



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2021
DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS
FROM: DAVID JACOBS, DIRECTOR
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TITLE: INNOVATION TEAM UPDATE

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

No action is required. This Report presents information to the City Council regarding activities of the City's Innovation Team

RECOMMENDATION:

No recommendation is provided since this Report is presented for informational purposes only.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Innovation Team is led by the City Manager and was formed in the summer of 2017. The Innovation Team supports the goal of Effective and Sustainable Government through innovative practices and a culture of data-driven, decision making. The team is comprised of representatives from various departments and has focused its efforts on implementing organizational change thru new business processes, enhanced workflow, the implementation of new technology and supporting government transparency by increasing access to city datasets and information. To date, the efforts of the Committee have focused on five key areas: Open Data, Performance Management, Regional Collaboration, IT coordination and Staff Engagement.

BACKGROUND:

The existing challenges facing the City of Salinas and its residents continue to grow and become more complex. With growing expectations from our residents, the City of Salinas seeks to improve how it does business and continue to meet the needs of our community. In 2020, a global pandemic showed many cities how some programs were fragile and susceptible to disruption. The City continues to evaluate it's programs and processes to strengthen it's services to endure disruptive events.

In the summer of 2017, the Innovation Team was created by the City Manager to help the City of Salinas utilize data and flexible technologies for better performance, innovation and community engagement. The Team developed a Mission Statement as follows:

The Innovation Team supports the goal of Effective and Sustainable Government through innovative practices and a culture of data-driven decision making.

In addition, it adopted some guiding principles, goals and actions items (see attached). The Innovation Team members have worked on various projects to help establish a data-driven, culture at the City. A four-year Summary was published in January of 2021 (see attached).

Accomplishments To Date

- Created a Data Strategy document
- Provided 3 city-wide workshops on Data Privacy
- Establish quarterly Performance Management STAT Meetings: Department presentations Public Works, City Attorney, Library and Recreation, Police, Finance, Human Resources, Community Development and Fire
- Remodeled the Open Data Portal for streamlined Spanish translation of datasets
- Achieved What Works Cities certification: Recognizing the City of Salinas as a National Leader in the of Use of Data and Evidence.
- Developed a centralized site for staff training courses. *Salinas Academy*. +150 free training modules
- Open Data presentations to City commissions.

Upcoming Projects

- Partner with the City of Seaside to establish a Regional Working Group
- Create a Public facing CIP Tracking Dashboard
- Participate in the Information Technology Assessment and Strategic Plan
- Prepare the release of Department's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- Outreach to External Partners
- Continue with Staff Engagement
- Provide Data Dashboards for the Council and Public

The City has leveraged grant opportunities when available. The Innovation Team will continue to pursue grant and training opportunities to help City staff evaluate and make improvements to their current work flow and day-to-day activities. One Goal of the Innovation Team is to establish systems that provide tools for staff that focus on solutions and have significant impact. It's critical that we have the support of executive management and the City Council for this work.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

The Innovation Team supports the City's Strategic Plan goal of Operational Efficiencies: To improve the City's operational efficiency, reduce expenditures, and make necessary investments in order to have long-term savings.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

The City Manager has chosen staff members from various departments to participate on the Team and contribute to efforts of achieving its goals. The Team meets bi-monthly, to discuss new opportunities and work on the implementation of new processes.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

There are no additional impacts on the General Fund. The Team is supported by Capital Improvement Project (CIP) 9111: Technology and Business Process Innovation

ATTACHMENTS:

InnovationTeamSummary_Final2020.pdf
Innovation Team Mission Statement revised_2021.pdf