



UPDATED
5/15/2023

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: May 15, 2023
Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for SB 511: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories
UPDATED 05-15-2023

REPORT BY: Elizabeth Carrade, Sustainability Coordinator

SUMMARY

This staff report includes an update to the original staff report for Letter of Support for SB 511: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories.

CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On April 19, 2023, the Climate Action Committee recommended that the City Council sign the letter of support for SB 511: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories. This recommendation was made based on the original text for SB 511, prior to legislative amendments made on April 24, 2023. The CAC has not had an opportunity to consider the bill text that includes the new legislative amendments.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council sign the letter of support for SB 511: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories.

BACKGROUND

The City of Albany City Council adopted the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) in December 2019. The CAAP directs the City to measure Plan implementation using a number of key performance indicators (KPIs). Annually, staff present KPIs and analysis of KPI trends to the Climate Action Committee in the spring.

DISCUSSION

Senate Bill 511 by Senator Catherine Blakespear would direct the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to conduct greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories on behalf of California local governments that request inclusion in the program. CARB would conduct GHG inventories for cities who request one every five years, beginning in 2030.

The original bill text directed CARB to conduct GHG inventories for all jurisdictions in the state. Edits made to the SB 511 text on April 24, 2023 result in the bill directing CARB to develop and publish greenhouse gas emissions inventories for jurisdictions *upon request*

starting in 2030, and every five years thereafter. The most recent version of SB 511 is included in this report as Attachment 3.

Each year, City of Albany staff spend approximately 20-24 hours, over the course of two months, collecting data from various sources and entities (15+) and preparing analysis of the CAAP key performance indicators (KPIs), as well as updating the CAAP actions tracking spreadsheet.

If SB 511 were to pass, the City could request inclusion in the state's development and publication of greenhouse emissions inventories every five years. Staff could still collect and analyze KPIs above and beyond what the state includes in a state-conducted inventory, and will continue to do so annually. Nonetheless, staff believe that inclusion in the statewide inventory would still positively benefit the City of Albany by allowing the City to see how it is performing in climate mitigation compared to other jurisdictions across the state, and provide an opportunity to identify jurisdictions with which the City may be able to learn from and/or collaborate with. Therefore, staff still recommends that Council sign onto the letter of support for SB 511.

For those cities that request inclusion in the CARB GHG inventory process, SB 511 would ensure consistency of GHG emissions inventories across the state and show statewide trends in successes and needs in climate action.

The SB 511 Letter of Support (Attachment 1), directed to the Deputy Executive Officer for Climate Change Research at CARB, further calls on CARB to develop a GHG inventory program that engages local governments and stakeholders, provides local governments the flexibility to further expand their inventories, updating the state's Climate Action Portal Map, and leverage existing tools to increase innovation and efficiency.

The CivicWell letter of support was originally sent to CARB on April 11, 2023. CivicWell, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing sustainable communities (and the nonprofit that administers the CivicSpark program), plans to send an additional letter to CARB in the coming months. To date, 66 signatories representing 63 agencies and organizations have agreed to be included in future letters of support. CivicWell staff has confirmed that a future letter would contain the exact same text as that included in the April 2023 letter. The only difference between the April 2023 letter and the letter to be sent out in the coming months will be the signatories and city seals included on it.

On May 15, staff requested an update from CivicWell staff regarding whether the text of the letter of support would change based on the changes to the bill's text on April 24. City staff has not yet heard back from CivicWell.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The 2019 CAAP directs the City to measure Plan implementation using a number of key performance indicators (KPIs). Annually, staff present KPIs and analysis of KPI trends to the Climate Action Committee in the spring. Tracking and analyzing KPIs allows the City to

determine if it is making progress towards its climate action goals at the speed at which is needed to meet key deadlines (as defined in the CAAP). Though not mandatory and therefore not performed by all jurisdictions in California, GHG emissions inventories are performed by individual jurisdictions throughout the state. Because there is currently no consistent set of guidelines or instructions for how each jurisdiction should measure GHGs and other KPIs, it is hard to determine how each jurisdiction is contributing to the GHG reductions necessary to meet the State of California's 2045 carbon neutrality target. Despite changes to the bill's text that result in GHG inventories being voluntary, the option to be included in the state's GHG inventory program may help those cities that do not have the capacity to develop their own GHG inventories be able to assess their city's impact on the state's 2045 carbon neutrality target.

