



## STAFF REPORT

**Date:** August 11, 2015

**To:** Bryan Montgomery, City Manager

**From:** Kenneth W. Strelo, Senior Planner

**Project:** City of Oakley Strategic Energy Plan - Work Session

Approved and forwarded to City Council

Bryan Montgomery, City Manager

### Summary

As of May 2015, the City of Oakley has been in the process of developing a Strategic Energy Plan (SEP) through a sponsorship with East Bay Energy Watch (EBEW), a Local Government Partnership between PG&E and Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. This work session serves to provide information on the Strategic Energy Plan process and desired results, and discuss potential future efforts and opportunities related to a broader, community-wide Climate Action Plan.

### Background

A Strategic Energy Plan is a long-term blueprint to guide cities to a desired energy vision. It articulates goals, strategies, and actions and allocates resources to move cities toward a more sustainable energy future. In addition to the expertise provided by EBEW, a team of highly experienced strategic planners and engineers have partnered with EBEW to work hand-in-hand with Oakley throughout the SEP creation process. The team includes knowledgeable staff from Newcomb Anderson McCormick and QuEST, all at no cost to the City.

The outcome of this project will be an actionable City of Oakley Strategic Energy Plan with energy goals and projects identified and ready for implementation. The benefits of an SEP for Oakley are many and include the following:

- Provides strategies for sustainable development that enhance economic development, improve public health and community resilience
- Lays the foundation for a comprehensive community-wide Climate Action Plan
- Helps meet state mandates requiring reductions in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions

- Reduces the City's energy cost, freeing up dollars for other programs and projects
- Creates local jobs
- Reduces GHG emissions to mitigate local and global climate change impacts

The completion of the Oakley Strategic Energy Plan is a precursor for a broader, community-wide Climate Action Plan that would further expand upon the SEP benefits. This "next step" in Oakley's energy planning process would also come at low to no-cost through funding provided by EBEW for the Civic Spark Program, a Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program. This program would provide the city with a team of three to eight Americorps members for 11 months to help develop and implement a Climate Action Plan.

### Community Action Plan

Line item "2.g." of the 2014-2016 Strategic Plan states, "Establish a guide to adopt a Climate Action Plan." Up until this SEP assistance program, the City has come across opportunities, and funding has not been approved, to implement this line item. This SEP is the first step in establishing that guide, and future funding and assistance through programs such as the Civic Spark program will help to implement this Strategic Plan line item without the need for additional City funding outside of minimal Staff time.

### **Presentation**

In addition to this Staff Report, a presentation will be delivered to the City Council highlighting the background and main topics, while providing opportunity for questions, comments and discussion.

### **Recommendation**

City Council receive Staff's Report and Presentation and engage in questions, comments and discussion that Staff can use as guidance as opportunities arise in future funding or staff assistance.