

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: MARCH 26, 2008

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

BY: LOUIS CELAYA, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET WORKSHOP – GREEN CITIES INITIATIVE

At your request, attached is a summary of climate protection programs that was presented to the Environmental Responsibility Committee (ERC) as a starting point for discussion of directions to be considered. The attachment consists of a table listing strategy areas that municipalities can review in an effort to move toward more sustainable living and provide a positive impact on the global climate. The table and associated categories were developed by the Institute for Local Government, an arm of the League of California Cities, as a guidance tool for cities to identify opportunities for programs that can be implemented to make climate changes (i.e., Energy Efficiency & Conservation, Green Building, Waste Reduction & Recycling, etc.). The right-hand column of this table provides information on City of Agoura Hills related programs applicable to the category (in green). Also included in the right-hand column (in blue) are short and long term goals and/or projects that could be considered for implementation. Short term goals equate to projects or tasks requiring minimal staff resources and/or minimal cost, and are meant to provide quick successes to begin the momentum toward sustainable living. Long term goals equate to projects that will require larger staff resources, possibly include studies or professional consultants to assist staff, and/or increased costs.

The ERC met with the City Manager to discuss the concepts presented in the table and after deliberations, it was concluded that “first steps” in this endeavor were to examine in house activities that could be enhanced, developed, or achieved to serve as an example for the community (“getting our own house in order”). As some of the programs listed in the attachment call upon the community and/or development community to initiate changes, having a City Hall that is already implementing many climate protection programs will better serve as an enticement for others to participate.

This summary is not all inclusive and is a document to begin discussions, with the goal to provide the ERC and the City Council with concepts and ideas for climate protection programs and a sustainable community.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is recommending the City Council deliberate the recommendations of the ERC and identify potential first-year internal programs and discuss possible second-year external (community) programs.