



# STAFF REPORT

AGENDA NO: 8e

MEETING DATE: August 12, 2019

**To: Planning Commissioners**

**Date: August 12, 2019**

**From: Andrea Pappajohn, Sustainability & Climate Mgmt. Fellow – (650) 558-7271  
Kevin Gardiner, Community Development Director – (650) 558-7253**

**Subject: Adoption of the Burlingame 2030 Climate Action Plan and Addendum to the  
General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR)**

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## **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.

The Draft CAP was introduced at the Joint City Council and Planning Commission meeting on April 27, 2019. Since that time, staff have conducted outreach and sought feedback on the CAP. The CAP was posted on the City's website and announced through eNews and social media. Copies of the Draft CAP were made available to the public at the Main Library, Easton Branch Library, and Planning Division Counter. The Draft CAP was also presented to the public at the Citizens Environmental Council (CEC) meeting on May 8, with a question and answer session, and the CEC subsequently provided comments on the Draft CAP.

An official Notice of Availability of an Addendum to the City of Burlingame General Plan Environmental Impact Report was posted on June 19, 2019, with a comment period from June 19, through July 3. City Staff contacted and received informal comments from Bay Area Air Quality Management District staff.

Based on the comments received on the Draft CAP and EIR Addendum, staff and MIG have prepared a revised draft with proposed revisions shown as tracked changes (attached). All comments have been reviewed and considered for revised draft. MIG has also prepared a memorandum addressing the comments received (attached).

In this Planning Commission meeting MIG will provide a presentation of the changes to the draft CAP that have been made in the revised document and responses to comments received. The revised document with tracked changes is attached to this staff report; for reference, the original unedited draft and appendices may be downloaded at [www.burlingame.org/climateactionplan](http://www.burlingame.org/climateactionplan).

## **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

**General Plan Amendments.** The adoption of the CAP will involve amendments to the General Plan to include two policies and two amended policies designated in the CAP. Please refer to the MIG response to comments memorandum (attached) for a summary of the new and amended policies proposed in the CAP.

**Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).** The General Plan EIR has also been amended to reflect the adoption of the CAP. An Addendum to the EIR has been prepared, to be considered in conjunction with the CAP. Adoption of the CAP will allow EIR Impact 10-1 (Increases in GHG Emissions) to no longer be considered a significant and unavoidable impact, and therefore be removed from the General Plan EIR.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION**

The Planning Commission should take public testimony to make a recommendation to the City Council. This will include recommendations on the CAP document, as well as the associated General Plan amendments and EIR Addendum.

### Exhibits:

- MIG Memorandum – Response to Public Comments Received on the City of Burlingame 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update and Addendum to the City of Burlingame 2040 General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Draft City of Burlingame 2030 Climate Action Plan Update – Revised Public Review Draft
- Addendum to the 2040 General Plan Environmental Impact Report
- Resolution (Proposed) – Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report
- Resolution (Proposed) – Adoption of the Climate Action Plan and General Plan Amendment
- Notice of Public Hearing – Published August 2, 2019

*The original unedited Draft CAP may be downloaded at: [www.burlingame.org/climateactionplan](http://www.burlingame.org/climateactionplan).*