Individual jurisdictions can choose to conduct additional analysis above and beyond this minimum standard. Albany will continue to conduct annual analysis of KPIs as directed by the CAAP.

SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS

None

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES

Statewide support with GHG inventories would support Strategic Plan Initiative 1: Advance Climate Action and Adaptation.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

NEXT STEPS

If City Council decides to sign onto the future letter of support for SB 511: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories, staff will send the City's seal to CivicWell for inclusion on the next letter.

Attachments

1. SB 511 Letter of Support (April 2023)
2. SB 511 Fact Sheet
3. SB 511 Bill Text as Amended on April 24, 2023



**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: May 15, 2023
Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for SB 511: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories
REPORT BY: Elizabeth Carrade, Sustainability Coordinator

SUMMARY

This item includes a recommendation that Council sign onto a letter of support for SB 511: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories.

CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On April 19, 2023, the Climate Action Committee recommended that the City Council sign the letter of support for SB 511: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council sign the letter of support for SB 511: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories.

BACKGROUND

The City of Albany City Council adopted the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) in December 2019. The CAAP directs the City to measure Plan implementation using a number of key performance indicators (KPIs). Annually, staff present KPIs and analysis of KPI trends to the Climate Action Committee in the spring.

DISCUSSION

Senate Bill 511 by Senator Catherine Blakespear would direct the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to conduct greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories on behalf of California local governments.

Each year, City staff spend approximately 20-24 hours, over the course of two months, collecting data from various sources and entities (15+) and preparing analysis of the CAAP key performance indicators (KPIs), as well as updating the CAAP actions tracking spreadsheet.

If SB 511 were to pass, significant staff time and resources could be saved, and could be allocated to implementation of CAAP actions, rather than to tracking GHG emissions. Staff could still collect and analyze KPIs above and beyond what the state includes in a state-conducted inventory.

SB 511 would not only save time and resources, it would also ensure consistency of GHG emissions inventories across the state and show statewide trends in successes and needs in climate action.

See Attachment 2, SB 511 Fact Sheet, for more information on SB 511.

The SB 511 Letter of Support (Attachment 1), directed to the Deputy Executive Officer for Climate Change Research at CARB, further calls on CARB to develop a GHG inventory program that engages local governments and stakeholders, provides local governments the flexibility to further expand their inventories, updating the state’s Climate Action Portal Map, and leverage existing tools to increase innovation and efficiency.

Attachment 1 is the letter of support sent to CARB in April 2023. CivicWell, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing sustainable communities (and the nonprofit that administers the CivicSpark program), plans to send an additional letter to CARB in the coming months. To date, 66 signatories representing 63 agencies and organizations have agreed to be included in future letters of support. CivicWell staff has confirmed that a future letter would contain the exact same text as that included in the April 2023 letter. The only difference between the April 2023 letter and the letter to be sent out in the coming months will be the signatories and city seals included on it.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The 2019 CAAP directs the City to measure Plan implementation using a number of key performance indicators (KPIs). Annually, staff present KPIs and analysis of KPI trends to the Climate Action Committee in the spring. Tracking and analyzing KPIs allows the City to determine if it is making progress towards its climate action goals at the speed at which is needed to meet key deadlines (as defined in the CAAP). Though not mandatory and therefore not performed by all jurisdictions in California, GHG emissions inventories are performed by individual jurisdictions throughout the state. Because there is currently no consistent set of guidelines or instructions for how each jurisdiction should measure GHGs and other KPIs, it is hard to determine how each jurisdiction is contributing to the GHG reductions necessary to meet the State of California’s 2045 carbon neutrality target. Statewide oversight would ensure that all jurisdictions in the state were conducting GHG inventories that at least meet a minimum standard of consistency. Individual jurisdictions can choose to conduct additional analysis above and beyond this minimum standard.

SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS

None

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES

Statewide support with GHG inventories would support Strategic Plan Initiative 1: Advance Climate Action and Adaptation.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

NEXT STEPS

If City Council decides to sign onto the future letter of support for SB 511: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories, staff will send the City's seal to CivicWell for inclusion on the next letter.

Attachments

1. SB 511 Letter of Support (April 2023)
2. SB 511 Fact Sheet



April 11, 2023

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
1021 O Street, Suite 7340
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 511 Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Support

Dear Senator Blakespear:

On behalf of 66 undersigned leaders representing agencies and organizations working on climate and energy issues across the state of California, CivicWell respectfully submits this letter to express our support for your Senate Bill 511 which would direct the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to prepare and provide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories to local governments for their use in preparing Climate Action Plans (CAPs) and in determining the best opportunities for investing resources to reduce GHG emissions.

On behalf of the 45 undersigned agencies and organizations, representing a diverse coalition of dedicated organizations working to advance climate action and resilience-building efforts across the state, we urge you to fully restore the proposed cuts to vital climate and energy programs in the Governor's January Proposed Budget.

The effects of climate change are becoming more evident every day. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said we are in a "code red" condition to take action to reduce the rate and extent of global warming in order to avoid a catastrophe. Scientists have calculated that 2021 was the sixth warmest year ever. The increasing frequency and severity of wildfire; extreme heat; extreme cold, snow, and rain; and drought are all manifestations of the influence of climate change.

California has taken a number of steps at the state level to respond to the climate crisis including AB 32 (Nunez) in 2006 to set up a cap-and-trade system to reduce GHG emissions at the state level, SB 375 (Steinberg) in 2008 to combine land use and transportation planning to reduce GHG emissions at the local level, and SB 32 (Pavley) in 2016 to require that GHG emissions are reduced by 40% from 1990 levels by 2030 as well as many other pieces of legislation that address climate change in some manner. The 2021-22 and 2022-23 state budgets included a \$56 billion package to address wildfire and forest resilience, drought and water resilience, and climate resilience over three years (subject to a \$6 billion reduction in the Governor's proposed 2023-24 budget).

SB 511 would fill a significant gap in the work done by local governments to address climate change. While important actions have been taken and resources allocated at the state level, it is local communities and governments that are on the front lines of meeting the challenge. This bill, in directing CARB to assemble and share GHG emission inventories with local governments, would provide critical data essential to the task of drafting the best CAPs possible and making the best decisions on the application of available resources to benefit communities. The bill would have four major benefits: 1) comprehensive coverage across the state, 2) data and

methodology consistency, 3) visibility into patterns and progress, and 4) reduced cost in generating GHG emission profiles.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing the opportunity for local governments to develop data-based CAPs and to make the best investments possible, especially for vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, in reducing GHG emissions.

Respectfully,

Roger Dickinson
Policy Director
CivicWell

Lisa Motoyama
Mayor
City of El Cerrito

Lily Mei
Mayor
City of Fremont

Mark Salinas
Mayor
City of Hayward

Jennifer Cavanaugh
Mayor
City of Piedmont

Sepi Shyne
Mayor
City of West Hollywood

Lindsay Romack
Mayor
Town of Truckee

Joy Lyndes
Deputy Mayor
City of Encinitas

John Freeman
Mayor Pro Tem
City of San Juan Bautista

Alex Stillman
City Councilmember
City of Arcata

Kimberley White
City Councilmember
City of Arcata

Jose Trinidad Castaneda
City Councilmember
City of Buena Park

Salvador Solorio-Ruiz
City Councilmember
City of Delano

Teresa Keng
City Councilmember
City of Fremont

Zach Hilton
City Councilmember
City of Gilroy

Max Perrey
City Councilmember
City of Mill Valley

Liz Alessio
City Councilmember
City of Napa

Dan Kalb
City Councilmember
City of Oakland

Christine Boles
City Councilmember
City of Pacifica

Pat Burt
City Councilmember
City of Palo Alto

Soheila Bana
City Councilmember
City of Richmond

Emily Francis
City Councilmember
City of San Luis Obispo

Sudhanshu Jain
City Councilmember
City of Santa Clara

Dave Pine
Board President / District 1 Supervisor
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

