



# CITY OF SAN MATEO

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## Agenda Report

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Agenda Number: 11

Section Name: {{section.name}}

File ID: {{item.tracking\_number}}

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**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Drew Corbett, City Manager  
**PREPARED BY:** City Manager's Department  
**MEETING DATE:** April 06, 2020  
**SUBJECT:**  
Climate Action Plan - Adoption

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution to approve the 2020 Climate Action Plan, the associated General Plan Amendments to the Land Use, Circulation, and Housing Elements, and the Addendum No. 2 to the General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of San Mateo adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in April 2015, which provides a comprehensive strategy to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in San Mateo. The 2015 CAP identified GHG reduction measures and implementation strategies for the City to achieve the State-recommended GHG emissions reduction target of 15% below 2005 levels (or a return to 1990 levels) by 2020 as established in Assembly Bill 32.

Since the adoption of the 2015 CAP, a number of recommended strategies in the plan have been implemented, including the highest impact strategy, joining Peninsula Clean Energy, a Community Choice Energy program. Additionally, the State adopted Senate Bill 32, which established a revised statewide GHG emission reduction target 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. Staff began work to update the 2015 CAP in order to quantify the City's progress towards GHG reduction targets, update the GHG targets for 2030 and 2050 to stay consistent with State regulations, and integrate with the General Plan update.

The Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission (SIC) served as the key advisory body throughout the CAP update process. With continuous feedback from the SIC, the project team developed the Draft 2020 CAP, which identifies new GHG reduction targets, revised GHG reduction strategies, and demonstrates the City's continuing leadership in sustainability. At the December 11, 2019 SIC meeting, the SIC recommended that the Draft 2020 CAP be brought forward to the City Council for adoption.

At the January 6, 2020 City Council Study Session, the project team presented the Draft 2020 CAP to the City Council and reviewed the CAP update process, the greenhouse gas reduction targets, the greenhouse gas reduction strategies, and implementation. City Council expressed support for Draft 2020 CAP and the project team's approach and directed staff to bring the related General Plan Amendments and Addendum to the General Plan EIR to the Planning Commission for review. At the February 11, 2020 Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission adopted a resolution recommending City Council adoption of the 2020 CAP and associated General Plan Amendments and addendum to the General Plan EIR.

### **2020 CAP Key Updates**

The project team updated the 2020 CAP (Attachment 2) with the most recent climate change science and developed a 2017 GHG inventory to measure the City's progress in meeting the 2015 CAP goals. The GHG inventory showed that the

City has already reduced GHG emissions 18% below the 2005 baseline and is therefore on track to reach and exceed the 2020 goal of 15% below the 2005 baseline. The community's emissions are roughly 5.2 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e per-capita.

The 2020 CAP updates the GHG reduction targets in accordance with the State recommendations in the Climate Change Scoping Plan and establishes emission reduction targets as follows:

- 2030: Reduce emissions to 4.3 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e per-capita
- 2050: Reduce emissions to 1.2 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e per-capita

The 2020 CAP focused on updating and quantifying the GHG reduction strategies from the 2015 CAP. The update also includes emerging issues and best practices to capture a comprehensive and innovative suite of GHG reduction measures. Some of the new measures included are strategies addressing building electrification, battery storage, and waste source reduction. Building electrification refers to replacing some or all of a building's natural gas-powered appliances or machinery to models that run on electricity. Since electricity releases much fewer GHGs, there is a significant GHG reduction benefit. Battery storage technology has advanced since the development of the 2015 CAP. There are more cases of battery storage use at the residential scale and potential resilience benefits when deploying battery storage paired with solar. Waste source reduction opportunities, such as the reduction of single-use plastics, have recently gained more attention. While it is important to sort waste properly and use recyclable or compostable material whenever possible, it is also helpful for community members to minimize the amount of materials they throw away at all.

#### **BUDGET IMPACT:**

Implementation of the 2020 CAP will have a budgetary impact on the City that is uncertain at this time. A portion of the implementation will be covered by the Sustainability Program operating budget within the City Manager's Office. Specific funding needs for each recommended action will be determined as part of the implementation process and will be requested as part of the approval process for each proposed action.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

The Addendum No. 2 to the General Plan EIR was prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15164 to determine whether implementation of the 2020 CAP would result in any new impacts or increase the severity of significant environmental impacts than previously analyzed in the Certified EIR. Based on the information provided in the Addendum, implementation of the proposed 2020 CAP would not result in any new impacts or increase the severity of previously identified significant impacts analyzed in the Certified EIR. The proposed modifications to the Approved Project would not result in a substantial change to the project, so additional environmental review is not necessary.

#### **NOTICE PROVIDED**

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Att 1 – Proposed Resolution

Exhibit A – Amendments to the City of San Mateo General Plan

Exhibit B – General Plan Environmental Impact Report Addendum No. 2

Att 2 – 2020 Climate Action Plan

#### **STAFF CONTACT**

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