represent him and answer questions.
  - The next Monthly Chat with Mayor will be held on Monday May 12th at 5pm. The location is Lee's Sandwiches (20363 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014) at St. Joseph's Plaza.



- ❖ **FY 2025-27 Work Program Prioritization:** The staff has proposed a new process for Work Program Prioritization in an [info memo](#). Check the [Work Program](#) page for updates.
  - At the [March 18 Council Meeting](#), the Council adopted [a list of Work Program items](#) for consideration for the FY 25-26 budget.
  - The final decision will likely be made in April/May before the Council adopts the FY 25-26 budget in June 2025.
- ❖ **Process to Request Certificate of Recognition or Commendation:**
  - To ensure such requests are handled as smoothly and efficiently as possible, the City Manager's Office has implemented a dedicated process.
  - We kindly ask that you complete the following form, which will allow Mayor Chao to present a certificate of recognition: <https://cupertino.gov/councilmeetingrequest>
- ❖ **Proclamations at Council meetings:** This year, I plan to follow a tradition upheld by some former Cupertino mayors and other mayors in recognizing organizations or individuals with proclamations during Council meetings. My goal is to honor those who have made consistent and/or significant contributions to Cupertino, with an emphasis on those who are less well-known. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to email me at [LChao@Cupertino.gov](mailto:LChao@Cupertino.gov).

Proclamations for contributions will generally be presented at the second Council meeting of each month, while the first meeting will continue to recognize special observances (e.g., awareness months or weeks) as before. You are also welcome to submit suggestions for these recognitions.

## Section 2: Committee Assignment

2024-04-09 [Santa Clara Valley Water Commission](#) meeting ([Agenda](#), Video to be posted later)

- In order to support infrastructure projects to supply water to the region, the water rate is projected to increase by 9.9% from FY 26 to FY 34. Thus, the rate will double in 10 years. (Cupertino belongs to North

## Groundwater Charge Increase Projection

AS PUBLISHED IN THE PAWS REPORT FEBRUARY 28, 2025

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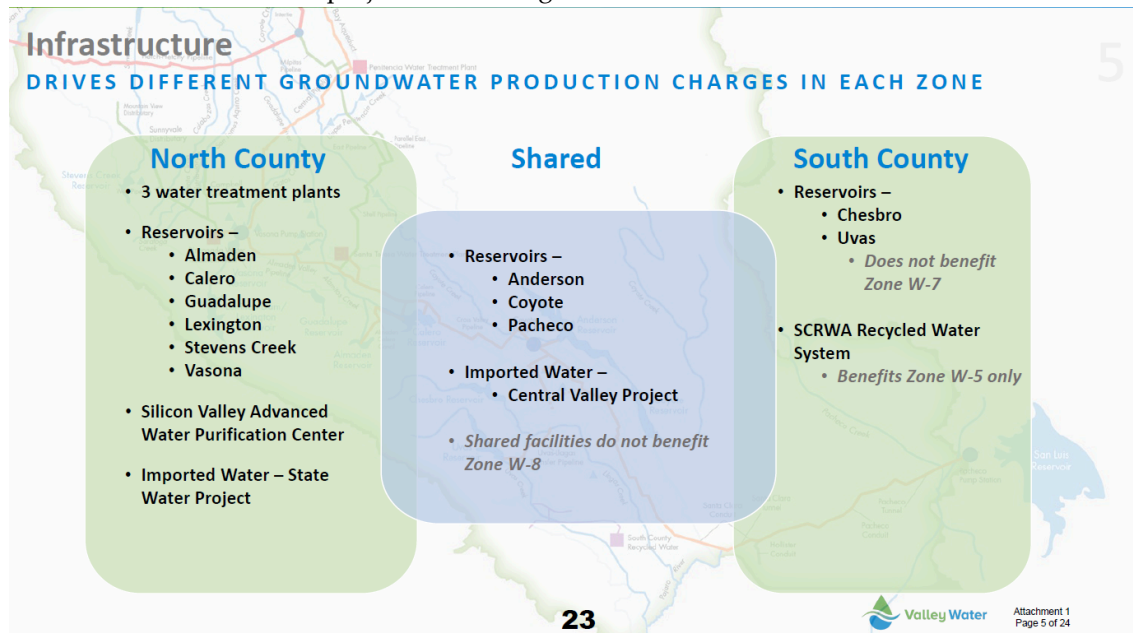
M&amp;I Groundwater Charge Year to Year Growth %

