



STAFF REPORT
12/11/2019

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Jacob I. Alvarez, Assistant to the City Manager

SUBJECT: Receive and File the Eastern Coachella Valley's Action Plan for Climate Resilience.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council receive and file the Eastern Coachella Valley Action Plan for Climate Resilience.

BACKGROUND:

In February 2018, the Strategic Growth Council awarded CVAG and Coachella with a \$170,000 TCC planning grant to identify and prioritize affordable housing, transportation, green infrastructure and park projects that would be competitive for grants, as well as to point out policy and program gaps.

The Eastern Coachella Valley Action Plan for Climate Resilience (Action Plan) is a roadmap to identify and prioritize projects that increase climate resilience, reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) and provide equitable access to housing. The Action Plan outlines community supported projects that are competitive for cap and trade funding to further the three goals of the Action Plan. This Action Plan aligns past planning efforts with grant requirements to identify community goals, current climate vulnerabilities and current relevant projects. The Plan also assesses some of the gaps in existing plans and policies and includes guidance as to how to ensure inclusion of and responsiveness to disadvantaged communities. This Action Plan also takes an in-depth look at five grants (as mentioned below) and provides kick-off guides to support local agencies in identifying grant-eligible projects and beginning the application processes. Lastly, the Plan also identifies current and emerging funding and financing opportunities that also further climate resilience and TCC goals, and may complement target funding programs.

A draft of the Eastern Coachella Valley's Action Plan for Climate Resilience was released in June of this year, and CVAG, the City of Coachella and the grant partners spent the summer conducting additional community outreach on the proposals. The plan is nearly 600 pages, including maps and appendixes that analyze potential projects based on specific funding opportunities. The Action Plan will serve as a resource for future grant applications, whether it's the TCC Implementation Grants, the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities or parks and urban greening funding.

Staff is recommending that the City Council receive and file the report so the City can utilize this Action Plan when applying for State grants.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact on the General Fund.