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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 6, 2026

TO: Kimberly Jordan, Town of Windsor

FROM: Cara Cunningham, Associate
Jessica Coria, Director of Air Quality and Climate Change Services

SUBJECT: California Environmental Quality Act Addendum for the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates in the Town of Windsor

This document, prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the regulations and policies of the Town of Windsor, provides information and analysis concerning the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates. This document is an Addendum to the Windsor 2040 General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (State Clearinghouse [SCH] No. 2016112065) (General Plan EIR),[1] which was certified by the Town of Windsor (Town) on April 4, 2018 (Council Resolution No. 3447-18). This Addendum to the General Plan EIR evaluates whether minor changes associated with the project evaluated in the General Plan EIR would result in new or substantially more adverse significant effects or require new mitigation measures not identified in the General Plan EIR. The Town is the Lead Agency under CEQA. In accordance with CEQA Section 21093(b) and *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15152(a), this Addendum tiers off the General Plan EIR, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

INTRODUCTION

The General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates consist of an update to the Town's General Plan Greenhouse Gas Emissions Section, as included under the General Plan Goals and Policies for Environmental Resources,[2] as well as implementation of a new Greenhouse Gas Emissions Consistency Checklist for proposed future development projects in Windsor. The General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates and the approval of a General Plan Amendment, would modernize Goal ER-5, Greenhouse Gas Emissions of the Environmental Resources Element of the Town's General Plan and would integrate State-aligned climate strategies into Town planning efforts.

This Addendum is prepared pursuant to *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15164 which states: "The lead agency or a responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some

[1] Town of Windsor. 2018a. *Town of Windsor 2040 General Plan Environmental Impact Report*. February. Website: https://www.townofwindsor.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21024/Final-Enviromental-Impact-Report-2040-General-Plan?bidId= (accessed December 2025).

[2] Town of Windsor. 2018b. *Town of Windsor 2040 General Plan*. April 4.

changes or additions are necessary, but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred." Section 15162 specifies that "no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines … one or more of the following:"

1. Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;

2. Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or

3. New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete was adopted, shows any of the following:

    a. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR;

    b. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;

    c. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or

    d. Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Pursuant to *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15164(e), the purpose of this Addendum is to describe and evaluate the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates, assess the proposed modifications to the project evaluated in the General Plan EIR, and identify the reasons for the Town's conclusion that the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates and associated environmental effects do not meet the conditions described in *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent or supplemental EIR.

This Addendum provides a complete description of the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates and provides information to: (1) compare the environmental impacts of the proposed policy updates with impacts evaluated in the General Plan EIR; (2) demonstrate that the proposed policy updates would not result in new or more severe significant environmental impacts than those identified in the General Plan EIR; (3) provide new or revised mitigation measures not identified in the General Plan EIR, and (4) conclude that no substantial changes since the General Plan EIR was certified resulted in new or more severe significant environmental effects.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Town of Windsor is located in central Sonoma County, approximately 20 miles east of the Pacific Ocean. Healdsburg is located approximately 5 miles to the northwest, and Santa Rosa is located approximately 7 miles to the southeast. Regional access to the Town is provided by United States Highway 101 (US-101). The Town encompasses 7.3 square miles and includes four non-contiguous incorporated areas to the west of the main Town limits. The Windsor Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) encompasses 7.5 square miles (refer to Figure 2, General Plan Area, in the General Plan EIR).

The General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates, which include updates to the policies under Goal ER-5, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, of the Environmental Resources Element of the General Plan, do not include any physical development. Rather, the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates include text-only amendments that would modernize the introductory narrative and policy goals and establish a streamlined review process for proposed future development projects that ensure implementation of policies that reduce GHG emissions and facilitate CEQA compliance. The policies being amended include Policy ER-5.1, Policy ER-5.2, Policy ER-5.3, Policy ER-5.5, Policy ER-5.6, Policy ER-5.7, Policy ER-5.10, Policy ER-5.12, Policy ER-5.13, Policy ER-5.16, Policy ER-5.17, Policy ER-5.18, Policy ER-5.19, Policy ER-5.22, and Policy ER-5.23. The updated policy language specifically includes clarified performance expectations for proposed future development and strengthens renewable energy and electrification standards. Specifically, the updates remove references to 2020 goals, update the GHG target established in Policy ER-5.3 to ensure that all new development projects and Public Works Improvement projects comply with all applicable measures set forth in the Town's CEQA GHG Consistency Checklist, strengthen the energy performance standards set forth in Policy ER-5.10, and add sustainability details developed in collaboration with community partners. Minor updates to policy review timelines and the Town departments responsible for program implementation are also included, resulting in updates to Implementation Programs ER-5 and ER-6. See Attachment A for the comprehensive text updates in strikeout/underline format.

