# CITY OF MERCED Development Services

TO: Climate Action Plan Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee

FROM: Bill King, AICP, Principal Planner

DATE: May 5, 2011

SUBJECT: Selection of Objectives and Measures

The primary activity of the Committee at the May meeting will be the prioritization of CAP objectives and ranking of GHG emission reduction measures.

The Committee will be charged with four tasks to complete. These tasks, along with task guidance, are described below.

You will need the lists of objectives and measures that were mailed to you in mid-April. Also bring the CAP Background Report with you to the meeting.

### Task 1: Influence Factors for Selecting "Objectives"

**Committee Action:** Based on your understanding of the influence factors described below, prioritize the objectives, and mark the selection with #1 being the most aligned, then #2, #3, #4, and so forth.

**Guidance:** Selection of Objectives are based on key influence factors and Council directed parameters, targets, and approaches; these are summarized below (please refer to the Background Report or draft CAP Chapters for further details).

#### Influence Factors

#### State-Mandated Programs

- Water Conservation (SB x7-7 2009)
- Commercial Recycling (AB 32)
- Building Efficiency (CalGreen Code)
- "Complete Streets" policies (AB 1358)
- Air District Rule 9410 (Large Employer Based Trip Reduction)

#### Current City Activities, Projects, and Programs

- Municipal Retrofit Program
- Bicycle Transportation Planning
- Downtown Revitalization
- "Build a Green Fleet" Program
- Employee Trip Reduction Plan
- Bellevue Corridor Community Plan (see below)

### SB 375: Sustainable Communities Strategy / Regional Blueprint Principles

- Create Walkable Neighborhoods
- Encourage Community and Stakeholder Collaboration
- Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place
- Provide Mixed Land Uses
- Provide a Variety of Transportation Choices
- Strengthen and Direct Development Towards Existing Communities

#### Bellevue Corridor Community Plan:

- Develop "Complete Streets" General Plan Policies;
- Develop Urban Village Form-Based Code Concepts;
- Create Bellevue ROW Standard Design Templates incorporating the bullet-points above; and,
- Create "Transit Priority Project" Sites, per SB 375, CEQA is waived.

## Task 2: Influence Factors for Selecting "Measures"

**Committee Action:** Starting with Objective #1, as selected above, rank the measures that apply to this Objective. Use the guidance provided below (please refer to the Background Report or draft CAP Chapters for further details) to rank your selection. Mark the selection with #1 being the most aligned with the guidance, then #2, #3, #4, and so forth. Feel free to add to or modify measures.

#### PARTNERSHIP CAPACITY

**Guidance:** When selecting measures suitable to Merced, it is important to consider the capacity of existing public and private partners, such as:

- PG&E
- MID
- Merced County Community Action Agency
- Building Healthy Communities
- Merced/Mariposa County Asthma Coalition
- Central Valley Coalition for Affordable Housing
- UC Merced
- Building Industry Association of Central California
- Chambers of Commerce
- Hotel Associations
- Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transit Advocates
- THE-BUS

#### **CO-BENEFITS**

**Guidance:** When selecting measures suitable to Merced, it is important to ask whether or not it is associated with a "Co-Benefit," thereby aligning itself with other City goals.

- Reduced Air Pollution
- Cut Energy use and Associated Costs
- Reduce Local Government Operation Costs
- Reduce Traffic Levels
- Improve Public Health
- Water Conservation
- Enhance Urban Forests
- Recycling
- Promoting Well-designed, Vibrant, Healthy Communities

#### **CITY POLICIES**

**Guidance:** When selecting measures suitable to Merced, it is important to ask whether or not it aligns with current City policies. Note that the attached list is a subset of all City policies, and pertain to greenhouse gas reduction activities. There may be a City policy that addresses a measure, but isn't included in the attached list. Policies are also listed in Appendix A of the Background Report.

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA PROGRAMS

**Guidance:** In selecting the City's GHG reduction measures, take care not to duplicate State-related efforts. These include:

**Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard:** The State of California's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) requires electricity providers to increase the portion of the energy that comes from renewable sources to 20% by 2010 and by 33% by 2020.

Assembly Bill 1493 (Pavley): The California Air Resources Board adopted regulations that created increasingly stringent standards in 2004 to reduce global warming emissions from cars and light trucks between 2009 and 2016.

