



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: January 24, 2024

In Control: Community Health Committee

DEPARTMENT: Office of Sustainability

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Douglas Melnick

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing on the status of the San Antonio-New Braunfels MSA United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

SUMMARY:

On August 31, 2023, the City of San Antonio was awarded Office a United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) in the amount of \$1 million for the San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) to fund an update to the City of San Antonio's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) that includes quantifiable emissions reduction strategies and a regional greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory for the 13-county Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) jurisdiction. This briefing will provide an update to the planning process and next steps.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As part of the Inflation Reduction Act, the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program will provide significant resources to state, territory, local, and tribal governments to develop ambitious climate action and air pollution reduction plans and to implement measures from those plans. The CPRG is a two-phase program – with \$250 million in non-competitive planning grants, followed by \$4.6 billion of competitive implementation grants.

The City of San Antonio (COSA) submitted a Notice of Intent to Participate on April 27, 2023 with letters of support from AACOG, CPS Energy, Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO), San Antonio Water System (SAWS), San Antonio River Authority (SARA), and VIA Metropolitan Transit. The full application package was submitted on May 25, 2023 and notice of award was received on August 31, 2023. COSA, led by the Office of Sustainability, is working with AACOG to develop the phase I Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and the phase II Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) for the San Antonio-New Braunfels MSA.

San Antonio's first climate action and adaptation plan, SA Climate Ready, adopted by City Council on October 19, 2019. The Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) commits the community to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Development of the PCAP and CCAP will accomplish three inter-related goals: 1. Update the City of San Antonio Climate Action & Adaptation Plan and determine new science-based reduction targets, reprioritize mitigation strategies, and develop a new implementation plan with a focus on priority strategies and funding opportunities; 2. With AACOG as lead agency, broaden the geographical scope of climate planning and complete a regional GHG inventory for AACOGs 13-county service delivery area; and, 3. Develop and prioritize GHG reduction strategies that can be implemented on a regional scale.

Stakeholder and community engagement will be core to the process of developing the PCAP and CCAP. COSA and AACOG will leverage their deep, local community connections and varied programs to identify those leaders and engage underserved communities, such as elderly, disabled, low income, BIPOC, and linguistically isolated.

Upon award of the funding, the City of San Antonio proceeded with obtaining contracts for professional services and hiring a grant administrator/plan coordinator to meet the March 1, 2024 deadline for the phase I PCAP. Council authorization will be requested before pursuing a phase II competitive implementation grant.

ISSUE:

This is a briefing only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the City of San Antonio.

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

This is a briefing only.