



## Planning Commission Agenda Report

Meeting Date: 02/02/17

TO: Planning Commission

File: STF

FROM: Brendan Vieg, Principal Planner (brendan.vieg@chicoca.gov; 879-6806)

RE: SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE UPDATE

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### REPORT IN BRIEF

At its June 6, 2016 meeting, the Commission received an update regarding the efforts of the Sustainability Task Force (STF). Staff offered to provide the Commission an annual update moving forward. **Attachment A** is an annual update memorandum to Council from STF Chair Mark Stemen dated January 20, 2017. It includes the STF's 2016 accomplishments and the upcoming year's work plan. Chair Stemen and staff will provide a verbal update to the Commission and be available for questions.

#### Recommendation:

The Community Development Director recommends that Commission consider the STF's 2017 Work Plan and the presentation, and provide feedback.

### ATTACHMENT

STF Annual Update to Council dated 01/20/17

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STF File





regarding opportunities to adopt new building code requirements that might help the City achieve its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal.

The STF and Building Official ultimately developed a draft residential remodel ordinance that would require a homeowner to install basic energy efficiency measures (e.g., ceiling insulation, weather stripping, programmable thermostat, etc.) for an entire home if the remodel exceeded fifty percent of the existing floor area of the structure. The proposed code language closely mirrors the City's Residential Energy Conservation Ordinance (RECO), which requires similar energy efficiency upgrades at the time of sale of single-family and multifamily homes. The benefits of the draft ordinance include reduced energy and water use, as well as utility cost savings. Staff met with both the Chico Association of Realtors and the North Valley Property Owners Association to review the proposed language.

In its review of the proposed ordinance language, the City Attorney's office determined that while the City is allowed to adopt energy standards that are more stringent than statewide standards, the adoption must be accompanied by a "cost-effective" study. The proposed ordinance along with the study must be submitted to, and approved by, the California Energy Commission (CEC) in order for the local energy amendments to be lawfully enforceable. The proposed residential remodel code language did not move forward as part of the recent Building Code adoption, however, the STF and staff are coordinating with PG&E to develop the appropriate study, and intend to bring the ordinance to Council in 2017.

- Partnered with the Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Nevada Brewery, and local businesses to host the Sustainable Business Expo/Happy Hour at the Sierra Nevada Big Room on August 11, 2016. The Expo engaged and connected area businesses with information (e.g., rebates), inspiration, and motivation to incorporate sustainable business practices. The Expo will run again in 2017 with the support of CivicSpark Member Bryce Goldstein.
- Established STF terms of service, attendance, and chair tenure/selection procedures consistent with AP&P 10-1 entitled *Board, Commission, Advisory Committees and Task Force Rules of Procedure*.
- Updated data showing annual electricity (kWh) and natural gas (therms) use; fuel (gallons) sales; and waste (tons) generation from the 2005 base year through 2015. These macro indicators are key for determining GHG emission trends and the success of CAP implementation, and were included in the City's 2016 Sustainability Indicators Report.
- Re-submitted a proposal to the Local Government Commission's CivicSpark program for a full-year member to implement a number of community engagement and education efforts identified in the CAP. The City's proposal was highly regarded and CivicSpark member Bryce Goldstein was placed in Chico. Ms. Goldstein is working with the STF and community partners to develop a "challenge" that will inform the community about the benefits of reducing GHG emissions and creates a sense of involvement in and ownership of climate action. The Community Challenge is scheduled to kick-off in late Spring 2017.
- Consistent with the CAP, supported expansion of the Chico LED Streetlight Retrofit program, which included all of Chico's street lights (approximately 4,300) resulting in

improved energy efficiency and a reduction of GHG emissions.

- Accepted resignation of STF member Ryne Johnson.
- Held special meetings with community sustainability partners, including:

Butte County Planning: Discussed Butte County's efforts to develop and implement its Climate Action Plan, including reducing GHG emissions in the ag sector, including the receipt of a \$300k grant from the Strategic Growth Council to audit Ag emissions, identify stakeholders, develop Best Practices, and create an outreach program; discussion of a solar overlay zone; participation in the STF's Sustainable Business Series, and involvement in the under-study Community Choice Aggregation program

Traffic Division, City of Chico: Provided input on the City's Bicycle Master Plan Update, and engaged Chico Velo, BCAG, and the Butte Bicycle Coalition on promoting alternative transportation and implementing CAP Actions.

PG&E: Discussed PG&E's Community/City energy summary, status of CAP Actions involving PG&E, changes to PG&E's electricity mix and generation sources, highlights of PG&E's new green initiatives, and coordination with the STF on the 2017 Community Challenge.

Building Division, City of Chico: Received a comprehensive overview of the City's Residential Energy Conservation Ordinance (RECO) Program, including how the program works, number of homes retrofitted, and opportunities for improvement.