Because the proposed policy updates would require an amendment to the General Plan, discretionary approval from the Windsor Town Council would be required.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

State CEQA Guidelines 15168(c)(4) recommends using a written checklist or similar device to confirm whether the environmental effects of a subsequent activity were adequately covered in a program EIR. As such, the following analysis evaluates whether the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates are within the scope of the General Plan EIR. In accordance with CEQA Section 21093(b) and *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15152(a), this Addendum tiers off the General Plan EIR, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

In summary, no new or more severe significant impacts were identified for the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates that were not identified and mitigated in the General Plan EIR, and no new mitigation measures would be required for the proposed policy updates. For all environmental topics, there have been no substantial changes in environmental circumstances that would result in new or more severe significant environmental effects than were identified and evaluated in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, no subsequent EIR or CEQA evaluation is required.

Aesthetics

The General Plan EIR found that implementation of development facilitated by the General Plan would result in a loss of scenic resources and could increase light and glare on sensitive receptors (e.g., residential uses). However, the General Plan EIR concluded that the proposed General Plan policies and Mitigation Measure AES-1, which requires outdoor lighting to be shielded and/or directed downward to protect dark/night skies, would ensure that the implementation of the General Plan would have less than significant impacts on scenic vistas and resources, visual character and quality, and light and glare.

As described above, the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates include policy updates to Goal ER-5, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, of the Environmental Resources Element of the General Plan and do not include any physical development. The General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would modernize the introductory narrative, policy goals, minor updates to Implementation Programs ER-5 and ER-6 and establish a streamlined review process for new development projects that ensures implementation of policies that reduce GHG emissions and facilitate CEQA compliance. The updated policy language specifically includes clarified performance expectations for new development and strengthens renewable energy and electrification standards and the updated program implementation language includes minor policy review timelines and the Town departments responsible for program implementation. The proposed policy updates do not include any changes to General Plan policies related to protecting scenic vistas or resources, visual character and quality, or light and glare. In addition, future development projects facilitated by the General Plan would be required to comply with General Plan EIR Mitigation Measure AES-1. Therefore, the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not result in new aesthetics impacts or substantially increase the severity of impacts identified in the General Plan EIR.

Air Quality

The General Plan EIR found that buildout of the General Plan would result in the temporary generation of air pollutants during construction but that implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1, which requires the Bay Area Air District's (Air District) Basic Construction Mitigation Measures, would reduce construction impacts to a less than significant level. In addition, the General Plan EIR found that the General Plan would be consistent with the Air District's 2017 Clean Air Plan, and the increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) under the buildout of the General Plan would not exceed the rate of projected population increase associated with the General Plan. The General Plan EIR also found that the General Plan would not create objectionable odors.

As no construction or demolition is proposed as part of the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates, no short-term construction emissions are anticipated as a result of implementation of the proposed policy updates. Long-term emissions are associated with any change in permanent use of a project site by on-site stationary and off-site mobile sources that substantially increase emissions. Stationary-source emissions include emissions associated with electricity consumption and natural gas usage. Mobile-source emissions typically result from vehicle trips associated with a project. The General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates do not propose any physical changes and would, therefore, not generate new daily vehicle trips, electricity consumption, or natural gas usage.

Therefore, the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not cause any construction-related or operational air quality emissions.

Implementation of the proposed policy updates would result in a reduction in long-term regional pollutant emissions associated with vehicle and building use. The updated policies include Policy ER-5.7, which promotes reduced idling, trip reduction, and electric vehicle use and Policies ER-5.10, ER-5.12, ER-5.13, ER-5.16, ER-5.17, ER-5.19, and ER-5.20, which promote energy conservation/energy efficiency improvement programs, energy performance standards, zero net energy, and compliance with energy regulations (e.g., Title 24 standards). Implementation of these updated policies would reduce air pollutant emissions from vehicles and energy usage. Therefore, the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not result in new air quality impacts or substantially increase the severity of impacts identified in the General Plan EIR.

