

# Environmental Quality Commission



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 6/18/2025  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Teleconference and  
City Hall Downtown Conference Room, 1st Floor  
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. CA 94025

### A. Call To Order

Vice Chair McKenna called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### B. Roll Call

**Present:** Hedley, Hernandez, Hill, Kissel, Chair McKenna, Vice Chair Meyer  
**Absent:** Angiel  
**Staff:** Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer, Management Analyst II Ori Paz

### C. Public Comment

None.

### D. Regular Business

D1. Approve the May 21, 2025, Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes (Attachment)

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Hedley/ Hernandez), to approve the May 21, 2025, Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes, passed 5-1-1 (Hill abstaining, Angiel absent).

D2. Review and discuss the fiscal year 2025-2026 fleet vehicle purchases (Attachment)

Chair McKenna introduced the item.

Management Analyst II Ori Paz, Assistant Public Works Director Brian Henry and Police Chief Norris made the presentation (Attachment).

The Commission received clarification on the number of vehicle purchases, vehicle emissions, timeline for additional electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, plug-in hybrid vehicles, vehicle replacements needed to reach Climate Action Plan (CAP) No. 5 goal by 2030, watch commander vehicle purpose, additional hybrid and EV patrol vehicle options,

- Jocelyn Anaya Galvan spoke in support of department collaboration on actualizing the CAP and on concerns about the vehicle replacement plan timeline, large equipment and truck replacement and specifying equipment that is replaced.
- Jane Rosten spoke in support of finding EVs to help transition the City fleet.

The Commission discussed the challenges of limited EV options.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Hedley/ Kissel), to provide recommendation to the City Council to approve the proposed fleet purchase and direct staff to continue to evaluate new zero-emission vehicles for all duty cycles and pursue replacement of gas patrol vehicles by 2030, passed 6-0-1 (Angiel absent).

The Commission took a recess at 6:53 p.m.

The Commission reconvened at 7:12 p.m.

D3. Review and discuss the annual City Arborist report (Attachment)

Chair McKenna introduced the item.

City Arborist Jillian Keller and Management Analyst II Joanna Chen made the presentation (Attachment).

The Commission received clarification on public tree removal appeals, tree valuation, Tree City USA certification and the tree permit website.

- Scott Marshall spoke in support of tree signs to identify heritage trees in public right of way, amending the heritage tree ordinance administrative guidelines to increase value of heritage trees and identifying earlier interventions with developers to ensure that the property's heritage trees are incorporated into the developer's designs.
- J.P. Renaud spoke in support of adding more trees to the Belle Haven neighborhood and the City's Tree USA certification.
- Jeff Schmidt spoke in support of Canopy, the Urban Forest Management Plan and making trees part of developer's designs.
- Megan O'Grady Green spoke in support of developers making trees part of their designs, and on concerns about impacts of new residential projects and tree valuation.

The Commission discussed tree signage, revising the heritage tree ordinance, a subcommittee for tree valuation, reviewing administrative guidelines and providing recommendations where tree plantings are focused, tree planting placement limitations, tree removal permit process, tree tags and Cool Cities Coalition's heat map.

**E. Reports and Announcements**

E1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer reported out on the zero emission landscape equipment ordinance enforcement beginning July 1, the home upgrade progress report to City Council June 24, building code amendment study session July 8 and review of four request for proposals for rental electrification kits.

Management Analyst II Ori Paz reported that the request for proposals for the electrification of the Belle Haven Child Development Center closed and installation of the solar photovoltaic project for municipal buildings would begin in July at the Menlo Park Library.

Chair McKenna reported out on Mayor Combs' upcoming meetings with Assemblymember Berman at Cafe Zoe June 20 and San Mateo County Supervisor Ray Mueller at the Menlo Park Farmer's

Market June 22, a webinar on heat pump reach codes June 24, an EV charging project event at Woodland Creek in East Palo Alto June 28 and a field trip to Tiburon organized by the Sierra Club to see a real natural grass playing field June 27.

