9.18.2020

Updates and information on programs and projects at the City of San Carlos.

City Manager

Climate Action Plan Update
In 2009 the City Council adopted the City’s first Climate Action Plan (“CAP”) establishing greenhouse gas reduction targets and strategies to address climate change. Each year staff prepares a Climate Action Plan Update (see attached) that details the progress made on our 2009 CAP’s greenhouse gas reduction goals, highlights related sustainability initiatives, and describes work that is continuing or planned for the next year.

City Clerk

Ballot Drop-off Box Installed for November Election
In partnership with San Mateo County, a new ballot drop-off box has been installed on San Carlos Avenue next to the City Hall Dog Park. This provides our community members with another easy option to submit their ballots contact-free as early as October 5th. For additional options on how to vote this election, visit the County website at www.smcacre.org/ways-vote or contact the City Clerk at cityclerk@cityofsancarlos.org.

Commission Update
On September 14, 2020, Commissioner Lauren Savage submitted a letter of resignation from the Economic Development Advisory Commission (“EDAC”), effective immediately. The now vacant EDAC seat expires on June 30, 2022. Notice of the unscheduled vacancy has been posted pursuant to Government Code Section 54974.
Parks & Recreation

Youth Sports Organizations Start Modified Fall Leagues
San Carlos United Soccer and San Carlos Youth Softball Association started practices for their fall leagues. This season looks a little different with conditioning and training that focuses on individual skill building. Teams are made up of no more than 12 players and physical distance of at least six feet between players is required. Practices are following all State and County health orders. Athletes and coaches are excited to start playing again, even with these new guidelines.

Virtual Family Paint Night September 19th
Parks and Recreation is offering a Family Paint Night, in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Foundation of San Carlos, on Saturday, September 19th at 4:00 p.m. The painting instructor will guide participants through the creative steps and techniques necessary to develop a unique, colorful painting. The canvas, paints, and all materials will be provided, courtesy of the Parks and Recreation Foundation. Sign-up at www.cityofsancarlos.org/register.

ACC Lunch Program Grant Update
Last month, the Sequoia Healthcare District and Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital jointly approved a $20,000 emergency food grant to the City of San Carlos to help support our lunch program. The grant funds will be used to provide two free meals per week to each of the Caring Cupboard households for those that are 60 years and over. Additional funds will also be used to purchase food and supplies (such as to-go containers) for the program. Just this past Monday, we hit a high of 110 lunches served! The lunch calendar for each month can be found on the City website at: https://www.cityofsancarlos.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=6166

Police

ARREST – Shoplifting, Controlled Substance Paraphernalia, Outstanding Warrant
On September 14th at approximately 7:30 p.m., Deputies responded to CVS Pharmacy located at 1324 San Carlos Avenue on the report of a shoplifter. The suspect fled toward the Caltrain Station and was eventually apprehended on the northbound platform. The stolen items and a methamphetamine pipe were located during a search of the suspect who was also found to have a $10,000 arrest warrant for theft in another jurisdiction. The suspect was arrested and the stolen items were returned to CVS.
San Carlos Avenue Quick-Build Project
The City submitted a $274,000 Caltrans Active Transportation Program Quick-Build Project Application for the San Carlos Avenue Quick-Build Project. Grant results are expected later this year.

The City of San Carlos Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan established a vision of San Carlos as a city where walking, bicycling, and transit serve the needs of all people who live, work, and visit the City. The San Carlos Avenue Quick-Build project responds directly to the plan's recommendations to address bicycle and pedestrian comfort and safety in the most concentrated bicycle and pedestrian collision hotspot in the city. The project will also improve bicycle and pedestrian access to Downtown San Carlos, an area rich with businesses and amenities, including the San Carlos Caltrain station. The project focuses on immediate quick-build countermeasures to address the collision history and improve accessibility on a 0.3-mile-long segment of San Carlos Avenue between Elm Street and El Camino Real.

The proposed improvements along San Carlos Avenue include:

Elm to Walnut
- Addition of bike lane, no change in parking.

Walnut to Laurel
- Diagonal parking on the north side will be converted to parallel parking to accommodate new buffered bike lane, diagonal parking on the south side will be eliminated to accommodate new adjacent businesses.

Laurel to El Camino Real
- Diagonal parking on both sides will be eliminated to accommodate new buffered bike lane and additional pedestrian space, which may also be used for outdoor dining and retail by adjacent businesses.

San Carlos Ave Pedestrian Improvement Safety Project
The majority of improvements on the San Carlos Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Safety project have been completed, with the recent completion of the paving rehabilitation.

