



## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 17, 2014

CONSENT

SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS GREEN FOR LIFE PROGRAM INCLUDING GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY, ENERGY ACTION PLAN, CLIMATE ACTION PLAN, BENCHMARKING POLICY, AND COMMISSIONING-RETRO-COMMISSIONING POLICY

FROM: David H. Ready, City Manager

BY: Michele C. Mician, Manager, Office of Sustainability

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### SUMMARY

A resolution endorsing the Green for Life Program, including a Climate Action Plan with Greenhouse Gas Inventory, an Energy Action Plan, Benchmarking Policy and Commissioning/Retro-Commissioning Policy.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council of the City of Palm Springs endorsing the Green for Life Program, including a Climate Action Plan with 2010 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, an Energy Action Plan and Benchmarking Policy and Commissioning/Retro-Commissioning Policy.

### BACKGROUND:

Since 2009, the City of Palm Springs has partnered with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) and other valley cities and Tribes as part of its Desert Cities Energy Partnership. In the fall of 2011, CVAG developed a "Green Government Initiative" on behalf of member jurisdictions to promote energy efficiency, green building and sustainability, with funding received from Southern California Edison (SCE) and the California Public Utilities Commission. Through this initiative, the Green for Life program, a comprehensive suite of energy and sustainability elements, has been developed and customized for the City with input from city officials and staff as well as community stakeholders.

ITEM NO. 21

The purpose of this item is for the City Council to endorse a comprehensive suite of elements that support the City's efforts to save energy, cut costs, and use resources more efficiently. The City of Palm Springs has already taken steps to initiate the Green for Life program by adopting the Voluntary Green Building Program (September 18, 2012). These additional items include the Palm Springs Climate Action Plan with associated Greenhouse Gas Inventory, the Palm Springs Energy Action Plan, and the Energy Benchmarking and Commissioning/Retro-commissioning policies.

### STAFF ANALYSIS:

The Green for Life program builds on the sustainability efforts and environmental accomplishments of the City. For a number of years, Palm Springs has demonstrated leadership in efforts to improve energy efficiency, livability and promote wise use of our resources. The Opterra, formerly Chevron Energy Solutions, energy efficiency project and the significant expansion of electric vehicle charging stations are but a few examples.

Through the Green for Life program, the City of Palm Springs will have even more prospects for greater resource efficiency, tools to reach sustainability goals, reduced energy costs and provide green opportunities for residents, businesses and community members. The adoption of the Green for Life Program brings multiple benefits including:

- ✓ Identify ways to save energy and money at home, at work, at city facilities
- ✓ Stimulate job growth
- ✓ Encourage new "clean and green" businesses to come to the region.
- ✓ Take advantage of free training and tools that provide your staff, boards and commissions with green expertise
- ✓ Become eligible for higher rebates and incentives from electric and gas utilities
- ✓ Find new ways to guide your residents and businesses on how to become more energy efficient and save money
- ✓ Enhance compliance with state and federal requirements; improve grant opportunities
- ✓ Give a significant boost to valley-wide efforts to achieve energy independence, find energy cost reductions, and thus have more revenue for local projects and services

Other CVAG member cities, Tribes, and Riverside County are taking action as well. Through funding from SCE and the California Public Utilities Commission, seven cities (served by Southern California Edison) and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians have completed greenhouse gas inventories and Energy and Climate Action Plans. Riverside County completed a greenhouse gas inventory and climate action plan in 2011.

The elements of the Green for Life program are described below. The Green for Life program has been developed for your city as a voluntary program, offering choices that will help meet your goals to reduce energy use, save money on energy bills, and promote sustainable use of resources. CVAG staff and consultant team are available to

assist the City with implementation of these programs. It is anticipated that the City will want to update the plans and we are looking for ways to support those efforts, including possible internship programs with local community colleges and universities, ongoing training for staff, and workforce development opportunities.

Voluntary Green Building Program. The Green Building Program is a voluntary program to increase building efficiency 15% over current state requirements. It targets both new and existing construction. It offers ideas for residential and commercial property owners to cut their energy use and improve the comfort of their homes and businesses, and save money! It provides a simple, easy to use checklist of green building measures. The Green Building Program has been endorsed by the Desert Valleys Builders Association and the Desert Contractors Association. More information about the Green Building Program is available at: <http://www.greenforlifecv.org/green-building-program/>. CVAG recently hosted a Green Building Tour including sites in Palm Springs and a Green Building app will soon be available.