**F. Informational Items**

- F1. 2024-25 Environmental Quality Commission work plan (Attachment)

**G. Adjournment**

Chair McKenna adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Management Analyst II Liz Tapia



# Review of fiscal year 2025-2026 fleet purchase

Presented by City staff



# Agenda

- Policy framework
- Fleet emissions
- Existing fleet
- Replacement plan
- Fiscal year 2025-26 purchase
- Discussion/recommendation





# Climate action plan and fleet policy

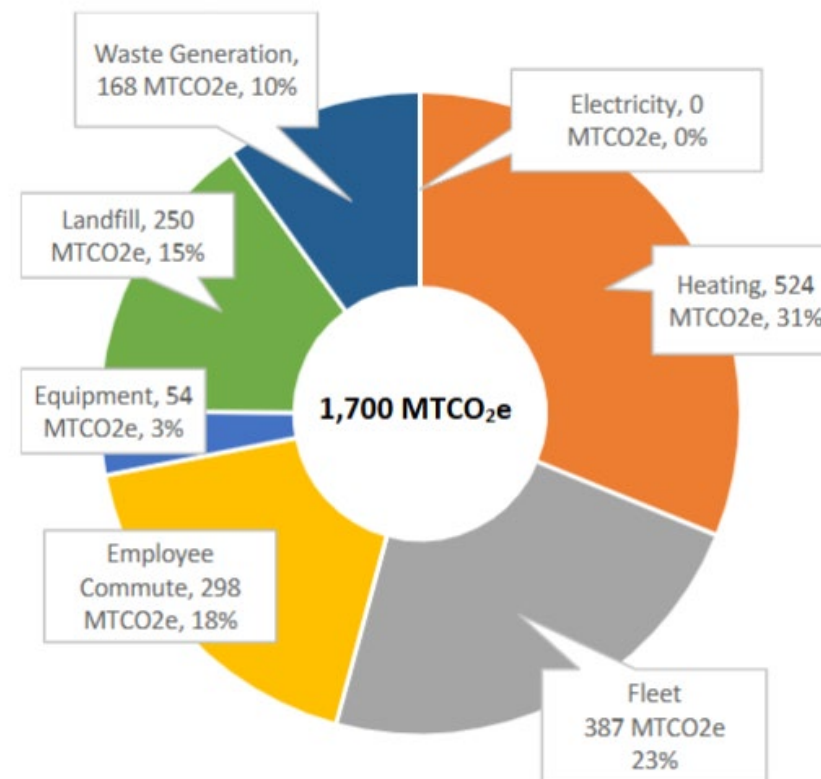
- Climate action plan (CAP) strategy No. 5: eliminate fossil fuels from municipal (city) operations by 2030
- Sustainable fleet policy
  - Purchase zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) first
  - Lease non-ZEV if ZEVs are unavailable
  - Purchase non-ZEV as last resort