**SB 97 (Dutton – 2007):** SB 97 requires new requirements for CEQA documents to identify and mitigate for GHG emissions. The net effect is that new development subject to CEQA will have approximately 29% less emission than development permitted before January 1, 2010.

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#### **COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Guidance:** When selecting measures suitable to Merced, it is important to ask whether or not it aligns with Community demographics or other characteristics.

## **Task 3: Selection of Suitable Implementation Phase**

**Committee Action:** Upon selection of a GHG reduction measure, decide when this measure should be implemented (Near-Term, Mid-Term or Long-Term), and mark the selection with "N", "M", or "L" respectively.

#### Task 4: Can GHG Emission Reduction Potential be Quantified?

**Committee Action:** If the Assessment Team has time, cross-reference the measure with the ICLEI or CAPCOA lists to indicate where GHG emission reduction potential can be quantified.

# **City GHG Reduction-Related Policies**

The "Merced Vision 2030 General Plan" lists numerous policies that are designed to ensure that global climate change impacts are minimized as development occurs. These policies are cited in two places; (1) Section 3.17 of the General Plan EIR, titled, "Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Global Climate Change)," on pages 3.17-10 to 3.17-12, under the sub-title "General Plan Consistency; and (2) Chapter 8 of the Merced Vision 2030 General Plan titled, "Sustainable Development," on pages 8-34 to 8-35, under Policy SD-1.8.

**UE** Urban Expansion

L Land Use

T Transportation and Circulation

P Public Services UD Urban Design

S Safety

OS Open Space

SD Sustainable Development

# Land Use and Design

### **Compact Urban Form**

- **UE-1.2** Foster compact and efficient development patterns to maintain a compact urban form.
- **L-3.2** Encourage infill development and a compact urban form.
- **H-1.1** Support increased densities in residential areas.

#### **Growth Control**

- **UE-1.3** Control the annexation, timing, density, and location of new land uses within the City's urban expansion boundaries.
- P-1.2 Utilize existing infrastructure and public service capacities to the maximum extent possible and provide for the logical, timely, and economically efficient extension of municipal infrastructure and services where necessary.

#### **Mixed-Use Development**

- **L-1.1** Promote balanced development which provides jobs, services, and housing.
- **L-1.2** Encourage a diversity of building types, ownership, prices, designs, and site plans for residential areas throughout the City.
- **L-2.4** Provide a range of services adjacent to and within industrial areas to reduce auto trips.

- **L-2.7** Locate and design new commercial development to provide good access from adjacent neighborhoods and reduce congestion on major streets.
- **L-2.8** Encourage a mixture of uses and activities and reinvestment that will maintain the vitality of the downtown area.
- **L-3.1** Create land use patterns that will encourage people to walk, bicycle, or use public transit for an increased number of their daily trips.
- **UD-1.1** Apply Transit-Ready Development or Urban Village design principles to new development in the City's new growth areas.

#### **Strategic Placement of Uses**

- **L-1.7** Encourage the location of multi-family developments on sites with good access to transportation, shopping, employment centers, and services.
- **L-2.1** Encourage further development of appropriate commercial and industrial uses throughout the City.
- L-3.5 \* Develop a Transit-Oriented Development Overlay Zone Adjacent to the Planned High Speed Rail Station in Downtown Merced.
- **UD-1.2** Distribute and design Urban Villages to promote convenient vehicular, pedestrian, and transit access.

#### Site Design

- **L-3.3** Promote site designs that encourage walking, cycling, and transit use.
- **UD-1.3** \* Promote and facilitate Core Commercial design principles in Village commercial areas.
- **UD-1.4** Promote and facilitate Urban Village residential area design principles.
- **UD-1.5** Design and develop public and quasi-public buildings and uses utilizing Transit-Ready Development or Urban Village principles.
- **UD-2.1** Use Urban Village design concepts in neighborhood revitalization programs.
- **UE-1.1** Designate areas for new urban development that recognize the physical characteristics and environmental constraints of the planning area.
- **L-1.8** \* Create livable and identifiable residential neighborhoods.
- **L-2.6** Provide neighborhood commercial centers in proportion to residential development in the City.
- **L-2.9** Identify locations and develop standards for campus-type research and development parks.