The improvements at the intersection of Alameda de las Pulgas and Phelps Road will remain incomplete until the installation of the PG&E meters and electrical service connections for the traffic signal improvements are installed. Staff and the contractor are currently coordinating with PG&E to expedite this work. Currently, the contractor is focusing on completing the traffic striping and pavement markings along San Carlos Avenue with the exception of the Alameda de las Pulgas intersection. Construction will pause and resume after PG&E completes their work.

When construction resumes, the intersections will be closed temporarily and traffic detoured around the intersections to install the new traffic signals. Staff will work with the contractor to perform outreach prior to the closures.

While construction is paused, residents should still be mindful of the posted signs and temporary traffic control barriers along San Carlos Avenue around the incomplete areas at the intersections.
Introduction

Each year staff prepares a Climate Action Plan Update that details the progress made on our 2009 Climate Action Plan’s (“CAP”) greenhouse gas (“GHG”) reduction goals, highlights related sustainability initiatives, and describes work that is continuing or planned for the next year. This year, the annual Climate Action Plan Update looks a bit different, as many of our sustainability activities and community events have been impacted by the novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) and San Mateo County’s Shelter-in-Place Order.

At the same time, staff have begun the development of a new Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (“CMAP”) that will replace the 2009 CAP as it is intended to be updated every ten years. The new CMAP will include updated GHG reduction targets that reflect more aggressive targets set at the State level and set policies for how San Carlos will adapt to climate-related hazards.

Energy

**Bay Area SunShares** – The City participated in the Bay Area SunShares program again in 2019, resulting in 30kW of rooftop solar installed on San Carlos homes. SunShares is a group-buying program that offers discounts to residents for rooftop solar and battery installations and electric vehicles from pre-vetted vendors.

**SolSmart Gold Certification** – SolSmart, a national designation program designed to recognize communities that have taken steps to support solar energy, awarded San Carlos the Gold designation in 2019. This designation is based on San Carlos’ support for local solar generation through a streamlined permitting process to reduce the soft costs of a solar installation.
**Peninsula Clean Energy ECO100** – The City continues to support the Peninsula Clean Energy ECO100 program that promotes renewable energy and decarbonizes the electric grid. By opting into this program, the City ensures that 100% of the electricity used for municipal functions comes from renewable sources like wind and solar.

**Clean Energy Financing** – The City participates in three Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing programs to residents including CaliforniaFIRST, HERO, and OpenPace. These programs facilitate home energy upgrades by allowing property owners to take out loans that are paid back through property taxes.

**Multi-Family Sustainability Workshop** – The City collaborated with the County Office of Sustainability, Peninsula Clean Energy, and Bay Area Regional Energy Network to host a Multi-Family Sustainability Workshop for property owners in fall of 2019. The workshop highlighted energy efficiency upgrade programs, opportunities for electric vehicle charging installations, and reviewed State waste diversion policy.

**All Electric Ready Building Codes** – San Carlos adopted a local amendment to the 2019 Title 24 Building Code that requires new construction to include pre-wiring for future all-electric appliances. This enhancement to the building code will facilitate future building electrification by reducing costs of retrofits.

**Transportation**

**Electric Vehicle Charging** – San Carlos encourages the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) by providing EV charging infrastructure. Along with the three charging stations in the library parking garage, three additional EV charging stations were installed and are operational in the public parking garage at Wheeler Plaza.

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan** – This year the City adopted its first Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan that outlines a network of low stress bike and pedestrian routes. Expanding active transportation infrastructure incentivizes alternative transportation methods that reduce the reliance on fossil fuel powered vehicles.

**Laurel Street Closure and Bicycle Loops** – During the COVID-19 pandemic, the City continues to look for ways to support local businesses while maintaining safe social-distancing practices. Strategically closing streets to cars along Laurel Street encourages outdoor dining and safe public health practices. This action also encourages active forms of transportation like biking and walking and decreases vehicle trips.
Waste

**Youth Center Reusable Utensils** – In collaboration with ReThink Disposable, the San Carlos Youth Center was stocked with fully reusable plates, bowls, and cutlery to reduce the amount of disposable food service ware that is discarded regularly. Staff looks forward to using the new plates, bowls, and cutlery once the Youth Center reopens to the public.

**Earth Day Photo Contest** – The traditional Earth Day downtown Laurel Street clean-up event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and replaced with a virtual Earth Day Photo Contest on social media. Participants posted photos showing how they were celebrating Earth Day with #CityofGoodLiving. Winners were chosen based on a creative use of recyclable materials and an appreciation for the natural beauty of the city.

