WATER | ENERGY | LIFE

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES **DATE: JUNE 8, 2026**

SUBJECT: RIVERSIDE 2050 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE AND CLIMATE ACTION & ADAPTATION PLAN.

ISSUE:

Consider receiving an update on the development of the Riverside 2050 General Plan Update and Climate Action & Adaptation Plan project development progress and provide feedback.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Public Utilities receive and file this update on the Riverside 2050 General Plan Update and Climate Action & Adaptation Plan and provide feedback.

BACKGROUND:

California state law requires every city and county to adopt a General Plan for "the physical development of the county or the city, and any land outside its boundaries which in the planning agency's judgment bears relation to its planning" (California Government Code §65300). The General Plan articulates a vision for the future growth and development of the City and sets forth priorities, policies and implementation steps for how that vision will be achieved. These provide a foundation for decision making related to land development, capital improvements, infrastructure investment, city operations, delivery of services, community health, civic engagement and more over a period of multiple decades. The City's current General Plan was adopted by the City Council in November 2007 and was last substantively updated in October 2021 in response to state legislative mandates related to housing, public safety and environmental justice.

The State of California has expressly identified human-caused climate change as a major legislative and policy priority and has taken numerous steps to set the state on a path toward reducing and, where possible, eliminating the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs). This is critical to the state's role in the global effort to prevent catastrophic destabilization of the Earth's climate due to human activity, primarily the burning of fossil fuels. Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, set a statewide goal of achieving 1990 greenhouse gas emissions levels by 2020. Subsequent legislation, regulatory plans and executive orders have established statewide goals of achieving 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and for achieving statewide carbon-neutrality by 2045.

At the same time, lawmakers have recognized that, despite significant efforts, some amount of climate change is already guaranteed and will have potentially disruptive effects from increasing

high heat weather events to sea level rise to precipitation changes to prolonged droughts and more severe wildfires, among others. The ability to adapt to these changes and recover quickly and fully from periodic shocks related to climate disruption will be increasingly necessary. Senate Bills (SB) 379 and 1035 establish requirements for local governments to integrate adaptation strategies into their General Plans or otherwise articulate a plan and policies for adapting to climate change.

In 2016, the City adopted the Riverside Restorative Growthprint (RRG) consisting of an Economic Prosperity Action Plan (EPAP) and Climate Action Plan (CAP). The RRG-CAP provided tactics for the City to achieve deep reductions in GHG emissions through 2035. The RRG-EPAP attempted to provide a framework for smart growth and low-carbon economic development, consistent with state law. The RRG had a target implementation year of 2020.

DISCUSSION:

The Planning Division and the Office of Sustainability have initiated a comprehensive update of the City's General Plan and the concurrent preparation of a Climate Action & Adaptation Plan to guide physical and economic growth and to manage our contributions to and impacts from climate change through the year 2050. This presentation updates the Board of Public Utilities on this ongoing effort and solicits Board and public feedback on the project thus far, including but not limited to:

1. Public outreach and engagement;
2. Draft General Plan Vision Statement and Vision Values;
3. Draft land use scenarios;
4. Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) inventory;
5. GHG emissions projections;
6. GHG emissions reduction targets;
7. GHG emissions reduction measures; and
8. Climate vulnerability and adaptation measures.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the receipt and filing of this report.

Prepared by:	Matthew Taylor, Principal Planner and Fortino Morales, Sustainability Manager
Approved by:	Miranda Evans, Interim Community and Economic Development Director
Certified as to availability of funds:	Julie Nemes, Interim Finance Director
Approved by:	Gilbert Hernandez, Interim Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Rebecca McKee-Reimbold, Interim City Attorney

Attachment: Presentation