Climate Action Plan As part of Green for Life program, a 2010 greenhouse gas inventory was completed and a Climate Action Plan (a greenhouse gas reduction plan), was prepared for Palm Springs. The 2010 greenhouse gas emissions inventory can be used to serve as the baseline against which to measure emission reduction progress in recent years. Conducting an inventory involves measuring the amount of energy/fuel/water used and waste generated by the entire community and calculating the number of metric tonnes of greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub>e) that result from those activities. Emission reduction targets were determined based on the results of the inventory as well as the requirements of current legislation (AB 32 and SB 375).

The Climate Action Plan is the strategic blueprint for the City to reach the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets identified through the GHG inventory. Emissions reduction measures are presented in eight separate focus areas – how we build, where we work, how we get around - are some examples. Actions focus on “low hanging fruit” and cost effectiveness; opportunities for job creation have been identified and woven throughout the Climate Action Plan. The proposed measures build on actions already taken by the city – including use of alternative fuel vehicles, electric vehicle infrastructure, energy efficient lighting, and solar ready efforts. Some examples of greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures from the Climate Action Plan include:

- Encourage shade trees and building design features to reduce air conditioning demands
- Implement measures in residential and commercial areas to reduce heat island effects
- Explore private-public partnerships for renewable energy installations and energy-efficiency upgrades on municipal facilities
- Promote green building and energy efficiency measures for residents and businesses

Energy Action Plan: The Energy Action Plan is a roadmap of energy standards and policies to guide the City in achieving its long-term objectives in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon emissions reductions. It describes a range of strategies to reduce energy demand, improve efficiency, and transition to renewable energy sources at all city-owned/operated facilities. Using data from electric and gas utilities, the Energy Action Plan describes current energy use at city-facilities and describes ways for the City to cut energy consumption, energy costs, and to benefit from higher incentives through the Desert Cities Energy Partnership. The Energy Action Plan includes two policies to be adopted as part of the Plan:

- 1) Benchmarking Policy will give the City tools to monitor and improved the energy performance of its municipal buildings and compare that performance with other like buildings in the same climate zone.
- 2) Commissioning/Retro-Commissioning Policy applies to new and existing buildings and equipment to promote proper operation of major equipment, proper indoor air quality, desired occupant comfort, and optimum energy consumption. The focus of this policy is on “tuning up” how building equipment and systems function together.

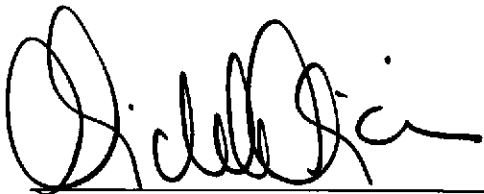
City staff has participated in ongoing coordination and review with CVAG and the Green for Life consultant team on these program elements. Staff has been actively involved throughout the process of gathering data and preparing these plans. They have reviewed the plans and policies. Meetings with the Sustainability Commission have occurred regularly throughout this process, including the November 18 and December 16, 2014, meetings. Throughout the process of developing these plans and policies, the CVAG’s Green for Life team has sought input from city officials and staff as well as community stakeholders. Regular updates on the Green for Life program have been provided to CVAG’s Energy and Environmental Resources Committee as well.

The Climate and Energy Action Plans provide a roadmap for the City to meet our energy efficiency and sustainability goals. The plans provide for flexibility in the selection of measures to be implemented through a phased approach. The plans are intended to be living documents, to be used and updated as new opportunities to achieve energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reductions arise.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Climate Action Plan, Energy Action Plan and policies, do not by themselves commit City funds. Although, these policies are intended to act as guidelines for the City, some actions may require upfront capital costs, or additional staff time to implement and maintain. However, any element of the policies that suggest or require ordinance or zoning code amendments, or any additional costs or personnel, will require separate City Council review and approval prior to implementation.

Moreover, the City could choose to offer incentives to businesses or residents and CVAG may have some funding available through the Green for Life program to support training for staff and commissioners, outreach, and educational materials. Additionally, there may be various sources of possible revenues for these programs and measures such as grants, rebates and incentives, on-bill financing, and other options. The preparation of the Green for Life elements is supported by funds from Southern California Edison and the California Public Utilities Commission, through CVAG; reimbursement for staff time spent is available through this funding.



