



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



September 25, 2018

File ID: 18-0260

TITLE

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA ACCEPTING THE 2014 COMMUNITY AND MUNICIPAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY REPORTS

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council adopt the resolution.

SUMMARY

As part of the City's ongoing greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring effort, and as identified in the 2017 Climate Action Plan (CAP), staff completed the municipal and community GHG emissions inventories for 2014, which indicate that annual city-wide GHG levels have decreased by 5% compared to the 2005 baseline. These reductions are even more significant after taking into account the 20% increase in community population during this reporting period. This increase in population, coupled with the decrease in GHG emissions, helped drive down per capita emission levels in Chula Vista to approximately 21% below 2005 levels. Emissions from municipal sources (i.e. operations, facilities, and vehicle fleet) in 2014 are approximately 16% below 2012 levels and 55% below the 1990 baseline. To continue the City's leadership and progress, staff will continue to implement the 2017 CAP and City Operations Sustainability Plan. Staff will convene a Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) meeting in the fourth quarter of 2018 to update stakeholders on CAP implementation progress since CAP adoption and will hold quarterly CCWG meetings in 2019 to discuss updating City actions and GHG reduction goals. Based on stakeholder feedback, staff will be returning to City Council in the third quarter of 2019 with a more detailed update and roadmap forward for future CAP activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Director of Development Services has reviewed the proposed activity for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has determined that the activity is not a "Project" as defined under Section 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines because it will not result in a physical change in the environment; therefore, pursuant to Section 15060(c)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the activity is not subject to CEQA. In addition, notwithstanding the foregoing, the Director of Development Services has also determined that the "Project" qualifies for an Exemption pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act State Guidelines. Thus, no environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

City Staff presented the 2014 Community and Municipal GHG inventories to the Sustainability Commission (SSC) on September 10th, 2018. The SSC unanimously recommended that City Council adopt the report.

DISCUSSION

For over a decade, Chula Vista has been a nationally-recognized leader in implementing a CAP to address the threat of climate change to the local community. The 2017 CAP includes 11 new climate “mitigation strategies”, each with multiple individual actions, which are designed to reduce GHG emissions. These actions, in combination with the 7 “mitigation” strategies” and 11 climate “adaptation” measures from previous Climate Action planning documents, guide City staff in their Climate Action planning efforts. In addition to addressing climate change concerns, these climate action measures offer numerous community co-benefits such as utility savings, better air quality, reduced traffic congestion, local economic development, and improved quality of life.

To help track changes to emission sources and assess current program progress or guide future policy decisions, staff completed a GHG emissions inventory for Calendar Year 2014. The 2014 GHG Emissions Inventory utilizes the U.S. Community Protocol, which was developed by ICLEI and approved by the State of California Office of Planning & Research, to assist local jurisdictions in quantifying their community’s climate impact. Emissions for 2005 and 2012 were recalculated from previously reported totals based on guidance from San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) on how to appropriately account for Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) trips that only have Chula Vista as either the origin or destination, but not both. This change increased VMT totals and related emissions.

Community Inventory

The 2014 GHG Emissions Inventory indicates that Chula Vista’s annual city-wide GHG levels have decreased by 14% below their 2012 peak to 1,249,503 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO₂e). This reduction brings community-wide emissions 5% below their 2005 baseline but further reductions are needed to reach the City’s climate goal of reducing emission 15% below 2005 levels. These reductions occurred during an expansion of the City’s housing stock and population which caused per capita emissions to decrease by a 21% reduction from their 2005 baseline. The two largest sources of emissions were from the transportation sector (59%) and residential energy use sector (18%). The 2014 GHG inventory demonstrates significant reductions in community-wide GHG emissions. City staff will be monitoring future inventories to ensure that GHG reductions were not caused by methodology changes in how some source data was created by data providers.

Municipal Inventory

Greenhouse gas emissions from municipal sources (i.e. operations, facilities, and vehicle fleet) in 2014 totaled 14,076 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MT CO₂e). This is a reduction of 16% below 2012 levels and 55% below the initial 1990 inventory. The two largest sources of emissions were from the City’s vehicle fleet (41%) and energy consumption at facilities (36%). Staff will continue to implement the City Operations Sustainability Plan and expect to complete the next municipal inventory for 2016 in early 2019.

Next Steps

Due to data availability there was a delay in staff's ability to create the 2014 GHG inventory. For future community-wide GHG inventories, starting with 2016, staff will be working with SANDAG and the University of San Diego's Energy Policy Initiatives Center (EPIC) to leverage the GHG inventory guidance that was created as part of the Regional Framework for Climate Action Planning stakeholder effort. We anticipate the 2016 inventory to be completed early 2019 with future inventories being conducted every other year depending on data availability. Staff will continue to implement the 2017 CAP and City Operations Sustainability Plan. Currently the City is working to upgrade more than 18,000 indoor lights in City buildings to LED and added 15 zero emission electric vehicles to the fleet with Measure P funds. The lighting upgrade is estimated to save the City 1.5 Million kilowatt hours or enough electricity to serve 250 homes for a year. The City is also leveraging more than 13 million dollars of Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (or "CREBs") funding to install 2.6 megawatts (MW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels at 12 facilities and energy storage at 2 facilities. The new solar panels will bring the City's total installed capacity to 4.5 MW and the battery storage systems will better allow the City to utilize renewable energy after the sun has gone down. Staff will convene a Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) meeting in the fourth quarter of 2018 to update stakeholders on CAP implementation progress since CAP adoption and will hold quarterly CCWG meetings in 2019 to discuss updating City actions and GHG reduction goals. Based on stakeholder feedback, staff will be returning to City Council in the third quarter of 2019 with a more detailed update and roadmap forward for future CAP activities.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the decision contemplated by this action and has determined that it is not site-specific and consequently, the 500-foot rule found in California Code of Regulations Title 2, Section 18702.2(a)(11), is not applicable to this decision for purposes of determining a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code § 87100, et seq.).

Staff is not independently aware, and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision-maker conflict of interest in this matter.

LINK TO STRATEGIC GOALS

The City's Strategic Plan has five major goals: Operational Excellence, Economic Vitality, Healthy Community, Strong and Secure Neighborhoods and a Connected Community. The update to the City's Climate Action Plan supports the Healthy Community goal. Specifically, the new program will allow the City to develop new carbon-reducing strategies, which is a key objective under Initiative 3.2.2. - "Update and implement the Climate Action Plan."

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

The development of the 2014 GHG Emissions Inventory is supported through existing departmental budgets and external funding sources such as the SDG&E Local Government Partnership, thus there is no new General Fund impact.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

There are no ongoing fiscal impacts associated with the 2014 GHG Emissions Inventory.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - 2014 COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY

Attachment 2 - 2014 MUNICIPAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY

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