



City of Santa Barbara
Public Works Department

Memorandum

DATE: September 16, 2021
TO: Water Commission
VIA: Joshua Haggmark, Water Resources Manager
FROM: Alelia Parenteau, Energy & Climate Manager
SUBJECT: Update on Energy and Climate Activities

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Water Commission receive an update on the activities of the City's Energy and Climate activities.

DISCUSSION:

In July of 2020, the City established its Sustainability and Resilience Department and formed within it the Energy and Climate Division. The Energy and Climate Division is tasked with accomplishing City Council's energy and climate-related goals, including a community-wide goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030, and an aspirational goal of carbon neutrality by 2035. To accomplish these goals the Energy and Climate Division will be working closely with all the various City Departments and Divisions, like Water Resources, to provided added staffing resources and potentially funding.

Division staff will update the Commission on the progress made on the City's Strategic Energy Plan, which was adopted in 2017, and outlined the pathway to achieving 100% renewable energy. The update will focus, in particular, on the City's Community Choice Energy program, Santa Barbara Clean Energy, and describe in more detail how this program will support both the renewable energy and carbon neutrality goals. More information on Santa Barbara Clean Energy can be found at www.SBCleanEnergy.com.

The Division is also working on a Climate Action Plan update in order to develop strategies to achieve Council's carbon neutrality goal. The City's first Climate Action Plan was written in 2012 and is now outdated. The new Plan will design and plan for strategies to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions as well as strategies to remove greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere. More information on the City's climate action planning process can be found at sustainability.santabarbaraca.gov/climate.

Additionally, the Division will help coordinate the City's climate adaption efforts, such as implementing the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan, the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan and other climate adaption-related projects.

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Lastly, the Division is also working to enhance local energy reliability and assurance. Working at a regional scale to develop distributed energy resources, the City is looking to provide energy assurance to local critical facilities, such as water and wastewater treatment facilities, by siting renewable energy generation systems and battery energy storage systems in locations that can serve as centrally-located community resources during an outage. Staff will provide an update on this effort to the Commission.