



**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Jennifer Carman, Planning and Environmental Review Director

**CONTACT:** Anne Wells, Advance Planning Manager  
Chandra Slaven, Senior Planner  
Andy Newkirk, Contract Planner

**SUBJECT:** Goleta Climate Action Plan Adoption

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt Resolution No. 14-\_\_\_\_, entitled, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Goleta, California, Adopting the City of Goleta Climate Action Plan" (Attachment 1)

**BACKGROUND:**

Over the last decade, state legislation has been passed in efforts to address greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), also known as the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, calls for a statewide reduction of GHG emissions and recommends that local governments establish GHG reduction targets that are consistent with those of the State.

In response to state legislation, the Goleta General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan (General Plan) includes an implementation action, CE-IA-5, requiring a GHG inventory and related plan, otherwise known as a Climate Action Plan (CAP). CE-IA-5 outlines the minimum requirements of the CAP, which includes a GHG emissions inventory, a 2020 and 2030 emissions forecast, and measures to reduce emissions.

In 2011, staff initiated the preparation of a CAP to meet the requirements of the General Plan. Staff and consultants presented CAP emissions forecast and candidate reduction measures at a public workshop on September 19, 2013. A second public workshop on November 21, 2013 provided the public with an update of the previous materials presented as well as a cost-benefit analysis for the candidate measures. Public input was considered as part of the CAP development.

The Draft CAP was released for public comment on May 23, 2014. On June 16, 2014, the Planning Commission considered the Draft CAP and all public comment and recommended adoption of the CAP, with minor editorial changes, via Resolution No. 14-05 with a 3-1 vote. Comments from the Planning Commission and public speakers are summarized in meeting minutes. Three comment letters were received

on the Draft CAP. Meeting minutes, comment letters and responses to written comments are provided in Attachment 2.

The proposed Final CAP, as recommended for approval by the Planning Commission, is provided in Exhibit 2 of Attachment 1 of this staff report. The CAP is also available as an electronic download from [www.ProjectGoleta.com](http://www.ProjectGoleta.com).

## DISCUSSION

The CAP presents the methods and results of a 2007 inventory of GHG emissions, forecast future citywide emissions, establishes reduction targets for 2020 and 2030, and identifies actions that reduce GHG emission levels. Based on the 2007 inventory, the City produced 325,532 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e). The largest source of emissions within the City was building energy emissions, which comprised 44 percent of total emissions. On-road vehicle emissions represented 40 percent of total emissions. The remaining emission sources included off-road vehicles, refrigerants, solid waste generation, water consumption, wastewater treatment, and agriculture.

By the year 2020, community-wide emissions within the City are expected to reach 386,735 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e; representing an increase of approximately 19 percent more than 2007 levels. By 2030, community-wide emissions within the City are expected to reach 429,295 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e; representing an increase of approximately 32 percent more than 2007 levels. The increases are expected to occur primarily because of increases in population, jobs, and households.

The CAP establishes a GHG reduction target of 11 percent below 2007 emissions by 2020 and 26 percent by 2030. The methodology used to develop the targets is detailed in the CAP.

Measures to reduce GHG emissions and achieve the 2020 and 2030 targets are presented in the CAP and include:

- *Building energy measures* intended to improve energy efficiency of both new and existing buildings, increase the use of renewable energy, and improve community-wide understanding of energy management;
- *On-road transportation and land use measures* intended to reduce vehicle miles traveled through multimodal transportation options and create more compact, walkable, and transit-accessible neighborhoods through design guidelines;
- *Water consumption reduction measures* intended to save energy and avoid associated emissions;
- *Off-road transportation and equipment measure* intended to increase the use of alternative fuels in construction and landscaping equipment and vehicles; and
- *Solid waste measures* intended to divert waste from landfills.

Through the implementation of the reduction measures identified in the CAP, the City will meet the reduction targets set forth in the CAP.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

In accordance with Article 18 (Statutory Exemptions) of the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15260 to 15285 and Public Resources Code, Sections 21102 and 21150), this project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15262 which exempts Planning and Feasibility Studies. The CAP is a planning study which provides baseline information, through the GHG emissions inventory and emission forecast, and outlines possible measures that the City could take in the future to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The CAP does not adopt any policy or put in place any action which would cause a physical change to the environment. The CAP will not have a legally binding effect on future activities as it is only a planning study and does not contain any mandatory measures or amendments to the General Plan and/or Municipal Code. The project's Notice of Exemption is attached as Exhibit 1, Attachment 1.