Biological Resources

The General Plan EIR found that with implementation of the goals and policies in the General Plan and Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2, which require nesting bird protection and wildlife movement corridors protection, future development facilitated by the General Plan would result in less than significant impacts to special-status species and sensitive habitats, special-status nesting birds, riparian and wetland habitats, wildlife movement corridors, and local policies and plans.

The General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not include any physical development and include policy updates to Goal ER-5. The policy updates include Policy 5.16, Policy ER-5.17, and Policy ER-5.18, which require the planting of shade trees, using native trees where feasible, or other drought-tolerant species, and the preservation and/or replacement of trees. These updates would be consistent with other applicable local policies and regulations related to the protection of important biological resources. As the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not include any physical development or changes, the proposed policy updates would not create direct or indirect adverse effects on special-status plants, wildlife, or habitat. In addition, future development projects facilitated by the General Plan would be required to comply with the Town of Windsor Zoning Code Section 17.22.030, Tree Preservation and Protection, and General Plan EIR Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2. Therefore, the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not result in new biological resources impacts or substantially increase the severity of impacts identified in the General Plan EIR.

Energy

As discussed in the General Plan EIR, development facilitated by the General Plan would involve the use of energy during construction and operation. Construction-related energy use is typically in the form of fuel to operate heavy equipment and vehicles, and long-term energy use is typically associated with electricity, natural gas, and fuel consumption from vehicle trips. The General Plan EIR determined that buildout of the General Plan would result in a nominal increase in Statewide energy demand and that General Plan policies would reduce future energy use.

Because no construction or demolition is proposed as part of the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates, no short-term energy use is anticipated as a result of implementation of the proposed policy updates. Additionally, because the proposed General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy

Updates do not propose any physical changes, the proposed updates would not generate new daily vehicle trips, electricity consumption, or natural gas usage. Therefore, the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not cause any construction-related or operational energy usage.

The purpose of the proposed policy updates is to modernize the Town's GHG policies, integrate State-aligned climate strategies, and strengthen the Town's ability to review development projects for consistency with adopted sustainability-focused policies and programs, which includes strengthened energy-related policies. The updated policies include Policy ER-5.7, which promotes reduced idling, trip reduction, and electric vehicle use and Policies ER-5.10, ER-5.12, ER-5.13, ER-5.16, ER-5.17, ER-5.19, and ER-5.20, which promote energy conservation/energy efficiency improvement programs, energy performance standards, zero net energy, and compliance with energy regulations (e.g., Title 24). Implementation of Policy ER-5.7 would reduce fuel consumption associated with vehicle trips and Policies ER-5.10, ER-5.12, ER-5.13, ER-5.16, ER-5.17, ER-5.19, and ER-5.20 would reduce electricity and natural gas consumption in new and retrofitted buildings. Overall, implementation of the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would assist in reducing the use of non-renewable energy resources, increasing the production of renewable energy, and retrofitting buildings and the transportation system in Windsor to become energy efficient in compliance with existing energy plans. Therefore, the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not result in new energy impacts or substantially increase the severity of impacts identified in the General Plan EIR.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The General Plan EIR found that development facilitated by the General Plan would not generate GHG emissions that would exceed the Air District's recommended thresholds. In addition, the General Plan EIR determined that the policies contained in the General Plan would ensure that future development would follow a reduction trajectory that meets the 2050 Statewide emissions target and would be consistent with the measures contained in the Windsor Municipal GHG Reduction Action Plan.[3]

The proposed General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates do not include any construction or demolition activities. Therefore, no short-term construction-related GHG emissions would occur as a result of implementation of the policy updates. Long-term GHG emissions are typically generated from mobile, area, waste, and water sources as well as indirect emissions from sources associated with energy consumption. Mobile-source GHG emissions would include project-generated trips to and from a project site. Area-source emissions would be associated with activities such as landscaping and maintenance on a project site. Energy source emissions are typically generated at off-site utility providers. Waste source emissions include energy generated by land filling and other methods of disposal related to transporting and managing project generated waste. In addition, water source emissions are generated by pumping of water, water distribution, and wastewater treatment. Because the proposed policy updates do not authorize physical development or changes in land use, they would not themselves result in an increase in long-term GHG emissions.

