



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Kerrie Romanow

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** November 15, 2021

Approved

Date

11/18/21

**SUBJECT: CONTINUATION AND SECOND AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CITY OF SAN JOSE AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, INC.**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the Second Amendment to the American Cities Climate Challenge Memorandum of Understanding extending the term until June 30, 2022.

## **OUTCOME**

By approving the second amendment to the American Cities Climate Challenge, the City will continue to receive technical support and additional capacity from the American Cities Climate Challenge through June 30, 2022.

## **BACKGROUND**

City Council approved Climate Smart San José (“Climate Smart”), the City’s climate action plan, in February 2018. In October 2018, the City was selected to participate in the American Cities Climate Challenge (ACCC), a Bloomberg Philanthropies initiative, providing technical assistance and capacity to support several Climate Smart-aligned ACCC initiatives around energy efficiency, electric vehicles, low-emission mobility options, a building reach code, and building electrification. In May 2019, the City of San José executed a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. (NRDC), the lead ACCC technical partner, through June 30, 2020 for the ACCC grant, including the provision of a Climate Advisor housed in the Environmental Services Department, to support the implementation of the City’s ACCC initiatives.

The MOU was amended in December 2020 to extend the MOU and associated Climate Advisor term through June 30, 2021 in order to continue to provide support for the following prioritized

City initiatives: biking and walking network, transportation network company electrification, and a building decarbonization roadmap.

## **ANALYSIS**

With the support of the ACCC technical support to-date, the City has been able to make significant progress in furthering Climate Smart initiatives including:

- Development and adoption of a building electrification reach code and natural gas infrastructure prohibition ordinance requiring all electric new construction (with limited exceptions) and electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and incentivizing rooftop solar
- Completion of a Building Performance Leaders pilot program resulting in a 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from participants
- Development and adoption of an Electric Mobility Roadmap
- EV education workshops, with 200 low-income residents, and implementation of an EV discount program

NRDC offered to extend the ACCC MOU, and associated Climate Advisor, term through June 30, 2022. The Continuation and Second Amendment will approve the work from June 30, 2021, and will allow NRDC and its partners to provide continued technical support at no cost to the City to support the City's Building Decarbonization Roadmap, Parking and Transportation Demand Management ordinance, biking and walking network, and climate mobility campaign initiatives.

## **CONCLUSION**

The continuation and extension of the ACCC MOU term will provide vital support to further the City's Climate Smart initiatives and progress towards Climate Smart mobility and building decarbonization goals.

## **EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

Staff will provide progress updates to the Transportation and Environment Committee and City Council on Climate Smart San José activities on a semi-annual basis.

## **CLIMATE SMART SAN JOSE**

The recommendation in this memo aligns with one or more Climate Smart San José energy, water, or mobility goals.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

November 8, 2021

**Subject: Continuation and Second Amendment to MOU between City and NRDC**

Page 3

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

This memorandum will be posted on the City's website for the November 30, 2021 City Council meeting.

### **COORDINATION**

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, City Manager's Budget Office, Community Energy Department, Department of Transportation, and Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement Department.

### **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION/INPUT**

No commission recommendation or input is associated with this action.

### **FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT**

Climate Smart San José activities align with the Climate Smart San José strategies and the City's Envision 2040 General Plan approved by City Council.

### **CEQA**

Not a Project, File No. PP17-003, Agreements/Contracts resulting in no physical changes to the environment.

/s/  
KERRIE ROMANOW  
Director, Environmental Services

For questions, please contact Julie Benabente, Deputy Director, at [Julie.Benabente@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Julie.Benabente@sanjoseca.gov).