



STAFF REPORT – AMENDED

City Council

Meeting Date: 4/16/2019
Staff Report Number: 19-071-CC

Consent Calendar: **Adopt the climate and sustainability Resolution No. 6493 approving the Mayor and city clerk to sign on Earth Day (April 22)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the climate and sustainability Resolution No. 6493 approving the Mayor and city clerk to sign on Earth Day (April 22.)

Policy Issues

This action is consistent with the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) that was approved by City Council in 2009 and is updated regularly. The City Council adopted a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target of 27 percent by 2020 from 2005 levels, and as reinforced in the general plan, the City aims to be a leader in efforts to address climate change.

Background

The CAP was approved by City Council in 2009 with the last update occurring in 2015. It is located on the City's website and remains a guiding document for all city policies, programs and projects. The CAP also identifies high level strategies that will reduce local GHG emissions and serves as a "living document" that allows for frequent updates and adjustments on an as-needed basis to best achieve community GHG reductions based on current regulation, technology and market changes.

To celebrate Earth Day 2019 April 22, the Mayor is requesting authorization to sign the attached resolution reaffirming the City's commitment to tackle climate change at a local level.

Analysis

The attached resolution aligns with the current strategies and goals in the CAP, and provides similar goals for the city to aspire toward in implementing the plan. It does not require any financial or time commitment from the City. The resolution will be helpful in guiding the community's dialogue in the next CAP update that is expected to begin sometime in 2020.

The strategies outlined in the attached resolution would need City Council approval prior to implementation. This is the same process for how strategies in the CAP are approved that involve behavior, policy or infrastructure changes. Each strategy in the CAP is evaluated using a cost benefit analysis and presented to City Council before formal establishment or adoption of a new policy or program.

For example, the current CAP identifies a bicycle-sharing program as a strategy to implement beyond 2020 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This would require additional analysis and City Council approval

before implementing.

Impact on City Resources

The attached resolution does not require any City resources to implement.

Environmental Review

This action is not a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §§ 15378 and 15061(b)(3) as the signing of this resolution will not result in any direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

Public Notice

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Attachments

A. Resolution No. 6493

Report prepared by:
Rebecca L. Lucky
Sustainability Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 6493**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK
CALL TO CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY ACTION IN MENLO PARK**

WHEREAS, Menlo Park has a proud history of leadership on sustainability including adoption in 2013 of a community wide goal to reduce of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 27 percent below 2005 levels by 2020; and adoption in 2017 of a vision for 100 percent renewable energy powering the Menlo Park community by 2030; and

WHEREAS, there is consensus among the global scientific community that human activities have warmed the Earth to a point that threatens climate stability, and climate change has already set in motion catastrophic changes to the Earth's systems, including fresh water scarcity and droughts, floods, extreme weather events and increased heat, wildfires, accelerating ice mass loss that will result in sea-level rise, and species extinction; and

WHEREAS, critical tipping points must be avoided, as they will have cascading feedback effects that are predicted to cause an increasingly unstable climate that includes a devastating burden to the global economy, and with current greenhouse gas (GHG) emission levels these tipping points could be passed as soon as 2050; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the 4th Annual National Climate Assessment and California's 4th Climate Change Assessment warned that extreme weather and climate-related events in the United States are worsening, predicting increased drought cycles and heat waves in the western United States with a resulting three-fold increase in intensity and magnitude of wildfires, declined water supply and snow pack, increased flooding, impacted agriculture, as well as substantial damages to the United States economy and human health, unless GHG emissions are curbed; and

WHEREAS, The 2018 Special Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) provides information on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre- industrial levels and related global GHG emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty (<https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>); and the report finds that we must dramatically reduce GHG emissions by 2030 through Rapid, Far Reaching, and Unprecedented measures; and

WHEREAS, Menlo Park is vulnerable to current and future climate impacts, such as increased wildfires and associated air pollution, coastal flooding, drought, and more intense heat waves; and