Michele Mician, Sustainability Manager

Sustainability Manager



David H. Ready, City Manager

City Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution No.
2. Palm Springs Climate Action Plan
3. 2010 Palm Springs Greenhouse Gas Inventory
4. Palm Springs Energy Action Plan
  - a. Energy Benchmarking Policy and Procedures for Municipal Buildings in the City of Palm Springs
  - b. Commissioning and Retro-commissioning Policy for Municipal Buildings in the City of Palm Springs

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA ENDORSING THE GREEN FOR LIFE PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY, THE ENERGY ACTION PLAN, ENERGY BENCHMARKING POLICY FOR MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, AND COMMISSIONING/RETRO-COMMISSIONING POLICY**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Palm Springs is committed to the long-range goal of protecting the natural environment, enhancing our economy, increasing sustainability efforts and improving overall quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere have been found to have a profound effect on the Earth's climate and reducing the potential magnitude of climate change may lower its harmful effects on public health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, in September 2006, the State of California adopted the Global Warming Act of 2006 (AB 32) which created a statewide greenhouse gas emission requirement and goal to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, at the 2009 Coachella Valley Energy Summit all CVAG jurisdictions signed the Coachella Valley Sustainability Pledge committing all to take leadership roles and commit to a valley wide effort to ensure the maintenance of our air quality, encourage sustainable use of resources, and preserve our environment for future generations through collaboration on regional greenhouse gas emissions and the promotion of energy efficiency and clean alternative energy; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Palm Springs authorized participation in the Coachella Valley Association of Government's coordinated application and subsequent award from Southern California Edison via the California Public Utilities Commission for a coordinated suite of energy efficiency and sustainability elements known as Green for Life; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's elected officials, appointed committees, staff and residents helped to determine climate action efforts included in the Climate Action Plan that contain numerous community co-benefits such as utility savings, better air quality, reduced traffic congestion, local economic development, and improved quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Palm Springs, as a member of the Desert Cities Energy Partnership with partners Southern California Edison, Southern California

Gas Co, and Imperial Irrigation District joins all CVAG Jurisdictions in a regional effort to promote energy independence by the adoption and implementation of the elements contained in these documents; and

**WHEREAS**, the greenhouse gas reduction activities contribute to the achievement of many of the City's environmental values and is consistent with the City's efforts to promote clean and efficient energy use, commuter trip reduction efforts and other clean air initiatives, solid waste reduction and recycling; and promoting jobs and economic development; and perform related environmental studies as required; and

**WHEREAS**, the City shall consider an amendment to its General Plan to integrate this Climate Action Plan endorsing measures for climate protection and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, noting that the Climate Action Plan and all future amendments to such plan shall remain in effect and applicable to all development within the City; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Palm Springs as follows:

1. The City Council endorses by Resolution 2014-\_\_ adopting the Green for Life program including a Climate Action Plan with accompanying Greenhouse Gas Inventory, an Energy Action Plan with accompanying Benchmarking Policy and Commissioning/Retro-Commissioning Policy.
2. It is also understood that where policy measures require or suggest ordinance or zoning code amendments, or any additional costs or personnel, further evaluation and analysis will be conducted to determine feasibility; and will require separate City Council review and approval prior to implementation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City will pursue the energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals highlighted in the Energy Action Plan for City operations through City activities and programs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City will pursue the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals highlighted in the Climate Action Plan for City and non-City "community" goals through the various actions and policies as well as cooperative incentive-based programs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City will monitor and report progress towards meeting the State's commitment to reduce GHG emissions. Since all levels of government will continue to monitor, lead and participate in these broader emission reduction activities, it may be necessary to adjust the measures described therein as necessary to ensure AB 32 and other related legislation if fully implemented.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Palm Springs, California, at a regular meeting held on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014.

ADOPTED THIS 5TH DAY OF JUNE 2013

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David H. Ready, City Manager

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Thompson, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE ) ss.  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS )

I, JAMES THOMPSON, City Clerk of the City of Palm Springs, hereby certify that Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ is a full, true and correct copy, and was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palm Springs on \_\_\_\_\_, by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Thompson, City Clerk  
City of Palm Springs, California