

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (2025 SERIES)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE LEAD BY EXAMPLE 2025-29 WORK PROGRAM

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas accumulation in the atmosphere as the result of human activity is the primary cause of the global climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, in California alone, the initial and ongoing impacts of climate change have resulted in unprecedented disasters with tremendous human, ecological, economic, and environmental costs; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 the State of California enacted Assembly Bill (AB) 1279 to formally declare that it is the policy of the state to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, but no later than 2045, and to achieve and maintain net negative greenhouse gas emissions thereafter; and

WHEREAS, to protect public health, safety, and welfare, it is in the best interest of the City of San Luis Obispo to substantially reduce or eliminate local greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 Conservation and Open Space Element of the General Plan Policy 2.2.1 states, “City actions shall seek to minimize undesirable climate changes and deterioration of the atmosphere’s protective functions that result from the release of carbon dioxide and other substances”; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 Conservation and Open Space Element of the General Plan Policy 2.2.5 states, “The City will be a model of pollution control efforts. It will manage its own operations to be as pollution free as possible. The City will work with other agencies and organizations to help educate citizens in ways to prevent air pollution”; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Luis Obispo City Council first adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Land Use Element of the General Plan Policy 9.4 states, “The City shall maintain and implement its Climate Action Plan to reduce community and municipal GHG emissions consistent with State laws and objectives”; and

WHEREAS, since 2017 City Council has included Climate Action as a Major City Goal in response to the climate crises; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2020, City Council adopted the 2020 Climate Action Plan for Community Recovery via Resolution R-11159 (2020 Series), which in addition to establishing a pathway to achieve community carbon neutrality by 2035, highlights the role the City can play in “leading by example” and includes a goal of carbon neutral government operations by 2030 and direction to complete a carbon neutral government operations plan; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to lead by example and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations in order to model the actions needed to reduce community-wide emissions; and

WHEREAS, in pursuing a sustainability-oriented approach to achieving carbon neutral government operations by 2030, the City can also promote a more resilient, diverse, equitable, and inclusive City organization; and

WHEREAS, on July 7 2021, City Council adopted a carbon neutral government operations plan titled, Lead by Example: A Plan for Carbon Neutral City Operations (2021 LBE) via Resolution R-11263 (2021 Series); and

WHEREAS, the 2021 LBE establishes sector-specific goals and objectives for City operations by 2030, and includes an action to update the plan every four years; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2022, City Council adopted an updated Climate Action Plan that reaffirmed the 2020 goals and commitments, including the goal of carbon neutral government operations by 2030; and

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2024, City Council received and filed the Lead by Example 2024 Progress Report, which provides a snapshot of the City's municipal operations climate action and sustainability work completed since the adoption of the 2021 LBE; and

WHEREAS, throughout 2024, the Green Team, an interdepartmental staff working group with representation from every City department developed a shared work program for the next four years of Lead by Example; and

WHEREAS, the Green Team co-created a document referred to as the Lead by Example 2025-29 Work Program that includes an updated greenhouse gas inventory and actions to continue reducing greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations during the 2025-27 and 2027-29 Financial Plans; and

WHEREAS, the Green Team worked closely with the Leadership Team to ensure the Lead by Example 2025-29 Work Program aligns closely with respective departmental priorities and available resources; and

WHEREAS, an Initial Study was prepared pursuant to CEQA (EID 0275 -2020) by Rincon Consultants to evaluate the potential significant effects of implementing the 2020 Climate Action Plan (2020 CAP) for Community Recovery and CEQA GHG Thresholds Guidance; and

WHEREAS the Initial Study concluded that implementation of the Climate Action Plan and GHG thresholds of significance would not result in potentially significant impacts on the environment; and

WHEREAS, a Negative Declaration was adopted on August 18, 2020, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(b)(2), which states that “the lead agency shall prepare a Negative Declaration if there is no substantial evidence that a project or any of its aspects may cause a significant effect on the environment”; and

WHEREAS, a Notice of Determination was filed with the County-Clerk Recorder and with the State Clearinghouse on August 19, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the San Luis Obispo City Council determined that the 2021 LBE was a measure and supportive action within the scope of the project covered by the already adopted Initial Study-Negative Declaration (IS/ND) prepared by the City pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that addressed the environmental impacts of implementing the 2020 CAP; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 LBE furthers the sector specific goals and foundational actions adopted by City Council in the 2021 LBE; and

WHEREAS, the Lead by Example 2025-29 Work Program is a measure and supportive action within the scope of the project covered by the already adopted Initial Study-Negative Declaration (IS/ND) prepared by the City pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), circulated for public review, and adopted on August 19, 2020 (EID-0275-2020) that addressed the environmental impacts of implementing the 2020 CAP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of San Luis Obispo as follows:

SECTION 1. Recitals. The recitals set forth above are hereby adopted as the findings of the City in adopting the policies herein.

SECTION 2. Environmental Review. The City Council has reviewed the Negative Declaration adopted on August 18, 2020 and determined that the Lead by Example 2025-29 Work Program is within the general scope of and consistent with the Initial Study/Negative Declaration adopted for the 2020 Climate Action Plan for Community Recovery (Resolution No. 11159) and hereby reincorporates and adopts the findings and determinations therein as applicable to the Lead by Example 2025-29 Work Program as if fully set forth herein.

- **No substantial changes are proposed** in the project which will require major revisions of the previously adopted Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of the previously identified effect;
- **No substantial changes will occur** with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of an identified effect;

- **No 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 Negative Declaration was adopted, shows that the project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous Negative Declaration or that any previously examined effect would be more severe than shown in the previous Negative Declaration.

SECTION 3. Lead by Example 2025-29 Work Program. The City Council hereby approves the Lead by Example 2025-29 Work Program (attached as Exhibit A) and the sector specific goals established therein.

SECTION 4. Grant Authority. Consistent with direction taken on December 13 2022, Council hereby delegates authority to staff to apply for grants, rebates, or incentives that fund implementation of the Lead by Example 2025-29 Work Program and authorizes the City Manager to execute grant agreements and related documents.

SECTION 5. Lead by Example Revenue Allocation. Grants, rebates, incentives, tax credits, or similar, that are secured from Lead by Example actions shall be reserved for reinvestment in Lead by Example actions, and revenue from these sources shall be deposited into an appropriate account designated for the acquisitions of similar assets (e.g. fleet replacement fund).

SECTION 6. Relationship to 2021 Resolution. This resolution is an amendment supplementary to, and does not replace, Resolution Number 11263 (2021 Series).

Upon motion of Council Member _____, seconded by Council Member _____, and on the following roll call vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:

The foregoing resolution was adopted this _____ day of _____ 2025.

Mayor Erica A. Stewart

ATTEST:

Teresa Purrington
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

J. Christine Dietrick
City Attorney

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of San Luis Obispo, California, on _____.

Teresa Purrington
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A – LEAD BY EXAMPLE 2025-29 WORK PROGRAM

Pending approval by City Council, the Lead by Example 2025-29 Work Program (provided in this Council Agenda Report as Attachment A) will be included here.