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# Utility Services / Land Use / Energy Development Committee

**TO: UTILITY SERVICES / LAND USE / ENERGY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**      **DATE: AUGUST 6, 2015**

**FROM: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**      **WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: RIVERSIDE RESTORATIVE GROWTHPRINT – ECONOMIC PROSPERITY ACTION PLAN & CLIMATE ACTION PLAN - DIRECT SUBMITTAL**

## **ISSUE:**

This item for Utility Services/Land Use/Energy Development Committee consideration is the review and recommendation of approval to the City Council for the Riverside Restorative Growthprint, which includes a Climate Action Plan and an integrated Economic Prosperity Action Plan.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Utility Services/Land Use/Energy Development Committee recommend that the City Council approve the Riverside Restorative Growthprint (RRG), including the Climate Action Plan (RRG-CAP) and Economic Prosperity Action Plan (RRG-EPAP).

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2012, the Southern California Association of Government (SCAG) adopted a comprehensive regional plan known as the 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The RTP/SCS is a State-mandated plan that focuses on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from cars and light trucks, through integrated transportation, land use, housing and environmental planning. Subsequent to the adoption of the RTP/SCS, SCAG created a grant program to encourage cities to implement projects at the local level which would make dynamic change and achieve the transportation and sustainability goals of the RTP/SCS.

In 2013, the City was awarded a SCAG grant to prepare a climate action plan (CAP), and integrate it with local economic development programs. This plan, known as the Riverside Restorative Growthprint (RRG), was initiated in early 2014. For the purpose of implementation, it consists of two integrated plans; the Climate Action Plan (RRG-CAP), and the Economic Prosperity Action Plan (RRG-EPAP). Both plans work together as a single unified effort to spur entrepreneurship and smart growth ideas, with the intent of meeting GHG emission reduction goals.

Public Outreach and Engagement - The Green Accountability Performance (GAP) Committee, the group responsible for implementing the City's Green Action Plan, served as the primary

technical working group for the RRG-CAP. The GAP met quarterly over the course of a year to discuss the RRG-CAP and provide feedback. Most of the feedback provided was focused on the plans' reduction measures. In addition, the City conducted community outreach that included public presentations and meetings with residents and stakeholders. This outreach occurred during the plan development and decision-making processes.

On June 18, 2015, the City Planning Commission reviewed and recommended approval of the Riverside Restorative Growthprint, including the Economic Prosperity Action Plan and Climate Action Plan.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Economic Prosperity Action Plan (RRG-EPAP)**

The RRG-EPAP is a comprehensive plan that integrates economic development activities with GHG reduction measures listed in the RRG-CAP. The RRG-EPAP focuses on the areas that have the greatest potential to spur economic development and inspire entrepreneurship. To provide focus and direction, the RRG-EPAP includes a list of the "Top 10 Entrepreneurial Opportunity Areas" associated with GHG emission reductions in Riverside. This "Top 10" list is the backbone of the plan, and provides a starting-point for engaging the community, both locally and globally.

The feedback received from the outreach and stakeholder engagement process was synthesized into five overarching strategies. These strategies are aimed at facilitating smart growth development, and stimulating more sustainable infrastructure investment. Each strategy also includes Entrepreneurial Opportunity Areas (EOA's) that could further RR-EPAP goals.

The five smart growth strategies include:

1. Placemaking
2. RRG Policy Lens
3. Smart Growth Infrastructure
4. Community Connections
5. Future Leaders

Along with the strategies listed above, the EPAP outlines a 4-step action plan to jumpstart the project planning process, and maintain stakeholder engagement and outreach activities.

The RRG-EPAP also calls for the development of a comprehensive incentive package to further attract and support local clean-tech businesses. The RRG-EPAP compares business incentive programs that the City of Riverside offers with those offered by other leading California cities, and provides recommendations that will encourage sustainable and clean-tech businesses to relocate to, or expand operations in, the City of Riverside.

