



DATE: May 19, 2015

CATEGORY: New Business

DEPT.: Community Development

TITLE: **Municipal Operations Climate Action Plan**

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution Approving a Municipal Operations Climate Action Plan, including establishing new greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040, and 2045, to be read in title only, further reading waived (Attachment 1 to the Council report).

BACKGROUND

In November 2009 and March 2010, the City Council adopted voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets for the community as a whole and for municipal operations. The adoption of the targets was in response to the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) being signed into law, requiring California to reduce Statewide GHG emissions over time.

Since that time, the City has developed several plans and policies to guide its municipal operations sustainability efforts and GHG reduction strategies, such as two Environmental Sustainability Actions Plans and a regulatory-based Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program associated with the General Plan update. However, a comprehensive plan to meet the City's short- and long-term municipal operations GHG reduction targets had not been developed.

The City's municipal operations GHG reduction targets are:

- 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2010;
- 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2015;
- 25 percent below 2005 levels by 2020; and
- 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050.

While these reduction targets are voluntary and there are no legal consequences of not achieving them, working to reduce municipal operations GHG emissions supports the State's GHG reduction goals under AB 32 and could help reduce the City's operating expenses through increased efficiencies.

In February 2013, the City Council authorized staff to develop municipal operations and communitywide Climate Action Plans (CAPs) in conjunction with the County of Santa Clara (County), which had secured PG&E and Strategic Growth Council grant funding to develop CAPs for several local cities. Staff has worked with the County's consultant, AECOM, to develop a Final Draft Municipal Operations Climate Action Plan (MOCAP) (an exhibit to Attachment 1), which focuses on actions that reduce emissions from municipal operations. In parallel, staff has also worked on the development of a draft Climate Protection Roadmap (CPR) to guide the City's broader communitywide GHG reduction efforts. A Public Review Draft of the MOCAP was discussed with the City Council on March 31, 2015, and a draft CPR was presented to the City Council on April 28, 2015.

At the March 31, 2015 Study Session, the City Council expressed overall support for the plan without majority support for any changes. Based on Councilmember comments, the City will continue to pursue other strategies not specifically identified in the MOCAP, such as efforts to reduce employee single occupancy vehicle (SOV) commuting and investigating electricity and heat pump-based heating for buildings.

ANALYSIS

The purpose of the MOCAP is to provide the City Council and staff with a series of strategies and actions the City could take to reduce its municipal operations GHG emissions and reach the GHG reduction targets adopted by the City Council in March 2010. The strategies and actions can be used by the City Council and staff as the basis for further conversation and development of more detailed work plans. In adopting the MOCAP, the City Council would not be committing to implement any of the strategies/actions specifically.

Since the City's reduction targets only currently include the years 2010, 2015, 2020, and 2050, the MOCAP recommends establishing five additional reduction targets every five years between 2020 and 2050 (as shown below) to make it easier to track the City's progress in meeting its 2050 reduction target. This would require the City to calculate its municipal operations GHG emissions every five years at a minimum; over time, it may make sense to calculate emissions more often to gain greater visibility of the City's progress between the target years. However, the City does not currently have the resources for more frequent calculations.

- 34 percent below 2005 levels by 2025;
- 44 percent below 2005 levels by 2030;
- 53 percent below 2005 levels by 2035;
- 62 percent below 2005 levels by 2040; and
- 71 percent below 2005 levels by 2045.

2010 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Between 2005 and 2010, the City reduced its overall municipal operations emissions 18 percent to 12,846 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO₂e), which is 3 percent beyond the City's 2010 reduction target. Emissions decreased in the Solid Waste (-22%), Facilities (-16%), and Water and Wastewater (-8%) sectors; only the Vehicle Fleet sector emissions grew, but the increase of about 2 percent was minor.

Proposed Municipal Operations GHG Reduction Strategies

The proposed MOCAP includes 13 strategies focusing on Facilities, Vehicle Fleet, and Solid Waste operations since those three areas generated almost 97 percent of GHG emissions from municipal operations in 2010. Strategies are not included for the Water or Wastewater areas because of their very small contributions to the City's overall municipal emissions. Implementing all of the actions identified in the MOCAP could generate 108 percent of the emission reductions needed to reach the 2050 target if the City implements Strategy F-1 (Low-Carbon Grid Electricity), or generate 88 percent of reductions required for the 2050 target if the City doesn't implement Strategy F-1. More information on the strategies can be found in the [Study Session memo](#) and the full MOCAP, which is an exhibit to Attachment 1.

FISCAL IMPACT

There would be no fiscal impact to adopting the proposed MOCAP as it does not commit the Council to funding any of the underlying actions. The MOCAP will be used as a framework for forwarding specific actions to the Council for funding via the budgetary process.

NEXT STEPS

Following adoption of the MOCAP by the City Council, staff will perform a cost-benefit and resource impact study to prioritize the strategies and return to the Council with an

Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 3 that incorporates actions from the MOCAP and CPR, and other initiatives deemed high priority by the Council.

PUBLIC NOTICING

Agenda posting and e-mails sent to community members interested in environmental sustainability.

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Attachment: 1. Resolution Approving a Municipal Operations Climate Action Plan

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