



# Monterey County

**Item No.**

## Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

**Legistar File Number: 21-083**

**January 28, 2021**

**Introduced:** 1/21/2021

**Current Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Matter Type:** General Agenda Item

- a) Receive a presentation from the County Sustainability Program with updates from the Sustainability Program;
- b) Recommend that the program bring a request to the Board of Supervisors to apply for 2 Civic Spark fellows and 1 Diversity and Inclusion Climate Action Fellow in FY2021/22;
- c) Discuss the Multijurisdictional Climate Action Committee; and
- d) Provide direction to staff.

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Committee members

- a) Receive a presentation from the County Sustainability Program with updates from the Sustainability Program;
- b) Recommend that the program bring a request to the Board of Supervisors to apply for 2 Civic Spark fellows and 1 Diversity and Inclusion Climate Action Fellow in FY2021/22;
- c) Discuss the Multijurisdictional Climate Action Committee; and
- d) Provide direction to staff.

### SUMMARY:

On January 4, 2021, the Sustainability program was notified that the Department of Conservation had selected the County's grant application for the Climate Action Plan for funding through the Department's SALC-P program. The program was awarded \$175,000 to complete parts of the Climate Action Plan. The program is now working on executing the grant agreement.

Additionally, the Sustainability Program launched or made progress on several other initiatives:

1. Released an RFP for the Climate Action Plan.
2. Completed a 2021 program plan for the Sustainability Program.
3. Created a policy for the AEE Committee.
4. Created a live link on the County Sustainability landing page to sign up for the Climate Action Plan monthly communications updates.
5. Sent the 1st Monthly Newsletter on the Climate Action Plan to interested parties.
6. Launched an informational campaign to Build Back Better from Wildfires.
7. Initiated a Climate Action Youth Council with the Monterey County Office of Education.

DISCUSSION:

The Sustainability Program has created a program plan for 2021 that lays out the program's priority areas and the anticipated staff time required for each activity. The program's main focus in 2021 will be to work on the Climate Action Plan, with time also set aside to implement the Municipal Climate Action Plan and programmatic activity such as grant applications and staffing the AEE Committee. To complete the work in this plan, staff is planning to apply for 2 Civic Spark Fellows and 1 Diversity and Inclusion Fellow to assist with implementation of the Climate Action Plans and stakeholder engagement with an equity panel. Funding for one Civic Spark fellow for 11 months is \$26,000 and funding for a Diversity and Inclusion Fellow over 12 weeks is approximately \$5,000. The Diversity and Inclusion Fellow and one Civic Spark Fellow may be funded out of the SALC-P grant that the County received. Using fellows to assist with the Climate Action Plan is a cost-effective way to manage the extra workflow associated with writing such a plan while maintaining strong control over plan content and stakeholder engagement. Staff requests that committee members recommend that the program apply for 3 fellows in 2021/2022 at a cost of approximately \$26,000 to the County.

At the previous AEE meeting on December 3, 2020, staff indicated that the creation of the Climate Action Plan would involve as many jurisdictions as possible. Since then, staff has reached out to the various jurisdictions to gauge interest and to open lines of communication. Many jurisdictions have responded positively to the concept of sharing in the outcomes of the stakeholder engagement sessions and some have indicated their interest in a deeper involvement. Staff is requesting direction from the Committee on the creation of a Multi-Jurisdictional Climate Action Council, which would bring together staff members from each jurisdiction to meet quarterly in 2021 and would identify top sustainability priorities amongst the jurisdictions in the County. This information could then be used to share resources and optimize and streamline local efforts to implement sustainability measures.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None.

FINANCING:

Financing is needed to execute a Climate Action Plan and the program has been awarded a portion of those funds. The program will be making a budget request for the remainder of the funds in an amount expected to be approximately \$75,000.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

*The Climate Action Plan is required by the County General Plan and will provide strategies to support the County's environmental, social, and economic well-being through comprehensive planning and stakeholder engagement.*

Mark a check to the related Board of Supervisors Strategic Initiatives

☐ Economic Development

☒ Administration

☒ Health & Human Services

☒ Infrastructure

☐ Public Safety

Prepared by: Ashley Paulsworth, Sustainability Program Manager, x 5344

Approved by: Nicholas E. Chiulos, Assistant County Administrative Officer, Ext. 5145

Attachments:

Staff Report

Sustainability Program Plan 2021

AEE Bylaws and Policies

RFP for Climate Action Plan