

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
CITY COUNCIL
STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: March 15, 2016
To: City Councilmembers
From: Mayor Gurney
City Manager Larry McLaughlin
Subject: Letter of Support for SB 1030 (McGuire) – Sonoma Climate Protections - to remove the sunset date on the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA)
Recommendation : That the City Council Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Letter of Support
Funding: Currently Budgeted: _____ Yes _____ No XX N/A
Net General Fund Cost:
Amount: \$

INTRODUCTION: This item is to request that the City Council to Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Letter of Support for SB 1030 (McGuire) – Sonoma Climate Protections - to remove the sunset date on the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA)

BACKGROUND:

The Regional Climate Protection Authority, RCPA, was formed in 2009 to coordinate countywide climate protection efforts among Sonoma County’s nine cities and multiple agencies. The RCPA fosters collaboration, helps to set goals, pools resources, formalizes partnerships, and works across silos. The RCPA aims to create local solutions to complement State, Federal, and private sector actions – all showing that a better future with lower emissions is possible. The RCPA is made up of the same board of local elected officials as the Sonoma County Transportation Authority. The RCPA membership includes representatives from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, all nine cities in Sonoma County, and works with many other climate change organizations around the Bay Area. In 2014, the RCPA was recognized by the federal government as a White House Climate Champion.

The RCPA’s core function is to coordinate a unified response to climate change across Sonoma County. Their fundamental strategies include adopting regional goals that positively impact cities and counties, formalizing partnerships, pooling resources, and working across public and private sectors. The RCPA engages in GHG mitigation through reduction of energy consumption, enhancing alternative transportation options, and increasing water use efficiency. Their efforts have exceeded expectations, and it is clear that the core of climate change action will increasingly take place at the local level.

DISCUSSION:

The historic passage of the California Global Warming Solutions Act, AB 32 (Pavley, 2006), and the recent passage of the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act, SB 350 (De Leon, 2015), has affirmed California’s role as an international leader in climate change mitigation. The state is now seeking to further emission reductions through local programs such as the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA).

The RCPA assists Sonoma County and the Bay Area in reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) by coordinating with climate change organizations to implement best practices and utilizing available resources most effectively. Being the first organization of its kind in the State, the Legislature required a sunset clause to ensure the RCPA achieved the goals set out for it in the original legislation. In accordance with the RCPA's proven track record, this bill eliminates the sunset clause.

The RCPA's success is proof that GHG mitigation will happen at the local level. Removing the sunset clause from statute ensures the RCPA will retain highly qualified staff, reassure grant making entities of its long term status, and increase efforts to the ongoing and long-term challenges we face as a community and as a state. Therefore, for these reasons SB 1030 seeks to remove the sunset clause.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Letter of Support for SB 1030 (McGuire) – Sonoma Climate Protections - To remove the sunset date on the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA)

Attachment:

Letter of Support
Information on SB 1030

City Council

Mayor Sarah Glade Gurney
Vice Mayor Una Glass
John Eder
Robert Jacob
Patrick Slayter

**City Manager**

Larry McLaughlin
lmclaughlin@cityofsebastopol.org

City Clerk

Mary Gourley
mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org

City of Sebastopol

March 16, 2016

Senator Mike McGuire
State Capitol
1303 10th Street, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 1030 (McGuire) – Sonoma Climate Protections

Dear Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the City of Sebastopol, I am writing to express our support for SB 1030 to remove the sunset date on the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA).

The City of Sebastopol is a member of the RCPA, collaborating with the RCPA on many projects including energy efficiency rebates and financing, renewable energy implementation, low carbon transportation planning, electric vehicle infrastructure planning, public outreach, and planning for climate resilience.

Sonoma County communities rely on the RCPA to advance a countywide long term response to climate change by providing a regional policy forum, staff level coordination, public education, program management, grant administration, and reporting. The RCPA is able to efficiently develop climate action strategies on behalf of multiple local agencies at once, aligning projects across governments towards maximum, integrated benefits and creating a consistent approach throughout the county. The RCPA is essential for regional long range planning and programs, including the community climate action plan and regional electric vehicle planning, working to harness funding which we otherwise could not pursue due to staffing and resource constraints.

