



MEMORANDUM

TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

TO: Mayor and Members of the Town Council

FROM: Leslie Lambert, Planning Manager

DATE: September 5, 2006

RE: U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement

In February 2005, the Kyoto Treaty became law for the 141 nations that have ratified it to date. The Kyoto agreement calls for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by industrialized nations in order to steer clear of dangerous climate change. The United States has not ratified the treaty. If it did so the U.S. would be required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 7% below 1990 levels by 2012.

In 2005, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels initiated a project to encourage the nation's cities and towns to adopt the standards of the Kyoto agreement. As of August 2006, 291 mayors of cities and towns representing more than 49 million Americans have pledged to reduce global warming carbon dioxide pollution in their cities to at least 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

On August 2, the editorial in the Almanac urged local cities to adopt the Kyoto standards. In addition, Stan Van Velsor, Global Warming Program Coordinator of the Sierra Club, wrote Mayor Toben on behalf of the more than 400 Sierra Club members who live in Portola Valley urging the Town to sign the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement.

Several cities on the Peninsula have taken the pledge and are committed to reducing their global warming pollution. These cities include Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto, San Bruno, San Mateo, San Jose, and Sunnyvale.

U.S. cities can act in many ways to address causes of global warming, both in municipal operations and in the community. Examples include:

- "Greening" municipal vehicle fleets with hybrid gas-electric engines and other cleaner vehicle technology;
- Modernizing municipal buildings, lighting and other operations with money-saving energy efficiency technology; and
- Investing in clean and safe renewable energy such as wind and solar power.

The Town already has a number of progressive measures in place. These include:

- Green Building Approach to New Town Center Construction
- Recycling and Diversion of Construction and Demolition Debris
- Waste Diversion/Business and Residential Recycling Programs
- Encouraging Green Building Practices, including Mandatory Review of Green Design Elements in the ASCC Process
- Design Guidelines that encourage vegetation preservation, planting of natives, and a minimal approach to lighting
- Promote sustainability and encouraging the use of solar energy and installation of photovoltaic solar, \$50 flat rate permit fee established
- Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy
- Safe Routes to Schools
- Bicycling/Walking/Pedestrian Facilities
- Open Space Preservation Program

Some additional measures the Town could adopt include:

- Educational outreach to community on purchasing environmentally preferred products
- Encourage bulk purchasing, lessening deliveries into Town
- Encourage vanpooling/carpooling at schools
- Encourage purchase of hybrid gas-electric vehicles
- Utilize biodiesel fuel for field maintenance equipment
- Encourage solar heating systems for swimming pools
- Distribute bids & proposals electronically, lessening need to travel into Town
- Look into permit processing on line, minimizing trips into Town
- Look into incentives or subsidies from the Million Solar Roofs Initiative
- Look into requirements for new residential and commercial projects to utilize solar and more sustainable approaches
- Form a group of local architects, committee members, staff to investigate what further things could be done with residences on energy reduction, suggest guidelines or ideas for residents to follow

Many local governments are already well underway with climate protection actions, plans and policies. There are many examples that may be helpful tools for cities just getting started, like us. It has been suggested from several sources, that one good starting point is to join International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). Their Cities for Climate Protection Program (CCP) is designed specifically for local governments to take action on climate change. A number of cities have joined local governments from around the world in an effort to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases within their communities.

The CCP Campaign is an international effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions which cause global warming by implementing measures at the local level in transportation, energy and waste sectors. Over 145 cities and counties in the U.S. have joined the campaign, which is coordinated by the ICLEI. The CCP program is divided into five main stages.

- First Stage: the city conducts a base year emission analysis of the whole community, as well as municipal operations.
- Second Stage: the city calculates a forecast for the emissions in a business as usual scenario, if no measures were introduced to reduce emissions
- Third Stage: an emission reduction target is determined, which establishes the goal and timetable within which city measures will be implemented.
- Fourth Stage: the city develops a Local Action Plan (LAP), including emission reduction measures for the transportation, energy and waste sectors.
- Fifth Stage: implement and further develop the measures in the Local Action Plan.

The ICLEI program does provide assistance with our inventory and setting a baseline. There is a membership fee, and any specific activities add additional costs.

The City of Palo Alto is currently in the same process that we are. They have established a Green Ribbon Task Force. We should watch what Palo Alto is proposing.

ABAG provides a program to local jurisdictions to assist with an inventory on Municipal Buildings regarding energy efficiency and make recommendations to increase energy efficiency.

Our Green Building Contact at San Mateo County, Jill Boone, is a member of the Sustainable Silicon Valley Regional Collaborative. They have a tool they use to help members calculate emissions. At the time of writing this report, Ms. Boone was away on vacation, so I was not able to obtain the details. Staff will follow up to see if this group would be able to assist in obtaining our baseline.

