



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 15, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

PREPARER: Emily Benvie, Environmental Programs Manager

DATE: December 07, 2021

TITLE: **Receive an Update on the Regional Climate Action Plan.**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Council receive an update on the regional Climate Action Plan.

INTRODUCTION:

The City has been working with Humboldt County Planning, Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA), and several jurisdictions in the region on a Climate Action Plan (Plan). At its April 17, 2019, meeting, the Council authorized a Memorandum of Understanding to conduct this work. Staff has met regularly with the regional working group to develop the Plan elements. This presentation will provide a status update on the Plan and outline next steps.

BACKGROUND:

The City adopted its Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan in August 2006. An initial greenhouse gas emission inventory was completed at this time and was then updated (based on available data) in 2010 and 2015. The state has an updated goal for reductions since the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan was adopted, which encouraged the City to develop a Climate Action Plan. RCEA is currently in process of completing the 2020 greenhouse gas inventory.

DISCUSSION:

A public draft of the Climate Action Plan is anticipated to be released in Mid-January 2022. The oral report will provide a further update on the status of the Climate Action Plan.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Climate Action Plans may provide California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) streamlining for projects that comply with a qualified Plan. At a minimum, the benefits of updating the Greenhouse Gas Reduction plan with the Climate Action Plan will provide guidance on future projects, even if they do not provide streamlining.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEW:

The Plan will be reviewed by the Economic Development Committee, the Energy Committee, and the Planning Commission prior to consideration for adoption by the Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

This update is not a project under the CEQA. Environmental Review will be conducted prior to adoption of the Climate Action Plan.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

The City committed \$5,000 towards the Plan in the MOU. It also received a \$5,000 grant from RCEA for the work. The MOU also committed a minimum \$5,000 of City staff resources. Staff has contributed significantly more hours towards the project. These are unreimbursed hours.