Baseline Scenario	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33	FY34	FY35
North County Zone W-2	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	7.0%
Prior Year	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	7.0%	
South County Zone W-5	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%
Prior Year	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	
South County Zone W-7	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%
Prior Year	14.2%	14.2%	14.2%	14.2%	14.2%	14.2%	14.2%	14.2%	14.2%	
South County Zone W-8	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%
Prior Year	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	

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- Here are the infrastructure projects in each region:



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### 2024-04-23 West Valley Mayors and Managers Monthly Meeting - at Gardenia, Los Gatos

- Each city shares updates and their effort on Emergency Preparedness.
- Los Gatos Mayor formed an advisory group of about 15 people, reporting to the Mayor, where there are representatives from the Fire Department and Red Cross.
- Saratoga and Los Gatos had multiple study sessions on emergency preparedness and the high severity fire zones.
- Monte Sereno is looking into a simulation for evacuation and a radio station for communication during emergency.



### **Section 3: Activities by Date (Date, Title, and Description):**

**NOTE:**

- This list does not include internal meetings with staff only, such as prep sessions or meetings with the City Manager.
- This list includes activities to “represent the community I am elected to serve”, “to respond to community needs and complaints,” and “to communicate policies and programs to residents,” among other [responsibilities](#) of a City Councilmember.
- Due to my work schedule, I have cut down on the event attendance for ceremonial purposes, especially those I have attended almost every year in the past. Instead, I focus more of my time on constituent services.

**2024-04-09 Meeting on Wolfe Road Housing Project with Eden Housing and County representative**

- They have done extensive outreach and taken community input to inform the design to reduce the impact to neighborhoods.
- They are actively engaging with CalTran to pursue the alternate emergency exit. They have addressed the issues CalTrain raised as much as they can, but it is still unclear whether the alternate exit is feasible.

**2025-04-09 Attended [“October 8” film](#) screening by [Anti-Defamation League \(ADL\)](#) [Central Pacific](#)**

- The full name of the film is “October H8TE – The Fight for the Soul of America”.
- “The film covers the 2024 pro-Palestinian protests on university campuses after the October 7 Hamas-led attack on Israel. It describes how “anti-Israel sentiment came to a fever pitch in the immediate aftermath of the massacre” and argues such sentiment “morphed into antisemitism”. ([wikipedia](#))

**2025-04-10 Meeting on the [Westport Senior Living project](#) - with Related and the Planning Commission Vice Chair Tracy Kosolcharoen**

- They presented their proposed modifications due to the reality of the economic situations.
- Highlights from the [Project Description](#):
  - Modify the approved senior assisted living dwelling unit count to 136 dwelling units
  - Eliminate the basement-level parking garage;
  - Reduce the ground floor retail in Building 1 to 4,000 square feet; and
  - Waive application of the Park Land Dedication Fee
- They received strong community concerns on the parking issue and they are exploring options to add more parking spaces. The community also is not happy with the significant reduction in retail space.
- See the April 22 Planning Commission Agenda for more details and watch the video for the motion approved by the Planning Commission to consider the option to provide 8,000 sqft retail with an incentive for parkland fee waiver.

**2025-04-10 Meeting on [the Stevens Creek Office Center \(20807-20883 Stevens Creek Blvd\)](#) [project](#) (Offices behind Panera Bread) - with Harvest Properties, Inc. and the Planning Commission Chair Santosh Rao**

- They plan to develop townhomes on the side, which will replace the retail building, where Panera Bread is located.
- “Development of 122-units (66 small-lot single family and 56 townhomes), including 24 affordable units, to replace three office buildings and one retail building on a 6.93-acre site, located close to the northwestern corner of the intersection of Stevens Creek Blvd and Saich Way.” ([City Westport page](#))
- There will be some moderately sized townhomes and some smaller townhomes.
- They received strong community sentiment to preserve the retail building with Panera Bread and Voyager Coffee. They are seriously considering that option.

**2025-04-11 Meeting with CUSD to consider the potential for the Finch Property**

- The CUSD Board President has given oral confirmation in March and then written confirmation on April 7 that CUSD is interested in selling the Finch Property, whose proceeds will be invested by CUSD in a revenue-generating option.
- We communicated that we hope to place the item on the agenda for the Council to consider and Chris Jew, CUSD CFO, will send over documents to help our staff prepare agenda materials.