[3] Town of Windsor. 2012. *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan Update*. Adopted July 24, 2012.

The General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates consist of revisions to Goal ER-5, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, of the Environmental Resources Element of the General Plan. The updates modernize the narrative and policy goals and establish a streamlined review process for new development projects that ensures implementation of policies that reduce GHG emissions and facilitate CEQA compliance. The purpose of the proposed policy updates is to further support local, regional, and State efforts to reduce GHG emissions and to address the potential impacts caused by climate change and adaptation policies to encourage resiliency.

The updated policies would support the Town in reducing emissions by 40 percent below the 1990 level by 2030, 60 percent below the 1990 level by 2040, and 80 percent below the 1990 level by 2050, as included in Policies ER-5.1 and ER-5.2. Updated Policy ER-5.3 ensures that new development projects and Public Works Improvement projects comply with all applicable measures set forth in the Town's CEQA GHG Consistency Checklist.

The GHG Consistency Checklist helps the Town provide an efficient review process for new development projects that are subject to discretionary approval. Projects that are consistent with the General Plan land use designation for a project site and implement all applicable policies included in the GHG Consistency Checklist will be deemed to be consistent with the GHG section of the General Plan and the analysis of GHG impacts under the General Plan EIR. The GHG Consistency Checklist includes measures related to reducing construction emissions, providing shade trees, facilitating multimodal travel, street design, connectivity and development pattern requirements, indoor and outdoor water conservation, and energy efficiency measures such as zero net energy development, building efficiency, and on-site renewable energy generation. Projects that are not consistent with the General Plan land use designation for a project site would use a different process. First, projects that are inconsistent with the General Plan land use designation for a project site would be required to both demonstrate consistency with the measures included in the GHG Consistency Checklist, as well as consistency with the Air District's GHG significance thresholds. If a project inconsistent with the General Plan land use designation for a project site cannot demonstrate consistency with either the GHG Consistency Checklist or the Air District's GHG significance thresholds, the project would need to prepare a project-specific analysis of GHG emissions and reductions demonstrating or achieving equivalent GHG emissions reductions.

The Air District has provided substantial evidence supporting the use of its recommended GHG significance thresholds to evaluate whether a proposed project would contribute to California's GHG reduction goals. The Air District adopted the *Justification Report: CEQA Thresholds for Evaluating the Significance of Climate Impacts from Land Use Projects and Plans* (Justification Report),[4] which identifies GHG significance thresholds that would be applicable to proposed projects. These thresholds evaluate a project based on its effect on achieving California's long-term climate goal of carbon neutrality by 2045. Based on this research, the Air District has determined that new land use development projects must incorporate specified design elements to contribute their "fair share" toward implementation of the goal of carbon neutrality by 2045. If a project is designed and built to incorporate the identified design elements related to natural gas, energy, VMT, and electric vehicles,

[4] Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Bay Area Air District). 2022. *Justification Report: CEQA Thresholds for Evaluating the Significance of Climate Impacts From Land Use Projects and Plans*. April.

then it would contribute its portion of what is necessary to achieve California's long-term climate goals — its "fair share" — and an agency reviewing the project under CEQA would be able to conclude that the project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to global climate change. The Justification Report provides substantial evidence supporting the use of these thresholds for projects throughout California because the thresholds are applicable to meeting the State's established GHG reduction goals. As such, updated Policy ER-5.3 is consistent with the latest Air District GHG thresholds and would ensure new development projects are consistent with State and local goals for GHG emission reductions.

Additional updated policies further support reductions in GHG emissions. Policy ER-5.7 promotes reduced vehicle idling, trip reduction strategies, and electric vehicle use, thereby reducing GHG emissions associated with vehicle travel. Policies ER-5.10, ER-5.12, ER-5.13, ER-5.16, ER-5.17, ER-5.19, and ER-5.20 promote energy conservation and efficiency programs, energy performance standards, zero net energy development, and compliance with energy regulations (e.g., Title 24), thereby reducing GHG emissions associated with energy use. Policy ER-5.22 promotes landscape practices that maximize long-term carbon sequestration. In addition, Policies ER-5.16 through ER-5.18 and Policy ER-5.22 require the planting of shade trees; using native or drought-tolerant species; and the preservation and/or replacement of trees, which would reduce the heat island effect and maximize long-term carbon sequestration.

