

### OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

City Manager's Office, Office of Sustainability

Board of Public Utilities June 28, 2021

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## **BACKGROUND**

### March 10, 2020 City Council action:

- Conceptually approved creation of an Office of Sustainability within the
  City Manager's Office to act as a catalyst for the full development and
  implementation of sustainability and resiliency policies and actions and the
  repurpose of two existing vacant positions as the Sustainability Officer and
  a support position
- 2. Requested staff to:
  - a. Develop further detail on the position levels and pay scale;
  - Present the proposal to the Budget Engagement Commission for a recommendation;
     and
  - c. Return to the City Council for a final determination.



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# **BACKGROUND**

### April 27, 2021 City Council action:

- 1. Reconfirmed City Council's direction on March 10, 2020
- 2. Supported a new full-time Chief Sustainability Officer position by directing staff to bring back a job scope and duties and recommended salary range for a new full-time Chief Sustainability Officer position for the purpose of:
  - a. Fully implementing the Office of Sustainability; and
  - b. Shepherding organization-wide sustainability efforts in support of the City Council's more recently adopted Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan.



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- 1. Renewable Electricity
  - a. Utility portfolio
  - b. Supporting customer renewables
- 2. Energy Efficiency
- 3. Transportation & Building Electrification
  - a. Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program
  - b. Clean Fuel Reward Program
  - c. Supporting Building Decarbonization Ordinance
- 4. Habitat Conservation Planning
- 5. Water Conservation
- 6. Education Programming







- Casa Blanca Customer Resource Center
- Low-Income Assistance
  - ERAP-COVID-19 emergency assistance
  - SHARE-Monthly and emergency bill assistance program
  - Energy Savings Assistance Program

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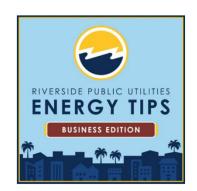
# **ECONOMIC PROSPERITY EFFORTS**







"I look forward to working with you and the city of Riverside. Super appreciate the responsiveness and the positive attitude. Believe me when I tell you, that's not universal working with the other cities and counties out there."



- 1. High customer satisfaction
- 2. High quality customer service
- 3. Ensure fair and equitable electric and water rates
- . Economic Development Rate

- 5. Commercial customer support
- 6. Streamlined permitting
- 7. Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Rebates

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# **ONE-STOP SHOP SUSTAINABILITY**





**CUSTOMER** 

#### **INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS**

- **60 drive miles** saved per Plan Review
- 1.5 driving hours saved per Plan Review
- 3 gal. (\$11.55) of gas savings per Plan Review
- \$792 cost of paper saved

#### **ALL PROJECTS (CUMULATIVE)**

- 150,000 drive miles saved
- 3,750 driving hours saved
- 6,716 gal. (\$25,856) of gas savings
- \$1,980,000 cost of paper saved



- 2 hours of savings per Plan Review
- \$120 of savings per Plan Review
- 4,688 hours of savings in Plan Review
- \$300,000 of savings in Plan Review



- 0.024 saved of carbon dioxide release per plan review
- 6 less car trips to OSS per Plan Review
- 0.10 trees saved

- **59.7 metric tons** saved of carbon dioxide release per year
- 15,000 less car trips to OSS per year
- 256 trees saved

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## **NEXT STEPS**

Part 1: Develop staff plan, budget, and implement the framework for the OOS roles and responsibilities.

- Work across the City organization to foster a strong culture around cross-department teams for greater impact in sustainability work;
- 2. Lead triple bottom line work groups to increase coordination and standardization among service areas around sustainability goals;
- 3. Participate regionally in efforts related to sustainability;
- 4. Join organizations specializing in sustainability best practices and peer-to-peer learnings;
- **5. Initiate conversations** about alternative approaches to addressing sustainability including, but not limited to, city organizational structure change, establishment of a sustainability commission, and the creation of new positions (e.g. Chief Sustainability Officer);
- 6. Coordinate legislative platform and regulatory compliance; and
- 7. Develop and initiate a stakeholder communications and education strategy.



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## **NEXT STEPS**

#### Part 2: Triple Bottom Line Teams

(funded or included in upcoming budget)

- 1. All Working Groups –Municipal Sustainability Plan to implement Council's Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan and the General Plan Update to ensure long-range sustainability efforts are integrated throughout the:
  - a. Environmental Justice Element / Climate Adaptation / Housing Element
  - b. Phase 2 of General Plan Update
- 2. Economic Prosperity Work Group key efforts including Economic Prosperity Action Plan development, Northside Specific Plan, Innovation District, One Stop Shop, infrastructure investment, Santa Ana River economic opportunities, others
- 3. Social Responsibility Work Group Diversity/Equity/Inclusivity Plan, diversity training, Equity Officer recruitment, support Community Engagement Policy
- **4. Environmental Stewardship Work Group** CEQA certified Climate Action Plan, regional environmental collaborations, key efforts to reduce GHG emissions



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# **RECOMMENDATION**

### That the Board of Public Utilities:

- 1. Receive an update on citywide sustainability efforts, including activities of the Office of Sustainability and Riverside Public Utilities; and
- 2. Share thoughts and ideas for RPU's involvement in citywide sustainability efforts.



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