

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

Agenda Date: June 15, 2009

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: East Bay Green Corridor Partnership

REPORT BY: Beth Pollard, City Administrator

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorize joining the East Bay Green Corridor Partnership.

BACKGROUND

In December 2007, the cities of Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, and Richmond, and the University of California, Berkeley, and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory formed the East Bay Green Corridor Partnership. The purpose of the partnership is to strengthen the regional economy through support for emerging green and sustainable industries, alternative energy research, and a healthy built environment.

Last year the City Council received a recommendation from the Sustainability Committee that the City of Albany make a request to join the Green Corridor. The Council referred it to the City's economic development consultant and staff for review and contact with the involved parties. The City was informed that there would be openings for new members within approximately a year.

DISCUSSION

The Green Corridor Partnership is now open to additional members, including the cities of Alameda, Albany, El Cerrito, and San Leandro, as well the Peralta Community College District, the Contra Costa Community College District, and California State University East Bay. Attached is an invitation letter from Berkeley Mayor and partnership Chair Tom Bates, with additional information including the Partnership's Statement of Principles, 2008 Accomplishments, 2009 Goals, and organizational and flow charts.

The Partnership Principles are:

1. Attract and retain emerging green businesses.
2. Strengthen existing programs promoting technology development and transfer.
3. Support employment development opportunities in emerging green industries
4. Build a more cohesive regional identity in energy-related green business sectors

5. Protect our economies from climate change and energy shocks
6. Cooperate in obtaining grants and project funding for green research and entrepreneurship
7. Improve our living environment and quality of life

ANALYSIS

Among the City's economic development consultant's interim report recommendations was to explore green businesses and green building supplies/home improvements – in particular in the redevelopment area. In addition, the City is pursuing a partnership with other cities in Alameda County in a stopwaste.org project to encourage property owners to invest in energy conservation home improvements. Lastly, the City of Albany is preparing a Climate Action Plan towards reducing Albany's carbon emissions. The Green Corridor Partnership provides the City with the opportunity to be part of a broader effort to attract green building and other sustainability-oriented businesses and activities to Albany which would be more challenging for the city to conduct on a stand-alone basis.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The focus of the Green Corridor Partnership is to strengthen sustainability research, programs, employment, business, and other sustainable activities.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are sufficient funds in the Albany Reinvestment Agency budget to pay the \$10,000 fee to join the Green Corridor Partnership. There will be staff time needed to attend approximately monthly meetings and perform assigned tasks. The Mayor or designee is asked to attend about three meetings a year.

Attachments

1. Letter from Tom Bates dated May 27, 2009
2. East Bay Green Corridor Statement of Principles, December 3, 2007
3. East Bay Green Corridor Partnership Flow Chart
4. 2008 Accomplishments and 2009 Goals
5. Green Academy Vision - Green Energy Education Pathways
6. Retaining & Building the East Bay's Emerging Green-Tech Economy