



Engineering & Operations Committee

Certify Final Program EIR and Adopt CAP

Item #7-2

May 10, 2022

Current Action

- Certify Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and take related CEQA actions
- Adopt CAP
- Authorize \$1.2 million over 5 years for CAP implementation under the existing agreement with Rincon Consultants, Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total of \$2.2 million

Climate Action Plan Area

- Encompasses Metropolitan's operational areas and rights-of-way
 - Los Angeles County
 - Orange County
 - Riverside County
 - San Bernardino County
 - San Diego County
 - Ventura County
 - Delta Islands
 - Palo Verde Valley



Climate Imperative

- Climate change is linked to increased drought, escalation of wildfire, coastal erosion, more severe storms, disruption of water supply, groundwater over-drafting, threats to agriculture and the state's economy – California Air Resources Board
- There's one issue that will define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other, and that is the urgent threat of a changing climate. - *Barack Obama*
- I have long understood that climate change is not only an environmental issue – it is a humanitarian, economic, health, and justice issue as well. - *Frances Beinecke*
- Climate change has become inevitable, and we're going to lose a substantial amount of snow by mid-century. But our choices matter. By the end of the century there will be stark differences in how much snowfall remains, depending on whether we begin to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. - *Alex Hall, Director, UCLA Center for Climate Science*

Past and Current Board-Supported Climate Initiatives

- Hired Chief Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation Officer
- Approved more than \$840 million in conservation and local resource programs
- Funded over \$351 million in turf-removal program rebates
- Approved solar facilities at Jensen, Skinner, and Weymouth Water Treatment Plants
- Approved battery energy storage systems (BESS) at Jensen and Skinner Water Treatment Plants
- June 2022 – Award construction of the Weymouth BESS

Program Objectives

- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from Metropolitan's operations and future construction projects
- Increase resiliency and energy independence
- Support California's GHG reduction goals
- Complements other Metropolitan planning efforts:
 - Integrated Resources Plan
 - Capital Investment Plan
 - Energy Sustainability Plan



Program Overview

- Qualified GHG Reduction Plan – meets requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)
 - Quantify existing and projected GHG emissions
 - Establish a GHG reduction target consistent with state targets
 - Identify policies and actions to achieve specified target
 - Establish a transparent monitoring and reporting protocol and process for updating the CAP
 - Certify the CEQA document and adopt the CAP in a public process

CAP Highlights

- October 2018 –Authorized preparation of a CAP to reduce GHG emissions and streamline CEQA for future projects
- November 2019 –Board presentation on emissions inventory and forecast of future emissions
- March 2020 –Updated Board on GHG tracking methodology and proposed GHG reduction target
- June 2020 – Updated Board on proposed GHG reduction measures
- September 2021 – Peer review of CAP
- December 2021 – Public engagement webinar and General Manager Environmental Listening Session

Certify Final Program EIR

Certification of Program EIR includes:

- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
 - Air Quality
 - Biological Resources
 - Cultural Resources
 - Noise
- Findings of Fact
- Statement of Overriding Considerations
 - Air Quality
 - Cultural Resources
 - Noise

