



Office of the City Manager

WORK SESSION
July 18, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Timothy Burroughs, Interim Director, Planning Department
Subject: Update and Next Steps on the Berkeley Resilience Strategy

INTRODUCTION

In 2014 the City of Berkeley was selected by the Rockefeller Foundation to participate in 100 Resilient Cities (100RC), an initiative to build cities' *resilience*. A city's resilience is defined by the ability of the individuals, institutions, businesses, and systems within the community to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what chronic stress or acute shock it experiences. A resilient community lives well in good times and bounces back quickly and strongly from hard times.

On April 1, 2016, in partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation and with extensive community and expert input, the City released the Berkeley Resilience Strategy – one of the first such strategies in the world. The Resilience Strategy is designed to help the community prepare for and respond to some of Berkeley's most pressing physical, social, and economic challenges, including earthquakes, wildfire, the impacts of climate change, aging infrastructure and racial inequity.

The Resilience Strategy is available online at www.cityofberkeley.info/resilience.

The purpose of this report and work session is to provide an update on progress and next steps for Resilience Strategy implementation.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Building on existing efforts and with guidance from City Council and input from the community, the Resilience Strategy identifies a set of long-term goals and recommends specific short-term actions to help address some of Berkeley's most pressing physical, social and economic challenges. The challenges that the Strategy is designed to help address include natural disasters, with a focus on earthquakes and wildfire; the local impacts of climate change; aging public infrastructure; and racial inequity.

Clearly, these are massive and complex challenges that no one strategy can solve. The Strategy is an opportunity to identify tangible steps that contribute to the solution and that emphasize an approach to resilience-building that fosters stronger connections

between neighbors; between public, private, non-profit and academic institutions; between departments within the City government; and between Bay Area local and regional governments.

The goals (numbered) and actions (lettered) in the Berkeley Resilience Strategy are:

1. Build a connected and prepared community

- a. *Create safe (and green) City community centers and care & shelter facilities* to improve life safety and environmental performance and reduce costs
- b. *Launch the Community Resilience Centers Program* to connect more residents with disaster preparedness, public health, and climate action services
- c. *Foster neighbor-to-neighbor connections to advance disaster preparedness*
- d. *Maximize the City's ability to secure federal disaster recovery funding*
- e. *Prepare for wildfire in the Berkeley Hills*
- f. *Continue to improve the seismic safety of Berkeley's most vulnerable apartment buildings*

2. Accelerate access to reliable and clean energy

- a. *Develop a clean energy microgrid network* to enable groups of public and private facilities to operate autonomously when the grid is disrupted, to be powered by clean energy sources such as solar and back-up batteries, and to reduce electricity costs by minimizing grid power consumption during periods of peak demand
- b. *Advance clean energy through "Community Choice Aggregation" (CCA)*, which allows public agencies to purchase electricity on behalf of customers to provide cleaner, greener, and more local electricity
- c. *Develop a Solar Action Plan to meet 50% of Berkeley's power demand through solar energy by 2030*
- d. *Electrify Berkeley's vehicles* by removing barriers to electric-vehicle adoption for residents and the City fleet
- e. *Encourage fuel switching to consume cleaner energy in all buildings* by exploring opportunities to enable residents, businesses and the City government to switch from natural gas consumption to clean electricity
- f. *Launch a Climate Action Plan "Ideas Competition"* to engage experts, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders in identifying additional greenhouse gas reduction strategies

3. Adapt to the changing climate

- a. *Integrate multi-benefit green infrastructure into street improvement projects*
- b. *Innovate to diversify Berkeley's water supply*
- c. *Create the landscape of the future to increase water conservation and irrigation efficiency*
- d. *Integrate consideration of climate impacts into capital and land use planning*

4. Advance racial equity

- a. *Develop a City of Berkeley Racial Equity Action Plan* designed to integrate racial equity throughout the City government and influence structural change community-wide

- b. *Create a multi-departmental City of Berkeley “Advancing Racial Equity Team” responsible for oversight and implementation of the Berkeley Racial Equity Action Plan*
 - c. *Continue to partner with organizations and institutions in the community to advance community-wide racial equity*
- 5. Excel at working together to better serve the community**
- a. *Engage the community in the development of a Berkeley Strategic Plan*
 - b. *Implement opportunities for multi-departmental input on major City plans and policies*
 - c. *Improve major City information technology systems*
- 6. Build regional resilience**
- a. *Develop and launch a regional Resilience by Design Challenge that will unite multi-disciplinary teams of urban design, ecology, and finance experts with community members and local and regional government leaders to identify innovative, actionable urban design solutions that help prepare the region for the impacts of climate change*
 - b. *Contribute to the launch of a regional “Sustainable Water Summit” that, with leadership from the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), will help transition the region to exist and continue to flourish in a drier climate*
 - c. *Contribute to establishment of a “Regional Lifelines Council” that, with leadership from ABAG, will bring representatives from lifeline agencies (e.g., utilities and transit agencies), local governments, and NGOs together to develop shared disaster response and recovery planning*
 - d. *Catalyze investment in the region’s public infrastructure by contributing to efforts to identify coordinated finance strategies*
 - e. *Form regional alliances for policy advocacy at the regional, state, and federal levels*

The City and partners are advancing implementation of the Resilience Strategy in several important ways. Examples include:

Community Resilience Centers (CRCs) launched in 2016 – The goal of the CRC program is to enhance the resilience of our community members by strengthening the organizations that many of us depend on every day. Community Resilience Centers are existing, trusted organizations within the community that agree to host trainings that are customized to fit people that they serve. CRCs receive a cache of emergency supplies to help them serve the community in the event of a disaster. Current CRCs are:

