

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

DATE: JUNE 30, 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) discuss and provide feedback on the 2020 Sustainability Climate Action Plan (S/CAP) Goals and Key Actions related to Water and Natural Environment.

BACKGROUND

On April 13, 2020, City Council discussed the progress made on the seven Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S/CAP) topic areas.¹ Council also discussed the process for developing goals and key actions for achieving a reduction in Palo Alto's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80% by 2030 ([Annual Earth Day Report, #11168](#); [Sustainability Work Plan 2020-21, #11201](#)). At the meeting, Council directed staff to return to Council in June 2020 before the City's consultants begin analysis and modeling the draft list of S/CAP Goals and Key Actions for effectiveness in GHG emissions reduction, cost/benefits, and identification of sustainability co-benefits.

Staff returned to Council on June 16, 2020, with the 2020 S/CAP Potential Major Goals and Key Actions. The staff report was well received.² The report provided additional emphasis on potential levels of intervention necessary to achieve the target GHG emissions reductions and other S/CAP goals. Council discussed the possibility that higher levels of intervention might be needed to reach the City's goals and directed staff to continue work on the S/CAP and analyze the identified strategies for cost, effectiveness, and co-benefits. After this analysis, staff will present Council with multiple scenarios to meet the 80 x 30 goal, giving Council choices amongst the scenarios. The video of the June 16, 2020 Council meeting is viewable at the link below³.

While the focus of the staff report was on the Energy, Mobility, and Electric Vehicles areas, Council noted the importance of the Water and Natural Environment areas and directed staff to explore a Key Indicator for Biodiversity for the Natural Environment area.

¹ The S/CAP areas are: Energy, Mobility, Electric Vehicles, Water, Sea Level Rise, Natural Environment, Zero Waste.

² Council June 16, 2020 City Manager Report link: <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?t=59513.75&BlobID=77028>

³ Council Item 1 on Midpenmedia video at this link: <https://youtu.be/vXjbUZ6cRFY>

DISCUSSION

Staff requests PRC consideration and comment on the 2020 Sustainability Climate Action Plan (S/CAP) Goals and Key Actions related to Water and Natural Environment.

This document contains the [June 16th S/CAP Staff Report, #11404](#). The full list of potential S/CAP Goals and Key Actions that have been updated to incorporate feedback from community can be found in the [Draft 2020 S/CAP Potential Goals and Key Actions with Feedback Incorporated](#). PRC has broad purview and would likely be most interested in the Water, Sea Level Rise, Natural Environment, and Zero Waste sections of the S/CAP. However, Sea Level Rise has already been presented at a previous PRC meeting, and the Goals and Key Actions related to Zero Waste will be discussed separately.

Staff welcomes PRC feedback on all Potential Goals and Key Actions but is particularly interested in feedback on the Water and Natural Environment sections. This feedback would further inform the Key Actions that will be modeled by the City's consultant, AECOM.

Next steps in the S/CAP Update process include:

- Staff dissemination of the S/CAP Goals and Key Actions to AECOM for modeling of potential GHG emissions reductions that could be achieved, cost/benefit analysis, and sustainability co-benefits
- Council review of the 2019 GHG inventory, Business as Usual Forecast, Impact Analysis, and updated package of Proposed Goals and Key Actions

Policy Implications

The S/CAP Goals and Key Actions align with two of the top three Council Priorities for CY 2020: "Sustainability, in the context of climate change" and "Improving mobility for all."

Resource Impacts

Appropriate resources are already in place to develop the 2020 S/CAP Update. Contract Number C20176783 With AECOM Technical Services, Inc., for Professional Services Related to the 2020 Sustainability and Climate Action Plan Update and SB743 Implementation was approved on February 24, 2020 (CMR 11112). Funding is included in the operating budgets from the Office of Sustainability and the Office of Transportation. Any additional appropriation of necessary funding is subject to City Council approval.

Environmental Review

Discussion of S/CAP Goals and Key Actions does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The scope of work does include environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act for the S/CAP, which would occur at a later stage after AECOM completes their modeling.