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1/23/2024

Consent Item 1.

Quarterly Climate Update

File ID: 2024-00245

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and file.

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Presenter: None

Attachments:

- 1- Description/Analysis
- 2-Status of Climate Tasks

Additional Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: This report serves as an informational update to the City Council on the City's climate action progress for late 2023. City staff have advanced the development of key policy documents, onboarded new staff, and successfully competed for additional state and federal investment from highly competitive grant programs. In total, staff received notice of over \$11 million in climate-related grant award recommendations in the fourth quarter of 2023.

In 2024, City staff are advancing several foundational policy documents that will further strengthen the City's long-term commitments to climate change and help operationalize the City's efforts to prepare residents and neighborhoods for climate impacts. Upcoming policy milestones in 2024 include:

- 2040 General Plan and Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP): Recommended adoption of the revised draft, scheduled for City Council action on February 27, 2023.
- Draft Urban Forest Plan and Parks Plan 2040: Public release anticipated in the first quarter of calendar year 2024.
- Existing Building Electrification Strategy: Recommended adoption of the revised draft in the

spring, completing a priority early action item from the Climate Implementation Work Plan.

These documents build on years of planning and community engagement. Collectively, the plans will serve as a robust foundation for achieving the City's commitment to carbon neutrality, as well as implementing an equitable approach to climate adaptation.

The Office of Climate Action & Sustainability also on-boarded two new team members to augment City efforts and build capacity for community engagement on climate issues. Staff include two limited-term positions: a Civic Spark Fellow, and an Arts Assistant with California Creative Corps funding secured and facilitated by the City's Office of Arts and Culture.

A summary of additional climate accomplishments in late 2023 is available in Attachment 2, Status of Climate Tasks. The list in Attachment 2 includes the City's priority, early action climate efforts that were established in the 2021 Climate Implementation Work Plan (Work Plan). Following adoption of the CAAP, staff will update the Work Plan to reflect the next phase of priorities, staff capacity, and available resources.

Policy Considerations: The City of Sacramento is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2045 (Resolution No. 2019-0433). The City's Climate Emergency Declaration advances the City's commitment to "maximum feasible efforts to implement emergency-speed carbon reduction actions towards eliminating emissions by 2030 as much as possible" (Resolution No. 2019-0465). The progress outlined in this report demonstrates the City's ongoing commitment and progress towards these goals.

Economic Impacts: While this report has no direct economic impacts, the achievements summarized in this report illustrate the economic co-benefits and opportunities from the City's climate initiatives. The City's climate actions support ongoing competitiveness for state and federal funding. By attaining limited grant funds that increasingly prioritize climate-oriented approaches, the City has secured significant state and federal investment that advance local sustainability goals while supporting the local creative sector, funding local nonprofits, and providing resources for vulnerable and low-income homeowners.

Environmental Considerations: This report does not constitute a "project" as defined by Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15378(b)(4) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Sustainability: As outlined in this report, City staff are advancing climate action as a priority. Staff have secured funding to improve active transportation, plan for climate impacts on transportation infrastructure and transit, mitigate flood risks, and invest in communities with community forestry and resiliency initiatives. The long-term planning efforts underway will ensure a continued commitment to enhancing Sacramento's sustainability and resiliency in a changing climate.

Commission/Committee Action: On November 29, 2023, City staff presented proposed revisions to the draft 2040 General Plan and CAAP to the Planning and Design Commission. Planning Commissioners indicated their support for proposed changes, including land use changes that will increase floor area ratios and support overall reductions in vehicle miles traveled.

Rationale for Recommendation: These quarterly updates to the City Council help to establish transparency and accountability for the City's climate action progress. The intent of these reports is to further strengthen the City's sustainability commitments.

Financial Considerations: One-time funding in the Climate Action Initiatives Program (I15240100) is supporting several near-term climate action priorities. This funding is also providing a portion of local cost share for competitive grants.

The City's implementation of climate-oriented activities helps to ensure the City's continued competitiveness for state and federal dollars, where climate is increasingly prioritized for highly competitive grant programs. Utilizing staff dedicated to sustainability issues as well as on-call consultant support, City staff were able to submit numerous grant applications in 2023. In total, climate-related grant award recommendations announced in late 2023 exceed \$11 million.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.

Background: Securing external funding to implement the City's climate work remains a critical task. Recent awards will improve the City's flood resilience, advance adaptation planning, accelerate community tree plantings, and increase neighborhood resilience. Staff have successfully partnered to secure funding from an array of state and federal partners, to take advantage of limited term augmentations for new and existing grant programs. Note that staff are working to finalize agreements for these funds, to initiate implementation in 2024.