Overall, implementation of the proposed policy updates would reduce GHG emissions in Windsor and would promote energy-efficiency, use of renewable energy resources, and reduced dependency on vehicle travel consistent with State and local plans, policies, and regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. Therefore, the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not result in new GHG impacts or substantially increase the severity of impacts identified in the General Plan EIR.

Land Use and Planning

As discussed in the General Plan EIR, implementation of the General Plan would provide for orderly development in Windsor, would not physically divide an established community, and would not conflict with any applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations.

Because the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not result in any physical changes, the proposed policy updates would not result in the physical division of an established community. The proposed policy updates would amend Goal ER-5, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, of the Environmental Resources Element of the General Plan, which includes modernizing the narrative and policy goals, updating policy review timelines and Town department responsibility in Implementation Programs ER-5 and ER-6, and establishing a streamlined review process for new development projects that ensures implementation of policies that reduce GHG emissions and facilitate CEQA compliance and define and strengthen the energy performance standards set forth in Policy ER-5.10. These text-only amendments would not change any land use designations or development capacity and therefore would not conflict with any existing land use plans, policies, or regulations.

Future development facilitated by the General Plan would be evaluated as part of the Town's review process and would be subject to further environmental review and/or discretionary actions, depending on the nature of the project. Future projects would be subject to the Town's standard conditions of approval for all development projects and could be subject to additional conditions and/or mitigation measures to ensure that any future development would not adversely affect the health or safety of persons residing or working in the vicinity or be detrimental to public health, safety, and welfare. Therefore, the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not result in new land use and planning impacts or substantially increase the severity of impacts identified in the General Plan EIR.

Transportation

The General Plan EIR found that development facilitated by the General Plan may increase traffic in Windsor and identified Mitigation Measure T-1, which requires intersection improvements to maintain acceptable operation, and Mitigation Measure T-2, which requires queueing improvements. In addition, the General Plan EIR found that implementation of the General Plan would not change air traffic patterns, result in inadequate emergency access, or conflict with policies relating to alternative transportation modes, including transit, walking, and bicycling.

Because the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not result in any physical changes, the proposed policy updates would not generate new vehicle trips. In addition, the proposed policy updates include Policy ER-5.7, which stipulates that the Town shall promote reduced idling, trip reduction, routing for efficiency, carpooling, walking/biking, and electric vehicle use. Policy ER-5.7 also requires that community-wide idling reduction be supported through education and outreach, including public awareness campaigns and coordination with schools to reduce idling in pickup and drop-off areas and/or Town ordinance updates that support the reduction of idling. This policy also requires that the Town pursue transportation system efficiency improvements, such as signal timing optimization, adaptive or coordinated signal systems, and other traffic flow enhancements that reduce stop-and-go conditions, vehicle delay, and unnecessary idling. As such, the proposed policy updates would help to reduce vehicle trips and VMT. Similar to the General Plan, the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would also not change air traffic patterns, result in inadequate emergency access, or conflict with policies relating to alternative transportation modes, including transit, walking, and bicycling. The General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not result in new transportation impacts or substantially increase the severity of impacts identified in the General Plan EIR.

Summary of Issues Not Requiring Substantial Additional Analysis

Because the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not result in any physical changes and would include text-only amendments to the General Plan that would not change any land use designations, development capacity, or implementation actions in a way that would create new physical environmental effects, the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would not result in new agricultural resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services,

recreation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, or wildfire impacts or substantially increase the severity of impacts identified in the General Plan EIR.

COMPARISON TO THE CONDITIONS LISTED IN STATE CEQA GUIDELINES SECTIONS 15162 AND 15163

The following discussion summarizes the reasons that a subsequent or supplemental EIR, pursuant to *State CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15162 and 15163, is not required, and an Addendum to the General Plan EIR is the appropriate CEQA document to address the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates.

Substantial Changes

Per the analysis above, the proposed minor modifications to the project evaluated in the General Plan EIR would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the General Plan EIR, would not substantially increase the severity of impacts identified in the General Plan EIR, and would not require major revisions to the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the proposed policy updates to the project evaluated in the General Plan EIR would be minor modifications, not substantial changes, and an Addendum is the appropriate document to address these minor modifications rather than a subsequent or supplemental EIR.