**2025-04-11 Meeting with Claudio Bono, the manager of Cupertino Inn**

- Mr. Bono proposed the possibility of providing the Cupertino Inn as an extended stay hotel for De Anza students. For double occupancy, the rent will likely be \$1000-1500, including weekly cleaning and daily breakfast.
- This might be an affordable option for student housing for De Anza College and he has proposed the idea to the Foothill-De Anza College Board

**2025-04-12 Dance in the Plaza (Mayor's Initiative) at the Civic Plaza, in collaboration with Amazing Taiwan**

- Multiple dance groups performed and led dances for attendees to follow.
- A group from CSTU led a few Indian dances
- Art Commissioner Archana Panda led an impromptu Bollywood dance.

**2025-04-13 Attended the Cupertino Holi Festival in Memorial Park - organized by Cupertino Chamber of Commerce**

- Many families attended. Children were having fun coloring each other with the colored powder.

**2025-04-14 Monthly Chat with Mayor at the Jade Tea Garden - Special Guest from the Sheriff's Office**

- Captain Neil Valenzuela sent Lieutenant Shawn Flores to represent him and answer questions.
- Residents asked about the Crime reports, which are in fact included with the [City Manager's biweekly newsletter Cupertino Connect](#).
  - The weekly crime reports are also available at the [Cupertino's Crime Summary](#) page.
  - Also check out the [Cupertino Crime Dashboard](#)
- Lieutenant Shawn Flores confirmed that Cupertino Sheriff does help patrol De Anza College at night through a mutual aid program. A resident asked whether the college compensates Cupertino for the cost.

**2025-04-17 Meeting with Stanley Yang, Local 21, and staff representative for the employee union**

**2025-04-17 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner with CERT, CARE, ARM volunteers and block leaders**

- A proclamation was presented to them at the April 15 Council Meeting for the Volunteer Week.
- About 50 people attended the dinner. Many have served over 10, 20 years and some even served 30 years.
- Special thanks to AlphaX for sponsoring the dinner, which I was initially going to cover with Mayor's Fund.

**2025-04-18 Visited the office of [AlphaX RE Capital](#) with Planning Commission Vice Chair Tracy Kosolcharoen**

- AlphaX just moved their headquarters from San Jose to Cupertino. They are proud to be a women-funded, women-led company.
- They focus on small scale developments. They are also forming 20-30 entities to provide specialized services, from building ADU, to interior design, for homeowners or small developers.
- As a newcomer to Cupertino, they are eager to get involved with the Cupertino Community and support community events.

**2025-04-18 Attended the Unity Dinner, organized by the [Indo-American Community Federation \(IACF-USA\)](#) in collaboration with [India Community Center \(ICC\)](#)**

- I was one of the panelists for the panel on AI in Government with former Fremont Mayor Lily May and 4 other industry experts.
- Thanks to Terry, the CTO of Cupertino, for bringing me up to date with the use of AI and AI policy in Cupertino.

**2025-04-19 TV studio interview with the [Cupertino TV Productions \(CTVP\)](#) team at KMTV studio**

- CTVP is an all-volunteer team who produce TV [award winning TV programs](#), broadcasted in the [Cupertino TV channel](#)
- "Cupertino TV Productions (CTVP) is a 50+ club of active individuals sponsored by the City of Cupertino. We produce half hour TV interview shows which are taped at the public access station, KMVT15 Community Media, in Mountain View, CA. Since 1983, we have produced more than 1,200 programs covering a wide variety of topics of interest to the community. Our shows are cablecast on 6 public access TV stations in some 13 communities, and can also be seen on YouTube by at least 32,300 subscribers and more." ([CTVP About page](#))
- This year they are producing a series of programs on the TV government.

**2025-04-20 Attended "Mimouna" in the backyard of a resident**

- The Mimouna is a joyful Moroccan Jewish tradition marking the end of the Passover holiday. The festival is filled with homemade Moroccan sweets and dancing to Arabic/middle eastern music.
- "Mimouna is a traditional Maghrebi Jewish celebration dinner that takes place in Morocco, Israel, France, Canada, and other places around the world where Maghrebi Jews live. It is held the day after Passover, marking the return to eating hametz (leavened bread), which is forbidden throughout the week of Passover." ([wikipedia](#))