In the fourth quarter of 2023, climate-related grant award recommendations announced for the City exceed \$11 million. Recommended awards include:

- **\$1.5 million from the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program** for vision zero planning for Howe Avenue, complete streets planning for Norwood Avenue, and a transportation infrastructure adaptation plan in partnership with SacRT.
- **Over \$7.7 million from the Caltrans Transportation Commission Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program** to improve 24 floodgates around the city to protect climate vulnerable communities, including over 300,000 people and 240 critical facilities.
- **\$1 million from the USDA Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program** to expand the urban forest and support community engagement and stewardship.

- **\$1 million from the US EPA Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program** for neighborhood resiliency, community engagement, water conservation, tree plantings, and school greenings.

Status of Critical Climate Action Tasks

December 2023

2022 - 2023 Tasks

This table summarizes priority tasks for the Office of Climate Action and Sustainability (OCAS), and other department leads. Staff presented this list to the City Council in early 2022 as an update to the 2021 Climate Implementation Work Plan. The table below includes minor modifications to the original version presented in 2022 for accuracy, to reflect changes since that time.

Legend:

Ongoing	Initiated
Ongoing; active work underway	Delayed or postponed
Complete	

Tasks & Status

	Task	Department or Office Leads and Support ¹	Status
	<i>Internal & administrative tasks</i>		
1	Expand team capacity with intern support and/or on-call assistance	OCAS - Lead Role	Two limited-term staff onboarded through CivicSpark and Creative Corps; Program Specialist recruitment in process
2	Continue convening the Green Team monthly with participation by key departments	OCAS - Lead Role Support: All	Ongoing
3	Establish and launch the internal Climate Action Task Force, with an initial audit of each department's performance	OCAS - Lead Role Support: All	Launched in late 2023

¹ Department and Office abbreviations:

- CDD: Community Development Department*
- DOU: Department of Utilities*
- DPW: Department of Public Works*
- HR: Human Resources*
- IT: Information Technology*
- OCAS: Office of Climate Action and Sustainability*
- OEM: Office of Emergency Management*
- OIED: Office of Innovation and Economic Development*
- YPCE: Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment*

Status of Critical Climate Action Tasks
December 2023

	Task	Department or Office Leads and Support ¹	Status
4	Create an internal climate leadership, learning, and collaboration cohort	OCAS - Lead Role	Development of staff sustainability training underway, for implementation in 2024
5	Develop and administer the Sustainability Performance Monitoring Tool	OCAS - Lead Role	Ongoing
6	Prepare a GIS resource hub for climate, sustainability, and equity-related data	OCAS - Lead Role Support: IT, ODE	Complete, with ongoing refinement with GIS Team
7	Embed sustainability and racial equity decision-making into City processes	OCAS & ODE - Leads	Engagement initiated with Budget Office and Office of Diversity and Equity
8	Create new guidance for the “Sustainability” section of City staff reports	OCAS - Lead Role	Coordination initiated - to be completed in conjunction with other forthcoming resources
9	Establish tools and processes to track City fiscal activity from a climate perspective	OCAS - Support Lead: Budget	Postponed
10	Create an internal Nexus City webpage with resources and information	OCAS - Lead Role Support: IT	Complete
11	Continue public quarterly reports on climate action progress	OCAS - Lead Role Support: Varies	Ongoing
12	Coordinate City efforts for climate-related state and federal funding, and align efforts to seek and apply for external funds	OCAS - Lead Role CMO	Ongoing; over \$11 million in grant award recommendations announced in late 2023 for climate-related needs such as tree plantings, active transportation, adaptation needs for transportation infrastructure and transit, and flood gate resilience.

Status of Critical Climate Action Tasks
December 2023

	Task	Department or Office Leads and Support ¹	Status
13	Support updates to the City’s Sustainability Procurement Policy and Telecommuting Policy	OCAS - Support Lead: CMO, Finance, HR	Revised Telecommuting Policy finalized and released in October 2023
	<i>Partnership, outreach, capacity-building and other collaboration</i>		
14	Establish a climate equity outreach pilot that advances CAAP implementation, and increase community outreach	OCAS - Lead Role	Delayed: staff re-evaluating options to release a revised RFP for a program administrator
15	Launch a climate ambassadors program	OCAS – Lead Role OIED	In process: recruitment underway for a Climate Ambassadors cohort in OCAS as part of the CaliforniansForAll program, with a spring 2024 launch
16	Distribute an Office newsletter monthly	OCAS - Lead Role PIO	Ongoing
17	Continued engagement and collaboration with the Sacramento EJCGC and other local environmental justice groups	OCAS - Lead Role	Ongoing
18	Continued engagement and support for integration of climate and sustainability into City youth programs	OCAS - Support Lead - YPCE	Ongoing
19	Continued convening of a regional working group for city and county staff on climate action	OCAS - Lead Role Support: CDD	Ongoing
20	Facilitate a standing open networking and collaboration meeting with climate-focused stakeholders	OCAS - Lead Role	Not yet initiated