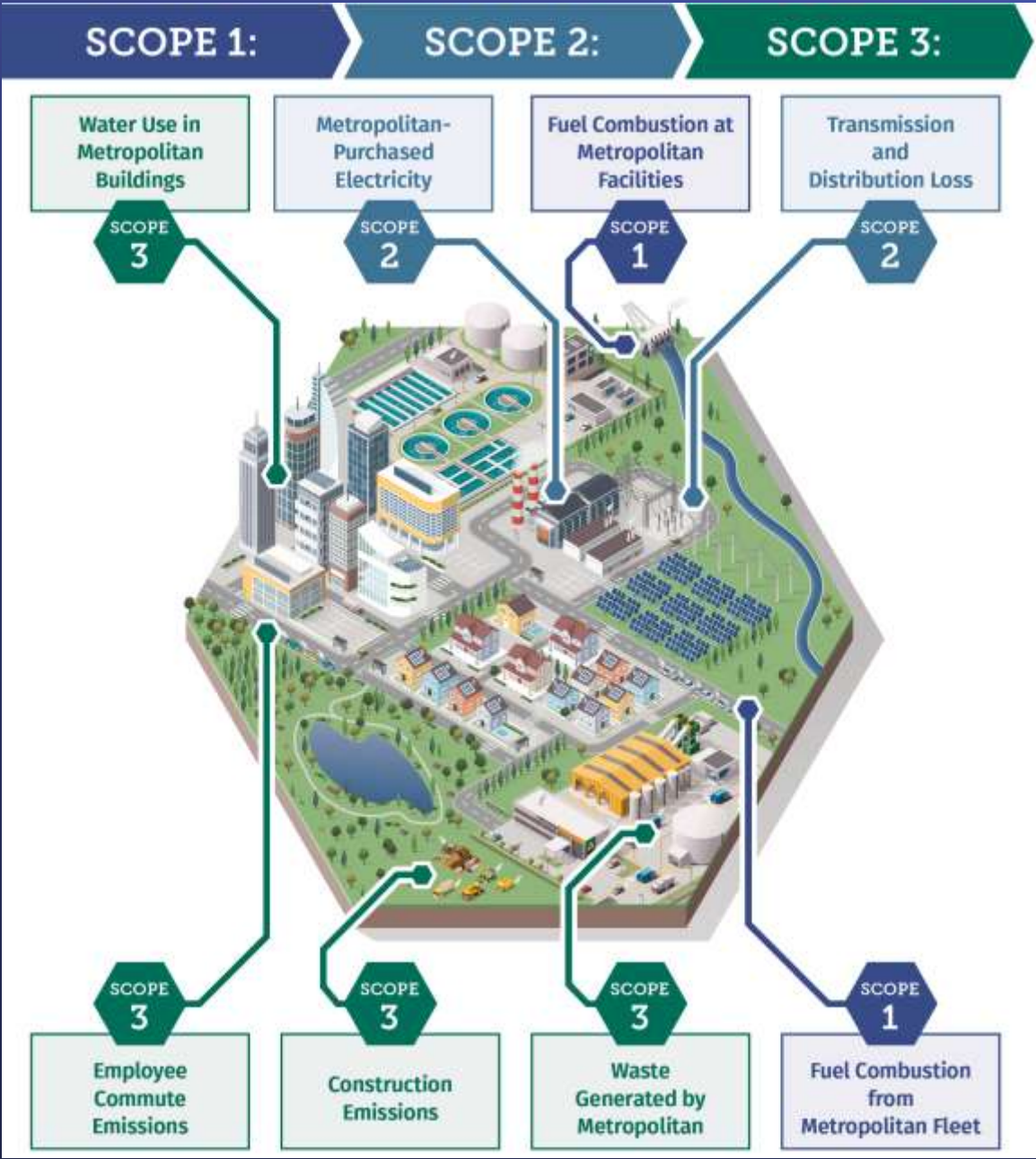
Adopt Climate Action Plan

GHG Reduction Target

- Consistent with Senate Bill 32 and Executive Order B-55-18
 - 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030
 - Carbon neutrality by 2045



Metropolitan's GHG Emissions



Emissions Reduction Measures

Scope 1

- Phase out natural gas combustion at facilities
- Transition to zero-emissions fleet

