

**CITY OF ALBANY
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: January 17, 2018

TO: Sustainability Committee

FROM: Chelsea Plevy, CivicSpark Climate Fellow
Claire Griffing, Sustainability Coordinator

SUBJECT: Climate Mitigation & Adaptation Plan RFP

BACKGROUND

The City's Climate Action Plan (CAP), adopted in 2010, aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020. This plan is relatively complete, with a large percentage of measures accomplished or in progress. The Sustainability Committee has proposed even more ambitious goals of 60% reductions by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2050, which have been included in the City's General Plan. The City Council's 2017 Strategic Plan update includes a measure to develop a new Climate Mitigation and Adaption Plan for these 2035 and 2050 Goals.

DISCUSSION

A Climate Mitigation and Adaption Plan that aims to meet the City's new aggressive reduction targets will require in new approach, focusing on innovative and bold policies that address deep decarbonization principles. Staff is therefore looking to hire experts to develop a forward-thinking and locally relevant plan.

The project will begin with an analysis of state and regional programs and policies to avoid redundancy and determine the appropriate role for Albany in the next phase of climate action. Then an analysis of best practices for long-term climate action planning will be conducted. The plan must define net zero emissions and determine how to achieve this goal. The planning process will include a community outreach component, potentially including surveys and workshops.

A key component of the process will be identifying potential partnerships and sources of funding. This includes traditional grant funding, but also a strengthened relationship with private investors and the advancement of public-private partnerships.

The ultimate plan should include a prioritized list of community-supported strategies that reach all sectors. Each strategy should include responsible agencies, departments, and staff, as well as actionable steps and possible funding sources. The development of policy templates and case studies could also be helpful. Plan review will need to include an analysis of equity implications of each strategy.

Adaptation

The scope of services requests the inclusion of climate adaptation strategies for planning efficiency and continuity. The City of Albany has prioritized climate adaptation planning because of the potential increase in extreme weather events and sea level rise. The National Research Council (NRC) projects six

inches of sea level rise by 2030 (range: 2-12 in), 11 inches by 2050 (range: 5-24 in), and 36 inches by 2100 (range: 17-66 in) relative to the year 2000.

California state law (SB 379) requires that cities and counties include climate adaptation and resiliency strategies in the safety elements of their general plans. The bill requires climate adaptation updates to include a set of goals, policies, and objectives for communities based on the most current information available regarding climate change adaptation and resiliency.

PROCESS

Staff plans to bring this RFP to Council in March for approval. Staff will review proposals and schedule consultant interviews. The Sustainability Committee should designate two members to participate on the interview panel.

Once a firm has been selected, the Sustainability Committee will receive progress updates at monthly meetings and have multiple opportunities to inform and provide feedback on the plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Staff has been unsuccessful in obtaining additional grant funds for this planning process, and is in the process of determining available internal funding for the project.