



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: {{item.number}}

Agenda Date: November 7, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Office of Sustainability

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Douglas Melnick

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

City Council approval of an Ordinance merging the SA Climate Ready Climate Equity Advisory and Technical & Community Advisory Committees into the SA Climate Ready Advisory Committee to better integrate equity, increase committee effectiveness and efficiency, and continue to provide stakeholder input and guidance as per the adopted 2019 SA Climate Ready Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP to then be comprised of ten (10) City Council Appointed Members, one (1) Member appointed by the Mayor, one (1) Mayor's Youth Engagement Council for Climate Initiatives (MYECCI) Member appointed by the Mayor, and (5) Ex-Officio Organizational members from CPS Energy; San Antonio Water System; VIA Metropolitan Transit; San Antonio River Authority, and Joint Base San Antonio.

SUMMARY:

To effectively implement the CAAP, two externally recruited committees were established: a Technical and Community Advisory Committee and a Climate Equity Advisory Committee. Members of both committees were selected based on technical expertise in elements related to climate mitigation and adaptation or other important areas related to plan implementation; representation of important perspectives; and an interest in collaboration to bring about successful outcomes. On October 8, 2020, City Council approved the full slate of recommended candidates for the Technical & Community Advisory Committee and the Climate Equity Advisory Committee.

The proposed merger of the two committees will better integrate equity, increase committee effectiveness and efficiency, and continue to provide stakeholder input and guidance as per the adopted 2019 SA Climate Ready Plan and provide essential input and feedback for the 2025 SA Climate Ready Plan Update.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On June 22, 2017, City Council passed Resolution No. 2017-06-22-0031R in support of the Paris Climate Agreement; directing city staff to develop a plan to help San Antonio meet the objectives of this agreement. Approximately two years later, on October 17, 2019, City Council adopted the CAAP by Ordinance 2019-10-17-0840.

To effectively implement the CAAP, two externally recruited committees were established: a Technical and Community Advisory Committee and a Climate Equity Advisory Committee. Members of both committees were selected based on technical expertise in elements related to climate mitigation and adaptation or other important areas related to plan implementation; representation of important perspectives; and an interest in collaboration to bring about successful outcomes. On October 8, 2020, City Council approved the full slate of recommended candidates for the Technical & Community Advisory Committee and the Climate Equity Advisory Committee.

The current composition of the Technical & Community Advisory Committee is comprised of 24 Members total; 17 at-large members, 5 organizational members (CPSE, SAWS, SARA, VIA, JPSA), 1 research collaborator from Southwest Research Institute, and 1 Chair or Vice Chair of the SA Climate Ready Climate Equity Committee. The current composition of the Climate Equity Advisory Committee is 11 Members total; 10 at-large members and 1 Chair or Vice Chair of the SA Climate Ready Technical & Community Advisory Committee.

The Office of Sustainability has had several challenges with the oversight of these two committees, specifically:

- Having Climate Equity as a separate committee has created confusion regarding roles and has diminished the ability to center overall committee work on climate equity;
- Managing the logistics of two separate committees totaling thirty-five (35) members has stressed OS staff capacity;
- Difficulty meeting quorum for the Climate Equity Advisory Committee; and
- At-large membership is not consistent with current City Boards and Commissions standards and does not provide the needed Mayor and City Council engagement with individually appointed members.

At a May 9th, 2024 B-Session, Mayor and Council were briefed on Office of Sustainability initiatives including a recommendation to consolidate the two SA Climate Ready Advisory Committees. As per City Manager guidance, OS staff were directed to present consolidation recommendations to City Council in June 2024.

ISSUE:

To effectively and efficiently implement and update the SA Climate Ready Plan and to ensure stakeholder input and advisement, the Office of Sustainability and Office of City Clerk (OCC) are proposing the merger of the SA Climate Ready Climate Equity Advisory and Technical & Community Advisory Committees and establishing the SA Climate Ready Advisory Committee.

The Office of Sustainability reviewed best practices from peer cities and worked with the CAO and the OCC on a revised structure that will address several challenges under the current structure. The proposed 17-member SA Climate Ready Advisory Committee would have the following composition:

Ten (10) City Council Appointed Members, one (1) Member appointed by the Mayor, one (1) Mayor's Youth Engagement Council for Climate Initiatives Member appointed by the Mayor, and (5) Ex-Officio Organizational members from CPS Energy; San Antonio Water System; VIA Metropolitan Transit; San Antonio River Authority, and Joint Base San Antonio.

As per the original ordinance, the committee shall represent those that live and work within the City of San Antonio, inclusive of indigenous persons, communities of color, low-income residents, LGBTQIA+ persons, persons of varying ages, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized communities who hold diverse expertise, identities, and/or perspectives," an extensive equity analysis has been and will continue to be conducted to ensure that the resulting committee has the most diverse representation possible, while maintaining the needed technical expertise. All committee members will be required to receive regular racial equity training.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council could choose not to approve the merger of the SA Climate Ready Climate Equity Advisory and Technical & Community Advisory Committees and establishing the SA Climate Ready Advisory Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact for this item.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the Ordinance merging the SA Climate Ready Climate Equity Advisory and Technical & Community Advisory Committees and establishing the SA Climate Ready Advisory Committee consisting of ten (10) City Council Appointed Members, one (1) Member appointed by the Mayor, one (1) Mayor's Youth Engagement Council for Climate Initiatives (MYECCI) Member appointed by the Mayor, and (5) Ex-Officio Organizational members from CPS Energy; San Antonio Water System; VIA Metropolitan Transit; San Antonio River Authority, and Joint Base San Antonio.