The State of California is an international leader that has adopted ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Success in meeting those targets will require action and collaboration at all levels of government – local, regional, state, and federal. The RCPA is a proven model for local governments to participate fully and take charge in solving the problem. Local action by Sonoma County communities, working in unison with the RCPA, has immediate and impactful results in the fight against climate change.

Removing the sunset clause will enable the RCPA to work long-term on the climate challenges ahead for our communities. Thank you for your leadership in support of the RCPA.

Very Truly Yours,

Sarah Glade Gurney
Mayor

Senate Bill 1030

Sonoma Climate Protection: GHG Reductions

Senator McGuire

SUMMARY

The historic passage of the California Global Warming Solutions Act, AB 32 (Pavley, 2006), and the recent passage of the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act, SB 350 (De Leon, 2015), has affirmed California's role as an international leader in climate change mitigation. The state is now seeking to further emission reductions through local programs such as the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA).

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BACKGROUND

The RCPA is made up of the same board of local elected officials as the Sonoma County Transportation Authority. The RCPA membership includes representatives from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, all nine cities in Sonoma County, and works with many other climate change organizations around the Bay Area. In 2014, **the RCPA was recognized by the federal government as a White House Climate Champion.**

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HOW DOES THIS COMPARE WITH STATE ACTIONS?

The RCPA's climate action plan finds that local climate action strategies will account for over 677,000 metric tons (or 1.6 billion pounds) of CO₂ annually by 2020. This is equivalent to removing 142,500 passenger cars from the road, or the carbon sequestered by 554,900 acres of forest.

In comparison, the State's Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) Scoping Plan measures are expected to generate reductions in Sonoma County of over 750,000 metric tons of CO₂. Through the RCPA, Sonoma County is matching State efforts to nearly a 1 to 1 match.

PROBLEM

Climate change is an ongoing and increasingly volatile issue. Most scientific studies agree the problems associated with climate change are set to intensify. While the RCPA continues to adopt strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change, grant making entities want assurances that any funding awarded will contribute to the long-term and widespread response to climate change, while reducing emissions locally.

Furthermore, the ability to retain highly qualified and capable staff at the RCPA is challenged without certainty regarding the continuation of the agency.

SOLUTION

The RCPA's success is proof that GHG mitigation will happen at the local level. Removing the sunset clause from statute ensures the RCPA will retain highly qualified staff, reassure grant making entities of its long term status, and increase efforts to the ongoing and long-term challenges we face as a community and as a state. Therefore, for these reasons SB 1030 seeks to remove the sunset clause

CONTACT

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SENATE BILL**No. 1030**

**Introduced by Senator McGuire
(Coauthor: Senator Wolk)**
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Dodd, Levine, and Wood)

February 12, 2016

An act to repeal Section 181016 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1030, as introduced, McGuire. Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority.

Existing law, until December 1, 2019, creates the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority. Existing law provides for the authority to be governed by the same board as that governing the Sonoma County Transportation Authority and imposes certain duties on the authority. Existing law authorizes the authority to perform coordination and implementation activities within the boundaries of the County of Sonoma, in cooperation with local agencies, as defined, that elect to participate, to assist those agencies in meeting their greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. Existing law authorizes the authority to develop, coordinate, and implement programs and policies to comply with the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 and other federal or state mandates and programs designed to respond to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

This bill would extend these provisions indefinitely. By extending the duties of the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- P2 1 SECTION 1.
Section 181016 of the Public Utilities Code is
2 repealed.
3 ~~181016.—~~
This division shall become inoperative on December
4 1, 2019, and, as of January 1, 2020, is repealed, unless a later
5 enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1,
6 2020, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative
7 and is repealed.
8 SEC. 2.
No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
9 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because

10 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
11 district are the result of a program for which legislative authority
12 was requested by that local agency or school district, within the
13 meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code and Section
14 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

CORRECTIONS:
Heading--Line 3.

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Corrected 2-16-16—See last page.

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