

Attachment A

2015 Energy & Climate Action Plan Update

At the end of 2020, staff will begin to prepare a Final Report on the 2015 Energy & Climate Action Plan (ECAP). The Final Report will include an updated greenhouse gas inventory and a detailed evaluation of the 53 emission reduction measures. Because the collection and analysis of data are a time-intensive processes, the Board approved moving progress reports to three-year increments with the Final Report being the first.

This brief update provides an overview of several efforts that have been completed or initiated since the 2017 Progress Report. This overview is not meant to be exhaustive of all ECAP-related measures and activities.

Clean Energy

On November 5, 2019, the Board approved the Joint Powers Authority agreement with Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP). All cities, with the exception of Buellton, Lompoc and Santa Barbara, have voted to join MBCP. Staff anticipate MBCP to launch its service to residential and commercial customers in 2021, essentially eliminating the majority of emissions from the electricity generation.

On September 10, 2019, the Board adopted the Strategic Energy Plan (SEP), which would expand the use of solar energy on County facilities and utility-scale solar on private lands. Staff are now preparing to initiate the development of an Energy Assurance Plan, which would identify critical community facilities and assess the potential for energy generation and storage systems to meet backup power needs.

In collaboration with Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties, the Sustainability Division launched the Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN), to provide tailored programs and services to increase energy efficiency in new and existing buildings. 3C-REN has initiated its Energy Code Connect and Building Performance Training programs. The programs cooperatively aim to increase compliance with California's Energy and Green Building Codes and expand the high performance building market by offering locally customized support, resources, and trainings to public and private sector building professionals in the tri-county region. The Home Energy Savings program which offers free and reduced-cost home energy efficiency upgrades to historically underserved residents, is currently on hold due to COVID-19.

Land Use, Housing & Transportation

The Public Works Transportation Division will initiate two Active Transportation Program grants over the next 3 months to support multimodal mobility. These include Isla Vista pedestrian infrastructure infill and bicycle circulation improvements and Old Town Orcutt Pedestrian Improvements.

The Long Range Planning Division (LRP) is developing new VMT (vehicle miles traveled) thresholds for development review that will have significant impact on large individual projects. The new thresholds will seek to improve the VMT 'efficiency' of projects through location selection, project design, transit and pedestrian infrastructure, and travel demand management programs. Projects that are unable to reduce VMT onsite, may have to pay in-lieu fees or finance

Attachment A

projects in the region that reduce VMT elsewhere. The VMT thresholds are expected to be presented to the Board for adoption in July 2020.

In February 2020, County staff collaborated with Community Environmental Council, Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance, Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition, Monterey Bay Community Power, Clean Power Alliance, and the air pollution control districts of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties to apply for funds from the California Energy Commission (CEC). The goal would be to fund enough charging infrastructure in the region to support the state's goal of 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles in California by 2025¹. The program, known as CALeVIP, would bring up to \$15M in funding for Level 2 and DC Fast Charging in the tri-county region starting in 2021. The CEC funding will cover 50% and 30% of the local infrastructure gap in Level 2 and DCFC stations, respectively. Co-funding from regional partners will partially fill the remaining gap.

Solid Waste

In December 2019, the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division (RR&WMD) collaborated with MarBorg Industries to provide drop-off locations for textiles at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station and MarBorg's recycling facility in Goleta. Textiles that cannot be reused are shredded and converted into industrial rags. This program has the potential to divert significant amounts of textiles from the approximately 5,000 tons of textiles currently buried at the Tajiguas Landfill each year.

In 2021, the ReSource Center will open at the Tajiguas Landfill, which will result in an annual reduction of approximately 50,000 metric tons of CO₂e.

Natural & Working Lands

In 2019, the Sustainability Division received two grants totaling over \$870,000. A \$154,000 grant was awarded from the California Department of Conservation to utilize a new GIS tool that will estimate the carbon stock of the County's agricultural and natural lands. This tool, called TerraCount, would enable the County and local landowners to understand and value the carbon emission benefits and tradeoffs in land use and land management practices.

A \$716,863 grant was awarded from the California Natural Resources Agency to construct the New Cuyama Greenway Project, significantly enhancing one of the only active recreational parks in the Cuyama Valley. The project will plant 175 drought tolerant trees and construct a 0.65 mile pedestrian pathway. The project is set to be completed in Spring 2021.

Municipal Operations

The General Services Division has solar and energy efficiency projects underway at Betteravia Campus and Fire Station 12 with the intent to achieve Zero Net Energy (ZNE), energy resilience, carbon emission reductions and reduced utility and maintenance costs. The Betteravia Campus project includes 800 kW solar system, a lithium ion battery energy storage system, daylight harvesting solar tubes, and LED lighting and building controls. In addition, the project includes

¹ In 2012, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-16-12, calling for 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles in California by 2025.

Attachment A

connections for up to 30 future electric vehicle charging stations. The Fire Station 12 project includes LED lighting upgrades and a solar system.

General Services has also been developing a plan to replace a portion of the County's vehicle fleet with zero emission electric vehicles as gas internal combustion engine vehicles are retired. Recently, the Board approved the installation of 67 Level 2 charging stations, and 3 fast charging stations, for fleet electric vehicles (EVs) and the public. The new stations will serve existing fleet EVs and 56 additional EVs to be delivered by next fiscal year, with a number of stations to be available for public use. Approximately 240 sedans of the 965 Light Duty fleet vehicles would eventually be eligible to be replaced with full electric vehicles in the upcoming vehicle procurement cycles.

On September 9, 2019, the Human Resources Department and the Sustainability Division, presented an update to the Clean Commute program, offering increased incentives for sustainable commuters. Ongoing educational events will support continued program awareness. Employees from the departments of General Services and Community Services are currently piloting the County telework program, which will be brought back to the Board to review its impact later this year.

Community Engagement & Climate Resilience

Over 2019, County staff have initiated and partnered on several collaborative efforts to enhance regional capacity to respond to climate change and to build partnerships to support the development of the 2030 Climate Action Plan.

Staff convened with local jurisdictions and partners to share information and resources, and adopt by-laws to establish the nascent Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative. The Collaborative is open to public agencies, non-profit and for-profit entities and community-based organizations. The Collaborative, managed by the Sustainability Division, will focus on identifying regional challenges and solutions that no one single entity can address as well as provide guidance and feedback to the 2030 CAP development process.

The Sustainability Division has partnered with the Community Environmental Council to implement a series of Climate Resilience Roundtables, focusing on the six key climate challenges for the Central Coast. Two events on wildfire and smoke and sea level rise were held, gathering nearly 300 participants, offering resources and ideas to tackle the region's climate challenges. Four additional Roundtables planned through 2020 will cover extreme heat, drought, extreme precipitation and decreased snowpack.

The Sustainability Division and SBCAG Traffic Solutions have collaborated to pilot the Cool Blocks program in Isla Vista. Cool Blocks is a community-oriented program that recruits and trains citizen leaders to organize their neighbors to learn about sustainability and emergency preparedness and implement lifestyle changes to reduce their carbon footprint.

Staff have also engaged with the Central Coast Climate Justice Network (CCCJN). The CCCJN is composed of Ventura and Santa Barbara community-based organizations that focus on

Attachment A

environmental and social justice issues. County staff seek to partner with the CCCJN order to engage residents that have been traditionally excluded from community planning efforts and decision-making.