



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

Interdepartmental Correspondence Sheet

TO: Councilwoman Ana Sandoval, Chair, Community Health and Equity Committee
Councilman Greg Brockhouse
Councilman Art Hall
Councilman Manny Palaez
Councilman Rey Saldaña

FROM: Douglas Melnick, AICP, ISSP-SA, CNU-A, Chief Sustainability Officer 

COPY: Erik Walsh, City Manager
Rod Sanchez, Assistant City Manager
Colleen Bridger, Interim Assistant City Manager
Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs
Durime Elmazi Fahim, Assistant City Attorney

SUBJECT: May 23, 2019 Community Health and Equity Committee Meeting Follow-Up

DATE: June 12, 2019

The City of San Antonio (COSA) was one of twenty-five cities selected from the 100 most populous cities in America as a Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge (ACCC) City. The cities selected will receive technical assistance and support packages to work on buildings and transportation-related initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions during a two-year period (a value of more than \$2.5 million per city). The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) was selected by Bloomberg Philanthropies from an array of national organizations, with expertise in buildings and transportation, to serve as the entity supporting each city on overall project strategy, outreach, education, stakeholder engagement, and coordination of best-in-class technical assistance.

On May 23, 2019, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. and the City of San Antonio, in support of the ACCC was presented to the Community Health & Equity Committee. Staff was asked to research and prepare responses to several items for further clarification. OS, in consultation with the City Attorney's Office submits the following responses:

- NRDC's activity regarding policy initiatives and political lobbying was researched, summarized and sent to GPA for review. GPA determined that because the City is not engaging NRDC for lobbying activities, NRDC's lobbying and policy positions are not a concern and do not warrant additional action.
- In order to resolve any potential issues regarding the estimated timeline of activities submitted over a year and a half ago in the original application for the ACCC support package, the following language has been added under Section III. Agreement to Participate:
 - In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the terms and conditions of this MOU and any terms or conditions set forth in any other documents, including the original application, the terms and conditions set forth in this MOU shall prevail.



- The Chief Sustainability Officer, as the designated City employee or City ACCC Lead, shall oversee the City's execution of the City Strategy Overview, including seeking prior approval from the NRDC on the timing and content of any media release, which references the funding or funding sources of the ACCC prior to distribution, as outlined in Section XIII, Other Public Communications. The City does not include elected officials under these terms and additional language added under Section XIII states:
 - Independent planned communications from other City officials other than the City ACCC Lead do not require NRDC approval, provided that the City promptly notifies, to the best of its ability, a contact designated by NRDC in writing of such ACCC-related communications from other City officials.
- Additional language added under Section II and Section V states:
 - The ACCC strategies outlined in this MOU are consistent with and support the implementation of the SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan, approved by City Council on August 11, 2016; and
 - Consistent with and in support of the SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan that was approved by City Council on August 11, 2016, the City commits to pursue to the best of its ability implementation of initiatives to reduce net emissions by December 31, 2020.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me at 210-207-1721.