# Fleet emissions

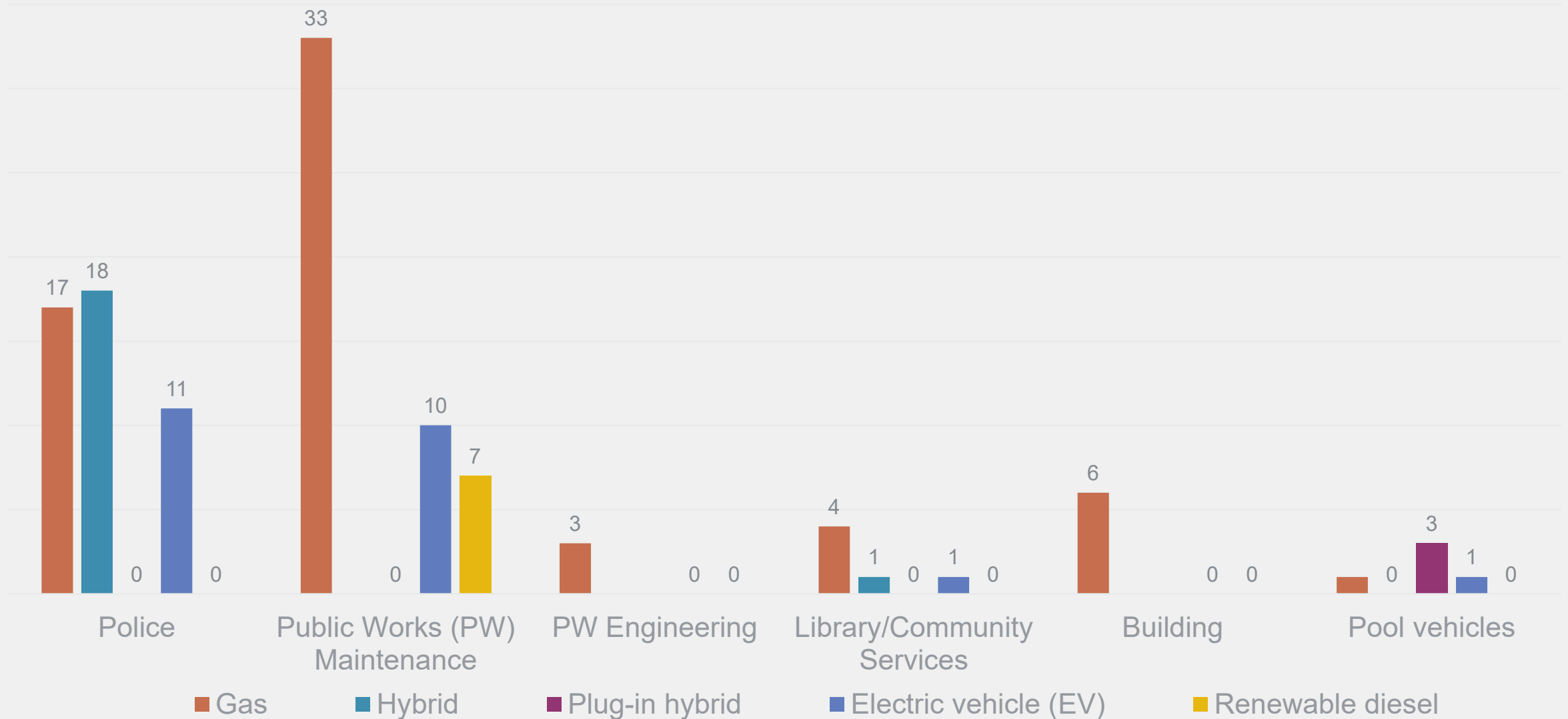
- The fleet is comprised of 116 vehicles and 38 pieces of equipment
- City fleet vehicles produce 23% of emissions from City operations and equipment produces 3%

