



CITY OF ALBANY CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: March 3, 2025

Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Update on Gas Line Decommissioning Pilot Project and Appropriation of Climate Action and Adaptation Reserve Funds

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SUMMARY

The action before the Council is receiving an update on the gas line decommissioning project and appropriating funds from the Climate Action and Adaptation Reserve Fund toward the project during uncertainty with the grant award from the Department of Energy.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. Receive the Gas line Decommissioning Project Outreach and Engagement Plan;
2. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-07 authorizing the appropriation of \$125,000 in funds from available fund balance in the Climate Action and Adaptation Reserve Fund for the Gas Line Decommissioning Project

BACKGROUND

This item was continued from the February 18, 2025, Council meeting with the request that staff follow-up on Council questions. Responses to questions are below. For further background, please refer to the [February 18 Staff Report and attachments](#).

DISCUSSION

Request for clarification on timing in the outreach plan

The outreach plan focuses on the outreach and engagement aspects of the project and does not include details of all work. In particular, the building electrification assessments, which make up the majority of work in Phase II, are only mentioned in passing. Phase III includes some outreach work, spread over several months. In particular, the Phase III survey mentioned on Page 13, is an exit survey, to be administered at the end of the project.

Per Council request, staff has created a Gantt chart (Attachment 1) of the outreach plan. Please note that the exact timing of the work in Phase II- Electrification Assessments is still tentative as the City hasn't completed a contract with the electrification consultants. There may be some adjustments as staff and the two consultants work together to coordinate schedules and as we see the outcome of the initial outreach work. That said, the Gantt chart shows the overall flow of outreach work throughout the project.

What else could we do with the Climate Action and Adaptation Reserve Fund? Are there higher impact projects?

There are a wide variety of projects that could be funded using the Climate Action and Adaptation Reserve Fund balance. The heat pump rebate program is likely to have funds allocated in the upcoming budget; however, additional funding could expand the reach of the program. Staff and the Climate Action Committee have also discussed options for a multi-family building electric vehicle charging program, based on lessons learned from the initial pilot program. There are also other goals that could use the funding, such as electrification of City fleet vehicles and buildings, however this potential project would have an extended timeline as a feasibility study is needed as a preliminary step.

What are the legal/contract implications of pausing or not pausing at this point? Will a delay on deliverables be able to be held against us?

Staff will update Council with any additional information and analysis at the Council meeting.

What are other grantees doing?

Staff reached out to other grantees of this program. Staff has not heard back as of the time of this report but will update Council with any additional information received at the Council meeting.

Does the Department of Energy (DOE) need to approve the outreach plan before we move forward?

According to our Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO), created in collaboration with DOE staff, we are required to provide a copy of the outreach plan to the DOE as verification of completing this milestone. The SOPO does not require that the outreach plan is approved before implementation; however, in theory, if the plan was considered inadequate by the DOE, they could determine that we were not sufficiently meeting the milestones in our SOPO. That said, pausing on work until we are able to have check-ins and reviews with DOE staff would also put us behind the timeline in the SOPO.

Attachment

1. Outreach Plan Gantt Chart
2. Resolution No. 2025-07