

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-13

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PETALUMA PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT THE BLUEPRINT FOR CLIMATE ACTION

WHEREAS, in 2019 the City of Petaluma adopted a Climate Emergency Resolution; and

WHEREAS, also in 2019, the City Council established the Climate Action Commission to engage and make policy recommendations on climate-related matters; and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2021, the City Council adopted the Climate Emergency Framework to outline principles to guide the City's ongoing response to and discussion about the climate crisis and to guide and inform subsequent policies and implementation strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Emergency Framework set a goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Emergency Framework called for the development of a City of Petaluma Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the scope of the comprehensive General Plan Update and associated contract with Raimi and Associates included the development of a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the approaching goal of 2030 for achieving carbon neutrality and the extended timeline for adoption of the General Plan update, the City bifurcated the greenhouse gas reduction strategy from the adaptation strategies in the General Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Action Commission formed ad-hoc committees focused on topics for inclusion in the City's greenhouse gas reduction strategy and worked collaboratively with Raimi and Associates to inform the development of the Blueprint for Carbon Neutrality; and

WHEREAS, the public review draft of the Blueprint for Carbon Neutrality was published on September 26, 2023; and

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2023, the City held a community open house to introduce the draft Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, the draft Blueprint was presented at a series of public meetings with the City's commissions, committees, and boards to seek feedback related to the focus areas of individual advisory bodies; and

WHEREAS, through a robust community engagement effort and in collaboration with community stakeholders, the city received more than 1,000 public comments in response to the draft Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, input received from the members of the public, staff, and the City's CCBs was incorporated into a revised Draft of the Blueprint, which was released on September 26, 2024, as the Blueprint for Climate Action; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2024, the Planning Commission and Climate Action Commission held a duly noticed joint public hearing to consider the Blueprint for recommendation; and

WHEREAS, at the duly noticed joint public hearing on October 8, 2024, the Planning Commission considered the information presented and receive public comment on the Blueprint for Climate Action; and

WHEREAS, at the October 8, 2024, joint hearing, the Climate Action Commission recommended by motion that the City Council adopt the Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Blueprint has been reviewed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and its Guidelines and found to be categorically exempt in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15307 (Class 7) regarding Protection of Natural Resources and Guidelines Section 15308 (Class 8) regarding Protection of the Environment as it involves programs and policies that when implemented will protect the environment and its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, as outlined in the October 8, 2024 staff report, the adoption of the Blueprint protects natural resources and the environment by prioritizing climate action and implementation, educating City staff and the public about GHG reduction and climate adaptation programs, monitoring GHG emissions, decarbonizing City facilities and replacing gas fueled equipment, implementing climate awareness and action programs, expanding EV infrastructure, expanding use of renewable energy, developing an electrification strategy, creating a resilient water supply, adopting an Urban Forestry Management Plan, prioritizing local and regional carbon sequestration partnerships, creating a carbon gardening campaign, adopting an open space management framework requiring zero waste for events, implementing an edible food recovery program, prioritizing nature-based systems, and phasing out gas-powered lawn and garden equipment; and

WHEREAS, the above bullet list are the identified cornerstone actions of the Blueprint, all of which directly and indirectly relate to the protection and enhancement of natural resources and the environment; and

WHEREAS, there are no exceptions pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 that would make the Blueprint ineligible for an exemption in accordance with 15307 and 15308.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Planning Commission of the City of Petaluma as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.
2. Adoption of the Blueprint has been reviewed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and its Guidelines and found to be categorically exempt in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15307 (Class 7) regarding Protection of Natural Resources and Guidelines Section 15308 (Class 8) regarding Protection of the Environment as it involves programs and policies that when implemented will protect the environment and its natural resources.
3. As outlined in the October 8, 2024 staff report, the adoption of the Blueprint protects natural resources and the environment by prioritizing climate action and implementation, educating City staff and the public about GHG reduction and climate adaptation programs, monitoring GHG emissions, decarbonizing City facilities and replacing gas fueled equipment, implementing climate awareness and action programs, expanding EV infrastructure, expanding use of renewable energy, developing an electrification strategy, creating a resilient water supply, adopting an Urban Forestry Management Plan, prioritizing local and regional carbon sequestration partnerships, creating a carbon gardening campaign, adopting an open space management framework requiring zero waste for events, implementing an edible food recovery program, prioritizing nature-based systems, and phasing out gas-powered lawn and garden equipment.
4. As outlined in the October 8, 2024 staff report, identified cornerstone actions of the Blueprint directly and indirectly relate to the protection and enhancement of natural resources and the environment.
5. There are no exceptions pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 that would make the Blueprint ineligible for an exemption in accordance with 15307 and 15308.
6. The Planning Commission hereby recommends that the City Council adopt the Blueprint for Climate Action with the following recommended modifications:
 - On Page 12, add “establish monitor and publicize metrics” to the statement of intent
 - Modify the Executive Summary to include the following:
 - Create a visual commitment to resolution of carbon neutrality by 2030
 - Include Figure 13 in the Executive Summary to show that we are trying to get to carbon neutral but that we need to continue to be bold to get toward that goal
 - Include a graphic showing the whole picture of consumptive (indirect) and activity based (direct) emissions to show the relative magnitudes
 - Include descriptive language like “pioneering” and “bold” for the City’s commitment to the direction of the Blueprint
 - Create visual story of success and a narrative vision of the future

- Elevate the benefits and discuss the costs of delay and inaction and explain the value added
- Add language to note that all adaptation measures are addressed in the General Plan.
- Include emissions from airport operations as well as aircraft fuel sales, including leaded vs. unleaded in future inventories, monitoring, and reporting
- Modify OSM-1 to read “Develop a policy that prioritizes local and regional carbon sequestration partnerships, projects, and sources in the City.”
- Add an action to monitoring and reporting strategy: Develop a policy to prevent the misuse of offsets to meet carbon neutrality goals
- Add action to OSM to develop a priority natural open space program with a code of care of natural open space
- Modify OSM-4 to change from “open spaces” to “natural open spaces”
- Modify UF-1c to change “open space” to “landscaped spaces”
- Replace “open space” with “landscaped areas” throughout the document except as noted above in OSM-4
- Modify first two sentences of Parking Management Strategy (p. 70) to use a positive tone
- Modify document references to “senior mobility services” to “senior and disabled mobility services”
- Revise the language of TLUC-1e regarding the implementation of SB 10 to say “identify and implement best practices” and add a reference to SB 684
- Modify AT-1g to specify what should be included in updated streetscape standards to achieve safe and complete streets, to incorporate specifications for tree canopy, planting and care, stormwater management, pedestrian and rolling infrastructure to support multi-modality on streets, paths, and trails, transit stops, removal of impervious cover where not needed, and other key criteria
- In the Building section, add more robust language emphasizing importance of workforce housing in reducing commuting and reduce travel emissions.
- Change “citizens” to “residents” throughout the document
- Modify CE-1 to establish a target for 100% renewable energy in conjunction with Sonoma Clean Power
- Modify OSS-2c to add “towards the City’s carbon neutrality goal” after key milestones
- Move municipal operations action plans to the beginning of Chapter 5