Oscar Villegas
Board Chair / District 1 Supervisor
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Anne Cottrell
District 3 Supervisor
County of Napa

John Haschak
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Danielle Mieler
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City Manager
City of Chula Vista

Guido F. Persicone
Community Development Director
City of Marina

Billi Romain
Energy/Sustainable Development Manager
City of Berkeley, Office of Energy and Sustainable Development

Sarah Zarate
Director of Administration, Policy, and Intergovernmental Relations
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Sam Bautista
Director of Engineering and Public Works
City of Millbrae

Alyssa Dykman
Sustainability Program Manager
City of Piedmont

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Community Development Director
City of Arroyo Grande, Community Development Department

Suzanne Smith
Executive Director
Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority

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County Executive
County of Santa Clara

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Climate Action and Sustainability**

Alejandra Tellez
Executive Director
Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

Nick Peterson
Founding Member
Albany Climate Action Coalition

Leslie Alden
Executive Director
Drawdown Bay Area

Jeff Caton
Director of Climate Change Services
Environmental Science Associates

Zoe Siegel
Senior Director of Climate Resilience
Greenbelt Alliance

Stephanie Chen
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MCE

Gopal Shanker
President
Récolte Energy

Pauline Seales
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Santa Cruz Climate Action Network

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Thomas Graly
Co-Leader
Berkeley Electrification Working Group

Kirsten Liske
VP Community Programs
Ecology Action

Michael McCormick
Partnerships Lead and President
Farallon Strategies

Benjamin Eichert
Director
Let's Green CA!

Cooper Marcus
Chief Quitter and CEO
QuitCarbon

Colleen FitzSimons
Executive Director
San Diego Green Building Council

Alan Pryor
Chair
Sierra Club Yolano Group

Kateri Harrison
CEO and Planner
SWALE Inc. Consultants

Ramon Edrick Hilario
Principal Engineer
The American Engineers

Craig Perkins
President and Executive Director
The Energy Coalition

Terry Taylor
Founding Member
WeAct

Ellie Cohen
CEO
The Climate Center

Jennifer Gunby
Senior Manager, State & Local Advocacy
U.S. Green Building Council

Kevin Wolf
CEO
Wind Harvest International Inc.



SB 511- GHG Emissions Inventories:

SUMMARY

SB 511 would direct the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to prepare inventories of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for use by cities and counties to use in the preparation of Climate Action Plans (CAPs) and to prioritize the use of funding and resources to achieve optimal reductions of GHG emissions in local communities. Inventories would be especially important to reduce and eliminate disparities and impacts on vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. The bill would provide an appropriation to CARB for this purpose.

BACKGROUND

The effects of climate change are becoming more evident every day. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said we are in a “code red” condition to take action to reduce the rate and extent of global warming in order to avoid a catastrophe. Scientists have calculated that 2021 was the sixth hottest year ever. The increasing frequency and severity of wildfire; extreme heat; extreme cold, snow, and rain; and drought in California and the world are all manifestations of the influence of climate change. California has taken a number of steps at the state level including AB 32 (Nunez) in 2006 to set up a cap and trade system to reduce GHG emissions, SB 375 (Steinberg) in 200_ to combine land use and transportation planning to reduce GHG emissions at the local level, and SB 32 (Pavley) in 2016 to require that GHG emissions are reduced by 40% from 1990 levels by 2030 as well as many other pieces of legislation that address climate change in some manner. The 2021-22 and 2022-23 state budgets include a \$56 billion package to address wildfire and forest resilience, drought and water resilience, and climate resilience over three years (although the Governor’s proposed budget for 2023-24 would make \$6 billion in cuts to this package)

PRIOR LEGISLATION

SB 379 (Jackson) from 2015 requires cities and counties to update the safety elements of their general plans to address climate adaptation and resilience strategies.