Recommendation:

1. It is recommended that the Town Council authorize the Mayor to sign the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement.
2. It is recommended that the Town Council appoint representatives from the Town Council, Planning Commission, ASCC, Conservation Committee and interested members of the public to begin formulation of a comprehensive energy savings plan for the Town.

Approved:

Angela Howard, Town Administrator

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING NO. 701, SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

ROLL CALL

Mayor Toben called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Howard called the roll:

Present: Councilmembers Davis, Driscoll and Merk, and Mayor Toben
Absent: Councilmember Derwin
Others: Town Attorney Sloan, Town Administrator Howard, Public Works Director Young, Asst. Town Administrator Willis, Planning Manager Lambert, and Deputy Clerk Hanlon

REGULAR AGENDA

(7) U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement

Mayor Toben said *The Almanac* published an editorial on August 2, 2006, urging local cities to endorse the Kyoto protocol. At the same time, he received a letter from Stan Van Velsor, Global Warming Program Coordinator-Sierra Club, encouraging the Council to endorse the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. Endorsement of the Agreement would require the Town to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 7% below 1990 levels by the year 2012. He felt a large number of residents viewed this issue with growing concern and that many residents would be likely to come forward and join in a volunteer effort to help the Town: 1) calculate the appropriate targets; and 2) fashion, prioritize, and implement potential solutions/strategies for addressing this issue. Schoolchildren could also get involved.

Mayor Toben said the Resolution/Agreement was a model and contained eleven different recitals of fact—some contained assertions regarding the cause and extent of the problem of climate change. There was some imprecision in the language. Council's action should be based on the recognition that this problem was real, and there was a civic obligation to respond. He suggested sending a letter to the coordinator of the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement project explaining that while the Council endorsed the Agreement, that did not imply that the Council agreed in all respects with the statements regarding the

cause or extent of climate change. He read a draft of the letter.

Ms. Lambert reviewed her staff report of 9/5/06 on the Agreement and discussed: 1) what other jurisdictions/organizations were doing to reduce global warming; 2) steps the Town had already taken; and 3) measures that could be adopted to address this issue. She reviewed her recommendations set forth in the staff report.

Gary Bailey, Global Warming Public Outreach and Education Campaign, Sierra Club, urged the Council's endorsement of the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. In addition to asking cities to reduce greenhouse gases, he said the Agreement also called on Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reducing legislation with: a) specific timetables and emission reductions; and b) flexible market based trading mechanisms. He said the U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously passed the Resolution and urged all mayors to adopt the Agreement. He said the Town had made a good start in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and could make a major contribution by endorsing and signing the Agreement and adding the Town's voice to the call to Congress to pass meaningful, effective, bipartisan legislation to reduce greenhouse gas production in the United States. The more towns and cities that signed the agreement, the more encouragement there was for others to follow suit; some needed more encouragement than others.

Councilmember Driscoll described some of the efforts being made by Palo Alto to address this issue. His only concern was that staff would be burdened trying to determine emission levels, etc. Ms. Lambert confirmed that the intent was to try to produce policies, procedures and guidelines to accomplish the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Councilmember Davis said endorsing the Agreement would be a galvanizing action and attention-getter for people to participate in ways to improve the situation.

Councilmember Driscoll said the Design Guidelines tried to encourage people to build within the context of the Town and with respect for the neighbors. Energy guidelines were equally important and could be an adjunct to the Design Guidelines and gave people a compendium of resources where they could find out about solar water heating, photovoltaics, etc. Ms. Lambert noted that the Town used the Sustainable San Mateo County Guidelines, including the checklist. There were also a number of handouts at the counter. Councilmember Driscoll encouraged the Planning Commission to take a hard look at this issue.

Councilmember Merk said people needed to be given an idea of how much energy was used and pollution was created by construction. He discussed the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere in the production of concrete. There was a whole educational component to the impact from the size of buildings. The gas sold at the gas station paled in comparison to the fuel burned from cement trucks coming in from Redwood City or Sunnyvale to pump hundreds and hundreds of cubic yards of concrete.

Michael O'Brien, San Carlos, encourage the Council to sign the Agreement. The more people who signed on, the more consciousness was raised.

Craig Breon encouraged Council to sign the Agreement. He said he did not think the Agreement was primarily symbolic. There were a number of things the Town could do to make measurable improvements. Another key aspect was education. The Town couldn't control the kinds of cars people bought or how much they drove, but the citizens could be better educated. He said he would like to be part of any group the Town formed to address this issue.

After discussion, Councilmember Driscoll moved to authorize the Mayor to: 1) sign the agreement; 2) attach Mayor Toben's letter to the resolution approving the Agreement; and 3) ask staff to draw up charter documents for an ad hoc committee to look at how the Town could best implement and encourage compliance with the Agreement. Councilmember Merk seconded, and Resolution No. 2267-2006 was

adopted by a vote of 4-0.