# **Transportation**

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Mobility		
T-1.1 *	Design streets consistent with circulation function, affected land uses, and all modes of transportation.	
L-1.9 *	Ensure connectivity between existing and planned urban areas.	
Transit		
T-2.1	Provide for and maintain a major transit-way along "M" Street and possibly along the Bellevue Road/Merced-Atwater Expressway and Campus Parkway corridors.	
T-2.2	Support and enhance the use of public transit.	
T-2.3	Support a safe and effective public transit system.	
Bicycles		
OS-3.2	Maintain and expand the City's Bikeway and Trail System.	
T-2.4	Encourage the use of bicycles.	
T-2.5	Provide convenient bicycle support facilities to encourage bicycle use.	
T-2.6	Maintain and expand the community's existing bicycle circulation system.	
Pedestrians		
T-2.7	Maintain a pedestrian-friendly environment.	
Management Practice		
T-2.9	Ensure that new development provides the facilities and programs that improve the effectiveness of Transportation Control Measures and Congestion Management Programs.	
T-1.5	Minimize unnecessary travel demand on major streets and promote energy conservation.	
Rail		
T-3.5	Support enhanced railroad passenger service and high speed rail service for Merced.	
T-1.3	Design major roads to maximize efficiency and accessibility.	
T-1.2	Coordinate circulation and transportation planning with pertinent regional, State and Federal agencies.	

- **T-1.6** Minimize adverse impacts on the environment from existing and proposed road systems.
- **T-2.8** Improve planning for pedestrians.
- **T-3.6** Retain and expand rail facilities serving industrial development as needed.

# Water Conservation and Green Infrastructure

- **P-3.2** In cooperation with the County and the Merced Irrigation District, work to stabilize the region's aquifer.
- **P-4.2** Consider the use of reclaimed water to reduce non-potable water demands whenever practical.
- P-5.2 Integrate drainage facilities with bike paths, sidewalks, recreation facilities, agricultural activities, groundwater recharge, and landscaping.
- **OS-1.4** Improve and expand the City's urban forest.
- **OS-5.1** Promote water conservation throughout the planning area.

## Waste Reduction

- **P-6.1** Establish programs to recover recyclable materials and energy from solid wastes generated within the City.
- **P-6.2** Minimize the potential impacts of waste collection, transportation, and disposal facilities upon the residents of Merced.

# **Buildings and Energy**

- **H-2.2** Promote preventative maintenance and energy conservation in older housing units.
- **SD-3.1** Promote the use of Solar Energy technology and other Alternative Energy Resources.
- **SD-3.2** Encourage the use of energy conservation features, low-emission equipment, and alternative energy sources for all new residential and commercial development.
- **SD-1.5** Provide public facilities and operations which can serve as a model for the private sector in implementation of air quality programs.

# **Broad Cross-Cutting Policies**

SD-4.1	Create a healthy built environment.	
SD-1.3	Integrate land use planning, transportation planning, and air quality planning for the most efficient use of public resources and for a healthier environment.	
SD-1.7	Develop and implement a Climate Action Plan for the City.	
SD-1.8	Implement Policies in Other General Plan Chapters to Address Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goals.	
L-3.7 *	Implement policies and principles to conform to the intent of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint.	
SD-1.4	Educate the public on the impact of individual transportation, lifestyle, and land use decisions on air quality.	
Other Policies		
S-7.1	Prevent injuries and environmental contamination due to the uncontrolled release of hazardous materials.	
S-7.2	Ensure that hazardous materials are cleaned up before a property is developed or redeveloped.	
S-7.3		
P-1.1	Provide adequate public infrastructure and municipal services to meet the needs of future development.	
P-1.3	Require new development to provide or pay for its fair share of public facility and infrastructure improvements.	
P-3.1	Ensure that adequate water supply can be provided within the City's service area, concurrent with service expansion and population growth.	
SD-1.1	Accurately determine and fairly mitigate the local and regional air quality impacts of projects proposed in the City of Merced.	
SD-1.2	Coordinate local air quality programs with regional programs and those of neighboring jurisdictions.	
SD-4.2	Encourage increased physical activity of residents and healthier food choices.	