THIS BILL

SB 511 will fill a significant gap in the work done by local governments to address climate change. While important actions have been taken and resources allocated at the state level, it is local communities that are on the front line of meeting the climate change challenge. While some local governments, in preparing CAPs and prioritizing their efforts to reduce GHG emissions, have the expertise and resources to produce their own GHG emission inventories, the vast majority of local governments do not. This bill, in directing CARB to assemble and share GHG emission inventories with local governments, will provide critical data essential to the task of drafting the best CAPs possible and making the best decisions on the application of available resources to benefit communities. The bill would have three major benefits: 1) comprehensive coverage across the state, 2) data and methodology consistency, 3) visibility into patterns and progress, and 4) reduced cost in generating GHG emission profiles. The bill includes an appropriation of \$2.5 million to CARB to fund the work specified which is millions of dollars less than it would cost local governments to undertake the same work on a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction basis.

SUPPORT

- CivicWell (co-sponsor)
- Contra Costa County (co-sponsor)

STAFF CONTACT

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SB-511 Greenhouse gas emissions inventories. (2023-2024)

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Date Published: 04/24/2023 02:00 PM

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 24, 2023

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL**NO. 511**

Introduced by Senator Blakespear

February 14, 2023

An act to add Section 38561.1 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to climate change.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 511, as amended, Blakespear. Greenhouse gas emissions inventories.

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency responsible for monitoring and regulating sources emitting greenhouse gases. The act requires the state board to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and to update the scoping plan at least once every 5 years.

This bill would require the state board, before January 1, 2028, to ~~develop and publish~~, *develop, and publish* on its internet website, a report on greenhouse gas ~~emission~~ *emissions* inventories for the calendar year 2025 for each city, county, *or city and* ~~county, and special district~~, *county that requests inclusion in the report*, as provided. The bill would require the state board, consistent with the preparation of the updates to the scoping plan and before January 1, 2033, and every 5 years thereafter, to update the ~~inventories~~ *inventories, for each city, county, or city and county that requests inclusion in the respective update*, for the ~~subsequent~~ *calendar years, as specified: year 2030 and every 5th year thereafter*. The bill would authorize the state board to solicit bids and enter into contracts for the development of the inventories. The bill would require the state board, before January 1, 2026, to establish a local government advisory committee to inform its development of the greenhouse gas ~~emission~~ *emissions* inventories. The bill would ~~allocate~~, *make available*, upon appropriation by the Legislature, \$2,500,000 in the 2024–25 fiscal year for above-described purposes.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares both of the following:

(a) Local governments play a vital role in meeting the state's climate goals and greenhouse gas ~~emission~~ *emissions* inventories are critical in developing data-informed climate action plans that direct limited local resources to implement climate action measures.

(b) There is a need for the state to support access to necessary data and the conduct of emissions inventories to make additional local resources and capacity available for implementation.

SEC. 2. Section 38561.1 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

38561.1. (a) (1) Before January 1, 2028, the state board shall ~~develop and publish,~~ *develop, and publish* on its internet website, a report on greenhouse gas ~~emission~~ *emissions* inventories for the calendar year 2025 for each city, county, *or* city and ~~county, and special district,~~ *county that requests inclusion in the report*, consistent with the U.S. Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Version 1.2, July 2019, developed by the ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability USA. The report shall include, at a minimum, electricity and natural gas usage data disaggregated by the residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural sectors for each emissions inventory.

(2) Consistent with the preparation of the update of the scoping plan pursuant to Section 38561, before January 1, 2033, and every five years thereafter, the state board shall update the greenhouse gas ~~emission inventories~~ *emissions inventories, for each city, county, or city and county that requests inclusion in the respective update*, for the calendar year ~~that is five years after the prior inventories, beginning with the calendar year 2025.~~ *2030 and every fifth year thereafter.*

(b) For purposes of subdivision (a), the state board may collect necessary data from state agencies, special districts, local governments, and electric and gas utilities.

(c) The state board may solicit bids and enter into contracts for the development of the inventories.

(d) Before January 1, 2026, the state board shall establish a local government advisory committee to inform its development of the greenhouse gas ~~emission~~ *emissions* inventories.

SEC. 3. Upon appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act, two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) shall be available in the 2024–25 fiscal year for purposes of Section 38561.1 of the Health and Safety Code.