

# TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO STAFF REPORT

For the meeting of February 26, 2018

TO: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Scott Schneider, P.E., Assistant Public Works Director

**SUBJECT:** Electric Vehicle Strategy

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The Sustainability Commission would like to prepare an Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy for the Town to encourage use of EVs with the goal of reducing green house gasses (GHG) in furtherance of the Town's Climate Action Plan, specifically, Community Mitigation Measure 3.3.C5 - "Accelerate Adoption of Electric Vehicles".

Other cities and towns have prepared elaborate EV Strategy reports with recommendations to their local leaders that include goals for public purchase of EVs, municipal agency purchase of EVs, installation of charging stations at public and private parking lots, installation of charging stations at low income and multi-family properties, incentives at parking lots, etc. As an example, the City of Sacramento's EV Strategy is attached.

According to the Town's Climate Action Plan, the Transportation sector is the largest generator of GHG (62% Countywide, 58% in San Anselmo). In addition, Town vehicles and Town employee commuting make up about 54% of the GHG generated by the Town operations.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) would like to provide information to the Commission that may inform the creation of the EV Strategy.

DPW is responsible for the operation of the public parking lots at Town properties, including Town Hall (employee parking), the Isabel Cook Recreation Facility, the Robson-Harrington House, Memorial Park, Creek Park, and the public parking lots on Magnolia Avenue, Pine Street, and Butterfield Road/Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.

This report provides information for the Commission regarding opportunities for installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in Town parking lots, at Town facilities, and in the public right-of-way, with the goal of encouraging EV ownership and use.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Town has three downtown parking lots with parking meters. Currently, the Magnolia Avenue Parking Lot is the only lot with EV charging stations. In the near future, the DPW will be pursuing grants to upgrade the chargers in the Magnolia Avenue lot. Eventually, DPW hopes to install EV chargers at the Pine Street Parking Lot and the Creek Park Parking Lot. Based on information in the Sacramento EV Strategy report, the current recommendation is approximately 6% of spaces in a lot should be reserved for EV charging.

The EV charging stations in the Magnolia Lot have been well used. The cost for each station (electricity and software) is approximately \$1,800 annually. In addition, vehicles using the charging stations do not pay the \$1.60 hourly parking fee. Over the course of a year, this results in lost revenue of approximately \$1,800 per parking space.

Other jurisdictions charge drivers for their use of electric charging stations. Fairfax charges a flat rate of \$0.50 per hour. Novato provides free charging for vehicles that pay the \$1 per hour parking fee. San Rafael also provides free charging in a pay lot. Marin County charges \$1 per hour with a 4-hour maximum. Some private lots charge a flat fee of \$4 per charge, regardless of duration.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Sustainability Commission can come up with recommendations to the Council that align with and support the mitigation measure “Accelerate Adoption of Electric Vehicles”. Some example of recommendations for the Commission to consider are:

Recommend that all Town Council members have extended test drives of Electric Vehicles and electric bicycles.

Encourage DPW to pursue grant programs for EV charging stations for public parking lots, and to install electric bicycle charging outlets near bicycle parking areas.

Encourage DPW to install EV charging station at employee lots to encourage Town employees to purchase EVs.

Encourage DPW to replace aging Town vehicles with EVs when possible.

Encourage the Building Department to consider streamlining permit applications for home EV charging stations.

Recommend that the Council allow EVs to park for free at any public pay lots.

Add signage to direct EV drivers to charging stations, and notifying them of the free parking for EVs.

The Sustainability Commission may consider creating a public awareness campaign to let San Anselmo residents know about the benefits of EV ownership, including the free parking perk.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Schneider". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Scott Schneider, P.E.  
Assistant Public Works Director