



MEMORANDUM

TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

TO: Mayor and Members of the Town Council

FROM: Leslie Lambert, Planning Manager
Brandi de Garreaux, Sustainability & Resource Efficiency Coordinator

DATE: February 11, 2009

RE: Review and approval of Resolution No. _____-2009 to adopt the San Mateo County Energy Strategy

Background

In late 2005, President of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, Jerry Hill proposed the need for a countywide task force to investigate and recommend how best to meet the County's current and future energy needs.

A November 2005 Board report recommended that San Mateo County's Department of Public Works, Environmental and Waste Management Section (RecycleWorks) act as staff for City and County Association of Governments (C/CAG) in order to bring forward the idea of an energy strategy development process to C/CAG's committee for discussion.

In February 2006, the Congestion Management and Air Quality Committee (CMAQ) authorized the creation of an ad hoc energy working group to develop an energy strategy for San Mateo County. The group was chartered to consider the county's future energy and infrastructure needs and to recommend how to address these needs in an economically, socially and environmentally responsible manner.

This working group became the Utility and Sustainability Task Force (USTF), an ad hoc committee of the Congestion Management and Environmental Quality Committee (CMEQ) of the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG). Comprised of six elected officials and six stakeholder representatives, the USTF first met in June 2006 and began work on the energy strategy with a project consultant and County staff.

The draft San Mateo County Energy Strategy (Energy Strategy) was completed in July 2008. The Executive Summary was presented to the C/CAG Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the C/CAG Congestion Management and Environmental Quality (CMEQ) Committee, and the C/CAG Board of Directors in July and August 2008. The complete draft Energy Strategy was reviewed and approved by the County Board of Supervisors in September 2008. Both C/CAG and the Board of Supervisors authorized the distribution of the Energy Strategy to the cities in the county for comment.

A complete draft of the Energy Strategy was sent to all City Managers and Mayors via mail and e-mail on September 18, 2008; Cities were invited to submit comments to the County for consideration until October 15, 2008. Town Staff reviewed the draft of the Energy Strategy and submitted comments. The comments focused on the structure of the document and the need to indicate the entity responsible for carrying out the goals, strategies, actions and milestones. One specific comment recommended an action and a case study supporting energy efficiency retrofits as a method to improve the existing building stock. The County received comments from several cities and was able to incorporate many of the comments. Overall, the feedback was positive: cities said that the Energy Strategy would support their own climate action goals and efforts.

The current Energy Strategy was reviewed and approved by the C/CAG Board of Directors, Board of Supervisors, USTF, C/CAG Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the C/CAG Congestion Management and Environmental Quality (CMEQ) Committee in November and December 2008 and is ready for adoption by the all the cities in the County. The Energy Strategy is a working document and will be updated periodically.

The San Mateo County Energy Strategy is one piece of a concerted effort countywide called "CO2 San Mateo County" to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and take action on climate change. Other efforts include a new (partially grant funded) County staff person to provide support to the Cities, volunteer staff support for Cities, financial support for greenhouse gas emission inventories that has already been offered by C/CAG (which the Town is taking advantage of), a new partnership with PG&E to fund energy efficiency projects for the cities in the county ("San Mateo County Energy Watch"), and other resources available to cities from several nonprofit organizations.

Discussion/Analysis

The main objective of the San Mateo County Energy Strategy is to bring together the cities in the county to work collaboratively on energy and water-related issues; to define goals, to propose strategies and actions; and to provide resources. The Energy Strategy includes five main goals with associated strategies, actions, and best practices to support them. These goals address renewable energy and energy efficiency, water conservation and new sources of water, collaboration between cities and the utilities, economic development opportunities, and the promotion of leadership on these issues in the county.

Although important, the Energy Strategy does not specifically include transportation or solid waste because these topics were not included in the scope of work of the USTF committee. The San Mateo County Energy Strategy is intended to be a working document and will be updated over time with resources and current data and could include these other important topics in a future update.

