

EXCERPT

Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes - Draft

April 28, 2014

- 5** **14-0454** Climate Action Plan to Achieve State Recommended Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goals in Assembly Bill 32: California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006
Environmental Review: Negative Declaration

Gerri Caruso, Principal Planner, presented the staff report.

Comm. Rheamue discussed with Ms. Caruso the outline for implementation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) if approved by City Council, and whether additional funding is required for the "Just do it" list items. Also, in response to Comm. Rheame's inquiry, Ms. Caruso explained that staff has no data indicating the 2010 goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 2000 levels had been achieved.

Comm. Durham and Ms. Caruso discussed the goal to shade 80% of paved areas by 2035 and the types of trees that would provide the shade. Comm. Durham and Ms. Caruso also discussed the possibilities of a residential loan program for conversion to gray water systems and curbside pickup of compostable materials. Comm. Durham and Kathryn Berry, Senior Assistant City Attorney, discussed harvesting waste gases from the closed landfill and the opportunity to use purple pipe during the construction of the new Water Pollution Control Plant.

Vice Chair Olevson confirmed with Ms. Caruso that there are currently no penalties for missing the 15% reduction of Citywide emissions determined in California Assembly Bill 32. They also discussed potential cost savings to the City and project applicants and the Community Choice Aggregation Program. Vice Chair Olevson and Trudi Ryan, Planning Officer, discussed the financial costs of implementing the CAP. Vice Chair Olevson commented on the data used to prepare the plan being erroneous because previous population growth projections have been exceeded. Ms. Ryan noted that the CAP will be continuously reviewed, and Leanne Singleton, Consultant with PMC, noted that the Land Use and Transportation Element (LUTE) will provide new growth projections which the CAP will then be updated to reflect.

Chair Melton discussed with Ms. Caruso the relationship between the CAP and the General Plan (GP), and confirmed that elements of the CAP cannot override those in the GP.

Chair Melton opened the public hearing.

Barbara Williams, representative of the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors and a resident of Sunnyvale, said she is generally in support of the CAP and only objects to the home energy audit at point of sale.

Barbara Fukumoto, Sunnyvale Sustainability Commissioner speaking on her own behalf, said she supports approval of the CAP. Comm. Simons and Ms. Fukumoto discussed the previous speaker's comment about who should pay for an energy audit at point of sale.

Comm. Simons and Ms. Caruso further discussed energy audits at point of sale.

Chair Melton closed the public hearing.

Comm. Harrison moved Alternatives:

1) To recommend to City Council the following actions:

- Adopt the Climate Action Plan with Implementation Program;
- Direct staff to move forward with the “just do it” CAP Action items;
- Direct staff to prepare a CAP CEQA checklist to determine future project consistency with the CAP for all departments to use for public and private projects;
- Direct staff to come back to Council within four months with a timeline, work plan and possible funding strategies for CAP GHG emission reduction measures; and
- Direct staff to come back within four months with a recommendation for securing a CAP monitoring program with a proposed budget modification as needed.

3) Recommend that Council approve the Negative Declaration.

Comm. Simons seconded.

Comm. Harrison said that having worked on the Horizon 2035 committee these things are familiar to her, and that there has been a lot of study that has gone into it and she is aware that some things are easy, cheap and benefit everybody and some are costly and ineffective. She said she knows staff and the consultants will move through these things and suggest those that are smart.

Comm. Simons offered a friendly amendment that staff consider the cost, appropriate level and payee of household energy analysis as key issues of the energy audit consideration. Comm. Harrison asked staff if any of these issues would not be considered, to which Ms. Ryan replied the normal process would include this type of analysis and that the Commissioner could add it, but would be singling out one study item. Comm. Simons said he will withdraw his friendly amendment and added that he thought it useful enough to formally recommend.

Comm. Simons said he is very sensitive to concerns about what data is actually used and that Vice Chair Olevson was referring to discrepancies in data and the General Plan versus the reality of where we are in any one particular year. He said we continuously update the General Plan every 5 -10 years, and that the numbers set into the plans may be slightly off or different from reality, but since we are a City of processes we work off of accepted plans and elements that are individually developed to help us in our planning. He said he understands concerns when looking at potential regulations that there may be impacts and they may not all be good, but that it is part of the process, and he sees it moving forward when we are trying to do smarter developments and smarter living in Sunnyvale. He said this is going to be part of that process and the data we will be using will never actually be current and will always be slightly off in some areas. He said it needs to be updated appropriately at the next opportunity, and that he will be supporting the motion. He said the CAP is just a part of what the City is going to be doing in terms of future mitigation, and that the incredible amount of work done on it has been extremely impressive.

Vice Chair Olevson said he will not be supporting the motion, and that he comes from a business background where plans, policies and other decisions have to be based on accurate data and clear financial impact. He said he will not argue as to whether global warming is man made or not as this is not the issue for him. He said the issue is how much this will cost the City and where the money will come from, and that in reading the report there are some vague statements saying some funding may come from grants and some from elsewhere, which is not good enough for him. He said he cannot base a major policy decision for the City on six-year old data that is demonstrably in error, and that because of those two concerns he will not be supporting the motion.

Comm. Durham said he will be supporting the motion and thinks this is good plan to hopefully make Sunnyvale a better place. He said greenhouse gas issues will not go away in the future without people doing some work, and that he thinks we have done a lot here. He said he realizes that we will be spending a lot of money and do not really know where it is coming from yet, but that we are not locked into anything except for that we have a plan and blueprint to follow to try to improve things going forward.

Chair Melton said he will be supporting the motion and thanked the members of the public for toughing out a very long public hearing with a wide variety of agenda items. He said inputs from Ms. Williams and Ms. Fukumoto are valued and important, and that he has been tussling with what was said about energy audits, and that his determination is that there will be other opportunities to make the case

to other decision makers, including City Council. He said he is persuaded by the words of City staff that there will be other opportunities to revisit the plan and these concerns. He said there will be a lot of positive things and that the CAP is a necessary thing we are doing, and that as Comm. Durham said, it will make Sunnyvale a better place to live in and fulfills a given policy here in the City of Sunnyvale to be leader in this regard. He said adoption of the CAP will keep us in a regional and important leadership position, and that also noteworthy is all of the time and civic interest gone into this. He said this is a tremendous effort by City staff, specifically Ms. Caruso and the hard work with the consultants, which has led us here today.

MOTION:

Comm. Harrison moved Alternatives:

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3) Recommend that Council approve the Negative Declaration.

Comm. Simons seconded. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Commissioner Durham
Commissioner Harrison
Commissioner Klein
Chair Melton
Commissioner Rheaume
Commissioner Simons

No: 1 - Vice Chair Olevson

6 14-0483 Standing Item: Potential Study Issues for 2015

No potential Study Issues were discussed.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS