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## **City Wins State Grant to Create a Comprehensive Blueprint For Achieving Carbon Neutrality**

*With Funding, Hermosa Beach Can Meet its Commitment to a Net Zero Carbon Footprint*

**HERMOSA BEACH, CA** – Demonstrating its commitment to achieving carbon neutrality, the City of Hermosa Beach has secured a \$410,000 grant from the state’s Strategic Growth Council to create a comprehensive, long-term plan for reducing and eventually eliminating the city’s carbon footprint, Mayor Jeff Duclos announced today.

“Winning this grant will enable the city to create a needed legal framework to guide and sustain us in making the transformative changes necessary to fulfill the City’s commitment to be carbon neutral,” said Mayor Duclos. “The plan elements the city will develop with this funding will ensure a comprehensive and unified approach to implementing our vision of the future.”

The funding will be used to hire experts who will update and integrate the city’s General Plan and Coastal Land Use Plan to create a “Comprehensive Blueprint for Sustainability and a Low Carbon Future.”

“These important planning grants are local and regional in scale, but the outcomes and economic impacts of sustainable communities are truly statewide, benefiting all Californians,” said Secretary for Natural Resources and Strategic Growth Council Member John Laird. “These projects will go a long way to help create cleaner water, more open space, and smarter growth in California.”

Hermosa Beach has long been a leader in environmental protection, becoming one of the first cities in Los Angeles County to pledge to become carbon neutral in 2010. It was the first South Bay city to sign onto the “Cool Cities” pledge and to make the city’s operations carbon neutral by reducing its carbon dioxide emissions and supporting other efforts that take carbon dioxide out of the air, such as planting trees. Councilman Michael DiVirgilio was mayor at the time the city made that pledge and said reducing the city’s carbon footprint will lower its energy bills and implement policies that are healthier for the community and the city’s staff.

“Our long-term goal is to eliminate our carbon footprint because it’s good for the environment, it’s good for our budget and it’s good for our quality of life,” he said. “Demonstrating that carbon neutrality can be achieved in a small beach city also will create a model for small and mid-size cities around the globe to adopt their own plans to eliminate greenhouse gases.”

The grant will fund a 3-year planning effort that will:

- Advance the objectives of new California laws (SB 375 and AB 32) that seek to reduce greenhouse gases and create a sustainable, low carbon future. With transportation producing the majority of greenhouse gases in the South Bay, the city will work with other cities and governmental organizations in the area to develop transportation strategies to reduce greenhouse gases.
- Build a model for the General Plan of the Future by creating an interactive online E-Plan that can be customized to the users of the information and will link policy and action to budget tools, adopted codes and resources.
- Create a comprehensive vision linking sustainability with economic vitality. The plan will link the city's evolving plans for the Pacific Coast Highway corridor, strategic city facility and downtown planning, upper Pier Avenue improvements to demonstrate how to increase economic vitality while also showcasing sustainability and coastal resource protection and enhancement.
- Craft climate adaptation strategies to protect against sea level rise that could threaten the city.
- Demonstrate the improved integration of general plans and coastal plans to holistically protect the watershed and marine environment.
- Engage the public through education and information.

Mayor Duclos added: "This is an exciting new stage in the city's commitment to address climate change and my thanks go out to city planners Ken Robertson and Pam Townsend for their tireless efforts in securing this grant. A special 'thank you' must also be given to Councilman Michael DiVirgilio for his leadership during his tenure as Mayor in moving the grant application, as well as the goal of carbon neutrality, forward."

A total of 93 individual awards were made by the Strategic Growth Council to cities, counties, regional and local agencies, and nonprofit partners. All awards are funded through voter-approved Proposition 84 bond allocations.

In 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act, which authorized the Legislature to appropriate funds to support urban greening projects and sustainable community planning.

### **About Hermosa Beach**

Founded in 1907, Hermosa Beach is known as "The Best Little Beach City." Named "Southern California's Greenest City" for its work to protect the environment, it is a thriving community of some 20,000 residents located on the southern end of Santa Monica Bay in Los Angeles County, and its beaches have been ranked among the best in the world. To learn more, please visit [www.hermosabch.org](http://www.hermosabch.org).

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