**2025-04-21 Meeting with a representative of the [Braver Angel Silicon Valley Alliance](#)**

- Discussed potential topics for a town hall or workshop as a Mayor's Initiative
- "Braver Angels is a nationwide bipartisan citizens' movement started in 2016 by a small group of conservatives and liberals who were alarmed by the venom and rancor they were seeing in the political public space. Braver Angels is dedicated to bringing red and blue Americans together in a working alliance to depolarize America." ([Braver Angel's site](#))

**2025-04-23 Attended the Press Conference for the upcoming Taiwanese Folk Song Concert, hosted by Smiling Raindrop Foundation and Global Federation of Chinese Business Association**

- The musicians gave a demo with violin, cello and erhu, a Chinese instrument.
- Iconic Taiwanese folk songs revived using classic

**Section 4: Information of Interest to My Constituents: (updated on 4/8)**

- **Builders' Remedy (BR) Projects ([Status of Projects](#))**
  - ★ **BR Projects with incomplete application status (pursuant to Government Code Section 65941.1.)**
    - [20739 Scofield](#) (one block from Faria Elementary School, zoned R1-10): The project will replace one single-family home with 20-unit, 5 story, condominium on 15,004 sqft (0.34 acre) lot
    - [Vista Heights \(near entrance of Linda Vista Park\)](#) : The vacant site, zoned

## Councilmember Report

RHS, will build 33 units (8 condominiums and 25 single family homes on vacant hillside property of 86.1 acres.

- [Upland Way \(11841 Upland Way, zoned RHS-70\)](#): 6 single family homes, including 2 affordable units, on vacant hillside property of 1.56 acres with average slopes greater than 30%

★ **Other active BR projects:**

- [Dividend Homes \(20085 & 20111 Stevens Creek Blvd\)](#), to the east of the Fire Station, on 2.6 acres, zoned R4 and commercial mixed use. The project will replace two existing office buildings with 57 for-sale townhomes, including 12 affordable units.
- [Dividend Homes \(20045 & 20065 Stevens Creek Blvd\)](#), to the east of the Fire Station, on 1.77 acres, zoned commercial mixed use. The project will replace existing office buildings with 32 for-sale townhomes, including 6 affordable units.

★ **Relevant News on the determination of incompleteness for BR projects:**

- [“Los Gatos Files Declaratory Relief Action to Resolve Land Use Uncertainty”](#) (Press Release from the City of Los Gatos)
  - “That section [Gov. Code 65941.1] provides that applicants for land use approvals have 90 days after an initial 180-day deadline to submit any missing information needed to complete a formal application for a so-called “builder’s remedy” housing project. **That section further stipulates that if the missing information is not submitted “within the 90-day period, then the preliminary application shall expire and have no further force or effect.”**
  - “In an apparently conflicting reading, in letters dated August 30, 2024 and February 12, 2025, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) **stated its view that there is not just one 90-day period but that successive 90-day periods can run indefinitely.** By filing this lawsuit, the Town is acting in good faith so that it will know how to comply with the law and ensure it can continue to serve its residents and property owners, while lawfully processing land use applications.”

★ **Other docs:**

- The July 25, 2024 info memo, titled [“Scofield Drive SB330 Preliminary Application pursuant to Builder’s Remedy”](#), has information about proposed BR projects and their review process.

• **[Other Residential Projects](#) - complete applications submitted, not yet approved:**

- [Pizza Hut/Staples/ Fontana's \(20770, 20830, 20840, & 20850 Stevens Creek Blvd\)](#). adjacent to the Cupertino Crossroads Shopping Center): on 2.97 acres, zoned commercial mixed use. The project will replace existing retail stores with 59 townhome condominium units across eight, three-story buildings
- [United Furniture \(10065 & 10075 Stevens Creek Blvd, across from Vallco\)](#), on 2.72 acres, zoned commercial mixed use. The project will replace existing retail stores with 55 townhome condominium units, with 10 ADUs, three-story buildings
- [Stevens Office Center \(20813, 20823, 20883 and 20807 Stevens Creek Blvd\)](#), on 6.93 acres, zoned commercial mixed use. The project will replace two office buildings and one retail building with 122 for-sale units (66 small-lot single family and 56 townhomes), including 24 affordable units
- [20865 McClellan Rd](#): on 0.99 acres, zoned R3TH. The project will replace one single-family home with 27 townhomes, including 4 affordable units, in three-story buildings
- [Evylich Court \(10857, 10867, 10877 & 10887 Linda Vista Dr\)](#): on 2.53 acres, zoned R3TH. The project will replace 4 single-family homes with 51 townhomes, including 11 affordable units



