



DATE: September 5, 2017

CATEGORY: New Business

DEPT.: Community Development

TITLE: **Environmental Sustainability Task Force 2**

RECOMMENDATION

Provide feedback to staff on the proposed scope and deliverables for Environmental Sustainability Task Force 2.

BACKGROUND

In February 2008, the Mayor convened an Environmental Sustainability Task Force of more than 65 residents and business leaders to help the City shape its short- and long-term sustainability goals. Concluding its work in September 2008, the Task Force proposed more than 89 recommendations (Attachment 1) across 11 topic areas, which became the foundation for Mountain View's sustainability activities.

One of the major goals established by the City Council for Fiscal Years 2017-19 was to "Promote environmental sustainability with a focus on measurable outcomes." As part of this process, the Council voted to reestablish an Environmental Sustainability Task Force to support the City's sustainability initiatives. To avoid confusion, the City will refer to this second task force as Environmental Sustainability Task Force 2 (ESTF-2 or Task Force).

This topic was discussed briefly at the Council meetings of April 18 and May 16. The exact purpose and scope of the Task Force was not totally clear and no vote was taken on that aspect of it, so this report provides a framework for Council's consideration.

ANALYSIS

Selecting Task Force Members

Staff developed an application for serving on the Task Force, which was posted on the City's Environmental Sustainability website, shared through social media, e-mailed to

prospective applicants, and published in the *Mountain View Voice* printed edition on August 11, 18, and 25, 2017. Applications were due on August 28, 2017, by 5:00 p.m., and the City received 41 applications by that date/time. Staff proposes a Task Force of no more than 40 members, which will allow for possible member attrition and a reasonable size for remaining members to be divided into working subcommittees.

Applicants wishing to serve on ESTF-2 must meet the following requirements: (a) 16 years of age or older; (b) live or work in Mountain View; (c) have sufficient time to devote to the Task Force and plan to attend the required meetings; (d) have relevant background via education, work experience, and/or volunteer activities; and (e) not be a City employee. A committee of staff will review applications and appoint members.

Task Force Scope

It is proposed that the Task Force will meet monthly, about 10 times between September 2017 and June 2018. It is also anticipated that subcommittees or working groups will be formed and would meet one to two times per month. Members will be required to serve on at least one working group. Total time commitment will range from 100 to 150 hours per member, or about 10 to 15 hours per month.

Communitywide Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The original 2009 Task Force made recommendations across a broad array of sustainability topics; e.g., adaptation to climate change, water, waste, energy, transportation, transit, land use, buildings, natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and quality of life. Some of the recommended actions would reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, while others would not. Since the effects of climate change seem to be worse than originally predicted by scientists, and accelerating, and given the City's commitment to reducing its emissions, it is recommended that ESTF-2 focus on identifying those actions with the greatest likelihood of reducing the City's emissions.

As of 2012, Mountain View was more than 14 percent shy of its 2012 GHG emissions reduction target of 5 percent below 2005 levels. Preliminary projections of 2015 emissions indicate that the City may be approximately 18 percent to 22 percent shy of its 2015 GHG reduction target of 10 percent below 2005 levels, with final numbers being available this November or December. It is projected that implementation of Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) in 2017 will reduce this gap fairly significantly, since more than 95 percent of potential customers are participating in the program, and all participants are receiving 100 percent carbon-free electricity. However, by 2020, even accounting for SVCE implementation and assuming continued growth in transportation-related emissions, Mountain View will likely still be approximately 12

percent to 14 percent shy of its 2020 GHG reduction target of 15 percent to 20 percent below 2005 levels.

Given the above projected emission reduction shortfalls in both 2015 and 2020, *staff proposes that the Task Force focuses on strategies, programs, and projects that reduce GHG emissions, as opposed to focusing on environmental sustainability initiatives more broadly.* With this in mind, ESTF-2 will form working groups in areas such as existing buildings, new buildings/land use changes, transportation, all other emissions sources, natural ecosystems (trees, wetlands, etc.), community outreach, and measurement.

With input from staff, the Task Force will be responsible for its governance (e.g., Chair, Vice Chair, Steering Committee), meeting schedule, identifying exact working groups and their members, establishing task goals/timelines/milestones, and producing the deliverables outlined below.

Staff proposes that the Task Force focuses on the following tasks:

1. Analyze and document how Mountain View can maximize the likelihood it will meet its GHG reduction goals for 2020, 2025, and 2030.
 - a. Review the City's Climate Protection Roadmap (CPR, Attachment 2) and Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 3 (ESAP-3, Fiscal Years 2016-19, Attachment 3) and recommend any updates.
 - b. Calculate the cost to reduce a metric ton of GHG emissions for remaining CPR and ESAP-3 actions (where existing emission reduction estimates are insufficient) and for any newly proposed initiatives.
 - c. Provide a ranked list of highest-priority actions to undertake by 2020, by 2025, and by 2030.
 - d. Recommend which sustainability metrics should be tracked on an ongoing basis and with what frequency.
2. Assist staff in providing education and outreach to residents and businesses, and assist with measuring and reporting the effectiveness of those efforts.

Staff will draw from the actions identified in Task 1(c) when creating the next Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, ESAP-4, covering Fiscal Years 2019-2022.

Task Force Deliverables

The Task Force will produce two major deliverables.

1. ESTF-2 will prepare a report for the City Council that summarizes their findings and identifies recommendations based on completing the tasks outlined above under Task Force Scope. As appropriate and feasible, recommendations will include an estimate of the amount of GHG emissions each initiative will eliminate and its implementation cost.
2. The Task Force will provide on-the-ground support toward staff's community education and outreach efforts, targeting the residential and commercial sectors.

Task Force Time Frame

ESTF-2 will run from September 2017 through June 2018. The Task Force can receive interim feedback on its work from the Council Environmental Sustainability Committee (CESC), as needed, and will deliver its findings to the City Council by June 30, 2018.

NOTE: Staff is investigating the possibility of having Google (through its "Civic Leadership" program) assist the City with sustainability activities, although the timing of these efforts may not align perfectly with the Task Force. *In the event that Google can only provide assistance during the latter half of the Task Force's current timeline, staff may work with ESTF-2 to create a modified timeline and delivery of final recommendations after June 30, 2018, or it may reframe the scope of Google's efforts.*

Questions for Consideration

1. Should the Task Force primarily focus its efforts on strategies and actions that reduce GHG emissions?
2. Is the City Council supportive of the two major tasks under Task Force Scope?
3. Is the Council supportive of the two major items under Task Force Deliverables?
4. Does the Council have any other guidance for staff or the Task Force?

FISCAL IMPACT

During the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Major Goal setting and budget process, the City Council approved \$75,000 to support the Task Force.

ALTERNATIVE—Modify the proposed Task Force selection process, scope, deliverables, or time frame.

PUBLIC NOTICING

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

Prepared by:

Steve Attinger
Environmental Sustainability
Coordinator

Wayne Chen
Acting Assistant Community
Development Director

Approved by:

Randal Tsuda
Community Development Director

Daniel H. Rich
City Manager

SA/7/CAM
816-09-05-17CR-E-1

- Attachments:
1. 2009 Environmental Sustainability Task Force Final Report
 2. Climate Protection Roadmap (CPR)
 3. Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 3 (ESAP-3)