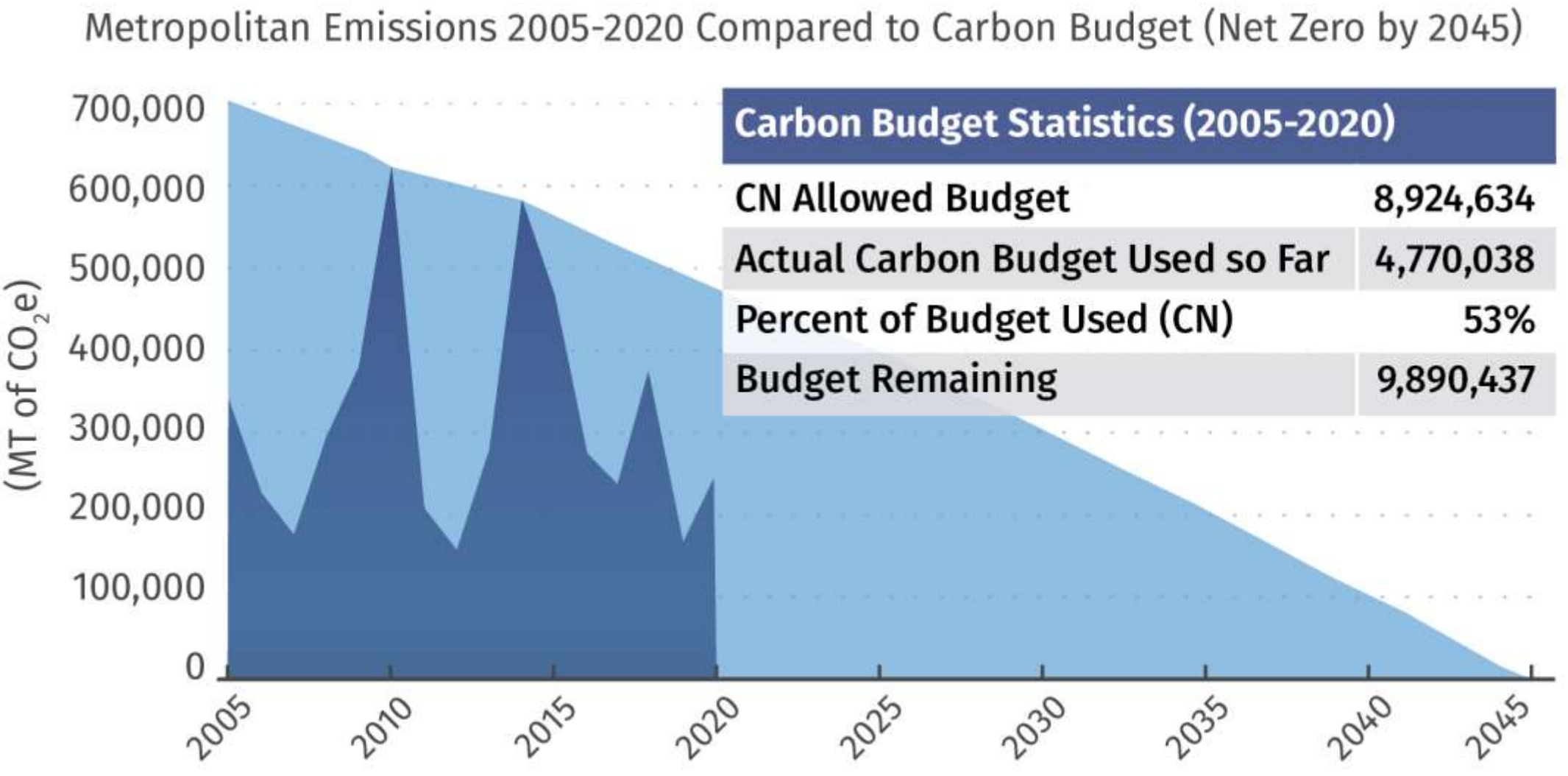
Scope 2

- Utilize low-carbon and carbon-free electricity
- Improve energy efficiency

Scope 3

- Incentivize more sustainable commutes
- Increase waste diversion to achieve zero waste
- Increase water conservation and local water supply
- Investigate and implement carbon capture and sequestration

GHG Tracking Protocol



Public Review Process

- Thirteen comment letters received
 - Include an aggregated emissions factor including State Water Project (SWP)
 - Increase investments in conservation, vegetated nature-based solutions, and stormwater recharge projects
 - Include climate resilience and adaptation in the planning process
 - Ensure broader outreach to underserved communities
 - Include additional GHG reduction measures such as solar panels on all Metropolitan facilities

Authorize an Increase to an Existing Agreement

- Authorize an increase of \$1.2 million to an agreement with Rincon Consultants, Inc for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$2.2 million
- Scope of Work
 - Annual GHG emission inventory and progress reports
 - Public reporting dashboard
 - Community engagement strategy
 - CAP – Five-year update
 - CEQA documentation, as required
- SBE participation level – 15 percent

Board Options

- Option #1
 - Certify the Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the Climate Action Plan and take related CEQA actions; adopt the Climate Action Plan; and authorize an increase of \$1.2 million to an agreement with Rincon Consultants, Inc for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$2.2 million for Climate Action Plan implementation support.
- Option #2
 - Do not certify the Final Program Environmental Impact Report; do not adopt the Climate Action Plan; and do not authorize an increase to the agreement with Rincon Associates, Inc. at this time.

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