- **Other Residential Projects - SB 330 preliminary application submitted, but not complete applications:**
  - [Wolfe Road Housing Project \(10333 N. Wolfe Road\)](#): 250-300 total units across the 5-acre property. It will be 100% rental apartments. The affordable housing will benefit those making 80% or less of the area median income (AMI).
    - a full report on our Listening Phase at [this link](#).
    - February 12 Community Co-Creation Event at Collins Elementary School
- **Other Residential Projects - Revision of already approved projects:**
  - **Westport Senior Assisted Living Housing (revision submitted)**: The developer Related has submitted a revision to add more units, reduce retail space, remove the underground garage and request a waiver of Parkland dedication Fee. It is going to the Planning Commission in May
    - Previous approval in 2021 and 2024: [Westport \(21267 Stevens Creek Blvd\)](#)
  - [Marina Plaza \(10145 N. De Anza Blvd, 10118 Bandleby Dr.\)](#), on 5.1 acres, zoned commercial and mixed use: The project will add more units, slightly reduce retail space, deliver over smaller for-sale starter homes under 1500 sq. ft. and an outdoor amphitheater.
    - Previous approval in 2022L Marina Plaza.
- **License Plate Reader Camera - City-operated or personal ones**
  - ★ The Council has adopted the Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Camera program ([Resolution 24-094](#)) in order to alert the police when a license plate with previous record is detected. Some cameras are placed at major roads entering Cupertino.
  - ★ The residents or businesses can connect your home or business surveillance camera with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office. The registration form is at the bottom of [this page](#).

## **Section 5: Information Access Useful to My Constituents (not updated):**

### **1. Information Memo posted on the City website:**

City Council Informational Memos are now available on the City website. The information can be accessed from the City website at [cupertino.org/memos](http://cupertino.org/memos) and the City Council page. You can also find the page by entering search terms "info memos" at the top of the website.

- ★ Anyone may use the eNotification signup to receive informational memo updates by email.
- ★ The info memos are now hosted in the digital archive as [all other city records](#).
- ★ Click "+" to zoom in.
- ★ On a laptop:
  - To open the document as PDF, click on the Print icon and then click on "Download & Print". The downloaded PDF will appear in a new tab for viewing.
  - This does not work on Safari browser on an iPhone.
- ★ To copy and paste text, you must open it as PDF and then copy & paste from there.

New memos posted, since last report:

- No new info memos published since February 28

- **Recordings of Commission Meetings:**

Starting in June, commission meetings will be recorded for viewing later, although no teleconferencing to allow remote participation.

- Find the recordings [here](#) under each commission.

#### 4. How to Search an agenda item:

A community member showed me a way to search for items on the past city meetings:

- Go to this page: <https://cupertino.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>
  - Make sure that “Calendar” is selected from the top row of tabs and the “List View” is selected from the bottom row of tabs.
  - Enter the search term, such as “investment report”. Choose the year or select “All Years”

The screenshot shows the Cupertino Legistar website's calendar search interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Home, Legislation, Calendar (selected), City Council, Commissions/Committees, View City Channel Videos, City Records, and YouTube Videos. Below these, there are view options: List View (selected) and Calendar View. A search bar contains the text 'investment report'. To the right of the search bar are dropdown menus for 'All Years' and 'City Council', and checkboxes for 'notes' and 'closed captions'. Below the search bar is a 'Search Calendar' button and a 'Help' link. A summary bar indicates '144 records' and provides 'Group' and 'Export' options. The results are displayed in a table with columns: Name, Meeting Date, Meeting Time, Meeting Location, Meeting Details, Presentations, and Agenda. The first result is for the City Council meeting on 5/21/2024 at 6:00 PM, located at 10300 Torre Avenue and 10350 Torre Avenue, held via Teleconference. It is marked as 'Non-Televised' and a 'Closed Session'. Links for 'Meeting details', 'Presentations', and 'Agenda' are provided for this meeting.

Name	Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting Location	Meeting Details	Presentations	Agenda
<a href="#">City Council</a>	5/21/2024	6:00 PM	10300 Torre Avenue and 10350 Torre Avenue and via Teleconference <i>Non-Televised Closed Session</i>	<a href="#">Meeting details</a>	<a href="#">Presentations</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>