FIGURE 3: 2024 EMISSIONS PRODUCTION BY CATEGORY





# Fleet vehicle fuel type by work group





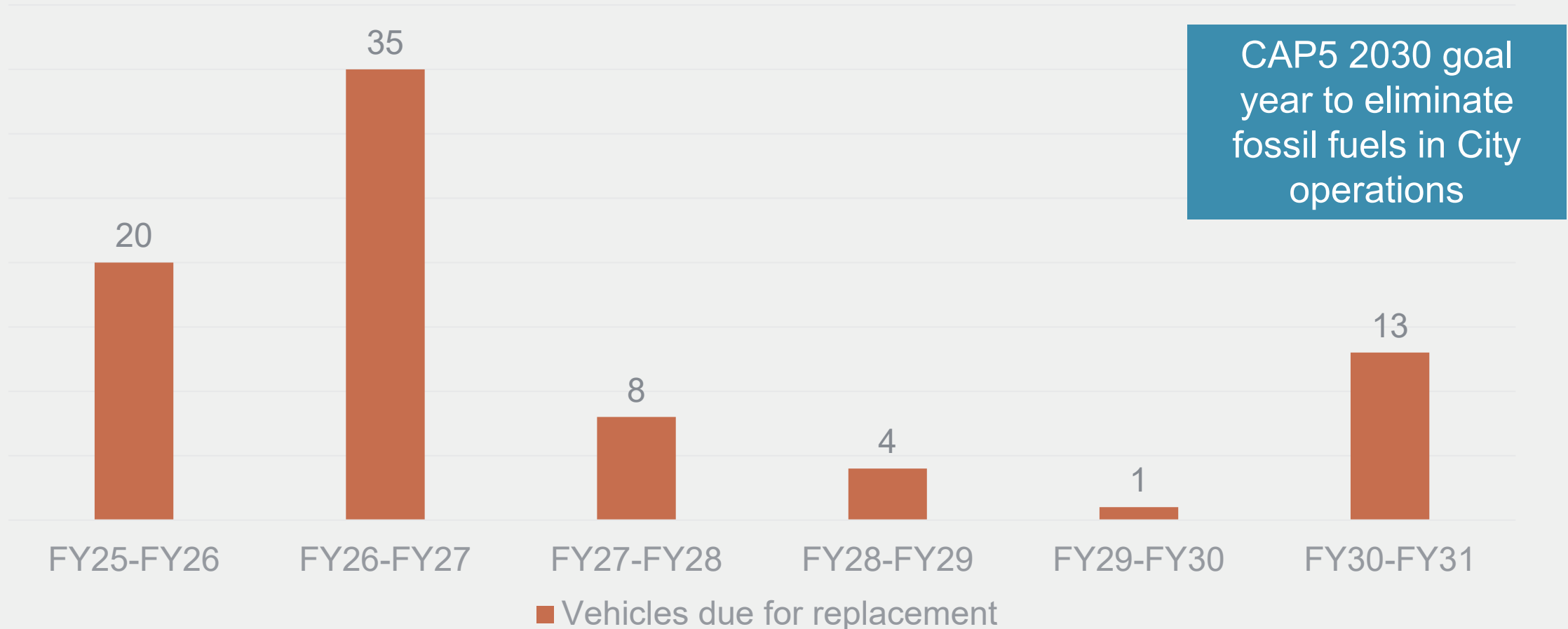


# Replacement planning

- Vehicle replacement is planned based on vehicle age, mileage, and maintenance cost and time thresholds
- Typically, the oldest vehicles with the highest mileage are the first to be replaced
- Replacement schedule varies by the demands of the duty cycle
  - Five years for patrol vehicles
  - 10 years for most vehicles
  - 15 years for more specialized equipment
  - 20yrs+ for the largest trucks



# Vehicle replacement needs by fiscal year (FY)





# FY25-FY26 proposed purchase

- Total of 16 vehicles and one piece of equipment
- Eight gas-powered vehicles (to be replaced early by 2030)
  - Seven police patrol gas Ford Explorers
  - One watch commander Chevrolet Tahoe
- Eight EVs
  - Police: (2)
    - One watch commander Ford F150 Lightning EV, one command staff Ford F150 Lightning EV
  - Public works (4)
    - Two engineering inspector Chevrolet Equinox EVs, one streets Ford F150 Lightning EV, one arborist Chevrolet Equinox EV, one parks Ford F150 Lightning EV
  - Building (2)
    - Two building inspector Chevrolet Equinox EVs

# Patrol gas vehicles

- Patrol vehicles are typically replaced after five years
- There are 10 gas patrol vehicles that are past due for replacement



Vehicle #	Replacement year	Years past due at replacement
1	2022	3
3	2021	4
4	2022	3
6	2021	4
9	2022	3
13	2022	3
17	2021	4
21	2020	5
23	2021	4
24	2023	2



# Why are we proposing gas patrol vehicles?

- Ford Explorer Hybrids have had a long history of being unreliable and having costly maintenance
- Possession of the Chevrolet Blazer EV for patrol has been delayed, delaying deployment and evaluation to inform additional purchases
- Since PD vehicles are on a 5-year replacement schedule, the gas vehicles would be replaced in 2030



# Evaluating patrol EVs

- The City continues to use the Tesla Model Y in patrol and other police operations
- A Chevrolet Blazer EV Police Pursuit Vehicle (PPV) was purchased in 2024 after several delays from the external procurement group
  - The vehicle is currently being outfitted for use and evaluation beginning in fall
- A Ford F150 Lightning is proposed with the purchase for evaluation as a watch commander vehicle in patrol





# Discussion and recommendation

- Staff recommend that the Environmental Quality Commission provide a recommendation to the City Council to approve the proposed fleet purchase and direct staff to continue to evaluate new zero-emission vehicles for all duty cycles and pursue replacement of the gas patrol vehicles by 2030




















Thank you





# Patrol vehicle considerations

	Gas	Hybrid	EV
Market availability			
Infrastructure			
Maintenance			
Suitability			
Carbon impact			



Desirable



Fair



Less  
desirable



Not  
desirable