Substantial Changes in Circumstances

As described above, environmental conditions in Windsor have not changed such that implementation of the proposed minor modifications to the General Plan EIR would result in new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of environmental effects identified in the General Plan EIR and thus would not require major revisions to the General Plan EIR.

New Information

No new information of substantial importance, which was not known or could not have been known when the General Plan EIR was certified, has been identified that shows that the proposed minor modifications to the General Plan EIR associated with the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates would be expected to result in: (1) new significant environmental effects not identified in the General Plan EIR; (2) substantially more severe environmental effects than shown in the General Plan EIR; (3) mitigation measures or alternatives previously determined to be infeasible that would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but which the Town declines to adopt; or (4) mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the General Plan EIR that would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but that the Town declines to adopt. In addition, the proposed minor modifications would require no new mitigation measures, because as described above, no new or substantially more severe impacts are expected beyond those identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

The proposed minor modifications to the General Plan EIR described in this Addendum would not require major revisions to the General Plan EIR due to new or substantially increased significant environmental effects. The analysis contained above confirms that the proposed amendments are within the scope of the General Plan EIR and would have no new or more severe significant effects, and no new mitigation measures are required. Therefore, no subsequent or supplemental EIR or further CEQA review is required prior to approval of the General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates, as described in this Addendum.

Attachment A: General Plan Greenhouse Gas Policy Updates

ATTACHMENT A

GENERAL PLAN GREENHOUSE GAS POLICY UPDATES

Town of Windsor
CALIFORNIA

Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Environmental Resources Element

Greenhouse gas emissions contribute to climate change, which can have a local and global effect on weather, air quality, and food production, leading to potentially significant impacts. While other communities in the region generate a greater volume of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants, Windsor has a role to play in reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants. The largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the Town is from transportation, specifically the use of passenger cars and light-duty trucks. Daily vehicle emissions come from traffic on U.S. Highway 101 and the large majority of Windsor residents who commute outside the town for work. The remainder of greenhouse gas emissions is primarily from building energy, which includes emissions related to the energy used to operate, heat, and cool homes and businesses.

The Town of Windsor has demonstrated a commitment to reducing GHG emissions. This General Plan contains GHG reduction targets that align with Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32) and Senate Bill 32 (SB 32), which call for communities in California to reduce emission levels compared to 1990 levels ~~by 2020 (AB 32) and 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 (SB 32)~~. In alignment with the Town's goals, which surpassed the minimum reduction target set by AB 32, the Town successfully reduced GHG emissions by 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. The Town also continues to encourage smart growth development practices in accordance with Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) to reduce the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) to and from new development, while enhancing the connectivity with alternative modes of travel. The purpose of this section is to provide policies that support local, regional, and State efforts to reduce GHG emissions. Policies in the Public Health and Safety Element address the potential impacts caused by climate change and adaptation policies to encourage resiliency.

- **Goal ER-5:** Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Improve the sustainability and resiliency of Windsor through compliance with local, State, and Federal policies and standards that aim to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the community.

- ER-5.1 Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction. The Town shall strive to reduce emissions by ~~25 percent below the 1990 community emissions level by 2020, and further reduce community emissions by~~:

    - 40 percent below the 1990 level by 2030;
    - 60 percent below the 1990 level by 2040; and
    - 80 percent below the 1990 level by 2050 (New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)

Progress toward 2030, 2040, and 2050 goals shall be assessed at least every five years through RCPA community inventories or equivalent local GHG emissions tracking.

- ER-5.2 Municipal Services Greenhouse Gas Reduction. The Town shall strive to reduce municipal emissions by ~~26.2 percent below the 2000 municipal emissions level by 2020, and further reduce municipal emissions by~~:

    - 40 percent below the 1990 level by 2030
    - 60 percent below the 1990 level by 2040
    - 80 percent below the 1990 level by 2050 (New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)

  Progress toward 2030, 2040, and 2050 goals shall be assessed at least every five years through Town municipal GHG emissions inventory reporting.