BCAG: Discussed collaborative opportunities regarding the State requirements for developing Sustainable Communities Strategies, air quality conformity determinations, improving existing transit service, new transit service to Chico Airport, a PEV Readiness Study, inter-city commuter bus service between Chico and Sacramento, and the installation of solar panels at BCAG's new facility.

GRID Alternatives: Heard on overview of GRID's Low Income Homeowner Solar Program in the Chico area and discussed opportunities for the STF to assist through the City's Sustainability Website and Sustainability Facebook presence.

- Finally, the STF re-confirmed and implemented several of its previous Council recommendations:

Energy Sub-Committee

Increased Building Code Requirements - City should adopt voluntary Green Building Code measures that would further the City's GHG emissions reduction goal during the Building Plan Check process. (**Status**: The proposed residential remodel ordinance (discussed above) will come to Council in 2017.)

Incentives for Alternative Energy Installation – City should incentivize Building Fees (e.g., reduce fees) for alternative energy installations. (**Status**: As part of its adoption of revised Building fees in October 2015, Council agreed to reduce the Building fee for single-family residential solar installations from \$164.00 to \$77.00. Subsequently, Council determined that the fee reduction did not serve as an “incentive”, but instead was resulting in significant

revenue loss for the Building Division. In 2016, with STF support, Council reinstated full cost-recovery for solar installations.)

#### Transportation Sub-Committee

Provision of EV Fueling Stations – City should amend development standards (Title 19) to require EV fueling stations for new parking lots of a certain size, and retrofit strategic City-owned Downtown parking lots to include EV fueling stations. (**Status:** Requirements for incorporating E/V fueling station infrastructure in new parking lots is included in the recently adopted California Green Building Code. Meanwhile, in the near term, the City plans to install EV fueling stations in two of its Downtown parking lots, and BCAG is preparing a County-wide EV fueling station readiness study.)

#### Solid Waste Sub-Committee

Solid Waste Franchise Agreement – Incorporate the following two recommendations into the “underdevelopment” Franchise Agreement: 1) ensure that the Solid Waste Franchise Options document includes all relevant actions and concepts from the City's adopted Climate Action Plan (CAP), and that any future franchise agreement provide an opportunity to incorporate new technology that would further the CAP's goals; and 2) ensure that the Solid Waste Franchise Options document includes a requirement that any future hauler under a new franchise agreement provide quarterly reporting on its education and outreach efforts regarding recycling to multi-family and commercial clients and provide quantitative data regarding meeting state-mandated recycling goals. (**Status:** Recommendations have been forwarded to the City's consultant, R3, and are consistent with previous direction. The STF is extremely hopeful that a comprehensive waste franchise agreement is approved by Council in early 2017.)

### **2017 Work Plan**

The STF developed a Work Plan to focus its 2017 efforts. Below are the key components and proposed timeframes:

- Work with community partners to develop and implement a robust and memorable Community Challenge (6 to 9 months).
- Collaborate with the Chamber, Sierra Nevada Brewery, and CivicSpark Member Goldstein to re-run the Sustainable Business Expo/Happy Hour at Sierra Nevada Brewery Big Room (6 months).
- Submit again to the Local Government Commission for a CivicSpark member to assist in developing and incorporating climate adaptation and resiliency strategies required by State legislation SB 379 into the Safety Element of the General Plan (12 months).
- Continue to focus on the following CAP Actions: Council adoption of residential remodel ordinance, Council approval of a waste franchise agreement, EV fueling station infrastructure, low income housing energy efficiency upgrades, commercial lighting upgrades, and waste/composting education and outreach per State requirements (ongoing).

- Continue to meet with key sustainability partners to discuss relevant CAP Actions, identify areas of mutual support, and assist the STF in its implementation of the CAP. Possible partners to invite, include: 1) Chico State/CUSD/Butte College to share status of efforts to reduce GHG emissions; 2) Enloe Medical Center to share sustainability efforts and programs; 3) Butte County Community Development Department regarding implementation of the County's CAP; 4) PG&E; 5) CalWater; 6) BCAG/Chico Velo/Butte Bike Coalition; and 7) City and County solid waste representatives (ongoing).
- Update the City's bi-annual GHG Indicator and share information with Council and community (ongoing).
- Increase the Chico Sustainability Facebook presence, complete "mobile friendly" transition of the Sustainability website, and increase website's use as an information hub for how residents and businesses can reduce their environmental footprint, save money, and help the City achieve its GHG emissions reduction goal (ongoing).

### **Proposed 2017 Meeting Schedule**

The STF plans to meet nine (9) times in 2017:

Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm in CR 1

Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm in CR 1

Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm in CR 1

Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm in CR 1

Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm in CR 1

Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm in CR 1

Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm in CR 1

Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm in CR 1

Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm in CR 1

cc: CM, ACM, CDD, L. Herman, STF, Chamber of Commerce, BEC