### **Climate Action Plan (RRG-CAP)**

In 2014, Riverside was one of twelve cities that collaborated with the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) on the Subregional Climate Action Plan (Subregional CAP). The Subregional CAP set forth emissions reduction targets, emissions reduction measures, and action steps that assist WRCOG communities in achieving consistency with California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) and the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375). AB 32 is State legislation that requires that, by year 2020,

there be a statewide reduction of GHG emissions to 1990 levels. The Subregional CAP includes 36 reduction measures that guide cities in their effort to meet the State's mandate. SB 375 is a mandate for local governments to coordinate transportation and land use planning, with the goal of reducing GHG emissions and creating more sustainable communities. The WRCOG Subregional CAP serves as the starting point for the City's RRG-CAP, which expands on the subregional measures, and provides a path for the City to meet GHG reduction goals through the year 2035.

The RRG-CAP prioritizes policies that enable the City to meet the GHG reductions targets identified by State initiatives Assembly Bill [AB] 32 and Senate Bill [SB] 375, as well as Executive Orders S-3-05 and B-30-15. To create policies and actionable programs that comply with the State's targets, the City must identify and categorize existing GHG emissions levels, and then quantify emission reductions that can be achieved through the actionable programs. As such, the RRG-CAP includes a baseline year (2007) GHG inventory for local government operations, and for the community as a whole; it then forecasts emissions for 2020 and 2035, and establishes emission reduction targets consistent with state policy. The City's baseline year (2007) GHG inventory (community as a whole) is 3,024,066 metric tons (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). The City's 2020 Target is 2,224,908 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e per year (26.4% below the 2007 baseline), and the 2035 Target is 1,542,274 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e per year (49% below the 2007 baseline). Through stakeholder engagement and cost-benefit analysis, the RRG-CAP resulted in strategies, measures, and actions for reducing emissions that are aligned with the City's planning priorities, and its vision of a future economy based on "clean, green businesses and business practices".

Emissions Reduction Measures: In order to reduce GHG emissions and achieve established targets, the RRG-CAP contains Federal, State, regional local GHG reduction measures organized into four primary sectors: (1) energy, (2) transportation and land use, (3) water, and (4) solid waste. Through state and regional measures that are implemented at the subregional level, the City of Riverside anticipates significant reductions from the City's "business as usual" (BAU) emissions forecasts for 2020 and 2035 (949,572 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e and 1,398,918 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, respectively). Through locally-implemented measures, the City of Riverside anticipates the BAU emissions forecasts by reduced by 189,399 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2020, and by 275,273 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2035.

Successful implementation of the RRG-CAP will enable the City to surpass its community-wide GHG emissions target for 2020. However, more aggressive action by the City, the WRCOG Subregion, and the State is needed to reach the 2035 target. As outlined in the CAP, the city is not able to meet the 2035 target through its own efforts unless there is unprecedented change in city policy and practice. This is because the additional reduction needed to meet the 2035 emissions target account for nearly half a million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e. While this shortfall for 2035 is significant, it is important to note that measures outlined in the RRG-CAP will keep the City in line with its long-term GHG reduction goal until approximately 2026. After that point a gap emerges between needed reductions and expected reductions, which steadily grow until reaching a deficit of approximately 446,740 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e by 2035.

Chapter 4 of the RRG-CAP discusses the potential for existing and future state legislation to reduce emissions beyond 2026, which could allow the City to achieve the 2035 target. This Chapter also shows how the 2035 reduction gap can be closed with two conceptual scenarios, which combine more aggressive state and local actions. These aggressive efforts focus on four strategies, as follows:

- Reducing vehicle miles travelled (VMT)
- Low-carbon fuels and vehicles (e.g., biofuels; electric vehicles)
- Low-carbon electricity (e.g., renewables)
- Energy efficiency

Achieving the City's 2035 target will largely depend on State action, along with the City's continued and gradual intensification of the policies and measures presently outlined in the RRG-CAP.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the preparation and adoption of the Riverside Restorative Growthprint, which includes a Climate Action Plan and an integrated Economic Prosperity Action Plan. The funding for this plan was provided through a sustainability grant awarded by the Southern California Association of Governments on September 27, 2013.

Submitted by: Emilio Ramirez, Interim Community & Economic Development Director  
Certified as to  
availability of funds: Brent A. Mason, Finance Director/Treasurer  
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, Assistant City Manager  
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments: June, 2015 Public Review Draft of the Riverside Restorative Growthprint  
– Economic Prosperity Action Plan and Climate Action Plan (RRG-EPAP/CAP)