



# CITY OF LEMON GROVE

## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

**Item No.** 3

**Meeting Date:** August 6, 2019

**Submitted to:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**Department:** Community Development

**Staff Contact:** Noah Alvey, Community Development Manager

[Nalvey@lemongrove.ca.gov](mailto:Nalvey@lemongrove.ca.gov)

**Item Title:** **Climate Action Plan**

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**Recommended Action:** That the City Council receives the report and provides direction.

**Summary:** The City of Lemon Grove (City) initiated work on a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2017 with consultant support from the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). The CAP is required for the City to be eligible to receive a \$2.5 million Smart Growth Incentive Program (SGIP) grant for the Connect Main Street project. The approved time extension will require the City to approve a CAP by Spring, 2020.

**Discussion:** On September 19, 2017, staff presented information related to developing a CAP, including a brief history of past actions and SANDAG grant requirements (Attachment A). During 2018 unforeseen delays related to a lack of resources occurred and necessitated a request for an extension of time from SANDAG (Attachment B). The requested time extension was granted by the SANDAG Board of Directors on July 26, 2019.

A CAP is a comprehensive local planning document that outlines strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Major sources of GHG emissions include transportation, energy use, solid waste, and water use. Strategies to reduce emissions typically include efforts to reduce fuel consumption, improve energy efficiency, increase renewable energy, divert waste from landfills, and conserve water. CAP strategies are unique for each community and may offer economic, environmental, and public health-related co-benefits.

SANDAG is providing consultant support to prepare the City's CAP. The consultants assisting SANDAG and the City in this effort are the Energy Policy Initiative Center with

the University of San Diego (also known as EPIC) and Ascent Environmental. Staff are currently working with EPIC and Ascent Environmental to complete an inventory of GHG emissions and to begin developing strategies to achieve GHG reduction targets in accordance with State of California requirements.

Staff will begin outreach to local residents, stakeholders, interested parties, and other affected agencies and/or individuals this month (August). To ensure broad and comprehensive outreach, staff will be developing a list of stakeholders, a project website, conduct pop-up information booths, and give community presentations. The overall goal of the outreach process is to ensure that the CAP reflects the authentic voice of community and that the strategies contained therein benefit the community and further the goals of the City's General Plan. Outreach will occur in two phases, with the first phase including information about the CAP process and schedule, followed by a second phase to seek feedback on potential GHG reduction strategies. In order to remain eligible for the Connect Main Street SGIP grant (\$2.5 million) from SANDAG, the CAP will need to be approved by the City Council by Spring, 2020.

**Environmental Review:**

- Not subject to review                       Negative Declaration  
 Categorical Exemption, Section |                      |  Mitigated Negative Declaration

**Fiscal Impact:** No fiscal impact to prepare the CAP other than in-house staff time and grant funding through SANDAG.

**Public Notification:** None

**Staff Recommendation:** That the City Council receives the report and provides direction.

**Attachments:**

- A – City Council Staff Report dated September 19, 2017
- B – Grant Extension request dated July 9, 2019

**LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Attachment A

**Item No.**   2    
**Mtg. Date**   September 19, 2017    
**Dept.**   Development Services Department  

**Item Title:** **City of Lemon Grove Climate Action Plan**

**Staff Contact:** Malik Tamimi, Management Analyst

**Recommendation:**

Discuss and provide feedback on the City of Lemon Grove Climate Action Plan as outlined in the staff report (**Attachment A**).

**Item Summary:**

Climate Action Plans (CAPs) are planning documents that outline activities to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The City of Lemon Grove Energy Roadmap (2014), Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Inventories and Forecast (2015), and Climate Action Planning (2016) reports were completed in support of energy efficiency and GHG emissions reductions. The next step is the preparation of the City of Lemon Grove CAP as outlined in the staff report (**Attachment A**). Staff recommends that City Council discuss and provide feedback on the CAP development scope of work.

**Fiscal Impact:**

No fiscal impact other than in-house staff time and grant funding through SANDAG and SDG&E Energy Roadmap Program.

**Environmental Review:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not subject to review     | <input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption, Section 15304 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated Negative Declaration |

**Public Information:**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter article   | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice to property owners within 300 ft. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice published in local newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood meeting |   |

**Attachments:**

A. Staff Report

## LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item No.   2  

Mtg. Date   September 19, 2017  

Item Title: **City of Lemon Grove Climate Action Plan**

Staff Contact: Malik Tamimi, Management Analyst

### Discussion

Climate Action Plans (CAPs) are comprehensive local planning documents that outline specific activities a local government will undertake to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from their community. Major sources of emissions are from transportation, building energy use, solid waste, deforestation and water use. Strategies to reduce emissions typically include efforts to advance energy efficiency, renewable energy, biking, walking, transit, electric vehicles, water conservation, urban forestry, natural light and ventilation, and programs to “reduce, reuse, and recycle” consumer goods. CAP strategies are unique for each community and offer economic, environmental, and public health-related co-benefits.