**Creek Clean-Up Event** – The City again hosted the Annual Creek Clean-Up Event in the fall to encourage residents who live along creeks to remove waste from their section of streams. The City provides free trash pick-up service for all those who participate.

Water Conservation

**National Mayor’s Water Challenge** – The City again participated in the annual National Mayor’s Water Challenge. During the challenge, residents pledge to reduce water consumption for a chance to win prizes for conserving natural resources.

Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan

The 2009 San Carlos Climate Action Plan is the City’s plan to address GHGs that cause climate change. It includes community-wide targets to decrease emissions by 2020 and 2030 and 21 policies to achieve goals to reduce emissions 15% below 2005 levels by 2020.

The 2009 CAP was intended to be updated after ten years and since then the State has enacted more aggressive GHG reduction targets for 2030 and 2050. Therefore, the City is preparing a new Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan that will:

- Build on the City’s existing successes of the 2009 CAP and leverage new opportunities to update GHG reduction policies.
- Include new and updated climate action strategies consistent with State efforts to reduce GHG emissions with targets for the years 2030 and 2050.
- Integrate a new climate adaptation component that looks at how climate change may affect natural hazards that can harm San Carlos.
- Incorporate policies to help build a more resilient community.

Currently, the technical analysis has been largely completed by updating the Community Greenhouse Gas Inventories and developing a Vulnerability Assessment. The project team has also entered the first round of community outreach.
Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory

A Community GHG Inventory identifies emissions that result from certain activities residents participate in within their community. GHG inventories indicate whether we have met our reduction targets and where to focus strategies for the new CMAP. As shown below, San Carlos has surpassed its original goal of reducing emissions 15% by 2020. Based on the most recent GHG inventory for the year 2018 the City has reduced emissions 25% compared to 2005 levels.

![Community-Wide GHG Emissions Diagram]

Some key actions that helped reduce emissions in San Carlos include:

- The formation of Peninsula Clean Energy and the continued transition to renewable energy has resulted in emissions from electricity use dropping 75% from 2005 to 2018.
- Although community members drove more in 2018 than in 2005, increased adoption of more fuel-efficient and electric vehicles helped decrease emissions from on-road transportation by 14%.
- Improved energy efficiency of new construction through the enforcement of title 24 building codes has decreased residential electricity consumption 13% and non-residential electricity consumption 31% compared to 2005 levels.

Vulnerability Assessment

The San Carlos Vulnerability Assessment looks at how people and community assets may be affected by climate hazards in the short and long-term and who or what is most vulnerable. The Vulnerability Assessment helps the City identify what types of climate action strategies to include in the new CMAP to decrease vulnerabilities and become more resilient to these hazards.
Key Hazards:

- The number of extreme heat days with temperature above 85 degrees is expected to go from 4 currently to 21 per year by 2100.
- The Bay Area is expected to see a 34% increase in the areas burned by wildfire by each year by 2100.
- Large sections of eastern San Carlos are at risk of temporary or permanent flooding from sea level rise.
- Neighborhoods along Pulgas, Brittan, Belmont, and Cordilleras Creeks are at risk of damage from inland flooding.

Key Vulnerabilities:

- Energy delivery is highly vulnerable to service disruptions from extreme heat, landslides, severe weather, and wildfires.
- Households in poverty, persons experiencing homelessness, undocumented persons, and seniors living alone are most vulnerable to the health and financial impacts of climate hazards.
- Highway 101, Interstate 280, and wastewater infrastructure are vulnerable to damage and service disruptions from bayshore and inland flooding, landslides, and wildfire.
- Major employers, industrial and manufacturing centers, and the aviation museum, are highly vulnerable to temporary inland and bayshore flooding, and permanent flooding from sea level rise.
- Wetlands are the most vulnerable ecosystems due to seas level rise, bayshore flooding, and sensitivity to drought and extreme heat.
Community Outreach:
An effective plan needs to reflect the opinions of the community, and hearing from diverse viewpoints is crucial to developing a successful plan that represents all San Carlans. As part of this project, staff will seek feedback from the community through a variety of means and at different stages in the project. During the first round of community outreach, staff are holding virtual Climate Action Workshops to introduce the project and gain insight to possible solutions. The first workshop was help on August 26 with the second scheduled for October 1. Going forward, staff will continue to engage with the community through online surveys, stakeholder meetings, and additional community workshops.

To learn more about the CMAP or to register for a Climate Action Workshop visit: cityofsancarlos.org/climate