



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Planning &  
Development  
Department No.: 053  
For Agenda Of: December 3, 2013  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Time: N/A  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Glenn Russell, Ph.D., Planning and Development Department  
Director (s) (x2085)  
Matthew P. Pontes, General Services (x1011)  
Contact Info: Jeff Hunt, AICP, Deputy Director, Long Range Planning (x2072)  
**SUBJECT: Institute for Local Government's Beacon Award: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:** Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt a resolution (Attachment A) supporting the County of Santa Barbara's participation in the Beacon Award recognition program.
2. Find that the proposed action is an administrative activity of the County, which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and is therefore not a "project" as defined for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5)(Attachment B).

**Summary Text:**

"The Beacon Award: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change" is a program of the Institute for Local Government (ILG) recognizing and celebrating cities and counties that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy use; adopt policies and programs to address climate change; and promote sustainability. ILG is the non-profit research and education affiliate of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties.

In order to participate in the Beacon Award, the County must do the following:

- 1) Adopt a resolution committing to participate in the program;

- 2) Designate a lead staff person as a point of contact on the application form;
- 3) Prepare, or commit to prepare, a baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory for agency facilities and the community as a whole (previously completed inventories using a commonly accepted methodology will be accepted);
- 4) Prepare, or commit to prepare, a climate action plan that includes actions in each of the Best Practice Areas specified by the ILG in the ILG's California Climate Action Network's Best Practices Framework (Attachment C);
- 5) Demonstrate compliance with AB 939, the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989; and
- 6) Achieve specified measurable greenhouse gas reductions and energy savings in agency facilities, and achieve measurable greenhouse gas reductions and promote energy conservation activities in the community.

The County will then be eligible to be recognized with Silver, Gold and Platinum Beacon Award for achieving specified measureable reductions. There is no deadline or timeline for meeting award level criteria; awards will be given out on an ongoing basis. However, participants will be asked to provide periodic information about their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy as well as progress in completing a greenhouse gas inventory, climate action plan and undertaking activities in the ten best practice areas.

Participants will receive special recognition at League of California Cities and California State Association of Counties events, be highlighted on the Beacon Award website, and receive certificates and other materials to display in agency facilities. They may also receive other appropriate and visible public tributes acknowledging their accomplishments

**Background:**

In 2009, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 09-059 (Attachment D) which adopted the County Climate Change Guiding Principles and directed staff to "take immediate, cost effective and coordinated steps to reduce the County's collective GHG emissions". Since that time, the County has achieved many steps towards reducing GHG emissions which would apply to participation in the Beacon Award Program. These include:

- 1) The Sustainability Action Plan (2011) which includes a baseline GHG emissions inventory for agency facilities and outlines projects, programs and policies in place that reduce GHG emissions at County facilities;
- 2) The Climate Action Study (2011) which includes a baseline emissions inventory for community GHG emissions and outlines options the County could pursue to reduce community GHG emissions;
- 3) emPowerSBC (2011) which offers innovative financing solutions streamlined with high dollar rebates, qualified contractors, energy advising, homeowner outreach, education and support to encourage energy efficiency in private properties;
- 4) Energy Action Plan: Efficient Electricity Use in County Facilities (2013) which establishes goals and outlines implementation strategies for electricity reduction in County facilities;

- 5) Benchmarking Policy (2013) which serves as a decision-making tool to identify energy reduction projects that will be implemented between now and 2020; and
- 6) Initiation for environmental review of the Energy and Climate Action Plan (in progress) which includes an update to the baseline emissions inventory for community GHG emissions, a cost/benefit analysis and will include a GHG reduction target and policies to meet that target.

Participating in the Beacon Award program will increase the County of Santa Barbara's visibility within our region and statewide. It is an opportunity for the County to showcase its existing efforts to promote sustainability and save energy, even while we are working towards one of the three award levels.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Participation in the Beacon Award program is voluntary. Planning and Development staff tasked with reporting efforts to the ILG on progress towards reducing GHG emissions and saving energy are currently funded through the Energy and Climate Action Plan in the Long Range Planning Budget Program on page D-168 of the recommended 2013-2014 fiscal year budget. General services staff tasked with the reporting on progress in the Beacon Award program are currently funded through the County's existing utilities cost allocation process.

The County's participation in the program may increase the County's competitiveness for grant funding.

As appropriate, funding of significant individual projects which work towards achieving a Beacon Award and funding will require approval by the Board of Supervisors.

**Special Instructions:**

The Clerk of the Board shall send a copy of the signed resolution to the Planning and Development Department, Attention Heather Imgrund

**Attachments:**

- A. Resolution in the Matter of Approving Participation in the Institute for Local Government's Beacon Award: Local Leadership Toward Solving Climate Change
- B. Notice of Exemption
- C. ILG's California Climate Action Network's Best Practices Framework
- D. Board of Supervisors Resolutions 09-059

**Authored by:**

Heather Imgrund, Planning and Development (x6838)