### Regulatory Background

In 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order (EO) S-3-05, which set two statewide goals for reducing GHG emissions: return to 1990 GHG levels by 2020, and reduce GHG emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. In 2006, Assembly Bill (AB) 32 set the 2020 GHG reduction target into law and directed the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to prepare a statewide Scoping Plan to detail how the state would attain the 2020 reduction target. In 2007, Senate Bill (SB) 97 created new requirements for GHG emissions to be considered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The 2008 Scoping Plan described the key role that local governments play in reducing GHG emissions and recommended that local CAPs include a reduction target of 15 percent below current levels by 2020. The CEQA guidelines were revised to include a definition for a qualified CAP to allow for streamlining for subsequent projects. More recently, EO B-30-15 and subsequently SB 32 (2016) set a new GHG reduction target to reduce emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, and AB 197 (2016) directed CARB to prepare an updated Scoping Plan to 2030.

### City of Lemon Grove Energy Roadmap

In December of 2014, the City of Lemon Grove completed a comprehensive energy management plan known as the City of Lemon Grove Energy Roadmap (Energy Roadmap). The Energy Roadmap was prepared through the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Energy Roadmap Program in consultation with City of Lemon Grove staff and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E). The plan provides a framework for the City of Lemon Grove to identify strategies to save energy in government operations and in the community, resulting in municipal cost savings and benefits to the environment. The plan focused on cost-effective opportunities to save electricity, natural gas, and transportation fuel.

The City of Lemon Grove has already undertaken a number of actions related to energy savings, smart growth and sustainability. Through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program, Lemon Grove was awarded \$132,374 and completed energy efficient street light conversions that upgraded streetlights and reduced municipal utility bills. In 2014, the City was recognized for its smart growth redevelopment of the Main Street Promenade, receiving “Project of the Year” by the local chapter of the American Public Works Association.

# Attachment A

## Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Through the City of Lemon Grove's participation in the Energy Roadmap Program, the City was able to apply and was awarded a grant from the SDG&E Emerging Cities Program (ECP) in 2014 to develop a GHG emission inventories and forecast report. The 2015 report presents the GHG emissions for the community of Lemon Grove for the years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013, and a forecast of likely emissions in 2020 as prepared by the University of San Diego Energy Policy Initiatives Center (EPIC). The inventories and forecast presented in the report represented the first comprehensive accounting of the City's resource use and associated GHG emissions. The City's emissions were relatively stable from 2010 to 2013, increasing by less than 2% over the four-year period. The City's emissions are largely from electricity (36%), transportation (28%), and natural gas (22%) sources, with other emissions sources including solid waste (9%), water (4%), and wastewater (1%). Future emissions are expected to increase 6% from 2010 levels by 2020. The proportion of emissions from electricity (38%), solid waste (10%) will increase while the proportion of emissions from transportation will decrease (24%) and natural gas emissions will continue to account for 22%. The Proportion of emissions attributed to water and wastewater will also remain the same at 4% and 1%, respectively.

## Sage Project

In 2016, the City of Lemon Grove partnered with the Sage Project and San Diego State University on the topic of climate action planning. The Sage Project is part of the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network that enables students through their course work to engage in meaningful real-world projects working with local government. This partnership resulted in the development of the Lemon Grove Climate Action Planning report intended to help guide the City in the development of a future CAP. The report used the United Nations Human Settlements Programme or UN-Habitat Toolkit "*Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning*". The City of Lemon Grove would be the first city in the United States to utilize this toolkit that takes on a holistic approach to climate action planning. The toolkit guiding principles include ambitious, inclusive, fair, comprehensive and integrated, actionable, evidence-based, and transparent and verifiable goals. The Sage Project presented the Lemon Grove Climate Action Planning report to the City of Lemon Grove City Council on July 18, 2017.