Status of Critical Climate Action Tasks
December 2023

	Task	Department or Office Leads and Support ¹	Status
21	Participate in and facilitate collaboration with external agencies, partners, and stakeholders for successful grant applications to secure state and federal climate investments	All Support: CMO, DPW, DOU, YPCE, CDD, OIED	Ongoing, including implementation of an Electrification Memorandum of Understanding with SMUD, the County of Sacramento, and Elk Grove
<i>Strategic project actions – OCAS Oversight, Support, or Management</i>			
22	Support completion of the CAAP for Council adoption, including identification of carbon reductions and funding options for Council direction	OCAS - Support Lead: CDD Support: DPW, all	Ongoing; proposed revisions to 2040 General Plan and Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) presented to the Planning and Design Commission on 11/29/23, for City Council adoption in early 2024
23	Seek grant funding to prepare a climate resilience infrastructure and program strategy, with shovel-ready project list for adaptation funding needs	OCAS - Support CDD, DOU, DPW, OEM, YPCE	Ongoing; staff finalizing agreements for grant awards announced in late 2023 for over \$11 million in climate-related project awards to the City
24	Facilitate City efforts to seek state grant funding for community center retrofits and resilience improvements	OCAS – Support DPW, OEMS, YPCE, SMUD	Ongoing; staff finalizing subaward agreements with CalOES for Pannell Community Center for resiliency improvements
25	Support development of a shovel-ready list of energy efficiency and resiliency project list for City facilities and implementation	OCAS - Support Lead: DPW	Ongoing; retrofits underway, including active work at 300 Richards
26	Support expansion of the City’s zero-emission fleet and charging infrastructure	OCAS - Support Lead: DPW	Ongoing; SMUD eFuel analysis of fleet electrification opportunities currently underway

Status of Critical Climate Action Tasks
December 2023

	Task	Department or Office Leads and Support ¹	Status
27	Support preparation for implementation of the New Building Electrification Ordinance, including participation in the Infeasibility Waiver Technical Panel, and re-adoption of the Ordinance with Infeasibility Guidelines, to go into effect 1/1/2023	OCAS: Support Lead: CDD	Complete – revisiting next steps in light of US 9 th Circuit Court of Appeals decision related to the City of Berkeley ordinance
28	Guide and support preparation of the Existing Building Electrification Strategy and related stakeholder engagement for Council action in 2023	OCAS: Support Lead: CDD	Ongoing; public review extended through January 2024, with anticipated recommendation to City Council in spring 2024
29	Manage City’s execution of a memorandum of understanding with SMUD and Sacramento County on building electrification, and facilitate the City’s participation in related efforts and pilots	OCAS – Lead Support: CDD, DPW	Ongoing
30	Support critical transportation initiatives, including completion of the Transportation Priorities Plan (TPP), the Active Streets Plan, and identification of funding strategies for transportation	OCAS – Support Lead: DPW	Ongoing; “Streets for People” Sacramento Active Transportation Plan underway
31	Support implementation of the Electric Vehicle Implementation Blueprint	OCAS – Support Lead: DPW	Ongoing; electric vehicle infrastructure design and permitting underway
32	Support completion of the technical study for on-site water reuse and dual plumbing, including preparation of a dual-plumbing ordinance	OCAS – Support Lead: DOU CDD – Support	Ongoing; Phase 2 internal kickoff with consultant team convened in November 2023 for the On-Site Non-Potable Water Reuse Phase 2 study
33	Support the launch of a new community tree-planting initiative with partners	OCAS – Support Lead: DPW	Timing to be confirmed, based on recommended \$1 million grant award recommendation and scope of work to be finalized for the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry program

Status of Critical Climate Action Tasks
December 2023

	Task	Department or Office Leads and Support ¹	Status
34	Support expansion of shared use recreation spaces and completion of the Parks Master Plan (Parks Plan 2040)	OCAS – Support Lead: YPCE	Ongoing; early 2024 plan release
35	Support for the City’s clean and green workforce and economic development initiatives, and including completion of regional green jobs analysis and opportunity mapping	OCAS and OIED, Leads	Ongoing; preparing to launch a Climate Ambassadors program with CaliforniansForAll youth and young adults
36	Support City participation in food access and resiliency planning, including completion of the US EPA Local Food/Local Places action plan, ongoing coordination of City staff, and food-anchored hub development	OCAS - Support Mayor’s Office, OIED, YPCE, CDD, DPW	US EPA Action Plan complete. Ongoing; food justice NOFA award recipients announced in December 2022
37	Support climate resiliency partnerships and identification of pilots	OEMS	Ongoing; implementation of Home Energy Equity Pilot underway in Stockton Boulevard area for completion by 2024
38	Manage the City’s partnership with the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District for air quality monitoring, and support related community outreach and education	OCAS - City Lead Lead implementer: Air District	Ongoing; approximately 200 air sensors deployed, report preparation underway for the mobile community air monitoring task, and school curriculum development underway with the Sacramento Academic and Vocational Academy.