- Ed Roberts Campus
- Berkeley Youth Alternatives
- McGee Baptist Church
- La Pena Cultural Center
- Harriet Tubman Terrace Apartments
- YMCA Head Start
- Easy Does IT Emergency Services
- Oregon Park Apartments

More information about the CRC program is available online at:
<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/CommunityResilienceCenter/>

Clean energy microgrid being designed in Downtown Berkeley – In partnership with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and others, the City was awarded a \$1.5 million grant in 2016 from the California Energy Commission to design a multi-facility clean energy microgrid. A microgrid enables a group of facilities to operate independently from the main grid, and utilizes local, distributed sources of power, such as solar. The City is currently designing a microgrid in Downtown Berkeley. The goal is to share the clean power that will be generated at the new Center St. Garage and at other sites, to provide back-up power to critical facilities, which could include City Hall, the Public Safety Building, and the City operations at 1947 Center St. The microgrid design will be completed by the first quarter of 2018, at which time the City will apply for additional grant resources to fund its construction.

City continues to invest in green stormwater infrastructure – Green infrastructure (GI) helps to address flooding while also protecting local ecosystems and removing stormwater pollutants. Examples include rain gardens, permeable pavement, and cisterns. GI projects are being implemented more and more across Berkeley, thanks to both private and public investment. The City requires applicable private development to include GI in new construction. The City is also investing bond dollars to develop additional GI sites throughout the City, and has begun work on a next-phase Green Infrastructure Plan, that will identify additional opportunities for GI investment.

Racial Equity Action Plan and Equity Lens Tool under development – In 2016/2017, a multi-departmental team of senior City staff participated in a yearlong program led by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity to learn tangible actions the City can take to integrate equity throughout its operations. The City has since received a \$60,000 grant from the San Francisco Foundation, the East Bay Community Foundation, and the Funders' Network to develop and pilot a Racial Equity Lens Tool that will help City staff and our partners to analyze how policies and plans potentially benefit or burden communities of color. The tool will be piloted as part of the Adeline Corridor planning process in 2017-2018, with the objective of then expanding the use of the tool to other important City policies, plans, and programs moving forward. City staff, in partnership with student researchers from UC Berkeley, is also working to develop a draft Racial Equity Action Plan in 2017.

Berkeley Strategic Plan to be finalized in 2017 – The City is developing a strategic plan to articulate the long-term goals that the City government will achieve on behalf of the community and the short-term projects designed to advance those goals. The strategic plan will help City Council and staff throughout the organization to prioritize limited time and resources. It will be updated every two years along with the City budget.

Regional Resilient by Design Challenge launching in 2017 – The City contributed to the development and launch of a new regional urban planning and design competition,

called Resilient by Design (RBD). RBD is a collaborative research and design project that brings together local residents, public officials and local, national and international experts to develop innovative solutions to the issues brought on by climate change that our region faces today. In a yearlong challenge that begins in 2017, teams of engineers, architects, designers and other experts will work alongside community members to identify critical areas throughout the Bay Area and propose new, community-based solutions that will strengthen our region's resilience to sea level rise, severe storms, flooding and earthquakes. The result will be 10 new implementable projects throughout the region that offer an imaginative and collaborative approach to resilience. City staff is currently working to identify candidate sites that the City will submit to RBD, with the goal of having RBD design teams focus on developing a design strategy for a site in Berkeley.

BACKGROUND

The Berkeley Resilience Strategy is the main deliverable that the City must produce as part of participation in 100 Resilient Cities. Development and implementation of the Strategy provides an important opportunity to secure resources, technical assistance, and partnerships that better prepare our community for a range of physical, social, and economic challenges.

The Rockefeller Foundation launched the 100 Resilient Cities initiative in 2013 to help 100 cities worldwide to advance community resilience. Nearly 400 cities across six continents applied for the first round of 100RC support; Berkeley, Oakland, and San Francisco were three of the first 32 cities selected. In late 2014, an additional 35 cities were selected to participate and the final 33 were selected in 2016.

100RC provides the City with four main types of support: two years of funding to hire a Chief Resilience Officer and 50% of the cost of an Associate Civil Engineer (this funding expired in 2016); a consultant to support the City as it develops an actionable Resilience Strategy; access to a pool of public and private technical assistance firms that can assist the City with project implementation; and membership in a global network of 100 cities working toward similar goals.

City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a two-year contract with the Rockefeller Foundation on June 10, 2014.¹

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Advancing strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve natural resources, and mitigate the impacts of climate change is fundamental to Berkeley's resilience. Each of the resilience priorities identified in this report have multiple benefits. They not only will help the community prepare for shocks, such as earthquakes, and slower-moving stresses like climate change, but also have the potential to reduce water

¹See City Council authorization to execute a contract with Rockefeller Foundation here: http://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2014/06_Jun/Documents/2014-06-10_Item_27_Grant_Agreement_Rockefeller.aspx

and energy consumption and the associated greenhouse gas emissions, and save money on municipal utility bills.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Staff continues to partner with the Rockefeller Foundation and participate in the 100 Resilient Cities network. These partnerships provide resources and technical assistance that assist with implementation of our Resilience Strategy goals. Staff will continue to provide regular updates to City Council and the community on Resilience Strategy implementation.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Funding for the actions identified in the Resilience Strategy is derived from various sources, including existing City government funds, new grants, and partnerships with public and private agencies.

Although the original 2-year grant from the Rockefeller Foundation expired in 2016, the Rockefeller Foundation is committed to supporting implementation of the Resilience Strategy. Berkeley will continue to be a member of the 100 Resilient Cities network and will have access to a platform of free technical assistance providers that 100RC has assembled to help cities advance strategy implementation for an additional number of years.

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