



DATE: January 12, 2015

AGENDA ITEM # 3

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Climate Action Plan and Community Choice Aggregation Feasibility Study

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive information regarding Climate Action Plan and Community Choice Aggregation

BACKGROUND

On December 10, 2013, Council adopted the City of Los Altos Climate Action Plan (CAP) and set forth activities to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, prepare an emissions inventory update, once data for 2013 is available, and to direct staff to provide a status update in mid-2014.

On July 8, 2013, the Environmental Commission received a special presentation by Gerald Glaser on the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) as one of the methodology to reduce GHG emissions in accordance with the CAP.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Hedden spoke as a citizen at the Council meeting on May 27, 2014 and encouraged Council to look into the feasibility of joining local agencies, namely, the Cities of Mountain View and Sunnyvale that are forming a feasibility study to explore CCAs. Council noted the CCA item as a future agenda item. City staff is exploring information about the CCA feasibility study and has contacted other local agencies staff for updates.

At the June 9, 2014 Environmental Commission meeting, the Commission discussed the CCA feasibility study, and assigned the CCA subcommittee, composed of Commissioners Eyre, Bray and Chair Hedden, to engage in further study of the issue and to prepare a presentation for Council. The subcommittee arranged for Margaret Bruce, independent consultant with Business for Clean Energy, to give a presentation at the July 14, 2014 Environmental Commission meeting to provide an overview and information about CCAs and to answer questions.

At the August 11, 2014 Environmental Commission meeting, Dustin Clark, Sustainability Coordinator, City of Sunnyvale, provided a presentation and answered questions about the Sunnyvale CCA feasibility study.

Mayor Pro Tem Jan Pepper, Council Member Jarrett Fishpaw and Public Works Director Jim Gustafson attended a September 17, 2014 forum titled "New Energy Choices". A staff memo was

presented to the Environmental Commission at the October 13, 2014 meeting. This memo was revised and presented to the Environmental Commission at the meeting on November 10, 2014. The revisions summarize information exchanges with Sunnyvale staff regarding the South Bay CCA Feasibility Study.

Prior to the November 10, 2014 Environmental Commission meeting, Chair Gary Hedden meet with Environmental Commission staff liaison J. Logan to review the CAP measures and identify areas where the Environmental Commission could offer support.

On November 25, 2014, Council received the Climate Action Plan mid-year report and held discussions that included the South Bay CCA Feasibility Study. Staff will report back to Council in 2015 with the first annual CAP Report. City staff is currently engaged on reporting on the CAP Measures assigned to their departments.

At the December 2014 Environmental Commission meeting, the accuracy of the vehicle miles travel (VMT) formula was discussed. Subsequent staff confirmed that the methodology for calculating VMT is currently being discussed by transportation professionals at both the county and state-wide level. At this time, the data derived from the VMT formula cannot be altered unless directed by regional and/or state transportation agencies. Meanwhile, it is recommended that measures in the CAP that use VMT as a data point continue to be implemented. Staff recommends that the development of the CAP Dashboard proceed as planned.