

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Environment Code - Climate Action Plan]

Ordinance amending the Environment Code to update the City's climate action goals and planning process, and to update City Departments' roles and responsibilities regarding the City's climate action goals; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

Chapter 9 of the Environment Code sets the City's goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and related sustainability goals. Some of the goals include, for example, reducing greenhouse gas emissions generated within the geographic boundaries of the City by at least 61% below 1990 levels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with producing, transporting, using, and disposing of products and services consumed by a particular community or entity by at least 40% below 1990 levels. Sustainability goals include, for example, reducing solid waste generation, increasing low-carbon trips, supplying 100% renewable energy, and requiring zero onsite fossil fuel emissions from all new buildings.

Chapter 9 requires the Department of the Environment to prepare and submit a Climate Action Plan every five years that incorporates the goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and related sustainability goals, strategies and recommendations to achieve those goals, and an equity framework as well as a health and vulnerable populations framework to the plan, among other requirements.

Chapter 9 also outlines topics for future climate action goals. Chapter 9 further requires the Department of the Environment to research and possibly recommend legislation related to the development or utilization of available market-based compliance mechanisms, such as greenhouse gas emission exchanges. Chapter 9 also sets out City departments' roles and responsibilities related to the Climate Action Plan and related goals, as well as monitoring, evaluation, and reporting requirements.

Background and Amendments to Current Law

The current Climate Action Plan was prepared by the Department of the Environment in 2021. The Department of the Environment is required to prepare an updated Climate Action Plan every five years. This ordinance would update the requirements for the 2026 Climate Action Plan, as well as current and future climate action goals. New climate action goals would include, for example, transitioning all energy uses Citywide to 100% renewable and/or greenhouse gas-free sources by 2040, reducing building emissions by 20% from 2020 levels by 2030, and achieving a 25% reduction in per-capita vehicle miles traveled by 2030. Future climate action goals would include, for example, exploring and identifying best practices for

carbon removal that could allow the City to remove atmospheric carbon dioxide equivalent to San Francisco's residual greenhouse gas emissions.

The ordinance would also update City departments' roles and responsibilities with respect to the Climate Action Plan and goals. The ordinance would require the Department of the Environment to coordinate an interagency effort related to the updated Climate Action Plan with the City Administrator's Office, Department of Building Inspection, Department of Public Health, Department of Public Works, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, Municipal Transportation Agency, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, Office of Resilience and Capital Planning, Planning Department, Port of San Francisco, San Francisco International Airport, Public Utilities Commission, Recreation and Park Department, and other City departments. Further, the ordinance would also require all City departments to ensure all department-level decisions and commitments are consistent with the Climate Action Plan. The ordinance would also authorize the Department of the Environment to adopt rules and regulations related to the administration of Chapter 9.

The ordinance would remove the section focused on market-based compliance mechanisms, and update the findings and purpose section, as well as the definitions sections by removing some definitions and adding others.