WHEREAS, many of the measures that address climate change by reducing carbon pollution also build community resilience, save money, spark innovation, and increase equity to vulnerable populations across our community, and improve our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, low-income communities, communities of color, the young, those with access and functional needs, the elderly and indigenous communities have suffered the gravest consequences of climate change, and remediation of these impacts requires the active consultation and protection of vulnerable and historically exploited populations; and

WHEREAS, the open space surrounding and within Menlo Park, including the hillsides, baylands, and parkland, offer beautiful places for residents to recreate, and protect the Menlo Park

community from flooding, filter our water, clean our air, and provide a whole host of other ecosystem services free of charge to our residents each and every day; and

WHEREAS, common sense and morality indicate that humanity can no longer safely emit GHGs and current levels and must demand an urgent effort to rapidly reach zero emissions across all sectors to safely remove excess carbon from the atmosphere; to preserve and restore the Earth's biodiversity; to implement safety measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt warming in the near-term; and to cultivate a shift toward climate resiliency that prioritizes conservation, community, and independence from fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the urgency, and magnitude of the challenge of addressing climate change calls for leadership in all sectors of society, all institutions and all elected leaders, including at the local city and neighborhood level; and,

WHEREAS, The collective community of the City of Menlo Park has the insight, drive, ingenuity, and capacity to work for environmental justice, and fully understand that when we work together across social and city borders, we can build transformative networks to reduce climate change and improve quality of life and prosperity across all communities; and,

WHEREAS, our action or inaction on these issues will be our legacy left to our children and future generations,

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT, the City of Menlo Park will adopt a new Climate Action Plan goal to reduce GHG emissions; spur innovation and create jobs; and prepare for the impacts of climate change on public health, infrastructure, the economy, ecosystems, and public spaces in our community, that meets the urgency, scope, and scale outlined in the IPCC's Special Report, "Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees Celsius,"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Menlo Park commits to taking significant action to move toward net municipal and community carbon neutrality in the short term, with maximum efforts to implement carbon reduction actions by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Menlo Park will engage with interested stakeholders and experts to incorporate the most robust sustainability standards in our updates to our building code, including the Downtown Specific Plan, and any updates to ConnectMenlo; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Menlo Park will pursue efforts to ensure that all new construction is built with Zero Carbon electric heating and appliances and pursue adoption of cost effective title 24 Energy Reach Codes or a similar alternative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Menlo Park will partner with Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County Office of Sustainability, and other relevant agencies to explore and support programs to assist home- and building-owners in upgrades that phase out fossil fuel use, including natural gas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Menlo Park commits to providing outreach, information and education for residents and City staff on the urgency of climate responses, reduction of GHG emissions, the policies and strategies to advance sustainability and resilience; and to regularly assess its GHG reduction goals, actions and policies and provide progress reports and metrics annually; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Menlo Park will explore city administrative review and assessment processes to incorporate consideration of GHG reduction impacts/effects for all significant proposed policies, programs or actions approved by City Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Menlo Park recognizes community environmental justice and commits to keeping the considerations of disadvantaged communities central to the climate planning processes, and to invite and encourage these communities to directly advocate for their specific needs and equity in the environmental justice process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The City of Menlo Park will advocate for implementing transportation policies to eliminate GHG emissions, such as encouraging active transportation (bicycling, walking and public transit) and moving toward completely electrified transportation systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The City of Menlo Park will discourage the use of toxic chemicals among home owners and businesses, including pesticides; and shall consider a public reporting, neighbor notification and disclosure requirement prior to outdoor application of pesticides, and other toxic chemical uses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Menlo Park commits to protecting open space and natural resources as a part of it's climate action and adaptation strategy.

I, Judi A. Herren, City Clerk of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing City Council resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said City Council on the sixteenth day of April, 2019, by the following votes:

YES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of said City on this sixteenth day of April, 2019.

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk