

City of Calistoga

Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

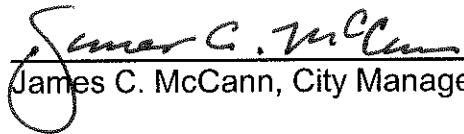
FROM: Erik V. Lundquist, Associate Planner

VIA: Charlene Gallina, Director of Planning & Building

DATE: January 5, 2010

SUBJECT: Climate Action Plan Update

APPROVAL FOR FORWARDING:


 James C. McCann, City Manager

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2 **ISSUE:** To receive a report on the City's progress regarding the development of
3 "Green/Environmental Sustainability Initiatives".
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5 **RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt Resolution
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7 **BACKGROUND:** The City has historically been a leader in environmental stewardship
8 and has taken an active role in promoting conservation through public policy decisions
9 since the early 1990s. In 2003 the City adopted a General Plan that embodies and
10 embraces the City's continued attention to environmental sustainability. In 2004 the
11 City Council furthered its efforts by establishing the Community Resources Commission
12 (CRC) whom advises the City Council on broad range of community interest matters,
13 including environmental initiatives. More recently, on July 21, 2009 the City Council
14 adopted Resolution 2009-062 identifying "Green Policies: Adoption of Environmental
15 Sustainability policies and the Climate Action Plan" as one of its 8 "Key Priority Projects"
16 for Fiscal Year 2009/2010.
17

18 On August 5, 2009 the Planning Commission and the CRC held a special joint meeting,
19 wherein they solicited comments and discussed the preliminary draft Napa Countywide
20 Climate Action Plan and supplemental Climate Action Plan (CAP) Framework that was
21 being drafted in corporation with Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency
22 (NCTPA). Subsequently, on August 18, 2009 the City Council considered the
23 recommendation of the Community Resources Commission and Planning Commission

24 to establish a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 15% below 2005 emission
25 levels by 2020 and to support the preliminary actions described within the Preliminary
26 Draft Countywide Climate Action Plan Framework (Attachment 1). In addition, the
27 Council also directed the CRC to work with Staff to finalize and begin implementing the
28 Draft Plan.

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30 Over the past several months the Green Subcommittee, a subcommittee of the CRC,
31 and Staff have been actively pursuing the completion of the Climate Action Plan through
32 NCTPA and have begun tracking certain priority actions, progress made, and
33 conducting educational outreach within the community.

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35 At the NCTPA TAC meeting in November, the NCTPA Technical Advisory Committee
36 (TAC) suggested, as a result of amended CEQA guidelines, that the document should
37 be recast as a broad policy "framework", with a comprehensive description of the issues
38 involved and that the detailed actions proposed by each jurisdiction be included in a
39 subsequent set of formal planning documents. The NCTPA Board considered the
40 Framework during their meeting of December 16, 2009 and voted to support the Napa
41 Countywide Community Climate Action Framework and release the document for public
42 review. In doing so, Staff will bring forward the Framework to the Community
43 Resources Commission, the Planning Commission and City Council for consideration
44 thereafter.

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46 In addition, on December 16, 2009 the NCTPA Board offered further guidance on future
47 work on each of the local jurisdictional Climate Action Plans. The NCTPA Board
48 expressed the opinion that developing a joint "template" that all jurisdictions could use
49 with "plug in" elements would be advantageous for each jurisdiction as they develop
50 their own CEQA compatible action plan. This would allow each jurisdiction to move at
51 its own pace through the adoption process. To maintain consistency, the Board further
52 opined that NCTPA could continue to convene regular coordinating sessions (most
53 likely adjunct to existing TAC meetings) to keep staff from all jurisdictions informed of all
54 ongoing efforts and to share knowledge.

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56 Other jurisdictions such as the County of Napa and the City's of Napa and St. Helena
57 have already committed resources to developing their own Climate Action Plans and
58 are moving forward in the adoption process. Likewise, Staff suggests that the City
59 Council continue to direct Staff in developing the City's own Climate Action Plan.

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61 It should be noted that much of this Climate Action Plan work is being done in advance
62 of the deadline of the California Air Resources Board's (ARB's) deadline¹. On January
63 1, 2012 the GHG rules and marketing mechanisms adopted by ARB in their Scoping
64 Plan adopted take effect and are legally enforceable.

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66 **NEXT STEPS:**

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68 Within the next month or two the Draft Napa Countywide Community Climate Action
69 Framework will be brought forward to the Community Resources Commission, Planning
70 Commission and City Council their consideration and support. Subsequently, a joint
71 meeting of the City Council and the Community Resources Commission will be
72 scheduled to provide further clarity to the responsibilities and expectations of the
73 drafting and implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan.

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75 **FISCAL IMPACT:**

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77 Distributing, reviewing and preparing the Countywide Framework and Calistoga's
78 Climate Action Plan will require staffing. Additionally, General Fund dollars and staffing
79 will need to be directed to the implementation of these efforts, as well as the need to
80 secure grants from available sources to off set public and private sector costs. The City
81 Council will review and approve such subsequent budget allocations, including those in
82 the upcoming revised 09/10 FY and 10/11 FY Preliminary Budget in February.

83

84 **ATTACHMENTS:**

- 85 1. Napa Countywide Community Climate Action Framework: Executive Summary
86 and Background
87 2. NCTPA Board Agenda Letter Item No. 10.1 dated December 16, 2009
88 3. AB 32 (California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006) – Timeline
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¹ HSC 38562. a) On or before January 1, 2011, the state board shall adopt greenhouse gas emission limits and emission reduction measures by regulation to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in furtherance of achieving the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit, to become operative beginning on January 1, 2012.