## SANDAG Technical Support

The outcome of the cumulative efforts that resulted in the completion of the Energy Roadmap, GHG Emissions Inventories and Forecast, and Sage Project Climate Action Planning report made the City of Lemon Grove eligible for additional technical support from SANDAG. Through the Energy Roadmap Program, SANDAG offers energy engineering and climate planning assistance at no-cost to the City of Lemon Grove and other member agencies to save energy in government operations and the community. The Energy Roadmap Program is currently funded through 2020 by a Local Government Partnership with SDG&E. SANDAG supplements the SDG&E funding, which is restricted to energy efficiency-related activities, to offer comprehensive climate planning services to member agencies such as the City of Lemon Grove. SANDAG has two consultants under contract that provide the climate planning assistance.

# Attachment A

SANDAG staff has coordinated with City of Lemon Grove staff to prepare a scope of work for CAP development that would include the following tasks:

1. Review and refinement of existing 2013 GHG emissions inventory and forecasts prepared in 2015 in partnership with SDG&E.
2. Quantitative analysis of GHG reduction measures, including guidance on establishing GHG reduction targets.
3. Climate Action Plan development following the UN-Habitat *Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning*.
4. Implementation Plan, including identification of key actions, costs, relevant parties, funding sources, and/or timeline for each GHG reduction measure.
5. Community engagement activities including a community workshop, outreach materials, and presentations to City Council and stakeholder groups.

The timeline for the CAP development scope of work spans approximately one year after project kickoff. Throughout the process, the consultants will work closely with City staff to ensure the CAP is in alignment with other City planning efforts such as the General Plan Update. Preparing the CAP in tandem with the General Plan Update will be advantageous by providing a plan for GHG reductions that can help reduce GHG impacts from a General Plan Update and allowing for CEQA streamlining for future projects. This is known as a qualified CAP and would be held to a high standard for enforceability. The CAP must have an accompanying environmental document and for CEQA streamlining, a consistency checklist for development projects. The CAP will be incorporated into the General Plan Update and the Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which has been contracted to be prepared by DUDEK and Associates and will analyze both the CAP and the General Plan Update at the same time.

## **Prerequisite for SANDAG Grants**

It is worth noting that when SANDAG adopted San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan in 2015, its EIR included mitigation measures to reduce the impacts of the plan on GHG emissions. One of the mitigation measures requires SANDAG to update eligibility criteria for the *TransNet* Smart Growth Incentive and Active Transportation Grant Programs to make an adopted CAP a prerequisite for a local jurisdiction to receive funding. The City of Lemon Grove is a recipient of the aforementioned grants. The next call for projects for these programs is planned for December 2017 when over \$30 million is anticipated to be available to member agencies for planning and capital grants and the City will be in a good position to receive funding because the City has met its Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA).

## **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the City Council discuss and provide feedback on the CAP development scope of work.



## CITY OF LEMON GROVE

"Best Climate On Earth"

### Community Development Department

Tracy Ferchaw  
SANDAG  
401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101

July 9, 2019

Dear Ms. Ferchaw,

The City of Lemon Grove (City) is currently participating in SANDAG's Energy Roadmap Program to develop a Climate Action Plan (Plan). The Plan is required for the City to be eligible to receive a \$2.5 million grant from the TransNet Smart Growth Incentive Program (SGIP) for the City's Connect Main Street project. The SGIP grant eligibility requires that a Plan must be adopted within one year of the SANDAG Board of Director's approval or by October 26, 2019. The City would like to request a six-month extension to complete the Plan and allow time for City staff to present the final Plan to the City Council.

Previous efforts undertaken to maintain the project schedule.

The City has completed initial data collection to quantify emissions and responded to questions related to City procedures. In conjunction with this data collection, City staff conducted multiple meetings with SANDAG staff and their consultants to develop preliminary measure scenarios and provide feedback. The City has also initiated work on a public outreach plan to inform the development of the draft Plan.

Detailed explanation on the reason for the delay, and how it was unavoidable.

During the second half of 2018, the City experienced personnel issues that resulted in insufficient time allocation to data collection and project management. The unforeseen lack of City resources resulted in delays that prevented the Plan from moving forward.

Demonstrate the ability to succeed in the timeframe proposed.

On June 5, 2019 a new Community Development Manager began service with the City. The new Community Development Manager will be responsible for completing the Plan. The requested six-month extension will allow the Community Development Manager to finalize the Plan and present the final Plan to the City Council by April, 2020. With additional resources in place, the City is committed to completing the Plan according to the proposed schedule and to completing improvements associated the Connect Main Street SGIP grant according to the approved schedule. The City acknowledges that failure to do so could result in a loss of SGIP grant funding for the Connect Main Street project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Noah Alvey'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Noah Alvey, AICP  
Community Development Manager  
Community Development Department  
City of Lemon Grove