

City of Piedmont
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: May 19, 2008

FROM: Geoffrey L. Grote, City Administrator

SUBJECT: **Consideration of the Composition, Charge and Timeline for an Environmental Task Force**

Attached is the charge to the Environmental Task Force from Mayor Abe M. Friedman. Upon approval of the charge, council should ratify the appointment of the Task Force members:

Teddy King, Chair
Ryan Gilbert
Jonathan Levine

Council should also ratify the appointment of Councilmember Margaret Fujioka as council liaison. Council should also request that a recruitment of two members-at-large take place; one representative from the city and one representative from the school district. The City Clerk will conduct the recruitment for the city representative to be approved by the City Council. The city will coordinate the recruitment of the school district representative to the degree that the School Board deems appropriate.

Council will note that the charge to the Task Force includes proposed timelines for the Task Force operations and reports.

PIEDMONT ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE MISSION STATEMENT

More and more Piedmont residents are concerned about the negative environmental effects of waste disposal, energy use, and greenhouse gas emissions. The Piedmont Environmental Task Force shall identify achievable short-term and long-term actions that the City and its residents may take to address these concerns. Its efforts shall focus on the following three areas:

(1) Increasing recycling and solid waste diversion in public spaces to move the city toward its goal of 75 percent landfill diversion by 2010. The task force shall study methods for increasing recycling in public spaces such as schools, city facilities and buildings, and parks. This is consistent with the goal set by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority (stopwaste.org). Achieving this goal will require innovative ideas, effective communication with the community, and funding support.

(2) Reducing energy consumption by public agencies. Reducing energy consumption is the most expeditious way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It can also offer financial benefits. The Task Force shall address the use of cleaner and renewable energy sources in the facilities and operations of the City and the School District that improve energy efficiency. The Task Force shall review the costs of such alternative sources and their impact on the efficiency of operations and make recommendations about short and long term efforts that public agencies can undertake to reduce energy consumption.

(3) Education and Non-Regulatory Support for Community Emissions Reduction. The task force shall develop educational programs, public outreach, and other non-regulatory means to encourage recycling, solid waste diversion, and reduction of energy consumption by Piedmont residents so that the recommendations ultimately adopted by the City Council and Board of Education can be effectively conveyed to Piedmont households.

Concurrently with the Task Force efforts, the City of Piedmont will be working with the City of Albany to prepare a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). The CCAP, which is being funded by a grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, will include recommendations on some of the topics to be addressed by the Task Force. Thus, the Task Force will provide input to the CCAP consultants and receive periodic briefings on the CCAP as work progresses.

In addition, the Task Force shall review the results of the city-wide survey conducted as part of the General Plan update. The Task Force may incorporate into their recommendations such comments and suggestions made by residents as they deem appropriate.

The following additional rules shall apply to the Task Force:

- (1) The Task Force shall be comprised of five members, including one member of the Planning Commission, one member of the Parks Commission, two members of the public to be appointed by the City Council, and one member of the public appointed by the school board. In addition, two non-voting members, one representing the City Council and the other representing the Piedmont Board of Education shall participate in the Task Force's activities. The Task Force Chair shall be appointed by the Mayor. The Mayor may appoint other non-voting members to the Task Force at his discretion.
- (2) The Task Force shall meet at a regular date and time (to be collaboratively determined based on the schedules of its members) on a monthly basis. All meetings shall be open to the public, and shall include an opportunity for public comment and feedback.
- (3) The Task Force shall begin meeting in June 2008. Each quarter thereafter it shall report in writing to the City Council, with the first report to be prepared by October 1, 2008 and a final report to be prepared on July 1, 2009.
- (4) The Task Force terminates on July 31, 2009.
- (5) The Task Force is an advisory body to the City Council and the Board of Education and is not an independent decision-making body. All of its recommendations regarding the property or operations of the City or the School District are subject to discussion and approval of the City Council or Board of Education, respectively.
- (6) The Task Force shall limit its discussions to the three topics identified in the Mission Statement. Its focus shall be on tangible, practical actions that can be implemented at the local level.