

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 04/20/09		Item Number: <u>A-3</u>	
AGENDA ITEM: Adoption of a Resolution Endorsing the Climate Action Blueprint as proposed by President Obama and Congress and Authorizing the Signatures of the Mayor and Councilmembers to be Added to the List of Endorsers of the Climate Action Blueprint			
Contact Person/Dept.: Shelly Wolfberg or Damian Skinner		Phone Number: (310) 253-6008 or (310) 253-6421	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification: Master E-Mail Notification List (04/15/09)			
Department Approval: Charles Herbertson (04/15/09)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (04/15/09)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (04/15/09)		City Manager Approval: Jerry B. Fulwood (04/16/09)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council authorize a Resolution in support of the Climate Action Blueprint and authorize the signatures of the Mayor and City Councilmembers to be added to the list of Climate Action Blueprint endorsers. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> Climate Communities and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) have developed the Climate Action Blueprint to focus on national policies needed to empower local governments in promoting green buildings, increasing public transit and cleaner vehicles and fuels, fostering community-scale renewables, building green infrastructure, creating green jobs and businesses, and adapting to the impacts of climate change. The Climate Action Blueprint outlines the actions and policies needed from the federal government to address global climate change, all through the local government lens. At the Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCCOG) meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2009, there was a discussion on what Climate Communities and ICLEI was trying to accomplish with the Climate Action Blueprint. Supporting the Blueprint could represent a unique opportunity for focus on important environmental issues such as energy and climate change with the new administration and the 111th Congress. Finally, by supporting the Climate Action Blueprint, the Westside cities could insure they're included at the outset of these earth-friendly initiatives.			

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As an outcome of the March WSCCOG Meeting there was consensus to refer this matter back to the WSCCOG member cities to allow each City to consider adoption of a resolution, or take other appropriate legislative action, endorsing the Climate Action Blueprint. Further, the WSCCOG Board adopted a motion authorizing the Executive Director to formally provide WSCCOG endorsement of the Climate Action Blueprint once a majority of the COG member cities have taken action endorsing the Blueprint.

DISCUSSION:

The Climate Action Blueprint emphasizes the key role of local governments in addressing climate action and creating more sustainable communities. The plan emphasizes the need for a comprehensive national climate action policy that includes significant funding for local initiatives. A copy of the Blueprint is attached and the highlights are summarized below:

- Enact a national climate policy with mandatory greenhouse gas limits and market-based trading and invest proceeds from carbon trading in local government projects that reduce carbon emissions.
- Implement clean energy policies by setting building energy efficiency targets and providing local governments with funding to meet targets and promoting renewable energy.
- Provide funding to local governments through Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, EPA Climate Demonstration Grants, the Department of Energy Clean Cities program and the Federal Urban and Community Forestry program.
- Increase funding for public transit, support local initiatives to reduce dependence on automobiles and provide funding for low-emission busses, clean local fleets and local alternative fuel infrastructure.
- Create green jobs by funding demonstration grants, the Green Jobs Act of 2007 and creating an energy conservation corps service program for young Americans.
- Develop a federal action plan to guide research and development on climate change preparedness strategies, provide technical assistance and develop new protocols for intergovernmental coordination. Fund local efforts to support citizens that are most vulnerable to climate impacts.

Individual elected officials can endorse the Blueprint online through the ICLEI or Climate Communities websites. The ICLEI list of endorsers includes Mayors, Vice Mayors and City Councilmembers. A City Council position in support of the Climate Action Blueprint would be consistent with the City Council-adopted Legislative Advocacy Program.

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FISCAL ANALYSIS:

There is no cost associated with endorsing the Climate Action Blueprint.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Empowering Local Government Climate Action Blueprint for President Obama and 111th Congress.
2. Resolution of Support for the Climate Action Blueprint.

MOTION:

That the City Council:

Adopt a Resolution endorsing the Climate Action Blueprint as proposed by President Obama and Congress and authorizing the signatures of the Mayor and Councilmembers to be added to the list of endorsers of the Climate Action Blueprint.