

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING SANTA BARBARA)
COUNTY'S CLIMATE CHANGE GUIDING PRINCIPLES)
AND SUPPORTING COUNTY EFFORTS TO REDUCE) RESOLUTION NO. 09- 059
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS)

WITH REFERENCE TO THE FOLLOWING:

WHEREAS, as a result of scientific research and growing public awareness and concern regarding climate change, in 2005, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger unveiled his plan to reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions. This led to a series of recent climate laws, which present a new policy framework in which all segments of the economy will be required to undertake efforts to reduce Statewide greenhouse gas emissions; and,

WHEREAS, the most comprehensive of these State policies, Assembly Bill (AB) 32, states that climate change "poses a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and the environment of California" and "will have detrimental effects on some of the State's largest industries, including agriculture, wine, tourism, skiing, recreational and commercial fishing, and forestry." AB 32 established a benchmark for greenhouse gas emission reductions to 1990 levels by 2020 (15% or 169 million metric tons) and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, and outlined a process of regulatory and market mechanisms to achieve these benchmarks, including implementation of an eighteen-point emission reduction plan; and,

WHEREAS, Subsequent to AB 32, more than a dozen implementing laws have been adopted and many more are expected to be enacted in the near term. Notable bills include Senate Bill 375, which aligns housing, transportation and greenhouse gas planning to reduce vehicle miles traveled, and Senate Bill 97, which requires local jurisdictions to address and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions during CEQA review. Many of these laws contain requirements, implications and opportunities for local jurisdictions; and,

WHEREAS, emerging State and Federal legislation, including H.R.1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ("Federal Economic Stimulus") enacted on February 17, 2009, is poised to reward communities that incentivize investment in energy efficiency and "green" infrastructure improvements, while simultaneously providing opportunity to protect and preserve components vital and unique to regional economic stability; and,

WHEREAS, local governments play an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through operating practices in public facilities and assets, effective land use and transportation planning, integrated waste management services, protection of natural habitat and rural agricultural resources, promotion of renewable energy, efficient use of energy, and other means to achieve a larger cumulative change; and,

WHEREAS, the 2009 California Planners' Book of Lists, published by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, indicates that over 135 jurisdictions, including a third of Counties in California have already adopted policies and/or programs to address climate change and the effects of greenhouse gases; and,

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County has a long tradition of environmental stewardship, specifically in promoting the preservation of agricultural land and open space, an important component of greenhouse gas mitigation. Additionally, the County has already begun to engage in activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as regional housing and transportation planning, the County Carbon Footprint Project, the Innovative Building Review Program, the Sustainable Public Architecture Directive, Tajiguas Landfill Gas Collection System and the recently approved Lompoc Wind Energy development; and,

WHEREAS, in November 2008, the Board of Supervisors reconstituted the County Sustainability and Conservation Team, charged with increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that:

1. The above recitation is true and correct.
2. In acknowledgement of the growing and urgent concerns regarding global climate change and the expanding regulatory environment, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors will:
 - a. Adopt Exhibit 1, The Santa Barbara County Climate Change Guiding Principles.
 - b. Take immediate, cost effective and coordinated steps to reduce the County's collective greenhouse gas emissions.
 - c. Direct County staff to seek funding, including grants and rebates, to offset general fund costs of preparing the County's greenhouse gas emission reduction strategy and implementing programmatic actions that support climate protection.


PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 17th day of March, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Carbajal, Wolf, Farr, Gray and Centeno

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None



JOSEPH CENTENO
Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara

ATTEST:

MICHAEL F. BROWN
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: 
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DENNIS A. MARSHALL
County Counsel

By: 
Deputy County Counsel

EXHIBIT 1: SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Protecting the community from the effects of climate change is a high priority for Santa Barbara County (County).
2. The County recognizes the State of California's climate change goals, regulations, and requirements set forth by AB 32 to reduce Statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and will implement programs to comply with these requirements.
3. As outlined in the State's AB 32 Scoping Plan, the benefits of investing in actions to reduce GHG emissions can outweigh the costs in numerous ways, including: economic vitality; public health and safety; natural resource protection; and infrastructure stability.
4. In order to maintain long-term regional well-being, health and prosperity of current residents, as well as future generations of residents, the County will preserve and balance our shared social wellbeing, economic prosperity, environmental resources, and biodiversity.
5. The County recognizes that challenges associated with climate change are regional in nature and can best be addressed in partnership with both public and private sectors.
6. The County has three strategic roles to play in reducing GHG emissions: 1) a producer of GHG emissions, 2) a regulator of GHG emitting activities, and 3) an incentivizer of communitywide enhancements to reduce GHG emissions.
7. The County will preserve its fiscal health by conserving resources and promoting renewable resources, thereby reducing costs.
8. The County will enhance our local economy through the incubation of clean technology, by attracting innovative firms and talent through private sector incentives, and by creating opportunities for local residents to attain jobs and training in the growing regional green economy.
9. A key component in a successful climate strategy is the development of an effective and inclusive decision making process that promotes the sharing of information and encourages diverse public input.
10. Through coordinated planning, measurement, evaluation, and reporting, the County will continue to address state requirements, capitalize on economic opportunities, and protect the regional quality of life while strategically progressing towards regional sustainability.