



CITY OF SAN MATEO

City Hall
330 W. 20th Avenue
San Mateo CA 94403
www.cityofsanmateo.org

Agenda Report

Agenda Number: 3

Section Name: {{section.name}}

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TO: Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission

FROM: Christina Horrisberger, Interim City Manager

PREPARED BY: City Manager's Office

MEETING DATE: August 09, 2023

SUBJECT:
Climate Action Plan 2023 Technical Update

RECOMMENDATION:
Recommend the adoption of the Climate Action Plan 2023 Technical Update to City Council.

BACKGROUND:
In 2015, the City of San Mateo adopted the City's first Climate Action Plan (CAP) and in April 2020, the City adopted an updated CAP. The City's CAP establishes a strategic pathway to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). The CAP assumed future demographics based on the 2030 General Plan. Through the 2040 General Plan update process, the General Plan is currently being updated and will use updated demographic data that differ from the assumptions in the 2030 General Plan. Additionally, the CAP was developed to meet a series of criteria to serve as a qualified GHG reduction strategy based on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which allows new development projects that are consistent with the CAP to streamline their environmental review of GHG-related impacts. Although the CAP is typically on an approximately 5-year update cycle and was updated and adopted in 2020, the City's 2040 General Plan Update necessitates a partial and focused technical update to the CAP so that the CAP will maintain consistency with the 2040 General Plan when adopted and can continue to serve as a qualified GHG reduction strategy.

CAP 2023 Technical Update

The CAP 2023 Technical Update is needed to ensure the CAP is aligned and consistent with the 2040 General Plan update. In February 2023, the City Council approved Agreement Amendment No. 4 to amend the scope of work with PlaceWorks Inc. to perform this partial and focused update. PlaceWorks developed the City's CAPs in 2015 and 2020 and is the same consultant firm leading the 2040 General Plan update.

The updated 2040 General Plan will use different demographic data that has greater assumptions for growth than the 2030 General Plan. Demographic data is critical to GHG forecasting and calculations because it influences buildout assumptions related to population, jobs, households, vehicle miles travelled, and more. The CAP 2023 Technical Update focuses on aligning the future demographic assumptions used in the 2040 General Plan.

The project team also used this CAP 2023 Technical Update opportunity to align with new state laws and best practices. In September 2022, the Governor signed AB 1279 into law, codifying the State's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2045. As part of this commitment, AB 1279 directs a minimum statewide reduction of GHGs to at least 85% below 1990 levels by 2045. The CAP, as currently adopted, includes per-capita GHG reduction targets for 2030 and 2050. The 2022 California Air Resources Board (CARB) Scoping Plan no longer recommends the use of per-capita targets for local jurisdictions.

The City is committed to developing a GHG emissions inventory for 2025 to track the City's progress toward the 2030

reduction target and to the development and implementation of the City's Sustainable Buildings Strategy to decarbonize existing buildings. A timeline for a comprehensive CAP update will be developed after the analysis of the 2025 GHG inventory and as implementation of the CAP measures progresses.

CAP 2023 Technical Update – Highlights

The Technical Update focused on updating quantitative data points, including providing a 2019 GHG inventory and updates to the forecast to align with the draft 2040 General Plan. The City opted for a 2019 GHG inventory as opposed to a 2020 GHG inventory so that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and shelter-in-place orders would not skew the data. The 2019 GHG inventory shows that the City reduced emissions 22% below the 2005 baseline, demonstrating that the City continues to exceed the 2020 goal to reduce emissions 15% below the 2005 baseline.

The 2023 Technical Update establishes community-wide GHG emissions reduction targets for 2030 and 2045. In alignment with State targets, the 2023 Technical Update commits to reduce GHG emissions 40% below 1990 levels (49% below 2005 levels) equal to 339,880 MTCO₂e (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent) by 2030 and 85% below 1990 levels (87% below 2005 levels) equal to 84,970 MTCO₂e by 2045.

The project team assessed additional reductions from new state, regional, and local actions. Each GHG strategy was re-quantified to match and build from current conditions. The City's overall commitment to GHG reduction remains the same and there were no substantial changes to GHG reduction strategies. There was one minor change made to one of the existing CAP strategy Clean Fuels 4. This strategy initially focused on reducing emissions by switching to clean fuels for light- and medium-duty vehicles; the 2023 Technical Update takes heavy-duty vehicles into account. The project team updated performance assumptions of the measures to match current conditions and State and regional trends. Where appropriate, performance assumptions are accelerated and reflective of a bolder commitment and greater reduction. The project team updated every table associated with each measure to reflect the updated milestone years (2030, 2040 and 2045). Attachment 2, the CAP 2023 Technical Update document with redlines, shows all the edits that were made to the CAP. Attachment 3 summarizes the revisions made to all the tables.

The project team now seeks the Commission's review of the CAP 2023 Technical Update and recommendation to City Council for adoption. The CAP represents a compilation of the analysis and strategies previously reviewed and supported by the Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission in 2020, with partial and technical updates performed this year for General Plan consistency. Once approved by this Commission, the CAP 2023 Technical Update will be included for City Council consideration as part of the General Plan adoption in 2024. Additionally, the CAP revisions are being evaluated as part of the General Plan EIR.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Funding for the Climate Action Plan 2023 Technical Update was appropriated in February 2023 and had no impact on the City's General Fund. The project funding was appropriated from the available fund balance in the Advance Planning Fund (Fund 225) to the General Plan Update project.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

This report is not a project subject to CEQA, because it is an organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5).) An environmental review of the Climate Action Plan document is being conducted in conjunction with the 2040 General Plan Environmental Impact Report.

NOTICE PROVIDED

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

ATTACHMENTS

- Att 1 - Climate Action Plan 2023 Technical Update - clean
- Att 2 - Climate Action Plan 2023 Technical Update - redlines
- Att 3 - Climate Action Plan tables - redlines

STAFF CONTACT

Andrea Chow, Sustainability Analyst

achow@cityofsanmateo.org

(650) 522-7007