- ER-5.3 Greenhouse Gas ~~Efficiency~~ Target. The Town shall ensure that all new development projects and Public Works Improvement projects comply with all applicable measures set forth in the Town's CEQA GHG Consistency Checklist, including consistency with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) thresholds and project design elements. ~~would result in less than (*) metric tons CO2e per capita (including residents and employees) per year in order to ensure that the emissions targets for the years 2030 and 2050 in ER-5.1 and ER-5.2 would be achieved. *Note: Policy ER-5.3 is a placeholder "emissions threshold" policy that will be used to satisfy 5.1 and 5.2. The actual target will be set once the land use diagram has been confirmed and the associated impacts analyzed.~~

- ER-5.4 Encourage Development Patterns that Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The Town shall strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging compact, mixed-use, pedestrian/bicycle friendly, transit-oriented development that reduces vehicle miles traveled (VMT); promoting energy efficient building enhancements, construction practices, design, and site planning; improving the job-to-housing ratio; and other methods of reducing greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining a balance of housing types.

- ER-5.5 ~~AB 32 and SB 32~~ Greenhouse Gas Assessment and Monitoring. The Town shall continue to assess and monitor performance of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reduction efforts ~~beyond the AB 32 designated 2020 goal~~, including progress towards meeting long-term GHG emissions reduction goals for 2030 (consistent with SB 32) and 2050, as well as the effects of climate change and associated levels of risk, in order to plan a community that is resilient and can adapt to changing climate conditions and its negative impacts.

- ER-5.6 Coordinate with BAAQMD and NSCAPCD. The Town shall coordinate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District (NSCAPCD) to ensure projects incorporate feasible mitigation measures to reduce GHG emissions and air pollution, if not already provided for through project design.

- ER-5.7 Reduce~~d~~ Mobile Source and Idling Emissions ~~for Town Operations~~. The Town shall promote the reduction of mobile-source and idling emissions throughout the community. For

municipal operations, the Town shall implement programs to support reduced idling, trip reduction, routing for efficiency, carpooling, walking/biking and electric vehicle use ~~for its transportation needs for Town operations.~~ Community-wide idling reduction shall be supported through education and outreach, including public awareness campaigns and coordination with schools to reduce idling in pickup and drop-off areas and/or Town ordinance updates that support the reduction of idling. The Town shall also pursue transportation system efficiency improvements, such as signal timing optimization, adaptive or coordinated signal systems, and other traffic flow enhancements that reduce stop-and-go conditions, vehicle delay, and unnecessary idling.

- ER-5.8 Energy Conservation and Efficiency Programs. The Town shall promote energy conservation/energy efficiency improvement programs for residential and commercial properties such as those offered by Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), that reduce energy demand which contribute to background levels of regional air emissions and GHG emissions.

- ER-5.9 Energy Conservation through Land Use. The Town shall promote the creation of a land use pattern that reduces operational energy requirements, especially for transportation purposes, by:

    a. Avoiding land use configurations and siting decisions that result in single-purpose automobile trips and instead encouraging patterns that result in multi-purpose trips.

    b. Promoting land use patterns that may be easily served by local transit and linked with regional transit.

    c. Promoting land use patterns that provide employment opportunities for Windsor residents.

- ER-5.10 Energy Performance Standards. The Town shall require new construction to meet targeted energy performance standards to advance Town greenhouse gas reduction and other sustainability goals and policies identified in the General Plan. The Town will allow new development to select from a range of options to achieve a minimum energy performance standard, including but not limited to the measures listed below, as well as emerging technologies as they become available:

    - cool roofs;

    - installation of energy efficient appliances and fixtures; ~~and~~

    - installation of EV charging stations in homes and in commercial development to increase the ability for the public to use zero-emission vehicles;

    - passive heating and cooling building design;

    - smart appliances (electric devices that include timers and/or smart meters to support reduced energy consumption);

- solar easements to guarantee access to increased renewable energy generation;
- solar roof and carport panels; and
- wind or water turbine-powered generation~~;~~.
- ~~other emerging technologies as they become available.~~

The Town shall work with affordable housing developers to assist in meeting the energy performance standards.

- ER-5.11 Zero Net Energy Goals. The Town shall strive to implement the State goal of zero net energy (ZNE) in all new residential construction by 2020 and ZNE in all new commercial construction by 2030.

- ER-5.12 Retrofitting Existing Buildings. The Town shall actively encourage the retrofitting of existing buildings throughout Windsor in order to align those buildings more closely with the Town's energy performance standards. As part of this initiative, the Town shall develop a volunteer program to showcase residential retrofit success stories and lessons learned.