## **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

The CAP is a voluntary planning study which provides baseline information and outlines a roadmap for the City to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The CAP is a living informational document and will be revised and updated as conditions change. Voluntary measures to improve building energy efficiency, reduce vehicle miles traveled, reduce water consumption, improve equipment efficiency, and reduce solid waste transport are presented in the CAP as tools for our community.

## **GOLETA STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The proposed Climate Action Plan is consistent with City-wide Strategy: "Preserve and Enhance Quality of Life in Goleta" and related Strategic Goal: "Foster community events and citizen participation".

## **FISCAL IMPACTS**

Adoption of the CAP will result in no immediate fiscal impact. However, future implementation will involve staff time and potentially consultant costs. If adopted, the CAP affords the City with an opportunity to receive grant funding for future implementation actions to offset these costs.

## ALTERNATIVES

The City Council could elect to adopt the CAP with revisions or decide not to adopt it. Declining to adopt the CAP is not recommended as the CAP is a requirement of the General Plan.

Reviewed By:

Approved By:

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Tim W. Giles  
City Attorney

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Michelle Greene  
Interim City Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution No. 14-\_\_ entitled "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Goleta, California, Adopting the City of Goleta Climate Action Plan."
2. Public Comment on the Draft Climate Action Plan

Attachment 1

Resolution No. 14-\_\_ entitled  
“A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Goleta,  
California, Adopting the City of Goleta Climate Action Plan”

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLETA,  
CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE CITY OF GOLETA CLIMATE ACTION  
PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Goleta General Plan / Coastal Land Use Plan (General Plan) is a comprehensive, long-term plan that guides land use and physical development of the geographic area of the incorporated City limits; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Plan provides policy direction supporting improved energy efficiency, alternative transportation options, infill, sustainable energy use, neighborhood connections, efficient municipal operations, and parks and open space development, which help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Plan Implementation Action 5 of the Conservation Element (CE-IA-5) requires the preparation of a community-wide Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, hereafter referred to as a Climate Action Plan, that will, among other things, identify community-wide actions that minimize greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Plan CE-IA-5 requires the community-wide Climate Action Plan to include, among other things, GHG reducing measures specific to City municipal facilities and operations; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the direction provided in the General Plan, City staff and consultants initiated the preparation of a community-wide Climate Action Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Climate Action Plan is an informational document only and does not impose requirements on City actions; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 16, 2014, the Planning Commission conducted a public meeting to consider the Climate Action Plan at which time all interested persons were given an opportunity to be heard and recommended to the City Council adoption of the Climate Action Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 15, 2014, the City Council conducted a public meeting and considered the entire administrative record, including the staff report, the Notice of Exemption, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1, the contents of the Climate Action Plan, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 2, and oral and written testimony from interested persons.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the City Council of the City of Goleta California does hereby resolve as follows:

**SECTION 1.** *Recitals.* The City Council hereby finds and determines that the foregoing recitals, which are incorporated herein by reference, are true and correct.

**SECTION 2.** *Findings.*

- A. The City Council finds that the Notice of Exception for the Climate Action Plan, referred to as Exhibit 1, was prepared in full compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, §§ 21000, et seq., “CEQA”). The City Council finds, in light of the whole record, that the Project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to § 15262 which exempts Planning and Feasibility Studies.
- B. The City Council finds that the Climate Action Plan, referred to as Exhibit 2, adequately provides policy guidance regarding future greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures and implements the City’s General Plan Conservation Element Implementation Action CE-IA-5.

**SECTION 3.** *Action.* The City Council hereby adopts the City of Goleta Climate Action Plan.

**SECTION 4.** *Reliance on Record.* Each and every one of the recommendations in this Resolution is based on the competent and substantial evidence, both oral and written, contained in the entire record relating to the Climate Action Plan. The findings and determinations constitute the independent findings and determinations of the City Council in all respects and are fully and completely supported by substantial evidence in the record as a whole.

**SECTION 5.** *Summaries of Information.* All summaries of information in the findings, which precede this section, are based on the substantial evidence in the record. The absence of any particular fact from any such summary is not an indication that a particular finding is not based in part on that fact.

**SECTION 6.** This Resolution will remain effective until superseded by a subsequent resolution.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** this 15<sup>th</sup> of July, 2014.

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MICHAEL T. BENNETT, MAYOR

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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DEBORAH S. LOPEZ  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
TIM W. GILES  
CITY ATTORNEY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA                    )  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA         )     ss.  
CITY OF GOLETA                         )

I, DEBORAH LOPEZ, City Clerk of the City of Goleta, California, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing City Council Resolution No. 14-\_\_ was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Goleta at a regular meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014, by the following vote of the Councilmembers:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

(SEAL)

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DEBORAH LOPEZ  
CITY CLERK