The Energy Strategy's goals for energy and water usage are consistent with the current institutional thinking in our region and State: the energy goal is related to current State legislation (AB32), and the water goal is based on current projections by the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency and contracts with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

The Energy Strategy directly supports and complements the Town's Sustainability Element, its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under AB32 and its developing climate action plan. The Town's Sustainability Element guides action at the local level. The Energy Strategy will add another layer to inform decisions as well as ensure the Town is making progress towards, and benefiting from, regional efforts. Adopting the Energy Strategy will also demonstrate the Town's commitment to the regional effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which could prove beneficial for funding and potential mandatory reporting under AB 32.

Below is a brief description of the five main goals of the Energy Strategy, highlighting where these goals support the Town's Sustainability Element. It also identifies where these goals complement the Sustainability Element and provide leadership on collaboration at the regional level.

ENERGY

Energy Strategy Goal: to support the State's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, reduce the amount of power purchased from utilities through conservation, energy efficiency and local production of clean energy

Support of Town Goals: reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the air; green building for new and existing structures; protection of the natural environment

WATER

Energy Strategy Goal: to meet increased water demands through conservation, recycling programs and development of local water supplies

Support of Town Goals: protection of water resources

COLLABORATION

Energy Strategy Goal: partner with public utilities and work across city boundaries to address environmental challenges more effectively and efficiently

Complement to Town Goals: provides leadership and assistance to Town at regional level

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Energy Strategy Goal: support the clean technology sector to strengthen the long-term economic health of San Mateo County

Complement to Town Goals: provides leadership to Town at regional level

LEADERSHIP FROM THE TOP

Energy Strategy Goal: encourage environmental leadership from the top in the public sector, the business community and with its residents to achieve the goals of the Energy Strategy; invest in environmental expertise in local government; recruit and support community leaders at every level

Support of Town Goals: community education and involvement

Collaborating with other cities facing similar challenges in the county will save the Town time and resources and reduce the risk of implementation pitfalls: cities will learn about and share best practices and will be able to take advantage of staff support, training and even bulk purchasing opportunities for items such as solar by having a greater connection with other cities in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

By adopting this resolution, the Town will be adopting the goals of the San Mateo County Energy Strategy and committing to pursuing the next steps recommended by the Strategy:

- Commit to working collaboratively with other cities and the County
- Release energy and water utility data to the County and C/CAG for the purposes of tracking countywide energy-use and emission-reduction goals

The Town will assign one staff person and one elected official to be the main contact for the Town's climate action program for the County and C/CAG. C/CAG and the County need Town contacts for purposes of routing information about the Energy Strategy, not for purposes of establishing a new C/CAG committee. Staff looks to the Council to assign the elected official.

By adopting the Energy Strategy, the Town is not required to adopt and implement every action suggested in the Energy Strategy; some actions listed in the Strategy may not work for the Town or may conflict with the Town's current climate action plan. The intention of the Energy Strategy is to support city efforts, to provide resources and to promote collaboration.

Financial Implications

There is no membership fee to adopt the San Mateo County Energy Strategy, so there is no financial impact at this time. Some actions recommended by the Energy Strategy may require Town funding and will be evaluated by the Town on a case-by-case basis. Other actions may be funded through rebates, grants, or partnerships. One of the objectives of the Energy Strategy is to save cities money by sharing resources, expertise and purchasing power.

Legal Implications

If the Town adopts the San Mateo County Energy Strategy, there is no requirement to implement all the actions suggested in the Energy Strategy and there are no penalties for not meeting targets by specific deadlines.

Recommendation

1. It is recommended that the Town Council approve the attached resolution to adopt the San Mateo County Energy Strategy.
2. It is recommended that the Town Council appoint a council member to be a contact for the Town's climate action program for the County and C/CAG.

Approved: _____
Angela Howard, Town Manager

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Resolution approving and authorizing adoption of San Mateo County Energy Strategy
- Attachment 2: Letter from Richard Napier, C/CAG - Executive Director, and Kim Springer, Manager - RecycleWorks requesting adoption of the San Mateo County Energy Strategy
- Attachment 3: San Mateo County Energy Strategy 2012