



STAFF REPORT

AGENDA NO: 5b

MEETING DATE: April 27, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor, City Council, and Planning Commission

Date: April 27, 2019

From: Andrea Pappajohn, Sustainability & Climate Mgmt. Fellow – (650) 558-7271
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Subject: City Council/Planning Commission Discussion of the DRAFT 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update

BACKGROUND

The City of Burlingame has long been an advocate and steward of the environment. The City prepared its first Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2009 to address greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the city. Over the last decade, the City has implemented multiple programs and efforts to significantly reduce GHG emissions from City operations and the community and is on track to achieve the 2020 GHG reduction goal set by the original 2009 CAP.

A GHG reduction target was first set by the State in 2006 with the passage of AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act. The legislation called for the State to achieve 1990 GHG emissions levels by 2020 and encouraged local cities to follow suit. In 2016, the State Legislature passed SB 32, setting a mandated reduction target for GHG emissions of 40% below 1990 by 2030, and an intermediate target of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, set in Executive Order S-3-05. These targets are in-line with the scientifically established levels needed to limit global warming below 3.6° F. (2° C.) in this century, which is the warming threshold at which scientists say there will likely be major climate disruptions such as super droughts and rising sea levels.

In 2015, the City initiated a process focused on a community-led effort to update the City's General Plan. The City prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) in June 2018 that analyzed the potential environmental impacts associated with the adoption and implementation of the General Plan, including potential impacts from GHG emissions, energy use, and other effects of global climate change (State Clearinghouse No. 20170820180). The DEIR analysis showed mitigation measures were needed to reduce GHG emissions to levels consistent with the State's GHG goals. The preparation of a 2030 CAP Update was introduced in the DEIR as a mitigation measure to reduce GHG emissions levels consistent with the State's GHG goals. The City adopted the General Plan and certified the General Plan EIR in January 2019. Both the General Plan and EIR anticipated the 2030 CAP Update as a necessary component.

Staff worked with the assistance of the General Plan consultant, MIG, to develop the 2030 CAP Update. The 2030 CAP will replace the previous 2009 CAP.

DISCUSSION

Key sources of GHG emissions data are identified in the 2005 and 2015 Community-Wide Emissions Inventory. The 2015 Inventory reflects the best available information for actual GHG emissions levels within the city. Projections for 2020, 2030, 2040, and 2050 are based on growth projections from 2015 consistent with the General Plan.

While the State uses 1990 as a baseline year, the City uses 2005 as a baseline. Local governments tend to not have reliable GHG data prior to 2005. According to the California Air Resources Board, a reduction target of 15% below the 2005 level is considered to be comparable to a return to 1990 levels.

As a brief outline, the 2030 CAP Update:

- Provides necessary background, purpose and objectives, climate change context, inventories, forecasts and reduction targets in Chapters 1 - 3
- Presents 20 GHG Reduction Measures in Chapter 4. The measures address:
 - Built Environment and Transportation (Measures 1 – 10)
 - Energy (Measures 11 – 15)
 - Water and Wastewater (Measures 16-17)
 - Waste (Measure 18)
 - Municipal (Measures 19 -20)
- Summarizes the steps the City is taking to address sea level rise and other climate change impacts in Chapter 5
- Provides an Implementation and Monitoring Plan to Track Progress in Chapter 6

The adoption of the 2030 CAP will include amendments to the General Plan to include a number of new policies designated in the CAP. The General Plan EIR will also need to be amended to reflect the adoption of the 2030 CAP, thereby allowing Impact 10-1 (Increases in GHG Emissions) to no longer be considered a significant and unavoidable impact, and therefore be removed from the EIR.

In this joint City Council/Planning Commission meeting MIG will provide a presentation of the CAP and be available to answer questions.

The next step will be for the Planning Commission to review the CAP at a subsequent meeting and take public testimony to make a recommendation to the City Council. This will include recommendations on the CAP document, as well as associated General Plan and EIR amendments. There can also be presentations to interested community groups as needed. The City Council will then review the CAP, proposed General Plan policies, and EIR amendments as a General Plan Amendment.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this review and discussion of the Draft CAP.

Exhibits:

- DRAFT City of Burlingame 2030 Climate Action Plan Update and Appendices