



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Planning and Building



Date: May 17, 2013
Board Meeting Date: June 4, 2013
Special Notice / Hearing: 10 Days; Newspaper
Notice
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Jim Eggemeyer, Community Development Director

Subject: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Public hearing to consider amending the San Mateo County General Plan by adding Chapter 17, Energy and Climate Change Element, and associated amendments to other chapters of the General Plan, adoption of the San Mateo County Energy Efficiency Climate Action Plan (EECAP), and certification of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project.

RECOMMENDATION:

Resolutions:

- 1) Adopting a Statement of Overriding Considerations related to environmental impacts identified in the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Energy Efficiency Climate Action Plan, adopting a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the mitigation measures described in the Final Environmental Impact Report, and certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report prepared for the General Plan amendments and the Energy Efficiency Climate Action Plan as complete and adequate.
- 2) Amending the San Mateo County General Plan, adding Chapter 17, Energy and Climate Change Element, and associated amendments to other chapters of the San Mateo County General Plan.
- 3) Adopting the San Mateo County Energy Efficiency Climate Action Plan

BACKGROUND:

In 2009, San Mateo County was awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program to complete an update to the County's General Plan and a climate action plan. Since that time, County staff, with the assistance of a consulting team and guidance from Steering and Technical Advisory

Committees, and input from the public in a variety of formats, has prepared an Energy Efficiency Climate Action Plan (EECAP or CAP), General Plan amendments, and an EIR for the entire project. The documents for consideration today are available at the Office of the Clerk of the Board. Electronic versions of the documents are available at: <http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/planning/rechargesmc/index.html>

- General Plan Amendment, Chapter 17
- Associated Amendments to Other Chapters of the General Plan
- Energy Efficiency Climate Action Plan (EECAP)
- Final EIR for the entire project

DISCUSSION:

The General Plan Amendment: Energy and Climate Change Chapter

The General Plan amendment updates the County's policies regarding reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and adapting to climate change. The overall policy goals in the amendment for accomplishing these objectives are summarized below:

1. Promote policies to reduce GHG emissions
2. Maximize energy efficiency in development
3. Promote the use of renewable energy supplies
4. Promote policies to reduce vehicle miles traveled
5. Encourage the use of clean, low-emissions vehicles and equipment
6. Promote policies to achieve zero waste
7. Support sustainable agricultural practices
8. Promote policies to reduce water use
9. Identify and prepare for climate change impacts
10. Enhance the adaptive capacity of natural and man-made systems

Amendments to Other Chapters of the General Plan

In addition to the new chapter to the General Plan, the amendment also includes changes or additions to other parts of the existing General Plan. This is necessary to update the other chapters of the General Plan with regard to issues related to energy efficiency and climate change, and to make the Plan internally consistent.

The EECAP

The EECAP includes a GHG inventory as well as a number of strategies for reducing GHG emissions. In addition, the EECAP includes chapters on vulnerability, adaptation, and implementation. The EECAP implements the General Plan amendment with regard to energy efficiency and climate change.

Based on the GHG inventory and GHG reduction target of 17% below baseline 2005 levels by 2020, the EECAP describes (1) a set of implementation measures intended to achieve the reduction target, with a quantifiable reduction in GHG attached to each measure; (2) a set of "co-benefits," beneficial outcomes that would be generated by these measures, in addition to GHG reduction; and (3) a set of "supportive measures." Measures in the EECAP achieve a 17% reduction below baseline 2005 levels by 2020, exceeding the 15% State of California reduction target.

The EECAP contains implementation measures that can be taken to reach the GHG reduction target. These are grouped into the following topic areas:

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| 1. Residential Energy Efficiency | 7. Waste Diversion |
| 2. Commercial Energy Efficiency | 8. Water Conservation |
| 3. Green Building Regulations | 9. Sustainable Agriculture |
| 4. Renewable Energy | 10. Off-Road Technologies |
| 5. Transportation | 11. Sequestration |
| 6. Alternative Fuels | |

For each of the above areas, each Implementation Measure details the amount of projected GHG reduction attributed to it, identifies the responsible implementing County department or agency, and categorizes co-benefits. The most significant emissions reductions by goal topic are projected to occur in the areas of commercial energy efficiency, green building ordinance, renewable energy, waste diversion, and off-road technologies, although this varies somewhat depending on the time frame chosen.

Vulnerability and Adaptation: The Impact of Climate Change on San Mateo County

This part of the EECAP proposes adaptation measures grouped around topic areas that will likely be impacted by the aforementioned changes in climate, including:

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| 1. Agriculture and forestry | 4. Natural resources |
| 2. Wildland fire | 5. Water |
| 3. The built environment | 6. Public health |

Planning Commission Review

On March 27, 2013, during the 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR, the Planning Commission considered this project as an information item and an opportunity for the Commission and the public to comment on the draft documents. After the Planning Commission hearing, staff received additional comments from several parties, including BAAQMD, BCDC, the Committee for Green Foothills, Save the Bay, and the office of Supervisor David Pine. Comments from these organizations and comments made at the Planning Commission hearing were incorporated into revised documents. On May 8, 2013, the Planning Commission considered the item again, made additional changes, and voted 4-0 with one absence to recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the project.

EIR

During the 45-day public review period on the Draft EIR, staff received two written comments on the Draft EIR, and both were supportive of the project. The conclusions in the Draft EIR are not changed, and therefore no changes to the EIR were necessary. The Final EIR, along with associated documents as required by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), are included with this report.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolutions as to form.

Adoption of the EECAP and General Plan amendments contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 of an Environmentally Conscious Community, where the County is committed to reducing its carbon emissions, and using energy, water and land more efficiently. The project also aligns with the vision of a livable community by improving connections and access in communities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Adoption of the EECAP and the amendments to the General Plan do not have any specific, direct, or immediate fiscal impact to the County. Adoption of these documents does not allocate funding nor commit the County to any specific capital or other improvements. Implementation of the EECAP will necessitate the expenditure of staff time. This impact has not been quantified, and would depend in part on which implementation measures the County decides to pursue over a given period of time.