- ER-5.13 Update Energy Policies and Programs. At least every five years, ~~T~~the ~~t~~Town shall ~~regularly~~ update and strengthen Town energy-related policies and programs for new and existing construction to reflect advances in technologies and practices.

- ER-5.14 Compliance with Energy Regulations. The Town shall continue to enforce State energy regulations governing energy consumption and use of solar and other renewable energy resources in existing and new development.

- ER-5.15 Title 24 Application. The Town shall require energy conservation standards for new residential construction, commercial construction, and within Town facilities, as contained in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, to be periodically reviewed to identify opportunities for adopting standards that more closely respond to local conditions, especially in the area of passive design, to reduce cooling loads.

- ER-5.16 Address Heat Island Effect in Parking Lots. The Town shall require shade mitigation measures, such as the planting of shade trees, using native or climate-forward trees when feasible, and solar shade structures, when applicable, in all new and expanded parking lots to reduce the heat island effect. Climate-forward trees refer to drought-tolerant and heat-adapted species. In addition, the Town shall encourage or require the use of cool pavement materials, such as light-colored paving materials with permeable surfaces that reduce heat and manage rainwater. The Town shall consider updates to the zoning code to enforce this measure.

- ER-5.17 ~~Urban Shade Tree~~ Support Urban Forestry. The Town should expand urban shade tree planting ~~by 500 trees~~ to provide shade in both the public rights-of-way and as part of development proposals, using native or climate-forward trees where feasible. The Town shall pursue outreach, education, and seek grant funding to develop and implement an Urban Forestry Plan.

- ER-5.18 Preservation of Trees. The Town shall require the preservation and/or replacement of trees in parking lots and in the public rights-of-way per development standards.

- ER-5.19 Energy Conservation Measures and Education. The Town shall encourage energy conservation measures, such as insulation and weather-stripping, duct replacement, air sealing, high-efficiency windows and doors, cool roofs, and more, in existing structures through public education; ~~and~~ share financial resource opportunities with Town property owners; and consider establishing financial assistance programs ~~to~~ for low-and moderate-income families.

- ER-5.20 Windsor Serving as the Energy Conservation Model. The Town government shall be in the forefront of energy conservation efforts locally and regionally by undertaking and publicizing energy efficiency and renewable energy resource programs such as Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) and requiring all new Town buildings to be demonstration buildings and models of emerging energy and water technologies.

- ER-5.21 Windsor Municipal Climate Action Plan. The Town shall implement the objectives in the most current version of the Municipal Climate Action Plan.

- ER-5.22 Enhance Biological Carbon Sequestration. The Town shall promote landscape practices that maximize long-term carbon sequestration. When trees must be removed, the Town shall encourage replacement with plant species and landscape designs that offer equal or greater carbon-sequestration potential. Priority shall be given to long-lived, climate-appropriate tree species; native and drought-tolerant species; deep-rooted shrubs, grasses, and groundcovers; and soil restoration efforts.

- ER-5.23 Water Conservation and Recycled Water Use. In an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with water conveyance and treatment, the Town shall support and promote reduced potable water use across municipal operations and the community. The Town shall encourage the incorporation of grey water systems and other on-site water reuse strategies in new development and, where feasible, in existing development. The Town shall support the expansion of recycled water availability and use, including storage, distribution, and infrastructure improvements, and promote the beneficial reuse of recycled water for appropriate non-potable uses such as landscape irrigation, street cleaning, and other municipal or commercial applications.

Implementation Program ER-5.

Energy Conservation Performance Standards. The Town shall establish a program of mandatory energy conservation performance standards for all new development to increase energy efficiency and use of renewable resources. The program will include a rating system for determining compliance with the performance standards. The program shall provide a menu of options available for meeting and overall minimum performance for a building or development project. This program shall be updated ~~annually~~ every five years at a minimum.

Implements Policy: ER-5.10, ER-5.11

Responsible Department: Public Works, Community Development Department

Implementation Program ER-6.

Review of Town GHG Emissions Inventory. The Town shall review and update the Town's GHG emissions inventory for communitywide GHG emissions every five years at a minimum.

Implements Policy: ER-5.1

Responsible Department: Town Manager's Office, Public Works, and Community Development Department