



DATE: April 9, 2018

AGENDA ITEM # 6

TO: Environmental Commission
FROM: J. Logan, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Receive information and announcements from City staff

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive staff report

BACKGROUND

Monthly staff reports and updates will be discussed as listed below.

DISCUSSION

1. Letter sent on behalf of City of Los Altos to Bay Area Quality Management District (BAAQMD) in support of SVCEA grant proposal for 2018 Climate Protection Grant Program, Reducing GHGs from Existing Buildings (Attachment A)
2. **May 29, 2018 will be All Commission Training.** All Commissions are to attend the training. Time to be determined in the am.
3. Environmental Commission attendance at fall Council meetings; need Commissioners to attend
 - a. May 22, 2018
 - b. June 12, 2018 – Lei Yuan
 - c. June 26, 2018
 - d. July 10, 2018

Attachment:

- A. Letter to BAAQMD



**City of Los Altos
One North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, California 94022**

SENT VIA EMAIL: john.supp@svcleanenergy.org

May 10, 2018

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
375 Beale Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: 2018 Climate Protection Grant Program, Reducing GHGs from Existing Buildings

Dear Air District staff,

As a project partner, the City of Los Altos is pleased to provide this letter of support for Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE)'s proposal in response to the 2018 Climate Protection Grant Program. Our City has prioritized reducing fossil fuel usage via beneficial fuel switching. SVCE is playing a critical role, aggregating member agency interests to develop cross-community programs for electrification, including expansion of the heat pump water heater (HPWH) market.

SVCE supplies carbon-free electricity to thirteen-member communities in Silicon Valley, resulting in community-wide emissions reductions of approximately 15-20%. Follow-on priorities are electrification in the built environment and transportation. Water heaters powered by fossil fuels now generate approximately 40% of emissions attributable to home energy use.

Many barriers exist that hinder the effort to convert homes from gas-fired water heaters to HPWH, including:

- limited customer awareness
- lack of contractor experience and promotion
- longer installation time
- necessary electrical work
- overall cost

SVCE's proposed initiative addresses these issues in a comprehensive fashion, by:

- establishing a clear value proposition to customer on the benefits of electrification
- providing education and equipment to the contractor community
- addressing first-cost issue through a cost-neutral (vs gas) incentive structure
- supporting permit cost and structure simplifications

As this effort aligns with our carbon reduction goals, we commit to promoting the initiative through our existing channels and supporting additional workshops at our permitting agencies. Further, we

will evaluate our HPWH permitting process to ensure a proper balance of safety, simplicity, and pricing.

The multi-faceted nature of SVCE's approach will help ensure that the HPWH initiative is successful. By addressing known barriers, the plan is both ambitious and well-grounded. It establishes an important pathway for meeting our long-term commitment to decarbonizing the built environment. In addition, we are heartened by SVCE's effort to address the new construction segment to complement the grant's focus on existing buildings.

As the City of Los Altos already benefits from carbon-free electricity via SVCE, we look forward to contributing on this and additional decarbonization efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Jordan".

Chris Jordan
City Manager

c: City Council