

Date: October 13, 2009
To: City Council
From: Environmental Advisory Commission – Climate Change Ad Hoc Committee
RE: Strategic Planning Framework

At its September 22, 2009, Special Meeting the Environmental Advisory Commission (“EAC”) discussed creating a framework in which to analyze existing, changing, and new City policies to determine their impact on climate change. The purpose of the framework is to (1) identify the major City policies, processes, and initiatives to be addressed in the upcoming year; and (2) formulate a list of questions to determine the impact on climate change and the extent of EAC review that should be required.

The EAC first created a preliminary list of strategic planning efforts to be addressed by the City in the upcoming year:

- General Plan Update – Land Use, Mobility, Open Space
- Water Integrated Resource Plan and Urban Water Management Plan
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Bicycle Master Plan

The EAC then created the following list of questions to assist the City Council, City staff, and the EAC in determining if the planning effort should be reviewed by the EAC for its impact on climate change:

Impact on Climate Change

- 1) How can this policy update be used to reduce the City’s GHG emissions?
- 2) What portion(s) of the policy update (e.g. GP Land Use Element) are linked to the main drivers of climate change (e.g. GHG)? What portions have secondary impacts (e.g. increased demand for energy)? What is the City doing to address those impacts?
- 3) Which Environmental Accords apply to the Project?
- 4) How will baseline GHG emissions be calculated and updated? How will the results be used and / or incorporated into the policy update?
- 5) What methods is the City considering to reduce in GHG emissions? How can these methods be implemented or supported through this policy update?
- 6) What is the long-term sustainability target? How does the planning effort achieve that target?

EAC Level of Review

- 7) How is the Environmental Advisory Commission integrated into the decision-making process?
- 8) Must certain decisions be passed through the Commission prior to decision-making?