

## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 24, 2021

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** NATHAN HAMBURGER, CITY MANAGER

**BY:** RAMIRO ADEVA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** CONTINUED DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP) AND DIRECT STAFF TO PROCEED TO PHASE 2 OF THE CAAP PROCESS TO PREPARE THE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

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On February 10, 2021, the City Council of Agoura Hills unanimously voted to continue the discussion of the draft Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), in order to allow more time for the public to review and provide comments on the draft.

The following is a re-cap of the CAAP process:

- Phase 1 – Preparation of the draft CAAP
- Phase 2 – Prepare Environmental Document/Environmental clearance
- Phase 3 – Implementation/Monitoring and Reporting

The draft CAAP that results from completing Phase 1 is not the implementation document, but rather a document that establishes overarching goals focused on both decreasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the primary sources identified for Agoura Hills, as well as proactively preparing for vulnerabilities and risks the City will face in the future due to climate change impacts.

More specifically, Phase 1 includes determining GHG emission sources and corresponding reduction measures, along with a variety of actions the City can consider to align with statutory reduction targets in 2030 and 2045. Because of its long-term purpose, the CAAP will require annual checkpoints to ensure the City remains aligned with achieving compliance. At any future review, if it is determined that additional, and/or revisions to existing measures and actions are needed, the CAAP can, and will, be adjusted to realign with the targets.

There will be more public discussion throughout Phase 2, where there will be additional opportunities to fine-tune the contents of the CAAP. Environmental clearance in the context of the CAAP is counter-intuitive to traditional analysis of project impacts. Typically, projects consist of developments and related construction, where physical

impacts to the surrounding environment can be expected, triggering the need for mitigation measures. CAAPs however, are projects that are inherently *impact-reducing* since generally they act to preserve, rather than physically alter, the surrounding environment, and therefore, result in “less than significant” impacts to the environment.

Phase 3 is implementation, which includes preparation of a Monitoring and Reporting Program, as well as screening tables, which will align with the goals and measures outlined in the CAAP draft. This final phase will detail the initial strategy for implementing the CAAP, and will need to be revised over time to coincide with any revisions that are made to the CAAP to ensure compliance.

It is important to note that any of the bullet-point items listed for each measure should be considered as a group of suggested actions that could be taken to reach compliance. At this point in the process, any suggested action items are subject to change with more discussion and community feedback in Phase 2.

The initial discussion from the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting covered a multitude of topics including, but not limited to, an expected increase in telecommuting in the COVID-19 aftermath, removing references to renewable natural gas, fiscal impacts of the plan, clarification of proposed adaptation measures for wildfires, and whether electrification should be mandated or incentivized.

At the conclusion of the continued discussion, staff will take the comments received from the City Council and the community, and will work with the consultant, LSA, to return to the City Council with a revised draft on March 10, 2021. At that time, staff will be seeking approval to begin Phase 2, which includes the preparation of the environmental document for the CAAP.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council:

1. Continue discussion regarding the draft Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), and
2. Direct staff to revise the draft to incorporate comments from the City Council and community, and
3. Return to the City Council on March 10, 2021, to consider approval of the final draft of the CAAP, and to direct staff to proceed to Phase 2 of the CAAP process to prepare the appropriate environmental document in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).